



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

'Nominate a Neighbour' scheme launched by police

POLICE have introduced the 'nominate a neighbour' scheme in Slough in a bid to beat distraction burglars.

The scheme encourages residents, particularly those **who are elderly or vulnerable**, to seek the help of a neighbour, friend or relative when an unexpected caller appears at the door. Residents are encouraged to show a 'nominated neighbour' card to unexpected callers, rather than enter into conversation.

The card directs the caller to a nominated neighbour who will verify the person's identity. When the nominated neighbour is satisfied that the caller is genuine, they accompany the caller to the resident's home.

Alternatively, the resident may call a trusted friend or relation who can check the visitor by telephone.

Annie Tewkesbury, Crime Reduction Advisor, said: *"This scheme is a very useful crime reduction tool, giving older residents increased confidence to turn away unknown callers. Although it relies on the good will of neighbours, we often find that neighbours are only too willing to do what they can for the elderly or vulnerable. We need friends and relatives to reinforce our message that if someone calls at the door and they're a stranger, do not let them in. Genuine callers will understand."*

The 'nominated neighbour' cards are not left on permanent display, but are shown to unexpected callers as they arrive.

Nominated neighbours, friends or relatives, are visited or phoned before being invited to lend their support to the scheme.

To receive a 'nominated neighbour' card call 01753 506152.

The 'nominate a neighbour' scheme forms part of **Operation Sundown**, an initiative to clamp down on distraction burglary.

For more information visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents/newsevents-pressreleases/newsevents-pressreleases-item.htm?id=106277

The PPP comments ... wherever we see the word 'initiative' our initial response is *here we go again*. This is yet another cop out to switch the responsibility for crime fighting or prevention to anybody but the Police. It will mean nominating a vulnerable neighbour to face dangerous criminals who will laugh when handed a card (is it yellow?) at the door of a very vulnerable person.

On the same day the press headlines include these two ... A homeowner has been stabbed to death in his own living room after he confronted a gang trying to steal his television. Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1244099/Father-stabbed-death-home-confronting-gang-stealing-television.html#ixzz0cxwLJtUW>

.... and a report by the Institute for Government states *'What comes out of No 10 is lots of barmy ideas. It's the worst possible kind of policy making, in which Downing Street says: Here is a problem, let's have a kneejerk reaction to it tomorrow.'* Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1244044/Barmy-ideas-Browns-regime-Whitehall-delivers-damning-verdict-No-10-bullying.html#ixzz0cxyFU0HG>

The report also echoes the PPP statement about micro (MIS) management of every issue, particularly law and order. The sad truth is that some fool in the home office shouts Sxxx today and across the country in 44 Police forces and 44 Police authorities people jump on the shovel and more £Millions are squandered!