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## Make Your Neighbourhood a Safer Place to Live With These Tips

To prevent crime and protect our neighbourhoods from road accidents and housing-related safety issues, there are several steps we can take as community members to make our homes and neighbourhoods safer places to live. [Green Street Green Association](#) shares a few suggestions in the sections below.

### Get to Know Your Neighbours

While rates of certain types of crime have decreased amidst pandemic-induced lockdowns, so too have our interactions with neighbours and other community members. And while it's important to [practise social distancing](#) and wear protective face coverings when gathering with non-household members, getting to know our neighbours is one of the best things we can do to fight crime and keep our communities safe.

Here are just a few of the ways getting to know our [neighbours](#) can help to make our communities safer places to live:

- We can keep a closer eye on one another's homes and personal belongings.
- We'll feel more comfortable notifying one another if suspicious activity is suspected.
- We can work together to monitor our residential streets and take steps to prevent crime.
- We'll have a neighbour we can trust and turn to in the event of an emergency.

In addition to getting to know your neighbours, joining the UK's Neighbourhood Watch Network can help to make your community a safer and stronger place to live. As a member, you'll receive information on crime prevention, advice for setting up a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and access to campaigns and toolkits addressing concerns such as burglary and domestic abuse. A [Neighbourhood Watch](#) membership is free, and it's easy to sign up by selecting your local police force or entering your postcode.

## Meet Your Local Police Force

Connecting with your local police force is another way to make your community safer and more secure. You can find your local police force at [police.uk](#), along with crime prevention tips and resources, statistics, and guidance for seeking support in the event you're affected by crime. You might also consider engaging with your local police force on social media.

## Prevent Residential Road Accidents

According to the [Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership](#), speeding, driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, distracted driving, and operating a motor vehicle without fastening a seatbelt are four of the most common causes of motor vehicle injuries and fatalities. However, there are several steps you can take to prevent road accidents in your community. These include:

- Forming a [Community Speed Watch](#) (CSW) group in your area.
- Submitting video footage of traffic offences to your local police force.
- Brushing up on your driving skills every few years and encouraging neighbours to do the same.

## Improve Your Home's Safety and Security

In addition to joining the Neighbourhood Watch, connecting with your local police force, and taking steps to prevent residential road accidents, there are some things you can do to outsmart burglars and improve your home's security.

As a few examples, be sure to keep your blinds and windows closed in the evening, install a security camera and/or video doorbell, and plant defensive shrubs around your home. Firethorn,

Crataegus Monogyna, and Ilex Aquifolium are just a few types of defensive shrubs to consider planting for added protection at home.

If you live in a [shared housing complex](#), you may need to contact your homeowners association (HOA) before making any major changes or repairs to your home. Your HOA may be able to address the security concerns you have and make any needed improvements to your home and garden.

## Protect Your Home and Neighbourhood From Criminal Activity

Everyone wants to feel safe and protected where they live, and sometimes community members need to join forces in order to make their roads and neighbourhoods safer for all. Together, community members can work to deter burglars, prevent residential road accidents, and protect their neighbours from various types of criminal activity.

*[Green Street Green Association](#) is committed to maintaining the quality of life and amenities in Green Street Green by keeping in touch with residents, shopkeepers, and other local bodies.*

Ed Carter

[www.ablefutures.org](http://www.ablefutures.org)