# Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



**Issue 58 February 2026**

**This Newsletter aims to provide information around safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), raise awareness of current issues across the district, promote the good work of our partner agencies and celebrate the successes we have had.**

We can be contacted online: **Report antisocial behaviour | Hart District Council**
by phone: **01252 774476** or by e-mail: **communitysafety@hart.gov.uk**

## STAY SAFE - Calthorpe Park School

This week, **Hart Community Safety Team** proudly joined forces with **Challenge Academy**, **Hampshire Police**, **Stop Domestic Abuse** and **The Willow Team** to deliver our STAY SAFE event at **Calthorpe Park School.**



Across three days, we worked with **337 Year 8 students**, providing engaging and age-appropriate sessions on some of the most pressing issues affecting young people today, including:

- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Online Exploitation and Digital Safety
- Knife Crime Awareness
- Healthy Relationships and Respect

The sessions combined real-life scenarios, practical guidance and open discussion, giving students the tools they need to recognise risks, make informed choices and seek support when they need it.

This collaborative event demonstrates the power of early intervention and community partnership. By working together, we're helping to equip young people with knowledge that can keep them safe now, and into their future.

***Important conversations. Early interventions. Real impact.***

## Catapults: A Growing Risk to Wildlife - Know the Law, Protect Our Community

In recent months, Hampshire has seen a worrying rise in incidents where catapults have been used to harm wildlife, including swans on the Basingstoke Canal. These acts aren't just cruel, they're criminal.

Although owning a catapult is legal, using one to injure animals or damage property can quickly cross into serious offences. Catapults can be treated as offensive weapons if carried or used with intent to cause harm.



Harming wildlife is explicitly illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and causing any animal unnecessary suffering breaches the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Penalties include unlimited fines or imprisonment.

Nationally, animal-welfare groups have highlighted a rise in catapult-linked attacks on birds, rabbits and other wildlife, often causing fatal injuries. These incidents don't just threaten animals; they contribute to wider antisocial behaviour and community harm.

If you witness reckless or harmful use of a catapult:

- Report it to Hampshire Police on 101 or via their website
- If a crime is happening now, call 999

For concerns around antisocial behaviour, you can report directly to us at: communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

**By staying alert and reporting concerns early, we can help stop cruelty, safeguard our wildlife and keep our communities safe.**

## Staying Safe This Spring



As the days get lighter and warmer, many of us spend more time outdoors enjoying our local spaces. Spring is a great time to get active, reconnect with nature and come together as a community, but it's also a good moment to refresh some simple safety habits.

**1. Be Aware of Your Surroundings**
With parks, paths and public spaces getting busier, stay alert when you're out and about. Keep an eye on your belongings and trust your instincts if something doesn't feel right.

**2. Look After Wildlife**
Spring brings nesting birds and young animals. Keep dogs under control, stick to marked paths where possible, and report any concerns around wildlife harm or antisocial behaviour.

**3. Online Safety Still Matters**
Even as we head outdoors more, online risks don't take a holiday. Remind family members, especially children and teens, to stay cautious about sharing personal information and reporting anything worrying.

**4. Secure Sheds, Bikes and Gardens**
Spring often means more tools, bikes and equipment being stored outside. Make sure sheds are locked, valuables are secured and consider motion-activated lighting to deter opportunistic thefts.

**5. Stay Visible and Stay Connected**
Whether you're jogging, cycling or walking in the evenings, choose well-lit routes and let someone know where you're heading. A simple message can make a big difference.

**6. Report Concerns Early**
If you spot something suspicious, see antisocial behaviour, or have concerns about local safety, please report it.

If you have received this monthly **Hart Community Safety Newsletter** forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe and receive it directly, please drop us a line with your request at:
**communitysafety@hart.gov.uk**