

# Crime prevention advice for clubs



Being a member of a club, society, group or organisation in your local village or area is a valued way to bring the community together and enjoy your sport or interest. The majority of the equipment owned by clubs will have been purchased from fund raising, grants and donations and will be costly to replace, as well as potentially preventing the club to continue to run. We have therefore put this advice sheet together to help you review your security, protect your equipment and deter thieves.

If you use a large area such as a sports field or allotment, look at the perimeter as if you were a criminal wanting to get in and steal equipment and address weak points. Good fencing, thick prickly hedges, locked gates, ditches and bunds will all deter thieves and make it difficult to steal large items of equipment.

Buildings, where possible, should be alarmed and only be accessed by club members.

If you have houses overlooking the club facilities, introduce yourself and give them contact details so that they can advise a committee member if they have cause for concern or in an emergency.

NEVER keep cash in the premises, always bank at the earliest opportunity.

Equipment should be locked in a secure alarmed container.

Visibly mark all equipment and club property with the clubs name and postcode, then record the equipment in an inventory and take photo's which will assist the police if anything is stolen. Consider using Immobilise the national property register, (see the factsheet).

Join Warwickshire Rural Watch and Neighbourhood Watch to receive alerts from Warwickshire Police so you are aware of incidents in the area and be vigilant.

Put signs up around your ground and buildings stating 'Property is marked' and that you are a member of a police watch scheme – these are available if you join Warwickshire Rural Watch, see contacts for your area on the website.

Always report incidents to the police, whether you see someone acting suspiciously or have items stolen.

Advise your local beat officer who the main contacts are for the club and how they can get hold of you; this information can be found on the Safer Neighbourhoods website from [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)

