

Helping the authorities with lockdown

With lockdown easing but social distancing remaining in place, our local police are being asked to check that we, the citizens of Woking, are abiding by the rules. And the vast majority of us seem to be. But as shown by what happened at West Byfleet Recreation Ground last month, where an officer was injured dispersing a group of youths, there are still some who think the rules do not apply to them. This makes the job of the police more difficult, as they do not want to seem heavy-handed and place themselves at risk of infection.

We can help the police, and Woking Borough Council, by being the eyes and ears of the police and the borough.

Lockdown has resulted in a more peaceful environment – a good thing, you might say – but not everything has been positive. Our parks and open spaces have become a magnet for irresponsible youths and adults. If a group of people is congregating, especially at dusk and after dark, they will almost certainly be doing this against social distancing rules. Ring the police on 101 and give clear details on the location and size of the group. The latter is important so the police can respond appropriately.

The sad truth is that many youths will move on and congregate elsewhere, but the police often find that people just need to be made aware of what they are doing – and the potential dangers.

Groups of people often leave litter, despite bins being nearby. If this happens persistently, please take pictures of the litter and report it to Woking BC at www.woking.gov.uk >> “Report it”. Feel free to clear the litter up (best to wear gloves and use a litter-pick). Take photographs first so the council can see the full extent of the problem.

Another lockdown issue is speeding motorists. Those of us who live on a straight stretch of road will be aware of the 24-hours-a-day speeding by cars and motorcycles. With the warm weather, most of us sleep with the windows open, and one car or motorbike speeding along at 2am ruins our sleep.

Speeding is against the law, lockdown or no lockdown. If you catch the registration number of a speeding vehicle, report it. If the same motorist gets reported many times for blatant speeding, the police are very likely to do something about it. Speeding or dangerous driving can easily be reported to the police using their website, www.surrey.police.uk >> “Report”.

One last thing, although theft across the county is generally down as a result of lock-down, catalyst theft is on the increase in the county. Woking is not particularly affected by the increase but please be aware, particularly if you own a Honda or Toyota with a catalyst.

Keep safe, keep distancing, and keep acting responsibly!