

# Tamworth Borough Council

## Helping You Through The Credit Crunch



### Keeping the community safe and secure

Through the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership we work closely with our partners to combat crime and anti-social behaviour and keep our local community safe.

Here are just a few things that you can do to keep your property safe and secure.

## TownSafe

Tamworth Community Safety Partnership co-ordinates a Townsafe partnership.



Over 140 businesses, retailers, pubs and clubs are working with the Council, Police and other agencies to reduce crime, disorder and anti social behaviour. The hub of the partnership is the Council CCTV and communication centre where the Townsafe radio network is monitored and CCTV can be deployed to assist members and the police in various activities including arresting offenders. Townsafe members are supplied with photographs of certain convicted offenders who impact on business crime in Tamworth. Some of these offenders are banned from entering business premises, pubs etc due to the crimes they have committed.

In times of recession crimes against business are particularly relevant as they can impact on the ongoing future of that business.

If you would like more information on the benefits of joining Townsafe contact John Carthy - Townsafe Co-ordinator Telephone 07891052145 email [john-carthy@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:john-carthy@tamworth.gov.uk).



Residents need to lock and protect their property regardless of the time of year. Most criminals are opportunists so it is important that householders take every precaution to keep their homes and possessions safe.

Here are some top tips;

- Make sure all doors and windows are locked, even when you are in the house.
- Don't leave your valuables on show.
- Keep your front garden tidy so that it looks occupied.
- Report suspicious incidents to the police

- If you go on holiday make sure you cancel your milk and paper deliveries and ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property.
- Beware of bogus callers to your house – ALWAYS ask for ID.

Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent organisation which assists residents to liaise with the police and the Council to protect their community.

If you require any information about Neighbourhood Watch please contact 01827 709589.



## Don't take short cuts with fire safety

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are committed to ensuring the safety of all members of the community. They encourage everyone to request a FREE Home Fire Risk Check by calling 0800 0241 999. This involves members of the Service visiting people in their own homes and identifying the potential risk from Fire, information on how to reduce these risks is delivered, and the teams ensure that working Smoke Detectors are present (Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service will supply and fit Detectors free of charge if they are not present within the property). The Service is also running the MORE for less campaign, which is designed to illustrate to all members of the local community what the Fire and Rescue Service can provide and this

information can be viewed on the service website- [www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk).

Tamworth Area Command are working in conjunction with partners to ensure the highest level of safety for all. Home Fire Risk Checks are carried out on a daily basis. Crews are visiting local businesses to carry out Operational Risk Audits to ensure the highest levels of safety within the workplace is maintained. Schools education visits are carried out throughout the school term to ensure that all youngsters receive the safety message.



## Worried about paying your business rates?

If you are unable to make a payment in accordance with your bill the Council's Revenues Team can provide advice and in some cases may be able to make an arrangement to help with your financial situation.

If you have not received a summons please contact the Business Rates Team. If you have received a summons please contact the Recovery Team.

### Can I get a reduction on my Business Rates?

The following help is available:

**Relief for small businesses** – where the property is under £15,000 Rateable Value.

**Mandatory reductions and exemptions** – including short term empty property, property used for charitable purposes.

**Discretionary reductions and exemptions** – including property partly empty for a short period of time, property used by not-for-profit organisations.

For more information contact The Non-Domestic Rates Team Telephone: (01827) 709553 Email: [counciltax@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@tamworth.gov.uk)

## Advice and support for all businesses

The Tamworth Economic Partnership (TEP) is a group of public, private and voluntary sector organisations with the goal of promoting economic growth and supporting local business.

The TEP meets quarterly to discuss local business issues and the long term vision for the local economy. One of the TEP's aims is to make the range of support available to businesses easier to access and understand.

For more information about the TEP or how the Council's Economic Development and Enterprise Department can help your business contact Matt Fletcher: 01827 709382 or [business@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:business@tamworth.gov.uk)

These are just a few of the other agencies that can assist you if you need business advice:

**Business Link (West Midlands)** Providing general advice and assistance and business healthchecks. General advice: 0845 113 1234 Credit crunch hotline: 0845 002 0900 [www.businesslinkwm.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkwm.co.uk)

**Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)** Advice and guidance on all legal issues connected to business restructuring. General Helpline: 08457 474747 or [www.acas.co.uk](http://www.acas.co.uk)

**Careers Advice and Guidance** One-to-one advice and careers guidance for all adults over 19. Phone: 08000 924 429 Face to face contact: 0800 217 244 [www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice](http://www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice)

**South Staffordshire College** The newly formed college offers a variety of courses and opportunities for businesses and employees. [www.southstaffs.ac.uk](http://www.southstaffs.ac.uk) [www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk)

**Jobcentre Plus** Provides a number of services to businesses including: vacancy advertising services, recruitment and redundancy advice. For more information contact: 01827 473437 or [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

**The West Midlands Taskforce** New website to support the public with finding work, new skills and with benefits and businesses with redundancy, general advice and new markets. [www.supportwm.co.uk](http://www.supportwm.co.uk)

General Enquiries - (01827) 709709 [www.tamworth.gov.uk](http://www.tamworth.gov.uk)

Tamworth  
Borough Council