

Latest News October 2010

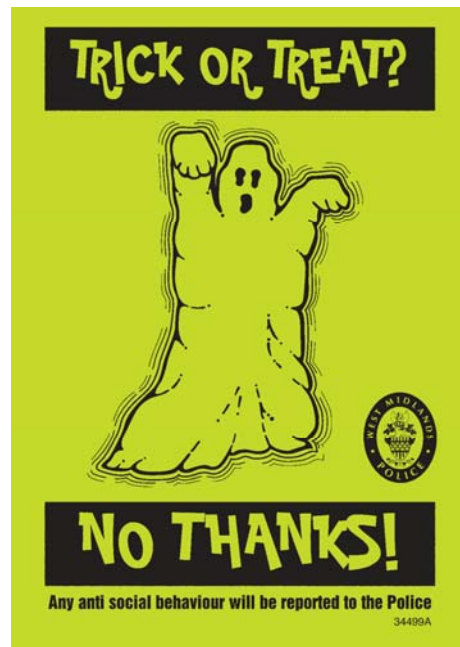
Feel safe on Halloween

The Safer Solihull Partnership are listening to the concerns of the public and are advising the borough's senior citizens on how they can feel safer during Halloween.

Halloween can be an intimidating time for members of the public who are elderly or infirm. Many youngsters consider 31 October to be an opportunity to play harmless jokes, not realising the distress that can be caused.

West Midlands Police are currently running a campaign called 'Operation Verve' aimed at reducing crime and providing reassurance during this busy time of the year.

As part of the campaign police are advising young people to show consideration and respect to others, particularly the vulnerable and elderly, and are offering tips on how to trick or treat responsibly.



In addition to working with the region's youth, the police would like to reassure elderly and vulnerable people by providing the following advice:

1. During Halloween if you are worried about problems caused by 'trick or treaters' try to arrange to visit a friend or relative or invite someone to sit with you so you are not alone.
2. If you are very worried, or have experienced problems before and will be home alone on this evening, you can call Solihull Police on their non-emergency number

(0345 113 5000) before Halloween. You are welcome to ask if your local neighbourhood officers can pay particular attention to your street while on patrol.

If you are home alone and do not have anyone who can sit with you please also consider the following advice:

1. Always put the chain on the door before opening it.
2. Do not let trick or treaters into your house; if the caller says they are from an organisation always ask callers at the door for identification.
3. Do not let the caller into your house while you're checking their identity - if they're genuine they will wait.
4. If you're unsure about the caller, call a neighbour and ask them to come round to help you.
5. If you're still unsure or feel uncomfortable in any way, don't answer the door.
6. If a caller is threatening in any way call the police immediately.

Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Cllr Len Cresswell, said: "Halloween can be a frightening time of year for some elderly citizens; the Safer Solihull Partnership are committed to making this group feel safer during Halloween. We have a number of activities taking place across Solihull during this seasonal period to ensure all our communities feel safe."

The Safer Solihull Partnership has already provided many elderly and vulnerable residents with 'trick or treat cards' that respectfully request that trick or treaters do not knock at the door during Halloween.

The 'no trick or treat cards' (pictured above) can be downloaded and printed from www.solihullpolice.org.uk or from its facebook page, by searching for Solihull Police. These luminous cards can be displayed on front windows and doors to advise trick or treaters that they are not welcome to knock the door.

Trick or Treat Do's and Don'ts Poster for residents on keeping safe this Halloween is available overleaf.

For media enquiries please contact Rav Jagdev, Partnership Marketing and Communications Officer, on 0121 704 8117 or rjagdev@solihull.gov.uk

DARKER NIGHTS ARE HERE...

TRICK OR TREAT

DO'S

-  Only visit houses where you or your friends know who lives there
-  Only visit areas where there are streetlights - take a torch with you just in case
-  Stay in a group - don't split up into smaller groups unless an adult goes with you - never go on your own!
-  Always take care when crossing the road, even if you are part of a group - **MAKE SURE YOU CAN BE SEEN**

DON'TS

-  If there's a sign on the door saying "No trick or treat here"... **DON'T KNOCK**
-  Never, never, never talk to strangers
-  Never enter any house, always stay on the doorstep
-  Be careful not to frighten elderly or vulnerable people

**REMEMBER THESE TIPS
AND STAY SAFE!**

RESPECT OTHERS...

Always remember to think about others while out 'trick or treating', your actions could scare and cause distress to the elderly and vulnerable

