

Palmers Green Safer Neighbourhood News

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Community crime-fighting



Please be alert for catalytic converter thieves.

A catalytic converter was taken from a 2018 Lexus in Morrisons car park on Saturday 07/02/2026 between 1:30pm and 2:30pm. This type of theft has not taken place for a couple of years and it is now on the rise again. Previous vehicles they were stolen from on Palmers Green ward were older models of Honda Jazz, Toyota Prius, Ford Galaxy, Lexus and BMW series 1 and 3. Plus all ages of Toyota Auris. Please see the information and advice below.

Catalytic converters are devices fitted to vehicle exhausts to reduce the amount of dangerous gases emitted. They are often targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute.

Catalytic converter theft most frequently occurs in car parks, but they can happen anywhere. Thieves may then sell these converters via scrapyards, online, or ship them out of the country.

Hybrid vehicles are most commonly targeted, as their metals are more valuable, but any vehicle can be at risk of catalytic converter theft.

Signs a catalytic converter theft is being committed

- A vehicle being raised using a car jack in a car park or residential area
- A loud drilling or cutting sound coming from underneath the vehicle

Watch the video below to see what a catalytic converter theft looks like.

<https://youtu.be/qybMIkySaXk>

Prevent it

Although catalytic converter thefts are increasing, there are steps that you can take to protect your vehicle.

To keep your catalytic converter safe, you can ask your car dealer for advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold.

Alternatively, try to make sure your vehicle is parked in a garage overnight, or if you have a commercial vehicle, park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the converter can't be easily reached by potential thieves. Vehicles that sit high above the road are particularly vulnerable.

You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

Visit [Secured by Design](#) or [Sold Secure Gold](#) for more details.

Report it

- if the crime is happening now call [999](#) - if you are unsure, we'd rather hear about it and decide if a theft is occurring
- if it is safe to do so, take photos of suspects or the number plate of their car (do not approach suspects, as they have been known to use violence)
- if the crime has already happened then you can [report it to us online](#) or at your [local police station](#)

Residential Burglary - January:

NO BURLGARIES ON PALMERS GREEN WARD – nearest burglary on Highfield Ward to Palmers Green as below

CHIMES AVENUE, 7.50pm, 17th December. Two males approached the front door of the house and attempted to force open the door causing damage to the mortice lock and door. The alarm then went off and the males ran to a car and drove off.

Please remember to double lock your front doors whether you have a UPVC door or have a Yale and mortice. If you also have a UPVC porch door then double lock that too. If you have the security installed, then please use it.

Please also consider the use of timer switches to light your houses up after dark if you are not yet home.



Motor Vehicle Crime – January:

GREEN LANES, 10.45-11am, 2nd January. A 2021 Lexus was taken without keys by a male and a female who spent several minutes trying to steal the vehicle.

PILGRIMS CLOSE, 7pm, 14th January – 6am, 15th January. A 2017 Alfa Romeo was taken without keys. Vehicle was found parked up with false number plates and recovered to the pound.

FOX LANE, 3.30pm, 17th January – 2pm, 18th January. A 2017 Toyota Yaris was taken overnight without keys after the car window was smashed.

OLD PARK ROAD, 10AM-4.30pm. A vehicle was entered by drilling two holes into the side door and contents were taken from inside.

ALDERMANS HILL, 1.40pm, 29th January. A 2015 Ford Mondeo was taken without keys from Morrisons car park with £2000 worth of tools.

BROOMFIELD AVENUE, 7.43am, 29th January – 4pm, 30th January. A 2014 Ford Fiesta was taken without keys.

Robbery/theft – January:

THE WALK FOX LANE, 4-6pm, 10th January. The male suspect rang the doorbell and when the victim opened the door, pushed the victim to one side and made their way into the property. The suspect then took an unknown object from the table in the living room and left the property.

THE GROVE, 7.45-7.50pm, 10th January. A mobile phone was snatched from the victim's hand by a suspect on a bicycle as they rode past.

Opposite POWYS LANE, 1.30-1.36pm, 23rd January. The suspect on a motorbike rode up on the embankment then approached the victim and snatched his mobile phone from his hand before riding towards the park.

Thieves will use a number of ways, sometimes more elaborate, to steal your possessions, especially easy items such as phones and bags.

Don't stereotype what a thief looks like! Often they will dress smartly to avoid being detected.

STAY ALERT IN CROWDED PLACES

Pickpockets operate in crowded places often using something such as a newspaper, coat or bag to conceal their actions.



The concealed hand

- Look out for people who get too close to you in a crowded area.
- Never keep your phone, wallet or purse in an open pocket.
- Never leave your bag or rucksack unzipped and carry your bag in front, preferably diagonally across your body.

DON'T BE DISTRACTED

Thieves will often target those who seem more vulnerable and sometimes work in teams to try and distract and steal.

Table surfing is where a thief will use a newspaper or map to approach a customer at a café or restaurant and use the paper or map as a distraction to cover a phone, purse or wallet on a table and steal it.

- Be wary of strangers that approach you and always keep your phone or valuables out of reach.



Table surfing

Thieves will look to target people using ATMs and may distract you whilst using the machine. They may also watch from afar and then look for an opportunity to steal from you afterwards.

- Stay aware of your surroundings and don't become distracted when using an ATM. Ensure that any money you withdraw is safely secured.



The bank follow off

Watch out for strangers being overly friendly in bars, clubs and large gatherings – often referred to as hugger muggers.

- Stay alert if watching street performers and street gamblers. If you are jostled, bumped, hugged or crowded by anyone, consider that a pickpocket may be in action.



The hugger mugger

Please be very aware when using an ATM. If someone is behind you stand closer to the machine and block their view as they are looking to see you put in your PIN and as soon as they have will distract you to get your card by pressing cancel. A recent victim had £2000 stolen immediately afterward before the card could be cancelled.

Please also be very aware when getting cash out of the bank by way of the counter. It may be wise to take someone with you. Place the money in a secure place. A recent victim was followed back to Morrisons car park where they were distracted by nails placed under their tyres while a second suspect took their money.



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REPORT ONLINE

1. We'll read your report and call you back if we need to
2. Give advice and create an incident if appropriate
3. Carry out checks and pass it on to the right person
4. Investigate



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CALL 101



1. We'll take your details
2. Give advice and create an incident if appropriate
3. Carry out checks and pass it on to the right person
4. Investigate

Report online at met.police.uk

UPCOMING EVENT:

Monday 23rd February 2026, 11-11.30am –
Costa, 349 Green Lanes N13

COFFEE
WITH A
COPPER



Palmers Green Safer Neighbourhood Team Members:

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PS Mehmet Ganidagli
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