7. Sign up to FirsAlert

"**FirsAlert**" instant messaging was launched in 2013. 400+ residences have signed up to the service. This represents around 50% take up. Increasing the "eyes and ears" will help to keep the Firs safer by enabling the sharing of information on crimes and suspicious behaviour more widely across the Estate. If you have not yet signed up for the service, please do so. Details of how to join are on the front page. Your personal information will not be shared, and you can request removal from the service at any time.



FirsAlert Neighbourhood Watch (Autumn/Winter 2025-26 newsletter)

"**FirsAlert**" is the free online alert service for residents on the Firs Estate.

How to join

Simply email firsregister@gmail.com. Include your *street/house number* in the 'subject' line (this information is used only for validation and to monitor take-up by street). You do not need to provide your name.

Once registered by the Watch Coordinator, you will receive an email confirming that you have been added to the **FirsAlert** group. If you do not receive confirmation within ten working days of application, please notify your Street Representative.

GDPR (GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION)
If you wish to be removed from **FirsAlert**, simply email firsalert@gmail.com. Your data will be removed from the records, and you will receive no further communications.

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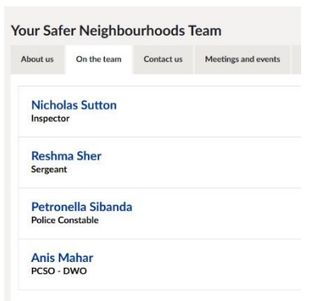
Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2025 edition of the **FirsAlert** newsletter.

1. Details of South Woodford Safer Neighbourhood Team

A new Police Sergeant and Constable have been appointed to South Woodford during the year. Anis Maher remains our local PCSO.

To contact South Woodford SNT, go to the "contact us" section of the Metropolitan Police website https://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/redbridge/south-woodford/contact-us/

Alternatively, scan the QR code opposite.



2. New local police hub (Woodford)

A new Police Hub ("The Woodford Police Hub") officially opened on 30 January 2025 and provides a dedicated base for Safer Neighbourhood officers covering six wards comprising South Woodford, Wanstead Park, Wanstead Village, Monkhams, Bridge, and Churchfield. It is located at Orchard Estate, off Broadmead Road, Woodford.

Officers covering South Woodford were previously based in Ilford, which limited responsiveness. The hub now stations up to twenty officers locally and should enable faster responses to issues like theft, vandalism, and antisocial behaviour.

Please note however that the hub is **not** a walk-in station meaning the public cannot drop in without appointment.

For in-person services, the nearest public-facing police station where you can walk in and speak to officers remains Ilford Police Station (Address: 270–294 High Road, Ilford IG1 1GT). The counter is open 10am to 10pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 7pm on weekends. The contact number for general enquiries is 020 8478 1123. For emergencies, always dial 999, and for non-emergency matters, use 101.

3. Local crime priorities

Local crime priorities are set by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) in consultation with the South Woodford Ward Panel. The Ward Panel is made up of representatives including residents, local businesses, community leaders, and local authorities. The priorities are designed to reflect the issues that matter most to local people. Priorities are reviewed quarterly to reflect changing issues.

Current priorities for South Woodford (as at end November 2025) are:

- Violence against women and girls
- Cannabis use and knife crime.
- Anti-Social Behaviour on George Lane/Viaduct

You can influence the local priorities in one of three ways:

- **Joining the Ward Panel**: These are open to residents and local businesses and advertised on the Met Police website (visit "your area" page using QR code opposite)
- **Direct contact with SNT officers**: See above.
- **Sign up via Met Engage**: Sign up at *www.metengage.co.uk*.

4. How to report crime and suspicious activity using FirsAlert

FirsAlert is an information sharing service that depends upon residents sharing information about crime and suspicious activity. If you are a victim of crime or note anything suspicious, for example burglary, car crime, drugs use, fly tipping etc., please follow the steps in the order below:

1. Always report in the first instance to Police (999 or 101). Please make a note of the **crime number** provided by the Police.
2. Report to your Street Representative. They will alert the Watch Coordinator
3. Report the incident via firscrime@gmail.com. Provide as much detail as possible (describe incident and those involved, time, location, crime reference number, other pertinent facts). Please note the information you provide will be used to draft suitable communication. Your anonymity is assured.

A **FirsAlert** message will be sent to everyone registered for this service by the Watch Coordinator. Note that in certain situations an alert may not be sent, for example due to the insufficiency (or sensitivity) of information received. The message will include the crime number (where provided) to enable residents to report/share relevant information relating to that incident with the Police.

Police resources are allocated based on crime statistics. It remains vitally important to report all crime and suspicious behaviour on the Firs to the Police (999 or 101) so that the data reflects the frequency, nature and extent of crimes occurring in our immediate area. Please ensure that you report to firscrime@gmail.com so that the information can be shared via FirsAlert.

In an emergency (immediate danger to life, limb, or property), **dial 999**.
In other cases, including reporting suspicious activity, **dial 101**.

5. Keeping safe on the Firs

As the darker nights draw in, please remember to check locks and doors on your property and vehicles before you go to sleep. Please keep a light on in your property at night. Dark houses are an invitation to burglars.

Please continue to report speeding vehicles (particularly prevalent on Broadwalk, Bressey and The Drive) to firscrime@gmail.com. Police will be notified of repeat offenders. Keeping our residents safe, particularly children remains a Firs priority.

6. Vacancies for Street Representatives

A warm welcome to Martin Jaffa who takes over from Sergio Inglima as the representative for Malford Court. Thank you, Sergio, for your support over the past few years.

We are still seeking replacement Street Representatives for Byron Avenue and High View Road. And we are still looking for a second street representative for Bressey Grove, to support Susan. Please contact the Watch Coordinator for a no-obligation chat and find out how you can play your part in keeping your street and local residential community safe.

Street	Representative	Contact Number
Broadwalk	Dave Murrell	020 8530 5000
Bressey Grove	Susan Borland	020 8989 0414
Bushey Ave. & Coppice Close	Victoria Geoghegan	07516 821332
Cheyne Avenue	Nadeem Younis	07918 737759
The Drive	Saj Ramzan	07711 684881
Greenheys Drive	Paul Devaney	020 8989 2733
Hermitage Close & Walk	Valerie Amos	07881 670350
Kings Park Court	Dave Kavanagh	07910 279445
Malford Court	Martin Jaffa	07944 996552
Malford Grove/Laurel Way I	Katie Lewis	07813 831451
Malford Grove/Laurel Way II	Jeff Jacobs	07824 607109
Raymond Avenue	Sabina Awan	07912 942210
Shernwood House & Orwell Lodge	Claire McDonald	07718 679551
Wordsworth Avenue	Jeremy Thomas	07908 739383
Watch Coordinator	Si Hussain	firsregister@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH