

## **Safe and Sound (Bromsgrove)**

**April 2017**

**North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership**

**Chair – Sue Hanley**

Spring is most certainly in the air and as the weather improves, car drivers are keen to enjoy the sun by opening sunroofs and windows. Being out of the habit, it's easy to forget to close them when you leave the car. This is a great opportunity for the unscrupulous amongst us to take a look and see what they can help themselves to - and they will! Please always remember to lock your car, removing all valuables, including your expensive sat nav. and don't forget to wipe the sucker marks from the window as well. If a potential thief sees the sucker marks, they will assume you have a sat nav and nine times out of ten, it will be in the glove box, boot or under the seat!

Most vehicle crime is preventable. It can take as little as ten seconds for a thief to steal something from your car. The best way to protect your belongings is to lock your car whenever you leave it. Other things you can do include:

- Take away temptation by removing everything from the car; don't even leave a carrier bag or coat where it can be seen
- Close the sunroof along with the windows when you leave
- If you can help it, don't store things in the boot; take them with you
- Keep car ownership information in your home, not your car
- Have a routine to ensure you always take the keys out of the ignition
- Take removable stereos and sat nav equipment with you
- In addition, consider using secure (theft resistant) number plates, which can make your plates less attractive to thieves

Where you park can make a big difference to the safety of your car and your belongings. Look out for car parks approved by the police Safer Parking scheme. You can find them by looking for their distinctive 'Park Mark' signs.

Please visit [www.nwcsp.org](http://www.nwcsp.org) for more help and crime prevention advice. Follow us on Twitter @saferbromsgrove