

# Theft, Robbery and Bullying

## The Brief: Operation Magpie

Operation magpie has been set up, as there have been a number of mobile phone robberies in Huntingbridge, over the past few weeks. The robberies have all taken place on a Saturday, which is market day, in Huntingbridge. So far 7 mobile phones have been stolen. All the victims have been seen and statements taken. By collating the information from the victims, the crime analyst has put together the following information about the crimes.

1. The robberies take place on a Saturday, between 0930 and 1200. There is no pattern in the locations of the robberies. They have been all over the town. All the victims have been 15 years old, or younger. Many outside the range of CCTV.
2. The robbers appear to be a gang of between 4 to 5 young people aged between 15 and 20. At least one of the gang is believed to be female. They all wear dark coloured hooded tops, tracksuit bottoms and training shoes. Because of the hooded tops it has been difficult to tell the offenders ethnic background, or gender.
3. CCTV has caught one of the robberies on tape. The gang stole the mobile phone from a young girl in the High Street and ran off into the Shopping Centre. It all happened so quickly, the operator was unable to get a good picture.

This is all the information available. As today is Saturday, in Huntingbridge, we are going to try and catch these robbers, if they strike again. Unfortunately there is a big football match in the next town and many police officers have been sent to cover that. There are 4 police officers on duty in Huntingbridge. As well as looking out for the robbers, they will need to keep an eye on the Saturday market, in the town centre. It is the busiest day of the week in Huntingbridge. Lots of people will be about. The police officer's call signs are HB47, HB53, HB70 and HB74.

You now have all the information available. The activity will start at 09.30. Good luck and remember, what is in a name?

## Protect your mobile

Thousands of mobile phones are stolen every month, in street robberies. Young people are particularly vulnerable. By taking a few simple steps you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of mobile phone theft.

### **What you can do**

By providing the police with some basic information about your phone, you can make it difficult for the thief to use.

These details are needed by the police if you report your phone stolen.

The 15-digit serial number, or IMEI number will help to identify your phone. This can be accessed by keying \*#06#, into most phones, or looking behind the battery. This number could help the police trace the owner quickly.

Always use your phone's security lock code, or pin number.

Security mark the battery and phone permanently with your postcode and street number. For more information on security marking, contact your local crime prevention officer.

Register your phone with the operator. If you report the phone stolen, the operator should be able to bar your SIM card.

When using your mobile phone, remain aware of your surroundings and do not use it in crowded areas, or where you feel unsafe.

Avoid displaying your phone where it is in public view. Keep it with you at all times and do not leave it unattended.

## Glossary

**Allotment** – large garden area on which people grow plants, usually vegetables

**Briefing** - giving instructions, or information that is needed to do a job.

**Byelaws** – local rules usually made for specific places by local authorities

**Burglary** – Going into a building where you are not allowed in order to steal

**Bullying** – one person threatening or frightening another person or teasing that upsets the other

**Call sign** – a code used to identify a person using a radio that does not use their name

**CCTV** - closed circuit television is used on major roads or town centres. They allow trouble to be spotted quickly.

**Chemist** – pharmacist

**CID** - Criminal Investigation Department, the detectives in the British police

**Common** - an area of open land belonging to a town or village

**Community Beat Officer** - the local Police Officer responsible for working in a specific area or beat.

**Complexion** - the colour and texture of a person's skin

**Control room** - the place at Police Headquarters, where the Police receive all the information about incidents in the local area, and then send out instructions to the Police Officers to deal with them.

**Crime** - something that is against the law

**Crime analyst** – a person who works for the police who studies reported crime to see if there are patterns that would help solve the crimes.

**Criminal** - a person who has broken the law

**Dog Warden** – a person employed by the Local Authority to collect stray dogs and involved in looking after dogs.

**Duty Inspector** - an inspector is a senior officer in the police force and the Duty Inspector organises the team of police who are dealing with an incident

**Evidence** - information that can be proved against an offender

**Fire Engine** – A name used for a fire appliance a vehicle used to carry fire fighters to an incident with their equipment

**Fined** – having to pay money for doing something wrong

**Fingerprints** – the mark left on something that has been touched by a person from the lines on their fingers no two people have the same pattern

**Fire Officer** – The person in charge of a group of fire fighters

**Hoax** – telling of something that is not true

**HQ** - short for headquarters, the centre of the police organisation for an area

**Incident** – Something that is happening

**Incident Room** – a room set up control a special event, where all communications come to and are sent on from.

**Local authorities** - locally elected councils responsible for some local services.

**Manager** – person in charge

**Market trader** – a person selling something from a market stall

**Moped** – small motorcycle with a 50cc engine

**Neighbourhood** - a small area where people live

**Neighbourhood Watch** - a scheme where people living in the same area agree to observe everyone's houses and the local streets in order to prevent crime

**Offence** - another name for a crime.

**Offender** - another name for a criminal

**Overleaf** - the other side of the paper

**PC** - abbreviation of Police Constable, a law enforcement officer in the UK

**Primary school** - a school in the English education system, which takes children up to the age of 11.

**Registration number** - the letters and numbers that make up the number plate of a car, lorry, or other vehicle.

**Regulations** – another name for rules

**Robbery** – Hitting a person or threatening to hit them in order to steal

**Scenes of crime officer** – a person working for the police who checks the places a crime has been committed for information that may help solve the crime such as fingerprints.

**Sergeant** – a police officers rank. The sergeant supervises PC's, but is under the Inspector

**Shop link** – a system usually using local radio through which shops in the same town can talk to each other about incidents

**Skip** – a large container in which to collect rubbish before taking it away

**Spent firework** – the container that remains after a firework has been used

**Statement** - a piece of writing signed by a witness telling the police what he or she saw

**Steal** – taking something that does not belong to the person taking and without the permission of the owner.

**Suspect** - someone who is thought to have committed a crime, but without any real evidence

**Theft** – A legal word for stealing, taking something with no right to do so

**Vandalised** - damaged caused by someone who should not have done it  
vehicle - a car, lorry or other form of transport found on a road

**Vehicle** - a car, lorry, or other form of transport found on a road.

**Vulnerable** - at risk of coming to harm

**Warrant card** - a card that shows the identity of a Police Officer.

# Huntingbridge

Huntingbridge is a small market town.

It began life as a small Saxon settlement by the River Great Hunt and gradually grew over the years, due to the importance of its market and the building of the first bridge in 1110 AD.

Huntingbridge has had high points and low points over the last 1,000 years. The population has grown rapidly over the past twenty-five years from 12,000 in 1970, to 20,000 in 1995, largely as a result of the construction of a large housing estate and industrial estate creating many jobs.

The town has a wide range of facilities, including a main line railway station, a large town centre shopping area, market, hospital, out of town shopping area, library, cinema, a number of pubs, a night club and a large industrial estate. There is also a nature reserve and marina.

The police station is usually open from 0800 hrs to 2400 hrs every day for callers. It is manned 24 hours a day and as well as uniform patrols there is a traffic department and CID offices.

Huntingbridge has a magistrate's court and crown court.

The fire station is manned 24 hours by regular fire fighters.

The hospital has an ambulance station and a 24-hour casualty department. Education in Huntingbridge is provided by several primary schools, a comprehensive school and a sixth form college.

Crime in Huntingbridge is not high by national standards, although it causes some residents concern. The Police are working with the community on a range of projects to try and reduce crime and the fear of crime, through Neighbourhood Watch, Countryside Watch, the District Council and other interested groups.

Some of the schools have active Junior Crime Prevention Panels and Youth Action Groups. The Town Council has established a Youth Town Council. This is an elected group of 15 to 20 year old people in the town. They address issues that relate to young people. They are set up as a Council Sub Committee and have a budget allocation.

Huntingbridge has recently had two CCTV schemes installed in the town. One is located in the shopping area and Market Square and the other at the hospital. These have helped to cut crime. There are plans to extend these schemes when more money becomes available.

