Dear Coordinators and watch members,

Could you please be aware of the rising  car crime that is occurring over the Knutsford and Wilmslow areas in hotel, restaurant and pub car parks. Some fitness centre car parks have also been targeted.  
  
Lap tops / briefcases and other luggage are being left on rear seats of vehicles instead of being hidden from view and this is establishing hotspots on these car parks..  
  
Please see below a reminder of how you can keep your property safe from  
theft and  burglary over the coming winter months  
  
**Burglary Dwelling**  
   § Make sure you shut and lock all windows and doors when you go out or go to bed  
   § Fit a five lever mortice deadlock to your front and rear doors  
   § Fit locks on windows particularly any vulnerable ones  
   § Invest in an exterior light  
   § When you leave your property during hours of darkness take a minute to check that it looks like it does when you are in and use more timer switches.  
   § Check perimeter security for easy access points and consider planting prickly plants to make access more difficult.  
   § Consider installing an intruder alarm  
  
**Distraction Burglary**  
   § Remember that you do not have to let any uninvited guest into your property  
   § Remember the following advice:-  
               § STOP - Is anyone expected?  
               § CHAIN - Put the chain on before opening the door  
               § CHECK - Check the Caller's ID before opening the door and if necessary use a phone book or directory enquiries to find the company telephone number  
   § People will use any excuse they can in order to gain access to your property. They may claim to be from the Utility Companies, Housing Associations or perhaps a plain clothes Police officer.  Other excuses include children loosing balls or an someone claiming to be ill and asking for a drink of water.  
   § If possible set up a password with your utility company, most companies have schemes that will let you do this.  
  
**Vehicle Crime**  
   § Don't leave valuables such as mobile phones, sat navs etc on display  
   § Always lock your vehicle even if only leave it for a minute  
   § Make sure your car keys are not easily accessible when your car is parked overnight  
   § If you have a garage or a drive please make sure you use them to park your car.

Please report anyone or anything suspicious to the police on 0845 458  0000  
  
   Thank you  
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                            Jane Thirsk, Watch Officer, Office: 01244 612725  
Wilmslow Neighbourhood Policing Team 0845 458 6374  
Knutsford  Neighbourhood Policing Team 0845 458 6380  
Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team 0845 458 6371