



# VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
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View on the Anston Parish Council website: <https://www.anston.gov.uk> under **Community**

## ➤ **FAKE PARKING QR CODES**

Since the pandemic, QR codes - a type of barcode that looks like a square with a black and white pattern - have grown in popularity, and can be used as a payment method. But the success of QR codes is now being exploited by scammers, leading to a recent spike in QR tricks at UK car parks. Drivers have been caught out by fake QR codes for parking payment apps being stuck on ticket machines that actually direct them to third-party scam sites to trick customers into sharing their credit card details or to download malware onto phones to steal personal information. There are several things to look out for on an authentic QR code when using a car park ticket machine.

### ❖ **Key give-aways to watch out for to protect yourself**

- Check that the website that a QR code directs to should start with "https://" and there is a padlock icon next to the web site address. It's a good idea to also check that the name of the website you're directed to matches the business.
- Consistent branding: The design of a QR code should match the business's branding. If the branding or logo appears to be different or there are suspicious elements on the code itself, such as if it looks like it has been stuck over another code, it could be a sign that the QR code may not have been made by the business.
- Two-factor authentication: Two-factor authentication is a key security feature when making online payments. Secure sites will have a Visa Secure, MasterCard SecureCode, or American Express SafeKey logo on them. When you make a payment you'll be asked to authenticate your cardholder details to provide an additional layer of security against fraud.

### ❖ **Rogue adverts**

Beware of a website called Alltainment that can pop up unexpectedly and you can end up paying a monthly subscription of £39.99 for an entertainment package. Many people have reported that they tried to download parking apps – such as JustPark, Parkonomy, PayByPhone and Ringgo – but somehow ended up signing up for Alltainment instead. Searching Google for legitimate parking apps can produce links to websites called uk.apkpac.com, which promotes apps and games. One webpage appears to feature a promotion for the JustPark app, but it actually hosts a series of 'clickable' adverts for Alltainment. Other adverts that could be misleading include one for 'Fine10' that links to a website called flirtypmeetings – company name Automation Programs Solutions Ltd. This site charges a £1.25 'profile setup fee' then an eye-watering £46.75 per month if you don't cancel after a one-day trial. JustPark confirmed that the uk.apkpac is not affiliated with it in any way, and urges victims to report scams. It has no association with Flirtypmeetings or Alltainment, and both advertisers have already been reported for product misrepresentation, scamming and copyright infringement to the relevant advertising platforms.

### ❖ **How to report rogue advertising and scams**

It is against Google's rules for advertisers to impersonate brands or businesses, or use techniques such as cloaking to circumvent its systems. You can report scam ads directly to the relevant platform as well as the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Although the ASA only regulates ads by legitimate businesses, it notifies all participating platforms with key details of reported scam adverts to have it removed. If you give away bank details or lose money to a scam, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your card and report the scam to Action Fraud.

## ➤ **CONTACTS**

### ❖ **SY Police: <https://www.southyorks.police.uk>**

- ❖ **Emergencies: call 999:** when there is a threat to life; a traffic accident where persons are injured, the road is blocked or a vehicle involved in the accident has failed to stop; a serious offence is in progress; violence to a person or damage to property is imminent; a suspected offender is still at the scene of a crime or any delay in reporting the incident may prevent the offender being apprehended; serious disruption to the public is currently taking place or is likely to take place.

**Non-emergencies: call 101:** to report a crime not currently taking place, or to give information. Calls to 101 cost 15 pence per call from landlines and mobiles - no matter how long you're on the phone.

**Report an incident online:** As an alternative to 101, you can report a non-emergency incident online at <https://www.reportingcrime.uk>, or from the main SYP web page under **Report something**  
**Advice for Victims:** on the home page of SYP, information about support and useful contact details of other supporting agencies you can access.

- ❖ **Areyouok?** Information and advice on violence and abuse: <https://www.areyouok.co.uk>
  - ❖ **Crimestoppers:** report crime or suspicious activity anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 Monday-Friday 08:00-22:00; Saturday and Sunday 10:00-16:00 or online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>
  - ❖ **Action Fraud:** To report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime: the Action Fraud contact centre: 0300 123 2040. You may make the report anonymously. Text phone users can ring 0300 123 2050. Report fraud online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- National Cyber Security Centre NCSC:** You can report a suspicious website link or URL using the form in this link: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website>
- ❖ **Adviceguide:** (was Citizens Advice). Help with problems such as benefits, debt, work, energy, health, housing, relationships, consumer problems such as building work, energy and water supply, faulty goods, paying bills, refunds for faulty goods and poor services, rogue traders, travel, making a complaint and taking legal action: 08454 040506 (6p per minute) or local rate charge 0208 1850 710
  - ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

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**CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Aster Close	Violence offences x 3	Petrol Station	Violence offences
Crowgate	Burglary	Pine Avenue	Violence offences x 3
Freesia Close	Possession of weapons	The Haven	Burglary
Lidsters Lane	Shoplifting	The Haven	Public order x 2
Lidsters Lane	Vehicle crime	The Haven	Vehicle crime
Lilac Close	Vehicle crime	The Haven	Burglary
Lobelia Court	Criminal damage/arson	Wesley Place	Burglary x 2
Manor Farm Gdns	Other theft	West Street	Vehicle crime
Orchid Way	Anti-social behaviour	Wilberforce Road	Violence offences
Orchid Way	Criminal damage/arson	Wilberforce Road	Burglary
Petrol Station	Public order	Wilberforce Road	Vehicle crime
Petrol Station	Vehicle crime	Wilberforce Road	Violence offences

**CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**

Crime on or near	Crime Category	Crime on or near	Crime Category
Anston Close	Burglary	Ryton Road	Burglary
Anston Close	Violence offences	Sca Fell Place	Vehicle crime
Bennett Croft	Anti-social behaviour	Sca Fell Place	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Anti-social behaviour x 2	Sunnyside Close	Other theft
Caperns Road	Drugs	Sunnyside Close	Violence offences
Caperns Road	Public order	The Green	Public order
Caperns Road	Violence offences x 2	The Green	Violence offences x 2
Common Road	Public order	The Green	Anti-social behaviour x 2
Common Road	Vehicle crime	The Green	Shoplifting x 2
Cramfit Close	Burglary	The Orchard	Vehicle crime
Edinburgh Drive	Violence offences	The Oval	Violence offences
Hanging Bank Ct	Burglary	The Rise	Violence offences x 2
Lakeland Drive	Anti-social behaviour	Wellington Avenue	Drugs
Limekilns	Anti-social behaviour	White Gate	Violence offences
Lodge Farm Close	Violence offences	White Gate	Public order
Narrow Lane	Vehicle crime	Willow Chase	Other theft
Oakdale Road	Violence offences	Woodland Drive	Criminal damage/arson
Parking Area	Vehicle crime	Woodland Drive	Public order
Patterdale Way	Anti-social behaviour	Yew Tree Avenue	Public order
Patterdale Way	Other theft	Yew Tree Avenue	Violence offences x 2