

Sales pitch easy to see through

IF you're thinking about upgrading your home by installing uPVC windows and doors, the thought of a company recycling your old frames for you to buy new ones sounds quite appealing.

And most people have had salesmen targeting them online offering unique deals using the 'Government Scrappage Scheme'.

It's all lies. There is no such thing as a window scrappage scheme, or a Government-backed scrappage scheme.

A group of big-name double glazing brands are offering to replace old uPVC frames for new ones.

All they ask is that you give them your old window frames to recycle and they'll install brand new uPVC windows which could help you – allegedly – save up to £2,800 on energy bills, where heat would otherwise be “leaking” through current windows and doors.

Despite these bold claims made by some big-name companies, old frames don't actually end up on landfill if you don't recycle them.

Most companies these days will recycle your old window frames anyway. This is because they're made to be 100% recyclable and environmentally friendly.

E-scooter injuries

ALMOST 60 people were injured in e-scooter collisions in Essex last year, new figures show.

Department for Transport figures show 57 casualties were recorded by Essex Police in 2022 - a rise from 44 in 2021 and a significant increase from ten casualties two years prior.

Private e-scooters cannot be legally ridden on roads or pavements in the UK but have become a common sight, particularly in urban areas.

Boy racers warned

FIFTEEN drivers were issued with tickets and one car was seized as officers protected residents in Canvey Island from anti-social driving and behaviour at an illegal car meet.

More than 200 vehicles from as far away as Norfolk attended the car meet at Roscommon Way in July. Officers attended, seizing one car for a second Section 59 warning and issued 15 tickets relating to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). Two other drivers were issued traffic reports for having non-conforming number plates.

The area is subject to a PSPO which was put in place in September last year following many years of vehicle-related anti-social behaviour which has had a detrimental impact on residents and businesses.

These events not only disturb residents due to their noise but also pose a risk to the safety of the participants and members of the public due to the dangerous driving.

Your local coordinator is...

No-go zone for sex offenders

ESSEX has become a no-go area for sex offenders as the force's Tenacious specialist teams have been ranked the best in the country at bringing predators to justice.

Essex Police is ranked 1st out of 43 forces across the UK for its sexual offences conviction rate, spanning the 12 months until May 2023.

Across the county, an unmatched 91.3% of sexual offence cases ended with a successful conviction, compared against the 84.5% average nationally.

Officers solved 576 sexual offences across this period – an increase of 130 on the year before – solving 96 cases involving rape, an increase of 30 year-on-year.

Throughout the first six months of 2023 significant custodial sentences have been imposed on sexual predators, taking criminals bent on causing devastating harm to vulnerable victims off our streets.



Detective Sergeant Neil Pudney, head of Essex Police investigations, crime & public protection command

Trading Standards fraudsters

ESSEX Trading Standards has warned that fraudsters claiming to be from 'Basildon Trading Standards' have been targeting previous victims of fraud and attempting to steal further money from them.

The caller claims to work for Basildon Trading Standards (which is non-existent) and is calling to help them recover money lost to a previous scam.

The fraudsters are using fake names for Trading Standards Officers and are asking for further payments to help 'recover' their money.

PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Challenge any calls, letters or emails you don't recognise or companies you've never contacted.
- If you're asked to pay, or give bank account details, end all contact.
- Ask how they found out that you had been a victim.
- Any report of fraud is protected by law and can't be shared with anyone outside of law enforcement agencies.

Report scam calls to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Our thanks to Peter Faulkner for giving his time to put this newsletter together