

NO COLD CALLING ZONES (NCCZs)

NCCZs are formally set up by the Trading Standards Dept. of North Yorkshire County Council as one part of an initiative designed to reduce distraction burglaries and rogue trading (doorstep crime).

Trading Standards, in partnership with North Yorkshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other bodies, promote the formation of these schemes in order to support residents in an effort to stop uninvited salespeople from calling at your house.

Although there are relatively few instances of doorstep crime, there are still too many. You may have read about bogus water board officials entering under false pretences, drive or tarmac laying repairs with 'cheap materials surplus to contract', roof tiling repairs or replacement, furniture and garden materials left over from a sale or exhibition, etc. There may also be rogue fish sellers and unidentified charity collectors active in the area. Usually the old, single, more vulnerable person is the victim.

Besides being upsetting there is evidence that it can be very costly as these rogues often demand cash payment for unnecessary work, which considerably exceeds their original verbal quotation, and in some instances payment has been many thousands of pounds over a period of two or three years.

So far there are about 200 NCCZ schemes in North Yorkshire, with an increasing number of schemes in South Hambleton. Council funding is always limited, so it is important to make an early evaluation as to the need for setting up a scheme in your locality and submitting an application requesting the 'Creation of a NCCZ'.

It is necessary to identify one person to represent the residents in a small area to make the application.

The person may be a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Parish Councillor, Representative Resident or a member of your Police **Safer Neighbourhood Team** (SNT).

If the 'leader' is from NHW, it helps to hold a NHW meeting to agree on the need and justification and furthermore to obtain the agreement of the Parish Council and Police SNT before submitting the application. By justification, we mean, that the core objective of preventing or reducing crime or the fear of crime can be met, the zone is relatively small and can be defined geographically with limited point(s) of access, has a number of vulnerable residents, and consultation with householders demonstrates at least 75% agreement.

If there have been incidents with rogue traders in the locality, agreeing with the police and mentioning the facts of the case(s) would usually help to prioritise the application.

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY