

Summary of Events in St. Crispin's Close

29/1/2019

Locations of the 5 separate arson attacks in the Close

We've now had 5 arson attacks in the Close. All the attacks have been at night, except the fire in the woods at the eastern end. They are becoming more intrepid, with each attack being further into the road. We have filed many police reports.



Arson attack on council land at the eastern end of the Close.

This was the first attack. Over the years rubbish had been dumped on the council ground at the far end of the Close. An arson attack was carried out on an old wooden framed divan bed, which resulted in a fire which burned some of the trees and required the fire brigade to put it out. This was a very worrying event for the owner of number 36 as it was close enough to his property to singe his fence.

The Resident's Association paid contractors to clear all the accumulated rubbish and paid for tree surgeons to cut back overhanging branches which we deemed to be a hazard to property should another attack take place. This was at considerable expense, but we felt we had no choice in the matter, for the safety of the residents.

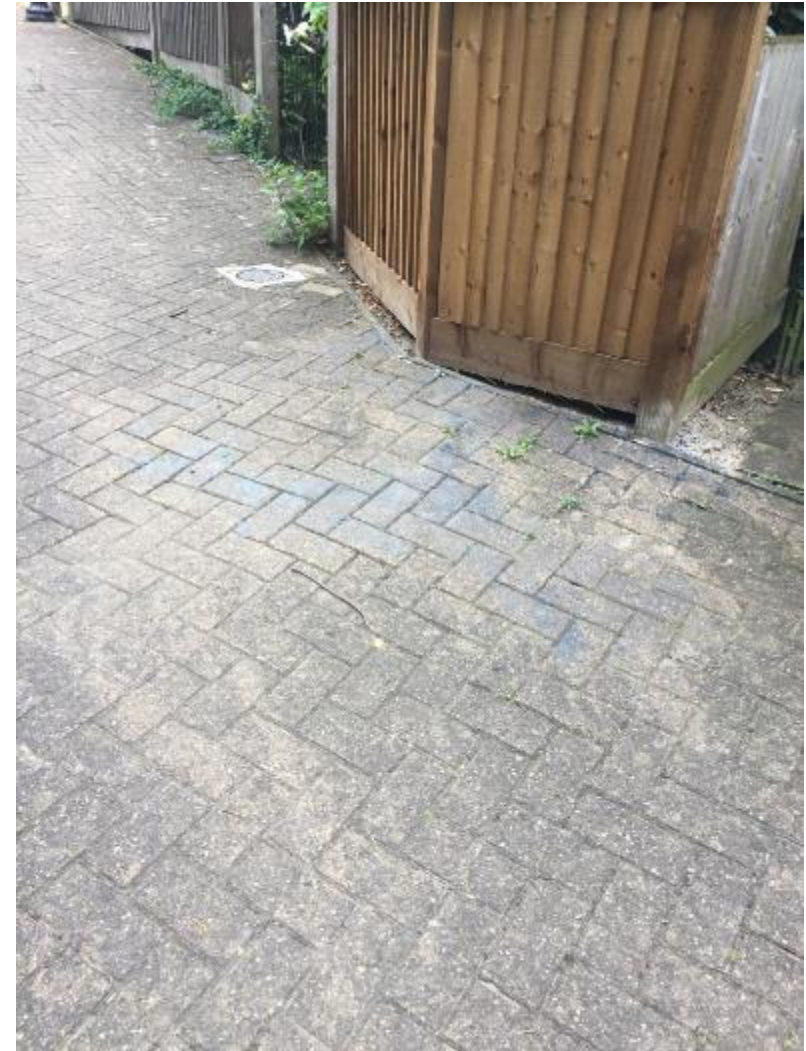
We don't have any photos but there are many emails between the board and the managing agent about this.

Arson Attack outside Number 1 St. Crispin's Close

The second attack. This was carried out a night. The resident woke up to find his bin had been set on fire and it had spread to the fence. The fire brigade was called to the scene. It could easily have set the adjacent bin area on fire which could have spread to the buildings.



We had to have the fence repaired and the debris scraped from the block paving at considerable cost.



Arson Attack outside Number 9 St. Crispin's Close

The third attack was also carried out at night. As you can see the recycling bin was completely melted to the floor and was only 0.5m from the wooden fence. If the fence had caught fire it would probably have set the house on fire as it is just under the wooden garage eaves. **Clearly the arsonist is not that concerned about proximity to property or the vehicle which was on the drive at the time. You can see the ferocity of the flames from a burning bin from the previous photos. We think it is no exaggeration to say this could easily have led to a house fire, with the occupants sleeping inside.**



Arson Attack outside Number 30 St. Crispin's Close

4th attack. Also carried out at night. Just a metre or so from a vehicle parked on the drive.

After this attack we decided that we had to ask all the residents to no longer keep their recycling bins outside their houses, as the arsonist seemed so determined and we felt it was only a matter of time before there was a more serious incident.



Arson Attack outside Number 35 St. Crispin's Close

5th attack. Another night time attack, this time on a builder's skip outside a property. Note the proximity to the vehicle showing a total disregard for safety and property.



The fire brigade were called at around 4.22am



Location of previous
attack (4th attack)

POLICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
FIRE IN SKIP.

Attendees: A432

Address: 35 ST CRISPIN'S CLOSE
LONDON
NW3 2QF

Incident Location: E:527417, N:185663

Incident Type: A2

Other Information
Caller Details: 02074311565

Text: Incident Time: 13/07/2018 04:22:05
Incident type "A2"
SKIP ALIGHT
Assigned: A432
Map Book: 35GB/69
Roles A432:PUMPING APPLIANCE
Talkgrp FLON-OPS04

Dumping of household refuse and furniture

We get this on a regular basis, about once a month.
We have to pay to have it removed.



Outdoor drinking, smoking and recreational drug use.

St. Crispin's Close is a privately owned cul-de-sac. Unless you have business in the road we believe there is no excuse to be on the private property. Despite all the signs we have put up people still seem to treat it like a normal public road.

We get groups of people hanging out drinking and smoking on a daily basis, inside of the entrance to the Close.

It is obvious from the smell that some people are smoking Marijuana.

Most disturbingly, we have witnessed (but not approached) what has clearly been drug dealing, at the entrance and also much further into the Close.

Our gardeners have found and have to dispose of used syringes thrown into the garden area at the front of the Close.

All of this is very intimidating for the residents of the Close. On the occasions where people have been asked to 'move along', it is normally met with an aggressive response.

Dumping of alcoholic beverage containers and general rubbish

This is a daily occurrence. General littering at the entrance is also a daily occurrence. We can provide much more evidence of this if needed.



Garden vandals

We had a night time raid on the gardens at the entrance to the Close causing considerable damage the bushes. Luckily the stems were not cut but we are now left with a very unsightly mess at the entrance, we can only hope it will green-up over time. There was a costly clear up.



Damage to road and kerbs

We get many vans and lorries using the entrance to drop off and wait (unrelated business to the Close). They often mount the kerb causing damage. Once they enter they can only turn around by coming further into the Close, as it is too narrow at the entrance and it is dangerous the reverse out on to the road.

This happens night and day. Many lorry drivers stop for their lunch or to fill in paperwork.

It is common to see mini cabs parked here too.



Damage to other property

As well as driving too fast, they cause other damage. Last year a lorry clipped a tree, which weakened it to such an extent we had to have it felled for safety reasons. Again this was done at considerable expense to the residents. We were unable to find out who caused the damage as it was a 'hit and run' event.

The tree that was damaged was much bigger than the one shown in the background. The tyre marks found at the time suggest the vehicle mounted the kerb. The damage was to the trunk at around 3m up, suggesting it was caused by a large lorry.



The road was so worn and damaged by all the lorries and heavy vehicles that we had to re-surface the road at the entrance, as well as repair the kerb stones where heavy vehicles had continually mounted it. You can see the heavy scouring and pitting of the original surface below. This was very costly.

Since then, the vehicles continue to use the re-surfaced road and park on the kerb on an almost daily basis.

We have been unable to deter this activity despite the Private Road signs, parking enforcement signs and double yellow lines.

No one seems to realise that this is a private road and any damage has to be paid for by the residents. We must keep it in good order for health and safety reasons.



Other issues – Urination, dog fouling, dumped vehicles, parking issues

Despite having implemented most of the recommendations from the previous planning application rejection (namely, fencing off the green areas, adding signs and improving the lighting etc) we are still plagued by people using the garden area for urination and for dog fouling.



We fenced off the garden area at the entrance, but people just climb over the fence to urinate behind the wall.

You can see that the foot fall is so heavy the grass has died off in the corner. In the summer you can clearly smell the urine in this area as you walk past.



Other issues – Dumped vehicles, parking issues

In addition we have had vehicles dumped, people sleeping in vehicles in the Close and vehicles that appear to have been used for burglaries. We found one abandoned vehicle, left open, which was full of computer equipment, obviously stolen.

Below are the crime reference number, date and vehicle registration that we reported.

31st March 2018

CAD 2966

Vehicle reg ST03 FVH

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29/1/2019

Other issues – Turning place, Nuisance Parking



This van man was eating his lunch
as we walked by



Clearly this SUV had driven straight over the newly
fixed kerb area and was blocking the parking for
Number 1 & 2

Other issues – Turning place, Nuisance Parking



There was nowhere to park on the left hand side... so just do a 3 point turn up our kerbs and...



Park on the other kerb, blocking access to the Close whilst going to the shops opposite.

Further parking of vehicles in St. Crispin's Close



Vehicles making deliveries elsewhere frequently park on our pavement. Not only do they damage our kerb but can also cause traffic problems in and out of the Close.



Further Incident of Arson at St Crispin's Close

31 March 2019



A wheelie bin was set on fire at around 04h00 on Sunday 31 March 2019, immediately outside No. 31.

The fire brigade were called and extinguished it, but not before smoke from the burning plastic had penetrated the house.

This is the fifth such incident this year, all of which have taken place within proximity of houses. Whilst no-one has yet been injured, the risk of fire spreading to either adjacent homes and/or the surrounding woodland remains pressing.

It is imperative that security gates are provided in order to address the serious risk that such incidents pose to the safety and security of residents.

