

Neighbourhood Watch Community Notice

Non-Emergency contact number 101 – Emergency 999

<u>Chichester District</u>

Rogue Traders - Protecting our Communities!

We are continuing to receive reports of potential scams within the District. Please remain vigilant and do not pass any personal details to anybody, whether that be face to face, phone call or via the internet.

The latest report relates to a white male, approximately 5ft, late 30's, wearing dark blue tracksuit bottoms and a lighter blue top. The male approached a resident in the Gilbert Road area of Chichester at approximately 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th March 2012. He stated that he was there to complete a job as a tree had fallen in the area. He provided no ID and the local resident sent him on his way. The local Housing Association confirmed that they had no contractors in the area so it is believed that this was a potential scam opportunity.

Rogue traders seek out the elderly and vulnerable, often convincing them that an unnecessary job such as guttering or the resurfacing of a driveway needs doing then using pressure and intimidation to extract large sums of money.

Rogue Traders are likely to engage in any of the following behaviour:

- A lack of any written quotation/contract
- A lack of business name details on invoices
- Unfair contract terms
- Lack of cancellation rights
- Misleading description (including misrepresentations as to work needed/carried out; price; false accreditation/trade association claims).
- Aggressive trading practices (e.g. escorting victims to banks/cash points in order to secure payment).
- In extreme cases, fraud by false representation.

Please spread the word and protect yourself and those around you from becoming a victim.

Lisa Shadbolt PCSO 27388 Chichester District

Address: Chichester Police Station | Kingsham Road | Chichester | West Sussex | PO19 8AD

If you see anything suspicious please report it immediately.