

# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Working in conjunction with



## **We Don't Buy Crime – SmartWater**

With crime and the fear of crime being on the increase, Baschurch Parish Council is pleased to announce it has been successful in a grant application from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for funding towards the cost of providing SmartWater packs FREE to every home within the Parish. Evidence has shown that areas that sign up to the 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative and have homes marked with SmartWater see a decrease in burglary and theft of up to 80%!

## **How Is This Funded, Will There Be a Cost?**

The PCC have agreed to fund 25% of the cost of the kits with the balance being paid for by Baschurch Parish Council from the Neighbourhood Fund the Parish Council receives. The Neighbourhood Fund is money generated directly from new development within the Parish, so it is appropriate that this money is used to benefit every household within the Parish.

The pre-registered SmartWater packs will be supplied completely free of charge to every household within the Parish. There is no cost to householders for registration and there are no further costs involved in using the kits. If you are asked by anyone to make any payment for the kits or to register them, please contact the Police – we reiterate that there is no cost to householders in any way for receiving or using these kits.

In addition to providing grant funding towards the cost of the SmartWater kits, the PCC has agreed that they will provide large (A1) customised 'We Don't Buy Crime' signs with the name of villages displayed prominently at the start of each settlement, with repeater signs throughout the villages. These signs have been proven to be a powerful deterrent to criminals.

## **What is SmartWater?**

SmartWater is a traceable liquid and forensic asset marking system (taggant) that is applied to items of value to identify thieves and deter theft. The liquid leaves a long lasting and unique identifier, whose presence is invisible except under an ultraviolet black light.

Each kit will have a unique vial of SmartWater sufficient to mark 50-75 items, plus 4 large window stickers and 60 smaller weatherproof stickers to put on items to show that they have been marked. Once dry, SmartWater cannot be removed from an item, leaving lasting proof that a marked item belongs to you.

## **When Will I Get My Kit?**

The kits were received in August 2021 and the first kits were distributed at Baschurch Village Fete in September. Overall, there are about 1,200 kits to register and distribute, which is a big task. A small team of councillors are working to collate addresses and register the kits before we can sort out door to door delivery. Please bear with us while we try and get all of this work done, we are doing our best to get the kits out to you as soon as is practically possible.

Baschurch Parish Council would like to get as close to 100% take up of the scheme as possible. The more homes marked and registered with SmartWater, the bigger the deterrent for criminals to keep on moving and not to target homes within our Parish.

Please do not contact the Parish Council at this stage to ask where your kit is. An update will be put on the Parish Council website when the majority of the kits have been distributed. At that point, if you still haven't received your kit, contact details will be made available for enquiries about receiving kits.