

Halloween Safety

Halloween can be a fun and exciting time for children and adults alike. However, not everyone wants to partake in the events of Halloween and many people feel vulnerable in their own homes at this time of year. Activities that frighten or intimidate people are no longer fun, but irresponsible and anti-social. When parents plan for their children to go Trick or Treating, this should be carefully organised with the children to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable and safe time, including residents in their homes.

Please be responsible and considerate to the community by following the advice below for your own safety and that of the community:

- Parents, guardians or another responsible adult should always accompany children when Trick or Treating.
- If older children are not accompanied, parents and guardians should always know the roads where they are trick or treating, and should agree a time that they should arrive home. However, as a general rule, if you are too old to be accompanied by an adult, you are too old to be Trick or Treating.
- When planning your route stick to street-lit roads, and only knock on doors where you or your friends know the occupant. Never enter a stranger's house.
- Take a torch with you.
- Always be polite and respectful when knocking on doors.
- If people have stickers or notes on their doors requesting, "No Trick or Treaters", this MUST be respected. The signs are displayed for good reason.
- Tricks can be extremely intimidating to residents and can in some circumstances amount to criminal offences. Throwing eggs or flour causes misery and possible criminal damage which the police will take seriously. Threatening to throw things, shouting through the letter box and scaring people are all examples of anti-social behaviour which police can target. **DO NOT** trick strangers – you do not know who they are and how frightened they may be. If you are at all unsure, do not carry out tricks at all.

By following these simple, common sense guidelines, Halloween will be a more enjoyable time for all.