Warning: Scam Relating to Neighbourhood Watch

7 July 2010

A resident in South London has reported a possible scam taking place in his locality.

A man claiming to represent 'Neighbourhood Watch Support' telephoned to say that a Neighbourhood Watch brochure was going out to all the local residents. The caller was encouraging local businesses to advertise in this brochure.

The resident agreed to place an advertisement and later received a further phone call from a company calling itself 'Business Community Support Multimedia'. The caller took some details over the phone.

Later the resident received a letter with a 'proof' for the advertisement. Apart from the name of the business and the contact phone number, every detail was incorrect. The accompanying letter said that unless any amendments were received within five days (by phone, email or fax) they would assume that the details were correct and place the advert.

The resident tried several times to contact the company by email and phone but to no avail, finding his emails unanswered and his phone calls cut off. Luckily he had not paid any money for the advertisement.

We would like to make it clear that there is no national umbrella for-profit organisation called 'Neighbourhood Watch Support' and that the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network itself is not in a position to vouch for the legitimacy of individual such organisations at a local level. In some areas of the country there are legitimate, bona fide local groups using that name [e.g. for Daventry district, there is DANWST]; however, you are advised to take reasonable precautions and avoid agreeing to anything over the phone or on your doorstep.

This scam has also been reported from other areas of the country in recent months and the company mentioned above is also subject to previous complaints.

This link (and subsequent links) may be of interest.