

OWL (Online Watch Link) is a communication system that West Yorkshire Police are using to send out daily information to members who have registered with OWL relating to crime issues that may affect the area you live in.

Recently West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Bradford Metropolitan Council have also joined us in using the system to enable these services to advise members of important issues that affect your area i.e. Fire Safety advice and Emergency information from the council.

We group members into different Watches i.e. Neighbourhood Watch, School Watch, Shop Watch, Faith Watch, Forecourt Watch etc.

We have over Twelve Thousand members so far online from all over the district and we can direct messages to Individual people, streets, areas, wards or to the whole District in an instant. This means that if we are informing you of a Burglary in Queensbury we would direct the message to this area and not to the whole district as it may not affect members in Ilkley, Burley in Wharfedale, Addingham or Silsden.

Equally if we feel that something may be useful to other areas we would include these for instance, we may have a spike of Vehicle thefts that have happened across different wards so we would include these messages in the affected ward areas.

We send out a Monthly Ward Newsletter from your local Police Inspector, a quarterly Newsletter from the Police and Crime Commissioner and seasonal information with advice such as Darker Night Campaign and the Spring and Summer Campaign.

OWL is a two way communication tool and this will allow you to speak to the agency who have sent a message out to you.

We do not encourage you to report a crime via OWL as we do not have the facility to give you a log number and you should always report a crime via our 101 telephone number or 999 in an emergency situation but there may be appeals that are sent out and a contact number or e-mail address for you to send information to us, equally you may have experienced a suspicious incident and would like to tell us about it.

There is also some useful information relating to the area that you live where you can use this to report on “Fix My Street” to Bradford Council and you can find out where your local amenities are and statistical information.

You can register as a user on OWL by visiting the website of [www.OWL.co.uk/WYP](http://www.OWL.co.uk/WYP)

If you would like to become a Neighbourhood Co-ordinator you can let us know by telling us in the “Comments Section” when you register.