

The following information is taken from the PACT newsletters for North Dorset

Bogus callers in North Dorset

There have recently been attempts by criminals to trick residents out of money or obtain their bank details by pretending to be council officials from North Dorset District Council.

Residents should be aware that if a council officer is going to call on you they will make an appointment and they will always carry and show official identification. The council never sends personal callers to collect money neither does it ever cold call customers to ask for their bank details.

If you are in any doubt as to the identity of a caller who says they are from the council or if they are anyone else you are not expecting you should follow the advice from Dorset Police:

Stop - Before you answer the door, think are you expecting anyone.

Chain - Put the door chain or bar on the door before opening the door and always keep it on when talking to the person on your doorstep. If you can, look through a window to see who is calling.

Check - Ask for and carefully check their identity card. Take the card and close the door leaving the caller on the doorstep. Do not let them in. Do not phone the number on the card as this may be fake. If the caller states they are from the council or other authority, look the phone number up. You will then be able to check the caller is genuine. Take your time. If the caller is genuine they will be happy to wait.

If you do get any suspicious callers at your door asking to come in, call Dorset Police on 01202 222 222.