Tenants and residents have been warned about telephone scams being used to steal money from local people.

In one con, a Rainham woman got a phone call from someone claiming to be a police officer based in Hammersmith.

The ‘officer’ told her that he was investigating two men who’d used her bank card in the Apple store in Central London’s Regent Street. He urged her to cancel her cards.

She phoned what she believed was her bank and was asked about her account and even asked for her PIN number. The woman was then told to put her cards in an envelope and a courier would collect them.

While the woman was still on the phone, the courier arrived at her home. She handed over her cards and the courier left.

Later, the woman received a call from her actual bank asking about purchases made with her card. When she said she’d already cancelled the card, the bank said she had not done so.

In a second offence, a Collier Row resident was called and told he’d had fake notes put into his bank account. The caller said the man had to withdraw £3,750 from his account and take it home, where someone would come to see him and check which of the notes were real and which were fake. The resident was also told to wait for another phone call, telling him what else he had to do.

Havering police want anyone who receives a suspicious phone call such as this to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Teams on 101 (non-emergency number) or, in the event of an emergency, 999.
Clampdown on estate crime

The number of offences on certain housing estates has plummeted after the Council and police took action against two serious offenders.

Over the past 18 months, housing estates in Elm Park South, Hornchurch, and Kingsbridge Circus, Harold Hill, experienced some violence, anti-social behaviour by youths, and drug-related problems.

There was also concern about the alleged grooming of young and vulnerable female residents by a person from North London.

All these problems had been initially identified by the Community Wardens, from their patrols of both areas, and there were some confrontations with the offenders.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team was then asked by the wardens to take action.

Working with the local Safer Neighbourhood Policing teams, the Council and police gathered enough evidence to get a court injunction banning one man from entering the borough of Havering, and getting an ASBO against another man, which restricted where he could go.

The orders were successfully dealt with in the local courts. Since the orders came into effect, one of the men has been arrested for breaching the injunction.

Safe storage for cycles

Keen cyclists will be able to store their bikes in safety in new storage units.

Transport for London has supplied and installed them behind the houses in Kingsbridge Circus, Harold Hill. They have been given the thumbs-up by Kingsbridge Community Housing Group chairman Gavin Whitelaw.

The aim is that, by seeing these new units, the residents will feel very confident about storing their bikes there safely, and be encouraged to use them more to get out and about, to the shops and work, and around the borough.

For hints and tips about how to get the most out of your bike and places to safely cycle around the borough, visit www.havering.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Cycling-in-Havering.aspx