



Minutes of the North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, (NWNHWA) Meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday 10th January 2012 at the Tythe Barn Polesworth

Web site; nwnhw.co.uk

If you are a registered contact and are able to receive messages via email rather than the phone, or someone can do it for you, please do; This will save the cost to the police to send messages so that the £16000 phone budget can be better used for police work. £9000 was spent in the first quarter of the year for example and will mean fewer messages. Thank you to those who have done this recently.

Contact Julie Dale or Maureen Hipkiss.

Proceedings of the Meeting

1. Present

Ron Potter (Fillongley) (Chairman) RP	Tony Hardman (Kingsbury) (V Chairman) TH
David Atkin (Mancetter) (Sec) DA	Carol Cotterill (Shuttington) CC
Phill Bent (Kingsbury)(Treasurer) PB	Beryl Grix (N.Regis) BeG
John Bonner (Birchmoor) JB	Brian Grix (N.Regis) BrG
WCC: Martyn Stephens MS.	
Police: SNT area manager PC Ellen Beaty EB	

2. Apologies

John Randle; Sandra Trickett; Nick Wigglesworth; Mick Levy; David Birch; Julie Dale; Sgt. Roger Fildes; Adam Farrell; Maureen Hipkiss

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting Adopted as presented.

4. Ongoing Action Points

Datalink RP has a supply of boxes for members to distribute when required.

Smart Water The criteria for erecting SW signs is no longer restricted to a scheme that has 50% of the street covered by SW. The limit is now 10 houses. (*Information given at N&BNWA meeting 26th Jan*)

CAPS/Email Messaging System Julie Dale is the contact for this service following reorganisation and Peter Guillaume's retirement. **Contact: Julie.Dale@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk.**

The system is still experiencing difficulties in operation that is hoped to be sorted by early February.

There have been few messages of late. RP expressed concern over staffing in that there is no cover for Julie Dale (JD) so that the system is failing when she is drawn away to other duties. JD has confirmed that these other duties take up approximately two days each week. Post reorganisation, JD's duties are managed from within the remit of two different teams, under the control of two managers Karl Faulkner and George Stepney. This does not help the situation.

There is also an issue over putting out messages, quality rather than quantity, and managing the appropriateness of good news stories. The system has deteriorated since the force changes were introduced. RP commented that important personal contacts have been lost and are not re-emerging. It is not apparent that officers/PCSO's are aware of the vital role that CAPS can play in alerting the public to issues quickly.

Roger Fildes has previously indicated that SNT area managers are the responsible nominees to identify worthwhile messages and this is failing according to examples of info that should have been sent out urgently cited at the meeting, as compared to messages that have been issued.

EB indicated that she understood the issue and would report back internally on it. She indicated the "tagging" that she undertook in her patch to identify cases for appropriate messages that may not be happening more widely.

EB indicated that the beat managers are required to prepare a monthly report for their area web site. In one area a newsheet is prepared. DA pointed out the usefulness of this given that our membership returns suggest that

the web is still not widely used by the majority and news spread by a news sheet pinned to appropriate village/church notice boards and publicised in the press, are still much needed.

DA again drew attention to scams reported on NW web sites, calls on phone lines and to the information put out by the County Trading Standards team on their web site (**see contact details at the head of this note**).

Action; EB to report back to RF; RP to raise at a higher level within the force.

Horse Watch The group now has an estimated 320 members and is growing from strength to strength. Facebook has recorded 704 hits.

A dedicated telephone line has been set up so people can check the latest alert sent out on CAPs (0845 6092824 mailbox 9030). There is also a web site www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk. You can receive crime prevention advice on security measures to keep your horse and tack safe and alerts from the police on equine incidents in your area.

Smart Water is now promoting its product to horse owners. Smart Water Farm Kits can be purchased through Horsewatch for £25.00. A kit previously used by the Police for coding bicycles has been recycled and adapted for marking leather tack in North Warwickshire.

Datatag is launching a new saddle tagging kit in January 2012. Four kits will be donated to the County group in recognition of the assistance given in its development.

The next Horse Watch meeting is due on 24 Jan 2012. Roadshows are to be arranged for North Warwickshire during the coming year.

It is hoped that Horse Watch details will be on the Police Intranet system during February 2012 to assist officers. CC is the chair of the County group. It has been invited to attend a large vet seminar in Kenilworth, which is held every two years.

A meeting has taken place at the County HQ to establish a new web site with links; documents that people can download; and CAPS messages feeding into it. Following this a mailing campaign is to be launched to all local riding clubs to alert them to crime prevention measure and to Horse Watch.

Thieves are active in the area. Facebook is showing a lot of activity at the moment.

RP confirmed the Associations support for the initiative.

Crimestoppers RP/CC reported on the handout leaflets that simply explain what this charity does. The leaflet is needed to overcome public ignorance/distrust (re anonymity) that surrounds this excellent means by which members of the public can anonymously report incidents. Crimestoppers has proved to be very successful. It too is going from strength to strength, particularly after the riots, which has lead to greater public input. £15m has been recovered through this route. The aim is to publicise it further.

Action: RP has an initial batch of supplies. Contact him for copies to distribute.

Cyber crime is growing fast with bullying of children an unwelcome effect. An item for quick action.

Car Anti Tamper screws - Note: This is an ongoing issue to guard against in that an element of car crime is directed at stealing number plates for criminal purposes. This is an easy crime to counter by using the screws that we provide FREE.

Use the application form (available on line), copy and pass them around your Watch area.

Car crime from this cause is increasing due to the economic downturn; particularly the rise in fuel prices and theft to access fuel in a tank.

The scheme is being extended out through the county and there have been enquiries from beyond, so that we can be pleased with the impact that this initiative has had.

There are still cases arising around the Borough but not focussed on any particular area at this time.

AH reported that application levels have shown a slight increase and he is picking up orders from initiatives being pushed by PCSO's.

Tony Hardman is running the scheme throughout North Warwickshire on behalf of the force and the NW Association.

The screws can also be obtained from the police and through individual coordinators in their watch areas.

Others wanting supplies: - contact Tony Hardman 01827 873774 or email aphardman@aol.com.

Ride Along scheme In view of the changes that are taking place in the organisation of the Police, it is considered that requests for this should be put on hold for the immediate future. **The new contact for the scheme is Roger Fildes.**

Database The database is available to the Police and PCSO's; it can also be made available to coordinators on a controlled access basis (see below).

Presently we appear to have about 1000 coordinators/contacts listed; of which about 325 have email contacts that work.

PCSO's have been instructed to use the database information to contact coordinators in their Safer Neighbourhood team areas in the Borough to improve communication with individual coordinators. They are also using this procedure to update the info in the lists and convey the results to MH who is keeping the list under review.

DA reiterated the comments that he has made previously at the county meeting re the need to distinguish between coordinators and contacts; the need for separate lists for the four SNT team areas and a review of the data we have. MH is now working with Paul Painter to work on the information that we hold.

MH is to pursue a course of action to check the data in place.

Action: PCSO's to continue to pursue and update via Maureen Hipkiss; coordinators to monitor and report on progress with contacts.

Liaison using the Database. . Anyone wishing to contact coordinators in their local area should contact **MH** (maureenhipkiss@btinternet.com) who will be in a position to forward their details to fellow local coordinators for them to respond and make contact. This procedure is necessary to comply with the Data Protection Act as contact details cannot be freely circulated to other members without their agreement.

Action: Individuals to contact MH

Facebook SS reported the site is nearing completion. £220.00 has been received from the Mayoral Charity Account. A grant application made to the Community Action Fund for "£ 15000 to fund 18 events in the Borough has been turned down. It is being reviewed in the light of comments received.

Good News Stories. Discussion around this item focussed on the need to improve and widen the scope of news issued, to convey up to date warning information; too much is in the hands of the Reactive police teams. EB undertook to raise this internally with SNT's and PCSO's.

5. Treasurers Report

Bank balance at January 2012:

Total: £3233.99

Income: £200.00(donation from Shustoke /Fillongley Show)

Outgoings: £27.02 (Postage)

6. Police Update Ellen Beaty

1. North Warwickshire Beat Areas 2012.

The Managers are

- North – Paul Painter 02476 483622 nwn.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
- East -- Leon Carter 02476 483622 new.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
- South – Ellen Beaty 02476 483554 nws.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
- West – Nina Bowden 02476 483554 nww.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

2. The identified single point of contact for NW in the whole of North Warwickshire is Roger Fildes.

Martin McNevin is the police officer at HQ responsible for Community policing in respect of NW. Bob Musgrove is responsible for policing in the north of the county. Inspector Pat Devereux will oversee NW activity.

Sergeant Karl Faulkner has been nominated as the Single Point of Contact officer (SPOC) at HQ for District NW Associations. Contact: Karl.Faulkner@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk. *(DA has learnt that KF will be moving to a new post shortly- since the meeting-replacement not yet known)*

3.Offender Management Continuing priority is to monitor persistent offenders

4. Priorities EB stressed the following points to counter crime and to assist beat personnel

- **REPORTING INCIDENTS** This is the most helpful thing that an individual can do. It may seem insignificant but each scrap can help build the jigsaw that brings a successful result. Not enough crime or suspicion of something out of the ordinary is reported.

- **HOUSE BURGLARIES** The highest percentage is caused by insecure doors and windows. Lock doors even when you are in; and particularly when you are upstairs and down the garden. Many burglaries occur in mid to late afternoon and early evening.
- **POST OFFICE RAIDS** A serious and growing concern. Report anything unusual. Ring 101.
- **WIRE THEFT REPORT** piles of cabling- they are probably waiting to be picked up. Railways; BT installations; Electricity sub stations; Motorways; all are targets. Don't be put off by fluorescent jackets; take down the vehicle number
- **THEFT of BROKEN DOWN VEHICLES** Incidence is growing. Take down registration number. Phone 101 or if happening before your eyes dial 999

7. Locality (Community) Area Forums

No major changes to priorities were discernible, other than specific localities for attention in policing terms.

Area Forum Dates

East: 7th Feb; 12th June; 18th Sept; 20th Nov
South: 23rd Feb; 28th June; 4th Sept; 6th Dec.
North: 9th Feb; 14th June; 6th Sept; 29th Nov.
West: 28th Feb; 21 June; 20th Sept; 27th Nov.

8. County WNWA

Meeting held 8th December: DA and SS attended. CC on behalf of Horsewatch. She was congratulated on being appointed chair of the County Group.

The following is a summary of the main points from the meeting.

- The group agreed to sign the Warwickshire Compact; an agreement between the Police Authority; Police; County and District Councils and parties such as ours to cooperate.
- The Awards Scheme presentation is to take place on 22nd February 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth. We were reminded that entries for the 2012 scheme should be made by the end of January 2012.
- Bids for funding from the Community Against Crime Innovation Fund is a matter for district groups to pursue individually.
- Changes at the top in the force. Andy Parker has stepped up to become Chief Constable; the new Deputy CC is Neil Brunton; Simon Edens from the West Mercia force, with responsibility for Community Policing, has joined as ACC. These moves are all related to the replacement of the Police Authority by a Police Commissioner in late 2012.
- Performance: Burglary is 24% up, although this latest figure marks a decrease from 38% previously; efforts are focussing on this aspect of crime with some success; it is equivalent to 5-6 incidents each day in the county: Vehicle crime is 7% up, which equates to 9 offences each day in the county as a whole: The use of controlled drugs is the subject of a major offensive.
- Persistent offenders are being targeted by a joint authority's initiative. A success has been the achievement of a 49% reduction in re offending rates in the county. This shows a marked difference with success rates nation wide
- The Common Concerns group lead by Steve Smith (from our group) is looking at local initiatives that could benefit all and drawing conclusions/recommendations for us all on such subjects as involving the younger elements of the community in NW.
- The County messaging system has been undergoing problems and is being worked on, with results expected by March.
- Peter King is addressing the issue of NW in schools. Suggestions for schools to involve were invited.

9. N&BNWA

HL reported that the police now attend their meetings. Next meeting due 26th January.

The following report is base on items raised at the meeting that affect or have implications for North Warwickshire.

Police/Crime prevention update (given by Insp.Pat Devereux and Martyn Stephens)

- *'Operation Hobart' - a force wide spring initiative now started, to address acquisitive crime, tackling: -*
- *Arrest Warrant evasion*
- *Uninsured cars*
- *Nuisance motorcycles. MS reported that petrol stations are debarred, amongst other things, from serving fuel to under 16's under the Petroleum Licensing Regulations. He is going to use this to target particularly those stations known to be serving fuel and others. Also a media campaign and signage to target the issue. He wants reports of incidents with good descriptions and registrations from the public.*
- *Scrap Metal Theft. A number of operatives have been stopped to check licenses already.*

MS reported on a sophisticated new mapping system that has been introduced. . Nicknamed WOMBAT, amongst it's many features; it enables crime locations to be mapped and 'hot spots' to be identified. for targeting. It makes it even more important that all incidents, however small, are reported so that a clear picture can be built up.

10. SIG Crime and Disorder Special Interest Group

The following is a summary report of the 17th January meeting

Burglary – there has been an increase this year to date in incidents. 230 domestic burglaries in the year to date that represent a 59.8% increase.

Key locations are Arley and Whitacre; Fillongley

Action: Increase publicity; target identified locations and streets; involve NW in leaflet drops.

Local NW coordinators may be contacted to assist in leaflet drops and local initiatives.

Vehicle Crime – 429 offences in the year to date, which is a decrease of 1% over the previous year Numbers remain low despite carelessness of individual car owners who continue to make the problem worse by not taking precautions. Corley Services is the main location i.e. passing traffic rather than local incidents and Curdworth.

Action: Target Corley; ask NW to assist with a crime prevention Day; erect signs and banners to publicise the problem.

Violent Crime – mainly associated with drinking. Pubs tackled through licensing procedures that has brought about an improvement.

Initiatives with schools re alcohol awareness are in hand. Moves are afoot to use various new technology modes to attract the youth element.

Red Lion, Polesworth has had its entertainment licence removed and restrictions put on the use of its garden (to cease use after 10.00pm)

Reinvigorating the “Pub Watch” scheme, which is slowly growing.

Community Safety booklets are available for distribution. Meeting due 26th Jan to discuss County wide funding.

Anti Social Behaviour and criminal damage – Incidence (1839 offences) is a 20.9% reduction in the year to date. Local hot spots identified in the last three months are at Hartshill; Atherstone Central; Arley and Whitacre.

Actions continue to target specific issues. Analysis is currently being undertaken to form the basis of a campaign in Nuneaton and North Warks to tackle nuisance bikes. Information from the public and Forum reports are vital in this respect.

11. Web Site

The new web site is up and running but in its infancy. **The web address is at the head of this minute. Please visit and comment. We intend to use the site more intensely for conveying information.**

12. Other Business

Fire Alarms

The Fire Service wishes to link with NW groups locally to pursue fire safety checks and the distribution of fire alarms in association with a campaign that is being run. **Contact: Andy Bates of the County Fire Service.**

Police "Gold" Burglary Group

Group discontinued

The meeting Closed at 9.05 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date:

North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
January 2012 Key Messages:

1. **BE ALERT** Home burglary is on the increase – in NW up from 1 house per day average to 4 per day. Know about a burglary incident? Every little snippet of information is welcome. Recently alert neighbours acting quickly in Fillongley and Coleshill Town Centre helped Officers to catch thieves red handed. Carry a notebook-take down the car number and time.
2. **CONTACT THE POLICE** You can now contact the police for 15p (total charge-landline or mobile) by dialling 101. Do not use this in an emergency though. Use 999 as before.
3. **WHAT'S GOING ON?** You can find out what is happening in your area by looking at the SNT web site (see below) where there is a monthly newsletter prepared by the Beat Manager.
4. **CAR CRIME:** number plate theft is increasing too, also the theft of fuel from your tank.
5. Thieves are now targeting **CATALYTIC CONVERTERS** under vehicles by cutting them off the exhaust pipe at either end of the unit and even cutting panels out of the converter units on your drive while you sleep. Be warned - look out.
6. **SCAMS.** The County Trading Standards Service helpfully sends out vital messages on these. Have you signed up to receive them yet? Contact Simon Cripwell at simoncripwell@warwickshire.gov.uk or visit the web at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams.
7. Have you joined the national Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network yet? We suggest that you do via the link www.ourwatch.org.uk.
- 8 **HAVE YOU GOT A HORSE?** Join Warwickshire Horse Watch a scheme set up by horse owners with the support and help of the Police. There has been a number of horse related crimes in our area. Don't become another statistic. Visit www.Warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk for details.
9. Are you having problems with **NUISANCE MOTOR BIKES?** The police are targeting this and would ask that you report incidents, taking good descriptions of the riders and their bikes, plus registrations where available. Did you know that it is an offence for petrol to be sold to people below 16 years of age under the Petroleum Licensing Act?

Visit our Web Site nwnhw.co.uk for more information

Association Contacts / Meeting Dates

Ron Potter (chairman) rwpotter@hotmail.co.uk (tel: 07836 797800)

David Atkin (secretary) dbanw@tiscali.co.uk (tel: 01827 718310)

Maureen Hipkiss (ass't sec.) maureenhipkiss147@btinternet.com (tel 01827 898295)

Tony Hardman (vice chairman) aphardman@aol.com (tel: 01827 873774)

NWNHWA core group meetings in 2012

Note that all meetings are on a Thursday and commence at 7.30 pm (All coordinators welcome to attend)

Atherstone Partnership Centre (new venue): 15th March; 13th September.

Grimstock Hotel, Coleshill: 17th May; 22nd November 2012 (incl AGM).

Polesworth Tythe Barn: 12th July

Family Open Day: To be held on a Saturday between 10.00am and 4.00 pm. Possibly at a venue in Atherstone, either in September or to coincide with National Neighbourhood Watch Week in July (see below). Yet to be arranged.

Events

National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week 16th to 24th July