

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 2017

Once again the tragedies of the incidents in London and Manchester brings to our attention how much we all need to do to be even more effective in protecting not only our own property but our lives too of your family, friends and neighbours whether they are members of Neighbourhood Watch or not.

We must all be aware of what is happening around us and call the Police on 101 or 999 if we see anything suspicious so please we must also encourage everyone to do the same.

Often I hear of comments "well it was a few miles away" so not of interest to my community.

All I can say is maybe it should be!

It is up to us all as Neighbourhood Watch to continue to ensure that everyone is kept aware of what has occurred around our community to hopefully avoid it happening again. As you know we, as Neighbourhood Watch already do this exceptionally well. So please keep up the good work.

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This is the end of my second year as Chairman and may I say that I very much appreciate everything that the District Co-ordinators, their Deputies and every member of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Essex has achieved in the last twelve months to help reduce the opportunity of crime.

Thank you all for your efforts in improving communications/relationships with not only Essex Police but also all other partners e.g.: Crimestoppers, Victim Support, and Community Agents Essex.

Also attending Police Tasking and the Community Safety Partnership meetings.

In the past year we have increased membership of Neighbourhood Watch due to your dedication and hard work which is keeping our society safe.

At this Annual General Meeting I need to give special thanks to:-

Peter Salmon (Vice Chairman) for his excellent actions in the past twelve months as he has been our representative on the Community Agents Essex Board (replacing Roger Passfield), Crimestoppers, Rural Crime Forum and Victim Support.

Roger Passfield (Vice Chairman) as County Co-ordinator, also for liaising with Community Agents Essex re Message in a Bottle and also arranging the bulk purchases of Neighbourhood Watch items e.g. purse bells and card protectors.

Mike Hooper (Treasurer) for his excellent skills in balancing the books, as being a registered Charity we need to ensure that our Income always exceeds expenditure. Also distributing funding from The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to each District as quickly as possible.

Colin Freeman (Event Organiser) for his superb actions in making last year's Conference a success and also his brilliant actions regarding resurrecting Harlow. Neighbourhood Watch.

Special mention to Peter Fisk who manages our website so brilliantly, it is hoped that everyone takes the opportunity to not only read the information but also updates their own Districts activities too.

As far as I was concerned it was a year of consolidation to ensure we create a firm base to be established at each District going forward to a better 2017/2018.

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association members are part of a Team with strong aims within each District managing their own databases and objectives and I thank them all for their support.

ESSEX POLICE.

In the past year I have consolidated the excellent relationships we have with Essex Police, as together we can reduce the opportunity of crime.

We have been very pro-active in finding volunteers for Active Citizens and I know that Essex Police have not only acknowledged this but appreciated the efforts by all of us to raise this activity which most of us do regularly!

Also I met up with ACC Mr. A.Prophet in late June to discuss with him how Essex Neighbourhood Watch can work even more effectively with Essex Police we discussed many topics and Mr.Prophet offered to purchase hi-vis vests for Neighbourhood Watch which would most definitely raise the profile of NW activities whilst delivering information or even giving presentations. Since that meeting I contacted every District NW Co-ordinator and have recently advised Mr.Prophet that we would like 250 for Essex. I understand that these are being purchased

and as soon as I have received them I shall contact each District NW Co-ordinator who gave me their "orders" - there were twelve who wanted them out of fourteen.

In the past twelve months many of us have been involved with your own local Police Tasking meetings and also Community Safety Hubs also I have attended the Force Tasking Meeting at Police Headquarters and it is appreciated to have a few moments to update them on our actions throughout Essex.

Also I must give a special thanks to Jenny Brouard and her team who have been tremendous working with us and always responding to any matters resolving any "issues" quickly and in a positive manner!

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Over the past many months I have had meetings with Jane Gardner Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and also Darren Hensman Deputy Director Communications & Engagement, The Office of Police and Crime Commissioners, to advise them of the success of Neighbourhood Watch working with Essex Police.

May I say again thank you for the £10.500 for the County Neighbourhood Watch and each District very much appreciates receiving funds of £675 towards their specific ongoing costs for promoting Neighbourhood Watch.

NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

On a regular basis I have kept directly in touch with National Neighbourhood Watch to ensure that any "issues" that we had at the time were resolved quickly and on a friendly basis.

Indeed they are delighted with our total commitment and support for them.

CRIMESTOPPERS

It is great to have a special relationship with Crimestoppers and I welcome Colin Dobinson today.

They are brilliant and it is amazing (although not surprising) the successes they have to keep crime down.

EXHIBITORS

We have a many exhibitors today and although some of you may not have the time before the Annual General meeting to speak to them PLEASE do so during the occasional breaks that we have.

OUR WEBSITE.

We do have an excellent website managed by Peter Fisk. So please take a while to regularly look at it under "Our Districts" and click on your District for updates and reports.

MEDIA

I am often contacted by the local newspapers and also BBC Essex Radio for comments on specific and sometime confrontational issues. However when I emphasise that we, as Neighbourhood Watch distribute information which we have from our partners e.g. Essex Police and Crimestoppers which does reduce the opportunity of crime also we are a non-political organisation so it is not surprisingly that we do not have too many requests to join in discussions live on air.

However most of the time BBC Radio Essex and local newspapers do "support" us if you ask them to have an item/article on Neighbourhood Watch if you ask them.

FINALLY My "slogan" last year was "Better Communications is the Key" to a safer society.

This was a success as time and time again we are working better with Essex Police more than ever, and also in re-establishing Neighbourhood Watch in areas which was needed e.g. Harlow!

This year it would be great if we can continue to be as pro-active and also ensure that everyone in your community knows of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch so for 2017/2018.

I would like us all together to promote this well known slogan "Make our Society Safer join Neighbourhood Watch as crime reduces in a Community which Cares!"

So thank you for attending today and I am sure that you will find the event not only interesting but enjoyable to, especially in the Conference when we hear our two guest speakers Jane Gardener and ACC Mr.A .Prophet.

Colin Freeman Event Co-ordinator will present the Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year Awards as this will recognise the special efforts by those nominated by their Districts.

Regards *Clive Stewart*

Clive Stewart, Chairman, Essex County NW Association, Wednesday 12th July 2017.