

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT WEDNESDAY 11TH JULY 2018.

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Welcome to our invited guests Robin Newman (Head of Membership & Community Engagements for National Neighbourhood Watch Association), Joy Darby, Chief Executive of Essex Association of Local Councils, Mark Glazier (London Neighbourhood Watch), Sandra Jackson (Herts Neighbourhood Watch). Also our exhibitors Amanda Lawrence and her team Nat West Bank , Julie Binstead, Janet Booth, Lynn Black and Neil Monk, Victim Support, Alan Richards Trading Standards , Phil Breckon Crimestoppers , Sally Austin and Shirley Haynes Community Agents Essex , a Fire & Rescue Service team , and of course our guest speakers Assistant Chief Constable Andy Prophet and David Gibb Essex & Kent Police Cyber Project Officer .

Special thanks to our Caterer June Giles and her team, Shelia Freeman (Teas & Coffees) and Tony Davis (our excellent photographer).

In fact welcome to you all who represent the fourteen Neighbourhood Watch District Co-ordinators to the 2018 Annual General Meeting and our Conference which has been organised by Colin Freeman our Event Co-ordinator.

So today I must take this opportunity to thank so many for supporting Neighbourhood Watch in Essex.

Firstly thanks to the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association (ECNWA) Executives for all their actions in 2017/2018, see a list of their "Responsibilities" (in the handouts today) which highlight all their efforts in addition to being their District Co-ordinators too. Thank you to Roger Passfield and Peter Salmon (Vice Chairmen), Mike Hooper (Treasurer), Colin Freeman (Event Co-ordinator).

It is also important to thank Peter Fisk who manages our Website, which by the way is being upgraded to a new version.

I believe that the entire members of the ECNWA are a great team and we achieve so much together throughout the County to reduce the opportunity of crime.

In addition I would like to say how much we appreciate the actions of each and every Neighbourhood Watch District Co-ordinators, their Deputies and their members which total almost 100,000 in Essex.

Many of you have received Awards within your communities for your excellent efforts with Neighbourhood Watch and well deserved they are too!

During the past year we did have a sad moment when Alan Johnson passed away from a serious illness. He had been our Chairman for 5 years until he stood down a little over five years ago, and had been on our Association for many more years, as well as being Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in Uttlesford.

In the past months I have made contact with our President, Geoff Ireland, who is not in the best of health and has poor sight but amazingly he has a machine that reads letters to him.

I was delighted to have had a chat with him and he has had full details of today and he sends his best regards to you all.

This year we have seen John Wright retire from Tendring District and we are hoping that Tendring may find a person or persons soon to replace what he did - as you can never replace someone like John!

Our Association meetings are every two months - there is a Summer break.

These meetings give us the opportunity to hear what other District Co-ordinators organise for Neighbourhood Watch.

In the past year it is great to know that we have seen Neighbourhood Watch membership increase and this is all down to you and your members who work very hard with the time they have. Please let them know that we are grateful for all their activities and it does help to reduce the opportunity of crime.

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My thanks also to:-

1. The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner of Essex:

If you look at our website front page I am thanking Roger Hirst Police Fire & Crime Commissioner for giving us £11,000 towards Neighbourhood Watch.

Each District will have received £750 by now but we (ECNWA) have also added an extra £50 for each District from our funds making £800 in all.

Last year each District had £675 and I felt that this year an increase was justified.

We are very grateful to Mr. Hirst and his entire team for their support every year and in fact there has been appropriate publicity in local media which can only raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch. It was also appreciated to see Darren Horsman at our meetings and keep us updated.

I am very grateful to Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Jane Gardner who issued an excellent press release about this funding (if you would like copies please let me know).

2. Essex Police:

It will be great to welcome back to our Conference as Guest Speaker Assistant Chief Constable for Essex Andy Prophet.

We were pleased to see him last year and to when he offered to attend again at this year's Conference I was delighted to accept.

During the year ACC Mr. Prophet did fund the cost of the Hi Vis Vests that we needed.

I did ask each District and then I ordered 260.

It would be great to have even more photos please whenever you are wearing them!

These Hi Vis vests do raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch it proves that we work well with Essex Police.

During the year I attended as many Force Tasking meetings as I could and it is always appreciated when Mr. Prophet asks the Neighbourhood Policing Teams "What can Neighbourhood Watch do for you"?

Indeed there have been a number of occurrences where Neighbourhood Watch has helped Essex Police in investigations and indeed in arrests too.

Also I am delighted to be working with Jenny Brouard, Citizens in Policing Manager, Local Policing Support Unit and every one of her Team-it is great to see them all here today!

We have had many conversations on a various issues and it is easy to resolve/action them when I am in regular contact with Jenny.

In the last few months I created a guideline to assist anyone entering non-emergency reports on 101 online with the help of Jenny Brouard and Chris Heaffey.

We are also delighted to know that Active Citizens, Special Constables and Police Cadets are such a success in Essex.

It has been officially confirmed that the current Deputy Chief Constable for Essex Ben-Julian Harrington will be the next Chief Constable of Essex.

I have sent him a letter on behalf of Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association and all our members congratulating him on this appointment and stating that we shall continue to work with Essex Police to reduce the opportunity of crime.

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3. National Neighbourhood Watch:

You may like to know that National Neighbourhood Watch are very impressed by the way we operate in Essex and I have regular communications with various personnel on many issues and actions-all very positive.

There are times ,and you may well have had experienced it yourselves, when some people in the community feel they can create a Neighbourhood Watch Group and they “register” with National Neighbourhood Watch and do not need to contact us or need our help/support at any time in fact sometimes they may not even know of our Association?

Without us, and I mean the District Co-ordinators and their Group’s members, such people will not have anything official to give to their “members” and also they will not have the support of their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner’s Office!

In addition they will not be covered under the National Neighbourhood Watch Public Liability Insurance; therefore their “members” lose out!

So as you all know I have been received agreement from National Neighbourhood Watch that, in future, if any person in Essex “registers” with them to receive “Alert” (their newsletter which is available to anyone whether Neighbourhood Watch or not) and they “state” that they are a “Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator/member, or they “register” for the “Membership Register “ as a Co-ordinator/member, then National Neighbourhood Watch will inform them that before their “registration” is acceptable they MUST contact Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association (via a link which is our website or email address).

On receiving such details we shall arrange for the appropriate local District Co-ordinator to make contact with them to discuss how we can be “of service” to support them in their Neighbourhood Watch activities and we shall arrange for them to sign an local Neighbourhood Watch Agreement, (covered under the Data Protection Act) plus they must agree to The Code of Ethics and make them aware of the National NW Public Liability Insurance.

This way we should be aware of anyone who is keen to be involved with Neighbourhood Watch in our County.

National Neighbourhood Watch has agreed that we shall be a “Pilot” for such a scheme where there are County Neighbourhood Watch Associations in the UK.

(Sadly there are Counties which do not have any at all).

So I am delighted that we have this agreement with National Neighbourhood Watch and I am hoping that this will give us even more confidence that we do have the sole responsibilities to work with anyone who is keen to be part of Neighbourhood Watch in Essex.

Of course there may be people who decide not to make contact with us.

Well if they do NOT then the person(s) will not have the support for any of their “activities” especially with Essex Police (receiving crime reports), the benefit of the Public Liability Insurance, possible funding and receiving any Neighbourhood Watch items e.g. Street signs, Members Guides , window stickers etc.

This “Pilot Scheme” will be of benefit everyone involved with Neighbourhood Watch in Essex.

National Neighbourhood Watch Association has their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 2nd August in London and I expect to attend.

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4. Essex Fire & Rescue Services:

It is expected that a Partnership Agreement will be signed soon. They have re-organised their structure and now include Crime Prevention advice and we look forward to working with them.

5. Partnership Agreements:

As I have said above we are expecting to sign an Agreement with The Essex Fire & Rescue Services and I am signing a similar agreement with Victim Support today.

It is important that we have such Agreements as this will enable us to distribute their information to all our members and also they will similarly distribute ours to their database too so we are working together to reduce the opportunity of crime and keeping our society safer.

We signed a renewal Partnership Agreement with Essex Police and The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner's Office at last year's AGM and this year we have continued with the Partnership Agreement with Community Agents Essex.

6. Current Partners:

It is great to have Colin Dobinson (Crimestoppers) as part of our meetings and we always welcome any information he has for us to distribute.

Also we always support Essex Community Agents in every District and Peter Salmon represents ECNWA on their Board for which I am very grateful.

7. My Year?

Well it has been an "interesting one".

Discussions on the changes in The Data Protection Act from 25th May took up a lot of my time. As I have already advised they do not really affect us very much, if at all, as confirmed to me when I telephoned and actually spoke to The Data Protection Act Registrar's Office and also The National Neighbourhood Watch.

One reason is that we already have organised in all Districts specific membership forms and/or agreements for new members to sign when becoming involved with Neighbourhood Watch.

There have been a few "rogue "NW" Groups" to investigate and our District Co-ordinators and the local NW Group members have made tremendous efforts to resolve the local issues- all credit to them.

I also became aware of the Guardian Angels being created in one District and both the District Co-ordinator and Essex Police attended a local meeting and managed to advise them what WE do to reduce crime.

As I said earlier I have been attending Force Tasking meetings at Police Headquarters.

Also I had meetings with Essex Police on 101 telephone service and ECM which has certainly kept them informed of our thoughts on such matters.

In addition I have had very extensive discussions and communications, with National Neighbourhood Watch regarding their registration scheme.

Also during the year I have been contacted by many people throughout Essex interested in Neighbourhood Watch via the link of our ECNWA and National Neighbourhood Watch websites and distributed the "enquiries" to the appropriate District Co-ordinators.

I have even had regular contact with Graham Deakin in Liverpool who is setting up Neighbourhood Watch! He has been impressed with how ECNWA work and as he is "new" he is keen to use our ways of promoting Neighbourhood Watch.

Well it is hoped that my style of being Chairman has helped each and every one of you and that today is both enjoyable and interesting!

Clive Stewart, Chairman, Essex County NW Association, Wednesday 11th July 2018.