

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2018

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I hope that you are all looking forward to a successful 2018/2019.

The past year we have achieved so much by not only increasing our membership and distributing more information than ever to reduce the opportunity of crime but also we have better relationships with National Neighbourhood Watch and of course always with The Police Fire & Crime Commissioner and his Office as well as Essex Police.

As advised in my AGM Chairman's report I sent a letter to the newly appointed Chief Constable of Essex B.J.Harrington and he has sent a reply which I shall read out at the meeting.

Just a small reminder as we do not have a "Minute" Secretary (as agreed with you some time ago) "The Chairman's notes" of this meeting are always published on our website shortly after the meeting with also the details of those who have attended and those who have apologised.

May I welcome new members to the Committee from Tendring District and it is hoped that we can all support and assist them in any way we can at any time.

So we have completed another Annual General Meeting and Conference which was on Wednesday July 11th and I shall leave the reporting of the event to Colin Freeman (Event Co-ordinator) which is on the agenda. The photographs will be distributed today.

However I know that we all would like to thank him for his excellent organisation on the day .

You now have the updated list of all District Co-ordinators and may I confirm that I need updates of the numbers of Co-ordinators and members once every six months (probably in January 2019) - unless YOU want to give me any new figures earlier. The list of "Responsibilities" of those on the Executive has also been sent to you.

1. NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

a. AGM report:

I attended their AGM on Thursday 2nd August in London do see the website of the Group picture.

The first session were the reports by their Chief Executive, Chairman and their Treasurer and I have received a report of the Accounts and can send a copy on request. 4

They had a ballot for Trustees and Executives (I voted too) who were then declared. A few of those who did have nominations for a position of a Trustee and were not successful in the ballot will be invited to join various "Steering Groups" .

Then we had lunch and I met people with whom I had wanted to discuss various matters.

Peter Evans , Chairman Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch who has managed to organise a good team around him and we may meet up soon. Peter advised me that he does NOT have any funding at all from his Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk-*interesting! I referred him to our website and the photograph!*

Tony Spall, Chairman Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch , sadly he has a committee of two including himself but is working very hard working with local Policing Teams.

In addition to others I did meet and I had a chat with Michael Winter Chairman Havering Neighbourhood Watch Association-which was very important to me as every so often I have enquiries for areas outside Essex but within Havering so I can now send them direct to him.

We then had a session on "The Strategy Plan" which I did along with everyone voted to accept.

I shall not comment any further as I have already stated my thoughts to "compliment" Grahame Stehl's report when he attended their seminar.(See the Agenda) .

I will make one comment though.

The Chairman is expecting the Chief Executive to "make this happen" and there will be a meeting in six months time to review the Plan.

As far as I am concerned Essex County NW Association have nothing to be concerned about as we are excellent in all that we do but may take on many of their ideas – however we should wait to see what we are being asked to action before we give any responses.

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b. The Street signs:

There was a general discussion of their "brand image" and I asked the question about the "faces" on the current signs/window stickers etc,, and did say that if we had any comments as to its lack of ethnic "coverage" (which I have in fact received in the past year) can we replace the faces with wording eg: "Braintree District". I was advised that as long as we do NOT change the yellow circle with their wording of "Neighbourhood Watch" there would not be a problem. I am asking for this to be confirmed in writing however it was advised to me in my recent telephone conversation that any Sponsors and even Essex Police can be part of the signs at anytime. Indeed I told them in that telephone conversation the actions in Chelmsford District and Essex Police and they were very impressed!

So we can, as Essex Neighbourhood Watch, consider replacing the faces with the "District" wording if we feel it is appropriate. This is for "new" signs and not an action for us to change old signs please.

c. Window stickers :

I have recently asked for more and it is hoped that some will be posted to me (with the "hand" on the back rather than Co-Op). As you know I had 2500 recently and they were distributed to those Districts that requested them. When I receive any more I shall let you all know.

d. Members Guide books:

They will not be considering revising the Guides for some months and should be part of their Strategy Plan. So we may have to consider creating our own for Essex what do you think?

e. Registration of "members" :

This is via Alert and their own registration options. I expect an update on their actions each week as to what they have organised with us as a Pilot Scheme.

UPDATE due to my contact leaving National Neighbourhood Watch there is a slight delay.

However for many days over the August Bank Holiday I had numerous emails form their supplier of Alert and in the end I decided to forward them to National Neighbourhood Watch to reply...

f. Public Liability Insurance:

I have sent to each of you the details as well as the email I received from National Neighbourhood Watch on what the insurance covers. It is hoped that you now can explain to anyone the information.

Show the copy!

g. Membership numbers:

It was stated the actual membership was two and a half million (we did have 4 million) but it was based on their records and what they advised to to the Insurance Company in 2010.

2. ESSEX POLICE

(a) ECM:

Jenny Brouard will have an update for us at the meeting.

(b) Cristina Gavrilovic Modern Slavery

I met with Kent Police whilst waiting for a train in Ebbsfleet and when advising them I have met Cristina Gavrilovic I was advised that she has left Essex & Kent Police and at present no one has replaced her.

3. ESSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.

It is hoped that we shall have the Partnership Agreement signed soon.

I have arranged a new meeting with James Taylor Community Engagement Team Manager for Monday October 1st.

4. FORCE TASKING MEETING.

I attended Thursday 16th August and have sent various reports to some Districts . ACC Mr.A Prophet was very complimentary of Neighbourhood Watch and I updated them on the new Chairman in Tendring District and emphasised how we can distribute any information from Essex Police quickly to our members totalling almost 100,000. This was well received.

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5. MANAGING YOUR DISTRICTS.

As you know I always have complete confidence in you as District Co-ordinators as to how you manage your Districts . In recent weeks however I have been aware that some Deputies do not have knowledge of your actions or have access to the District's Neighbourhood Watch members databases.

Should any person in Essex want to know if Neighbourhood Watch is covered in a "specific " road/street/area and the District Co-ordinator is unavailable for any reason then would it not be appropriate for your Deputies to be aware of your database so the person who made the enquiry can be contacted in your absence? Based on this I have made suitable arrangements for Braintree District.

6. Hi Vis Vest XXL UPDATE

I had "orders" for a number totalling over 50 BUT the costs of the Hi Vis vests have increased tremendously and when I advised those Districts who "wanted" them what the new cost would be ..I did not have any District confirming that they were willing to pay the high cost.

Clive Stewart, Chairman,
Essex County NW Association

Tuesday 11th September 2018.