

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association

148th. Executive Committee Meeting held at The Essex Fire & Rescue Headquarters
Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall, Witham Wednesday 15th January 2020

TIME: 10:15

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Attendees:

Clive Stewart (Chairman and represents Braintree District), Mike Compton (Epping Forest)
Tracey Graham (Epping Forest) Peter Rudlin (Colchester), Colin Pendall (Tendring)
Peter Fisk (Brentwood), Celia Shute (Braintree) , Clive Woodward (Basildon)
Frank Ferguson (Basildon), Peter Salmon (Vice Chairman and Brentwood)
Steve Leverett (Chelmsford), Sara Carless (Harlow) Alan Leverett (Harlow)
Mandy Chapman (Maldon), Mike Hooper (Rochford) John Metcalfe (Rochford)
Roger Passfield (Thurrock) , Srikanth Goud Panjala (Thurrock) Derrick Giffin (Uttlesford)
Peter Sampson (Uttlesford) (Essex Police) (EG17JZ) Jeff Appleby (Essex Police)
Chloe Rudd (Essex & Kent Police) , Colin Dobinson (Crimestoppers) ,
Phil Breckon (Crimestoppers) Darren Horsman and Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime
Commissioner.

Apologies for absence:

Colin Freeman, Alan Norman, Dave Sexton, Roger Hirst, Grahame Stehle, Jenny Brouard Neil Dibell,
and Mike Lee (Essex Police)

Essex Police Report :

Jeff Appleby read out a report which was distributed to all the next day this did cover ECM update .
Clive Stewart said that he has noticed that there had been eight changes in the District Commanders since the
last time the information was distributed.

The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner:

Darren Horsman read a report and this will be distributed to all ECNWA members in the next few days

Chairman's Report:

Clive Stewart handed out the individual Special Anniversary badges to all those who attended and also gave badges
to be given to those who could not make the meeting.

Welcome to our first meeting in 2020 which is a very important year for us ...and there will only be two more meetings
before the Annual General Meeting and Conference in July so it is hoped that many of you will be able to attend these
final meetings or at least send your Deputies to represent your Districts.

Although we have our usual Agenda today , and many items to discuss, this is a very important meeting/event in our
history as we are to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association with Jane
Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner joining us after the usual "agenda business" at appx 12:15 to
congratulate us on this achievement and have a photo call and a buffet lunch.

I have no record of how many District Co-ordinators , Area Co-ordinators or Neighbourhood Watch members we had
in 1995 however now we have close to 140,000 members in Essex which includes social media eg Facebook and
Twitter "members" and this has enabled us to increase the distribution of our Neighbourhood Watch and crime
prevention information which is one of our objectives.

Many of you have been part of the Association much longer than I have as I joined as Secretary when Alan Johnson
was Chairman and after being Chairman for five years he stood down and you elected me as Chairman, as well as
Secretary, so it is least nine years since I have been involved.

Plan for Deputies in 2020.

I am sure you know that I very much appreciate all the time you give to managing your Districts and raising the
profile of Neighbourhood Watch with the time that you have in your busy lives. Indeed so many of you are also
working full time too and some are not in the best of health.

It would be great therefore if one of your objectives in 2020 would be to encourage your Deputies to help you more
when you do not have the time to carry out any specific actions or just cover for you at our meetings.

We have had an example in the past year when Deputies were not available eg: Castlepoint, and a year later we are
still struggling to find a few volunteers to take on the roles of Chairman , Secretary and Treasurer.

However due to tremendous support from existing Committee members who have come to the assistance of
changes in Chairmen of other Districts which were Epping Forest , Tendring and Harlow these are a great example of

having someone available! So please can you all do what you can to find Deputies or a few extra volunteers on your Steering Groups/Committees to help more in 2020.

It will be a tremendous boost to Neighbourhood Watch in your Districts to know that any enquiries are followed up and actioned promptly and also it may give you a little piece of mind that there are "NW colleagues" in your District who are there when you need them most.

No Cold Caller stickers and BIG new NW members badges

At today's meeting I shall be distributing not only the No Cold Caller Stickers, but also the BIG new Neighbourhood Watch Members badges, which have been purchased with your funds , so please read the Agenda for information on when to collect the packages, some are very heavy!

Celebration of our 25th Anniversary

I am delighted to say that also today each District Co-ordinator will receive their District's ECNWA Special 25th Anniversary badges and they are also to be collected from me at the same time as the items mentioned above..

These badges are special as they are for you to give to those whom you feel need acknowledgement for all their efforts for Neighbourhood Watch not only at this time but also over the past years in your District.

I have a list of the numbers you have requested-however if you need more please let me know as I have a few surplus.

Today each of you and your Deputies, who attend our meetings on your behalf, will also receive a badge at the meeting.

When I hand them out it will be appreciated if you could wear them for the group photo as this will be used to promote Neighbourhood Watch in Essex.

In addition at the meeting I shall be presenting the badges to Roger Hirst , Police Fire & Crime Commissioner, Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner and Darren Horsman too, plus badges for Jenny Brouard and her team members including the Police Liaison Officers who are instrumental in helping us raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and there is a badge too for Colin Dobinson Crimestoppers.

ACC Andy Prophet and National Neighbourhood Watch Chief Executive John Hayward-Cripps will receive their badges at our AGM/Conference in July.

As I have mentioned before these special badges will also be presented to each of Nominations for The Neighbourhood Watch Members of the Year 2020 at the AGM/Conference in July.

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch and Essex Police

As you know from my last Chairman's report Neighbourhood Watch along with all partners of Essex Police including Trading Standards and Crimestoppers are now no longer invited to attend any Tasking meetings either the Force Tasking meetings at Police HQ or local Policing Team Tasking meetings as they are now "internal " only - which we respect of course.

A few weeks ago I did ask each of you if you have been attending the local tasking meetings and have not had any replies.

As from December I have arranged with Jenny Brouard to meet her at least every two months to discuss any issues we may have with Essex Police however as we were close to Christmas I decided that the first would be a "telephone meeting" and these were the items we discussed:-

1. ECM

As we all know there have not been any messages on ECM for many months and the "interesting" point is that Essex Police (and even ourselves) have not received any direct "complaints" or comments of this lack of "communications" from anyone.

This is strange as bearing in mind that there are over 10,000 "registered" people on the ECM database of which appx 3,000 are Neighbourhood Watch members and not one person (apart from myself on behalf of ECNWA) has actually enquired with Essex Police what is happening.

Essex Police did send out a "test" message in recent months and some of the email addresses have been bounced back so therefore many people have not even notified of their changes in emails details on the system.

Jeff Appleby will update us more in the meeting.

2. Hotspots and Crime reports from Essex Police

Essex Police have in recent months changed the access to the "Hot Spots" reports by using a password.

Some of us (and that includes myself) are unable to use the password in any format despite the excellent help of Chris Heaffey and therefore we cannot read the reports and have to do without them although they are very popular in my Braintree District.

The reason Essex Police have made this change is that they had concerns that such reports should only be seen and distributed by those they (and ourselves) trust so that they are not misused or misunderstood.

Now I accept and (of course) understand Essex Police concerns and this “comment” reflects also on the Crime reports too that we all receive weekly as I have had similar “comments” in the past twelve months from Essex Police about what we do with the information and who receives it.

Most of us receive the crime reports directly from our local Neighbourhood Policing teams and those District Co-ordinators then send out the information in various forms eg newsletters and we do treat the information with “care” when distributing such crimes incidents to our members.

However there are a few Neighbourhood Watch Districts where the Police Liaison Officers send these Crime reports direct to those on a “Neighbourhood Watch Members” database which they (Essex Police) hold and as they are not sent out via the District Co-ordinator.

The Liaison Officers who action this do so at the request of the District Co-ordinators and it is appreciated. But as those District Co-ordinators do not have any “control” over the database we cannot be responsible for what those who receive such reports do with the information.

I have advised Jenny that when we (ECNWA District Co-ordinators) send out the crime information then it is our responsibility as to what those who receive such information do with the report.

I have asked Jenny for a clear statement from Essex Police on this matter..

3. Twitter

This is a great way of knowing what Essex Police and your local Neighbourhood Policing Teams action and achieve. More of you are joining Twitter and adding messages on Twitter e.g: Epping Forest, Basildon, Braintree. My thought is and I have said this to Essex Police in a report, that Twitter and other Social media Apps could replace ECM.

Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

As I advised in my last Chairman’s report Jane Gardner has approved Funding for Essex County Neighbourhood Watch for 2020 of £15,000. Each District will receive £1,000 in May 2020 – however from today our Districts cannot apply directly to The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner Offices for any Neighbourhood Watch funding.

This is the third consecutive year we have had an increase and it is very much appreciated.

Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Groups and the proposals of the Sub Committee.

Clive Woodward has advised me that little progress has been made to advise us of the Sub Committee’s proposals – it is now an item on the Agenda in March.

The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner : Re-print of Members Guides

I have a list of how many most Districts need for more Members Guides and they total 12,000 making a total print run of 50,000 YES fifty thousand !

UPDATE: I am delighted to confirm that the finance has been approved and therefore I sent an email to each of you who wanted extra Members Guides to advise me of the delivery addresses.

Probably delivery is now early February and the courier charges are covered by ECNWA.

National Neighbourhood Watch Database

As you have read (I hope) I have received an email from National Neighbourhood Watch and they had admitted that their databases need sorting out and they will update us in the New Year.

The good news is that most of the time any “new” members for Neighbourhood Watch who register directly with National Neighbourhood Watch do receive the “Welcoming email” and see the wording for those in Essex to contact me and they do so.

However as you all know I do look at any new registrations each week and advise you of those who have not contacted me for you to email/call them and see what we can do to support them.

Never forget that I do have the ability to DELETE anyone from the National NW database if you feel they are unsuitable as NW members for any reason.

UPDATE I can now delete Neighbourhood Watch Schemes too as I have actioned this for Clive Woodward

Essex Community Watch Magazine

I have sent you an email in which this magazine has accepted an article from myself to promote Neighbourhood Watch (see the link in the email) in their online version for December. The good news is that it will also be included in their hardcopy January issue too. This is very much appreciated as it will compliment our BIG launch for 2020 too.

Neighbourhood Watch Superintendents Cup

I am delighted to advise you that the “Mystery Cup “ has been solved.

John Wright, of Tendring read my Chairman’s report and sent an email to explain that the Cup is in fact the property of Tendring District Neighbourhood Watch and was handed to Essex Police (at least six years ago) to have repaired and returned to him. However it appeared to have been “lost” when in fact it was in the stock room all the time. I have arranged with Colin Freeman to hand the Cup to Tendring District today!

Public meetings for Neighbourhood Watch

Please may I remind everyone that whenever we have any meetings to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and have any guest speakers too (eg Crimestoppers, Essex Police) that it is OUR responsibility to not only organise the meetings by sending out the notices , but also to book the venue and times and ensure that all those who attend the meeting sign in so we know who has attended and who we are speaking to at the meeting.

This will enable us to follow up after the meeting all those who attended or had given their apologies with our Neighbourhood Watch information.

Our website

I recently had a look at each District's information on our website and would you believe it but one District has not updated its Christmas message since 2017!

So please can you do what you can to send to Peter Fisk up to date information on what YOUR DISTRICT has been doing before 2020 really starts?

Treasurer's Report: MH.

Copies of the current accounts were distributed and the issues with the Bank as to the "credits" were resolved. With the £820 ringfenced for Castlepoint District we have £3,158 in the accounts.

Crimestoppers: Colin Dobinson and Phil Breckon gave a full report

County Co-ordinator report: Roger Passfield: Update on Castlepoint.

The good news is that he has found a person who is willing to be Chairman and Roger is organising another meeting in February .

CBS will be sent the information to send to all on his list (which Roger has also a copy).

District Co-ordinator's update.

Each District gave a full report and they have been asked to send it to Peter Fisk for our website.

Chloe Rudd Prevent & Protect Fraud Officer Essex & Kent Serious Crime Directorate gave a talk on what is her responsibilities and then met with everyone during the time after the meeting.

Chloe has already booked a meeting with Braintree District NW in January.

Any other business:-

(a) Neighbourhood Watch Member(s) of the Year Award 2020.

There was a general discussion and it was agreed by a vote that the Sub Committee should be independent but not just Essex Police . This will be on the Agenda for more detailed agreement in March.

Lastly Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner joined the meeting and expressed how she was delighted to be involved in today's celebration and congratulated us on the achievement and a cake was presented to the meeting (see the pictures) which was very much appreciated by everyone!

MEETING DATES FOR 2020

Tuesday 10th March: ECNWA meeting at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow at 09:45hrs

Tuesday 12th May: ECNWA meeting at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow at 09:45hrs

Wednesday 8th July at The Highwoods Village Hall , Chelmsford-AGM and Conference 10:30hrs-15:30hrs

Tuesday 8th September ECNWA meeting at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow at 09:45hrs

Tuesday 10th November ECNWA meeting at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow at 09:45hrs