

Report to ECNHWA from Colchester District – January 2020

Membership crept to just above the 4,000 mark in December when it was discovered that one or two schemes had provided incorrect numbers. For example, 200 when the actual number is 76. Further reductions in membership may occur when the Facebook guidelines have been agreed.

Three new schemes have been launched two of which are in rural areas. One scheme has been relaunched following the retirement of the coordinator. Initially the coordinator refused to provide the list of members but with help from our Essex Chairman the list was obtained and verified as correct by the person taking over. One further scheme is work in progress and is for a Colchester Borough Homes housing development consisting of 20 flats.

Over the summer months there have been some issues with NhW emails being treated as spam by Google Mail, but these issues have thankfully now gone away. Serious enough though that our Dedham Village scheme was looked after by me for three months until things returned to normal. My own scheme in Great Horkesley and another in Stanway were also affected but everything is now ok. A process is in place for dealing with this if the problem should return.

A number of security products have been purchased to provide a small stockholding and 40 Street Signs are soon to be delivered. Ten of these are the Crimestoppers variety which we use in high crime areas and where no NhW Scheme is in operation.

We supported one Christmas Fayre last month.

Two of our NhW Schemes have raised funds towards the cost of Defibrillators. £250 for the Village of Messing-cum-Inworth and £420 for the Blenheim Park district. Local Councils will contribute as will Colchester in due course. Could be a long haul!

We are pleased to report that redevelopment of the Colchester District Crime Prevention Website will be fully funded by Colchester Borough Council (The Safer Colchester Partnership). The work will commence immediately. The work includes the design and construction of the website and populating the website with all the Crime Prevention Materials held currently in the existing website. One important new feature will be that residents of Colchester can apply for membership of NhW via the website. The funds also cover us for three years of hosting charges.

Finally, we are working with Colchester Police to support the Our Amy Foundation for the benefit of Colchester Hospital. Amy Vigus was 20 years old, attended a party with friends and was persuaded to 'try something' during the evening. Amy died the following day. The Foundation is raising awareness of the dangers of recreational drugs through school visits and awareness talks. Members of Colchester NhW are working with the Police to organise a football competition between young persons to raise further funds for the hospital.

Grahame Stehle