

**ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**  
**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

1. Clive Stewart (CBS) welcomed everyone to our first Zoom meeting which is an experiment to see how many would be able to attend.  
**Attended :** Clive Stewart (CBS) ( Chairman & Secretary ECNWA representing Braintree District) , Colin Freeman ( Event Co-ordinator) , Graham Stehle ( Colchester) Roger Passfield ( Vice Chairman ECNWA – Thurrock) , Tracey Graham & Mike Compton (Epping Forest), Steve Leverett (Chelmsford), Alan Norman(Southend) , Sarah Carless and Janine Dunn (Harlow), Clive Woodward ( Basildon) Jeff Appleby (Essex Police) Mike Hooper ( Treasurer ECNWA -Rochford) John Scott ( Castlepoint) Peter Salmon ( Vice Chairman ECNA – Brentwood) .
2. **Apologies:** Peter Fisk ( Website Manager) Mandy Chapman ( Maldon), Dave Sexton ( Tendring) Darren Horsman (Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner) , Celia Shute (Braintree), Derrick Giffen ( Uttlesford) Jenny Brouard ( Essex Police). Peter Fisk ( ECNWA Website Manager) .

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

This meeting is a new format as it is by Zoom ( organised by Colin Freeman) so it is hoped that many of you will be able to make the date . Normally at this time of year I begin by saying how much I appreciated the Executives for all their support and work since the last Annual General Meeting and also thank you all for all your members activities too. I still would like to say that of course, but we shall not have the formalised AGM now until next year so please see the Agenda,

Our Executives have many "hats" to wear and I have sent the list of their responsibilities recently plus of course they are their own District's Co-ordinators so quite a big "role" to fill and be responsible for too.

Special thanks to Peter Fisk for managing our website and PLEASE do update your information.

Also a "thank-you" to Colin Freeman for his "Blogs" all informative and entertaining too.

In these difficult times when face to face meetings are so part of our "job" and are now not possible to arrange it is more hard work to keep in touch with people so whatever you do is appreciated.

Everyone of us actions what we can for Neighbourhood Watch with the time we have in our busy lives and as I have said on a few occasions some of you are not always in the best of health and I hope that your Deputies can give you a helping hand as often as possible.

**Extra-Ordinary General Meeting/Conference Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 is cancelled**

As I have advised we have cancelled the event as the day includes presentation of Awards, guest speakers and exhibitors which is impossible on a Zoom basis.

*The new date is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Highwoods Village Hall Chelmsford.*

I am pleased to advise you that every guest speaker and exhibitor has placed the date in their diaries including Jane Gardner ( Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner) , ACC Mrs Rachel Nolan (Essex Police) who has replaced ACC Andy Prophet ( he has new responsibilities in Essex Police ) ,

Alan Richards ( Exhibitor Essex Trading Standards) David Andrews ( Guest Speaker Essex Police Cyber Crime ) Tony Davis ( our photographer) , Julie Binstead (Victim Support Exhibitor) Sally Austin ( Exhibitor Community Agents Essex) .

**Actioned: I have sent a letter to ACC Andy Prophet thanking him for his support for Neighbourhood Watch over many years and I have sent him a special badge.**

**UPDATE I have had an excellent letter thanking us for the special badge and my thanks to him for all his support for Neighbourhood Watch over the years!**

**Awards for Neighbourhood Watch Member or Team of the Year 2019-2020 .**

I have sent reminders to each District and we hope that we shall have at least fourteen nominations for the Executive to decide the winners. However sadly to date I have only received eight Nominations.

If Districts do not respond is it that they are not in favour of the Awards or have no one to nominate?

*Your feedback is important to us as otherwise we may not have such Awards again.*

It is hoped that we shall be advising who has won the Awards for the Neighbourhood Watch/Team Awards of the Year 2019-2020 at or shortly after this meeting. The awards will be presented at the AGM/Conference in 2021.

**Election of Officers 2020-2021**

Please see the agenda for today as each of Executives have agreed to stand again for 2020-2021 and we just need your approval to "roll-on" their "appointments" for another year please.

### Our List of ECNWA members.

Please note that the reason I send the list to you all is to enable you to communicate directly with each of us without going through myself as Chairman/Secretary. A good example is Peter Salmon's Crimestoppers reports. As we are not meeting face to face at the moment this is the best way of keeping us talking to each other on any issues we may need help or guidance..

### Essex Police

Please can everyone use the email from ACC Mrs. Rachel Nolan and distribute it to all your members as it is great to know that Essex Police appreciate our efforts to reduce crime and working with Essex Police.

The Hare Coursing poster-please distribute this to all your members and local Parish Councils etc..as Essex Police have asked our help to reduce this crime.

I very much appreciate my regular discussions with Jenny Brouard, Essex Police as we certainly do try to keep on top of any issues ( never serious) and as we are now not invited to the Essex Police Force Tasking meetings and maybe your local Police Tasking meetings too ( as they are now "Internal" - which I do of course accept) my discussions with Jenny are even more important than ever.

Lastly I said in my last report that I was contacted by Jannaire Faulkner Essex Police Media Team who wanted a one minute thirty second video on Neighbourhood Watch in Essex. I managed to create one and it is available via Facebook. Today (17<sup>th</sup> August) sadly I was advised that the video was never used.

### The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner.

It is always good to have support from Roger Hirst but I must thank Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner for all her support too and attending our special meeting in January when we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Later this year I shall have a meeting with her to discuss how we have used the funding that we received from them in the past twelve months and I know that Jane is always pleased to see such progress that we make in Essex . Not forgetting a special thanks to Darren Horsman too as he attends meetings and send reports to update us when he is unavailable.

### National Neighbourhood Watch

#### (a) Funding from Patlock sales/commission.

Each District will receive some funds from the sales of Patlocks in Essex over the last five years.

An email has been sent to all Districts with the information. May I thank Mike Hooper ( Treasurer) for his agreement to note in his books that the funds are "ringfenced" as appropriate for those Districts to be paid in 2021 and to thank those Districts who have agreed to wait for the funding until that time – it is appreciated.

#### (b) MSA.

I appreciate so many of you are MSA's for your District and I am acting MSA for six Districts and keep them updated as to who to approve or not. Please can you find the time to look at those who need approval so that we can together clear the backlog.

IF anyone wants help reducing their long list of members that need approval or deleted please let me know.

#### (c) Zoom meeting Summer Seminars on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

It was interesting and I was surprised to note three things:-

I saw a person at the Zoom meeting who said he was a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in Grays and when I mentioned this to Roger Passfield he contacted the Grays Area Co-ordinator who had never heard of this person. They will track him down and will be asking him what is it that he actually communicates to his "members" as he is not registered with Thurrock District and is therefore not approved and not receiving any official Neighbourhood Watch items eg: our Members Guides etc..

I have left that one with Roger! This is a good example of people who once they are registered with National NW that they are "approved" when in fact they are not, as we need to ensure that they are accepted in the local Groups and abide by the Code of Ethics as well as The Data Protection Act.

I did mention this to National Neighbourhood Watch and did not have any response.

### Information for distribution

John Hayward-Cripps, Chief Executive, said that he is in favour of anyone receiving Neighbourhood Watch information whether or not they want to be involved with Neighbourhood Watch.

I responded by saying that I agree in a general sense as if people are interested in the information for themselves then I see no harm in that at all and would send it to them as they may not be able to be too actively involved. However I did state that on occasions in Essex I have seen evidence that some people use the information to promote their own vigilante groups stating they are receiving "crime reports from the Police" thereby boosting their images ( and credibility?) and then patrolling the streets and using such reports as evidence of this "credibility" to ask for funding from the vulnerable.

I have managed to reduce the information some what to such people if I know who they are in Braintree District. Once again National Neighbourhood Watch did not respond.

#### Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

I heard that a few Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the UK actually have their local Police giving targets to their PCSO's to find members for Neighbourhood Watch and in fact there are a number of Police Services in the UK who are directly involved in recruiting members as part of their responsibilities . I expressed my view that I applaud and thank Essex Police for all their support for us in Essex but Neighbourhood Watch is an organisation managed by volunteers in the communities and it is our responsibility to recruit and manage members as we supply local information ( from Essex Police) and support new members and Groups everyday. I would welcome your thoughts on my view please.

#### Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Website.

If you look at our website and the Districts information one can still see many Districts information so out of date it is not really appropriate .

I know that you all have busy lives and do other things but some reports are dated 2017..

So please contact Peter Fisk who is doing a GREAT job managing the website and needs your input..

Even if you arrange with him to delete very old information and attach a report once every three months of say 100 words it benefits everyone .

#### 4. Awards for Neighbourhood Watch member or Team of the Year 2019-2020.

Colin Freeman was delighted to advise the following as been decided by the Executive:-\_

##### Certificates of Appreciation

Victoria Adamas and Catherine Murray ( Basildon), Susan Rolls ( Brentwood)

Kathryn Webb (Chelmsford), Bob Ayriss (Southend) , John Wright ( Tendring)

Peter Eades ((Thurrock) , Peter Sampson ( Uttlesford)

Bronze Award John Scott ( Castlepoint)

Silver Awards : Sarah Rich (Epping Forest) and Judy Hill ( Braintree )

Gold Award Peter Rudlin (Colchester)

Platinum Award by the Executive : Dave Sexton ( Tendring District Co-ordinator) .

This was award due to Dave Sexton due to his excellent hard work establishing a new Jaywick NW Group experiencing various difficulties in the past many months.

#### 5. Treasurer's report : Mike Hooper.

A copy of the current accounts and funds in the Bank including full details of not only expenditure and income but also funding ring fenced for a number of Districts.

#### 6. Proposed changes to our Constitution .

These were all approved and CBS will update the Constitution and it will be available on request.

#### 7. Election of Executives 2020-2021

It was unanimously agreed that the Executives were re-elected and rolled over for another year until the AGM in 2021.

#### 8. National NW newsletter: Mike Compton's item.

MC wanted to discuss a specific issue in National NW newsletter as he felt that it seemed like a mandatory rule/instructions.

There was a general discussion and Clive Stewart (Chairman) explained that information from national Neighbourhood Watch has always been considered by Essex County NW Association members as "guidelines" and not strict "rules".

If we did not feel that it was "appropriate" for our Districts then we would not apply them.

There was reference to National NW's information on the "rules2 of managing a Neighbourhood watch facebook Group and CBS advised that our Sub Committee was informed of these "rules" but we had created our own "regulations" and guidelines for Essex which was more suitable for Essex and accepted by everyone.

#### 9. Crimestoppers report.

An updated report was emailed to all be Peter Salmon.

#### 10. Essex Police report.

This was distributed by Jeff Appleby to all and at the meeting no one had any questions for him.

#### 11. Report from The Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Darren Horsman sent the report after the meeting and it was distributed by CBS.

#### 12. Date of next meeting to be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and it will be a Zoom meeting again.

Action: CBS to arrange it ( see email since the meeting ) .

Meeting concluded in 38 minutes.

( Next Zoom meeting will be unlimited time as we have paid to have meetings over the next twelve months)