

BRAINTREE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STEERING GROUP

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES AND REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORTS ZOOM MEETING 16TH FEBRUARY 2021

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1. Attended Clive Stewart, (CBS) Chairman & Treasurer , Celia Shute Vice Chairman (covers parts of Braintree) , Louise Smith Secretary (Gosfield) , Brian Farren (Halstead) Bill Piper (Little Maplestead) Steve Blows (part of Halstead) Tina Townsend (Witham) PC James Draper and Terry Fowles Essex Police Liaison Officer
2. Apologies: Jean Hastings (Greenstead Green) Judy Hill (Silver End) there was an IT problem with Zoom Mandy Marshall (Coggeshall) again a has an IT problem for Zoom
3. Terry Fowles : The meeting began with a presentation by Terry Fowles on his responsibilities and this was very much appreciated and afterwards he sent the information on various Watches which CBS distributed.
PC James Draper: It was great to have PC James Draper again at the meeting and this gave everyone an opportunity to have an informal question and answer session which was very welcome.

4. Reports from each Area Co-ordinator

Each person reported what has happened or not in their area.

Judy Hill said before she left the meeting due to IT issues that a report will be sent.

Tina Townsend said that there are now over 5,000 on the Witham NW Facebook Group and asked for more purple bells.

Action: CBS asked her look at what she needed and tell him the supplier so he could receive a quote for 100.

As of 1st March CBS has not heard anything.

5. Chairman's report

Do not hear from you.

This is not a complaint but very few of you who are on the Steering Group actually make contact with me between Zoom meetings and those who do I am always pleased to be listening to their local information and be of help when I can. So please do contact me every so often to at least tell me you are well whether you need support or not.

New Enquiries

In recent months I have had a few enquiries for information on Neighbourhood Watch from various sources and bearing in mind that you on the Steering Group manage your own areas I wonder how many you have had? Indeed I presume that on occasions there must be a few local people who know of your "role" as local "Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator" who may have an odd question or two?

Maybe they have received your contact details for Neighbourhood Watch as they are new people moving into the area you cover?

I am pleased to have been of help to a few in the past week or so and many have requested various items of Neighbourhood Watch as well as being placed on the distribution list (bcc of course) for the weekly newsletter. One new enquiry who has moved to Braintree was very complimentary of the quality of information he had received from myself as he had moved from Hertfordshire and was in the Herts Neighbourhood Watch Association . He is in fact an ex-Police Officer too so I was pleased to have that comment.

Finally can I say that I do "qualify" each enquiry before I passing the information of these people to those of you who live in the person's specific areas you manage and this may take a few weeks .

One example: I did respond to an enquiry who was really keen to cover their local roads and so I sent various information and even a large Members badge as well as a Members Guide but after many many emails over quite a few weeks from this person I never heard another word despite my sending gentle reminders.

I am sure that you would rather I handle that matter first before asking YOU to make contact with them.

Facebook Groups and Weekly newsletters.

(a) Newsletters.

Firstly I would like to thank Judy Hill for copying the wording of the weekly newsletter on her Silver End Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Group each week as it is appreciated especially when many Facebook Groups do it too.

So please can I request that you do publish the newsletter each week even if you copy the wording and not include the pictures as this will help to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch.

In these days the more we communicate to all our members or place Neighbourhood Watch information on village Facebook Groups it will help to keep everyone aware of Neighbourhood Watch.

Six monthly newsletter April 2021

This has been created and CBS advised that he will send an email to everyone asking for numbers that people are willing to deliver to obtain a printing quote .

UPDATE. Brian Farren so far is the only one to reply to have any printed deadline 18th March..

Facebook Groups

In one particular village there have been two Neighbourhood Watch Facebook groups created which has caused some confusion especially as many of the members in each one belong to the other one and even more important there is already an approved NW Facebook Group in the village with over 350 members (and once again many of the 80 members of the other two Groups belong to that too) .

In recent weeks I managed to contact an Administrator of one of the Facebook Groups who was extremely helpful and closed it down and I am working with her to help her create a local street group which is great. However the other Facebook Group Administrator was very upset when I did explain that any Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Groups need to be approved by Braintree District NW Steering Group especially as the name "Neighbourhood Watch "is copyright.

After a few more messages the administrator decided to change its name of the Facebook Group.

But it is important for everyone to remember (should anyone ask you) that any use of the name of "Neighbourhood Watch" and its logo must be approved at all times.

This is NOT my or Braintree District NW Steering Group's rules but National Neighbourhood Watch.

If anyone who would like a copy of the email from National Neighbourhood Watch explaining copyright please let me know.

NEW Braintree Neighbourhood Watch leaflet.

I was asked to create a leaflet for a new street Co-ordinator and so I did please see the [attached](#) which did have their area on the front page and on the inside left page at the bottom page had their contact name and email address.

IF you feel that you can use this leaflet in any way eg by email or hardcopy I can add the details regarding your area and your contact details.

UPDATE since meeting: Celia Shute suggested a special leaflet for a housing estate in Braintree and requested 300 which were printed and sent to Celia who delivered them and CBS received almost immediately a few enquiries.

Use of the Neighbourhood Watch database

Recently I was requested if I could "promote" a person's activities to raise funds for various charities in these times. Sadly I had to reply that the Neighbourhood Watch database of members emails is ONLY to be used for crime prevention information (which is from Essex Police or other partners) and I did say that this is NOT my rules but National Neighbourhood Watch and is clear in the Code of Ethics. I have not had an acknowledgement of my email.

Street Signs

Recently I was requested to hand another street sign to a local Co-ordinator as three young persons in the village were seen setting fire to one of the street signs - well they are plastic.

These young persons were identified and although the Police were not informed the parents were contacted.

I have given the local village Co-ordinator another street sign and plastic ties.

We now have only eighteen in stock but these will be reduced as David Reaves has requested three and he will arrange to have them collected soon.

Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

In recent weeks PC Karen Scott has organised an IAG meeting on Microsoft Teams for anyone interested in specific areas even including parts of Cambridge to discuss various issues and also they have guest speakers. The meeting is at 18:30 and should last one hour (however the last meeting over run quite a bit I was advised). Sadly due to technical issues on my computer I cannot be heard on Microsoft Teams but I can hear others, however as I may want to ask questions or raise Neighbourhood Watch I decided not to "attend" for the moment until I can sort it out. So at the last meeting (I believe Brian Farren was able to attend via a friend's computer?)

I sent the [attached](#) that was distributed by Essex Police which to date has not generated one enquiry!

Action: Since the meeting Brian Farren has agreed to be our representative on Braintree District NW at the meeting in March.

Essex Highways and Street signs

During January Essex Highways advised Essex County Neighbourhood Watch that there were new regulations to be proposed regarding street signs and in specific to the size of the signs which were to be reduced to A4 which did affect many Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Districts some had purchased 200 signs to last them many years which were the previous approved size. This did not affect ourselves as I have for over 10 years always purchased Street signs which were A4 and only bought in based on demand so never had more than 25 in stock at any time. However at the recent Essex County NW Association meeting we made representations to Essex Highways to complain about the change of the size and within a few days they have agreed that each Neighbourhood Watch District may continue to have the larger size until they need to purchase more in the years ahead. By the way we shall be receiving new forms to complete and I can say these are just as easy as the previous forms that I have distributed to those Co-ordinators who requested signs in their areas.

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association (ECNWA) Nominations for Neighbourhood Watch Member or Team of the Year 2020-2021.

May I please remind everyone that Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Member or Team of the Year Awards for 2020-2021 will be going ahead and I shall have the forms to be sent to you soon.

These awards relate to ONE representative of each of the fourteen District Neighbourhood Watch so I shall be hoping that we can once again have a number of Nominations to consider at our next meeting which will be early May . The Award winners will be presented at Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association's Annual General Meeting and Conference on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at Highwoods Village Hall , Highwoods Village, Chelmsford if at all possible but if NOT it will be a Zoom meeting

Although we will not meet again after our February meeting and the Nomination forms will be available and we shall make a decision in May's meeting. Please note that it is NOT mandatory to nominate anyone at all ..but surely there must be someone who in the past twelve months has gone beyond the call of duty in these difficult times to keep Neighbourhood Watch going and help to keep pa people aware on how to reduce the opportunity of crime? *Finally please note that the person who is NOMINATING a person or team must not only live in Braintree District but also be a registered member of Neighbourhood Watch.*

National Neighbourhood Watch Alert database and Braintree District NW database.

In recent weeks I have been emailing people in various areas in Braintree District who some years ago registered with National Neighbourhood Watch Alert database as members or have shown interest in having Neighbourhood Watch information and then I appeared not to hear from them at all again.

Since that time I have heard from two persons and one was keen to hear from me again so I have added him back on the distribution list for the weekly newsletter (he never sent an email to ask why he had not received anything from anyone in all those years) however he is now back with us. The other person did say that she had moved to Dorset!

So I wonder if you could find a few minutes to send out emails to those on your list -just to keep in touch if you send one email bcc to say ten people it may generate an interest?

I do say to these people that if I do not hear from them in say ten days I shall delete them from my database or even the NNW Alert database ..but I do say I prefer not to do that!

Finally please continue to thank all your members as they should be reminded what being involved with Neighbourhood Watch about.

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6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Accounts

Current Account 19/1	1556.10
<u>Business Reserve Account 31/7</u>	<u>1744.09</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>£3300.19</u>

As you know I applied to National Neighbourhood Watch for a grant of £125 , as they had surplus funds due to their not having an Annual General Meeting in 2020 , and I was advised me that we were successful and they have credited our account £125 which is to cover costs of Zoom and extra postages because of the extra spending due to the coronavirus.

RINGFENCED FUNDING

Terling & Fairstead NW do not have a bank account however they received funds from Braintree District Council which I credited to our account so we have ringfenced the remaining £238.80 of the funding they did not spend as they have not decided yet how to use these funds.

We have also ringfenced Halstead Town Council £65 who have given us £75 last year (it cost £10 to cover hardcopy of six monthly newsletters) , and until we have a meeting with Halstead Town Council to discuss Neighbourhood Watch and how to use the remaining funding.

So our net funds in the current account are £1252.

7. Discussion on what to do to raise Neighbourhood Watch more in these difficult times.

No one had any ideas at all .

8. Discussion on the concepts of the Nominations for Neighbourhood Watch member of the Year.

No one had any suggestions.

CBS has already sent out the Nomination forms and will advise who has been nominated at the next meeting.

Date of Next meeting TUESDAY 4th May at 14:30g hrs.