

At the Gosfield Village Hall we held our Annual General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August ,which started at 12:30hrs. I did invite at least 175 Co-ordinators/members to the event and we had thirty attend and ten apologies ,which was very good in light of the fact that this was our first face to face meeting for over eighteen months. We also had attending PC James Draper, Terry Fowles and Essex Fire & Rescue Services Diane Pasfield. Both Terry and Diane were guest speakers.

The Annual General Meeting re-elected Clive Stewart as Chairman and Treasurer , Celia Shute as Vice Chairman, Louise Smith as Secretary and the members of the Steering Group ( seven ) were all willing to stand again for another year and we had two more joining too making twelve in total . Also at the Annual General Meeting I awarded Judy Hill with the 2020 ECNWA Silver Award and Tina Townsend 2021 Bronze Award too. In addition I also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Louise Smith, Brian Farren and Celia Shute for all their hard work over the past year .

After the AGM we had refreshments so everyone could have a chat and this proved very successful followed by an “open “ Braintree District NW Steering Group with only one person who left and this was good to see as those who stayed were interested in what we discussed.

My proposal at the Steering Group was agreed that from that day we must promote “Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch” as a brand name and that every Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Groups are to state that “This Group is part of Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch which is affiliated with Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association a registered charity number 1168988”.

So I started the “promotional activity ” by purchasing 1,000 pens with the brand name and the email address. Also in recent weeks I managed to have funding from Braintree District Council of £500 and I can use the funds for any promotional activity ie Street signs, newsletters and other items . So I decided to purchase 250 key rings and these have our brand name and email address on one side and the other side showing “We have been funded by Councillors’ Community Grants -Braintree District Council”.

I am creating our next six monthly newsletter and asked PC James Draper what I could use from Essex Police and he suggested showing a photograph of the entire new Team in Braintree District and having a write up which I thought was a great idea.

This newsletter will be emailed to most of the members in Braintree District but we also have hard copies printed for distribution ..last time ( February ) we had a print run of 2,500 ( a little over 12 years ago the print run was 25,000). I expect to have the details from Braintree Police by mid October and then have the distribution of the hardcopies during our next Steering Group meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

We hope that with the Covid restrictions being reduced in the coming months that we can get more out and about and increase our membership.

Just an interesting point regarding membership and our Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Groups ,which National Neighbourhood Watch will NOT recognise as “members”, our Facebook Groups membership total 8,971 ..now I know that these are not all registered on National Neighbourhood Watch Alert database and they probably only see Neighbourhood Watch information on the Facebook Groups but my view is that this “media” helps us to distribute our Neighbourhood watch information to more people ..

Finally I still see every so often new registrations on National Neighbourhood Watch database ( as I am Braintree District’s MSA) and I do respond by sending an email and state very clearly that “National Neighbourhood Watch have failed to advise you that your registration as a member in Braintree District needs to be approved by Essex County NW Association” ..but I do say that I welcome their registration and offer my support and service..most of the time they are very pleased to hear from me but if I do not receive an reply ( and I tell them this ) I may delete them from the database -which I prefer not to do..this normally works and I then hear from them....

Clive Stewart, Chairman, Braintree District NW.