

**BRAINTREE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STEERING GROUP**  
**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES AND REPORT FOR MEETING TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 14:00 HRS.**

**Attendees:**

Clive Stewart Chairman & Treasurer ( Co-ordinator Belchamp St.Paul & Belchamp Otten )  
Celia Smith Vice Chairman ( Chelmer Road, Braintree) Louise Smith, Secretary (Gosfield) ,  
Mandy Marshal ( Coggeshall) Brian Farren ( Nether Court , Halstead) Jean Hastings ( Greenstead Green)  
Bill Piper ( Little Maplestead) Sheila Steer ( Rayne) PC James Draper.

**Apologies:**

Judy Hill ( Silver End ) Terry Fowles ( Essex Watch Liaison Officer )  
Diane Passfield ( Essex Fire & Rescue Services) Steve Blows ( (St.Andrews Road, Halstead)

1. **Essex Police report : PC James Draper .**

James gave a a very comprehensive report covering all issues of crime and crime prevention in Braintree District and replied to many questions which was very much appreciated.

2. **Chairman's report**

**Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Weekly newsletter**

In the past many weeks Essex Police have decided in their Crime report to advise more reported anti-social behaviour incidents in detail ie throwing items at windows, breaking wing mirrors off motor vehicles, scratching motor vehicles, causing damage to fences and personal property.

I have not given such information in my newsletter but have referred in general to the incidents which were reported by victims to Essex Police. My weekly newsletter has been a summary of the crime reports I receive from Essex Police and is in its 12th year!

It was initially sent to a few villages but now is distributed to over two hundred people each week covering both Essex and Suffolk as sadly those who commit crimes do not have boundaries .

So it is important to know what is happening around you not just on your doorstep.

In my recent discussions at Essex County NW Association meeting I heard that other District Co-ordinators split the reports up and tell their local NW Co-ordinators only what crimes are occurring where they live and not even three miles away and I had to say this is not what Neighbourhood Watch is all about ! The interesting thing to note is that I am aware of many people who receive the Essex Police weekly crime report ,as well as my newsletter, and not one has mentioned to me that they do not want to have the weekly newsletter as it "duplicates" the Essex Police crime report.

BUT I do have a lot of compliments of my newsletter as it brings to the Neighbourhood Watch Members, District Councils and Parish Councils the incidents in a different format.

My newsletter covers in detail dwelling house burglaries, thefts from persons, thefts from and of motor vehicles also reports on Twitter by Essex Police.

The distribution is by email only and had been increasing every week and I believe that it is forwarded on by many at least ten times, also placed on Facebook Groups and on village notice boards too.

So I thank PC James Draper for his regular reports to me , sometimes on a Sunday night, and also Terry Fowles Essex Watch Liaison Officer for his reports too. It is very much appreciated.

**Six monthly Newsletter version Two 2021 :**

Every copy has now been handed to those who distribute them and they have until March 2022 to do it as it covers six months! I was delighted with PC James Draper's article of the Braintree Police Team and the reference to Anti-Social behaviour. The print run was 1,950, so in essence, there has been an "increase" in hardcopies and quite a few of you have of course sent it out on email to your database.

However some have had difficulties publishing it on your NW Facebook groups and I suggested that they contact Louise Smith who will be pleased to help...I do not know if anyone did???

**National Neighbourhood Watch database**

Well , as your MSA, I look at the database every day and it is easy under Version 4 and I can see anyone who lives in Braintree District who have registered directly with National Neighbourhood Watch so I can contact them to tell them that we must approve their registration but we are here to be of support on any local neighbourhood Watch matters.

### Neighbourhood Watch items :

I am surprised that only a few of you want any promotional items ( see my order form ) but as I said this year we are promoting "Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch" and this is important as it is BDNW who fund all that is needed for Neighbourhood Watch in Braintree District ( apart from Coggeshall who have had their own funds for many many years) so why very few of you do not want any such items puzzles me. IF you disagree with this "project" and refuse to promote Braintree District NW then please tell me as this is what we are going to do this year and with your help.

Yes you are the local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators .

BUT you are all part of Braintree District NW and have been since the start of NW in Braintree.

I have promotional pens, Key rings, Contactless card protector wallets, No Cold Caller Stickers, window stickers, wheelie bin stickers, Members badges, Members Guides ( the updated information on emails and websites will be emailed to you ) , Message in a Bottle , Nominated Neighbour Cards ( with information how to use them being emailed to you ) , street signs , and much more ..wait till you see what I have purchased !!

*Very few of you have completed the "order " form and I wonder sometimes what we should offer to our members if YOU are not interested?*

Finally You may like to know my responsibilities:

#### Braintree District

Chairman , Treasurer, National NW MSA for Braintree District.

District Co-ordinator , Stock Control Manager

Local Co-ordinator for Witham and Hatfield Peverel & Belchamp St.Paul & Belchamp Otten.

#### Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association

Chairman , Secretary. MSA for twelve Neighbourhood Watch Districts (out of 14 NW Districts\* ) in Essex  
Distributor of Window stickers for all of Essex.

Main contact with Essex Police for all of Essex NW

Main contact with The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

Main contact with National Neighbourhood Watch

BUT

On top of this in recent weeks the District Co-ordinator of Castle Point District ,which includes Canvey Island, ( one of the 14\* see above) stood down ( after eighteen months) and as there was no one to take on the "job" I decided to take on that role too.

In the first three days I emailed 140 people from a list from the previous District Co-ordinator (who said that he had emailed them all but never had one reply even asking for a window sticker).

Well within six days 35% replied and within three weeks I established 50% as local NW Co-ordinators and registered on the Castle Point NW database with 1,520 NW members.

Within a week I created a Castle Point weekly newsletter, on a similar basis to the Braintree District weekly newsletter, with a summary of the Essex Police Castle Point crime report.

I also made contact with Castle Point Essex Police Inspector Cathy Calder who was delighted to know of the progress I had made. Also I created a six monthly newsletter which was printed and delivered to 1,400 persons via the local NW Co-ordinators, as I asked them how many they would like to distribute by hand, and that was the number!! They were pleased to know that I had re-established a newsletter as they had not had anything to distribute for over four years! Many said that they were delighted to hear from me as they had not had any communication from any Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators for a long time! Why was I so successful? Well it is all making contact (and keeping in touch) and saying that we are here to support them if they want to be being PART of Neighbourhood Watch ..no mention of a committee or meetings. Just being there for anyone who is keen to receive Neighbourhood Watch information is the key! In the past three weeks I have delivered ( via post and courier) 240 wheelie bin stickers, 1300 window stickers, 120 No Cold caller stickers, 60 x Members Guides both hard copies and email version, Contactless card protector wallets and a lot of information.

*All from where I live over fifty miles away!*

### 3. Treasurer's report:

This was distributed to all at the meeting and Clive Stewart advised that he is main objective is to keep expenditure within the income for the year at all times .

**4. Reports for all Co-ordinators.**

Clive Stewart (CBS) read out Judy Hill's report which was well received.

CBS also gave a report on Belchamp St.Paul & Belchamp Otten and mentioned that a little over a week ago Sheila Steer had advised him she was unable to cover Rayne any more and CBS had discussed w this with the Rayne Parish Clerk who had published on the Rayne Facebook Group that we were seeking a Rayne NW Co-ordinator and to contact CBS.

All others round the table gave their reports and what was helpful was PC James Draper was able to assist in any queries on many local issues including anti social behaviour.

**5. Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year.**

CBS said that in the past few years it was a struggle to have any nominations from members of this Steering Group . He requested that each of the Steering Group thinks hard about a nomination for the next meeting-or we as Braintree will not nominate anyone at all..which would be sad as there must be someone who stands out as a good example of a Neighbourhood Watch member in the past most difficult of years.

**6. Distribution of all Neighbourhood Watch items.**

This was actioned including promotional pens and key rings ,message in a bottles, new FREE small window alarms and also door wedges alarms

**7. Date of Next meeting.**

It was agreed by everyone that we should all meet again face to face in March and not have a Zoom meeting .CBS and Louise Smith to discuss the best date and time for this hall and advise everyone

Meeting ended at 16:00hrs

Clive Stewart , Chairman, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021