

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
COUNTY MEETING CHAIRMAN'S NOTES OF ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY 11th January 2022

Attendees:

Clive Stewart (Chairman & Secretary and represents Braintree District & Castle Point)
Peter Salmon (Vice Chairman and Brentwood) Mike Hooper (Treasurer and Rochford)
Clive Woodward (Basildon) Celia Shute (Braintree) Grahame Stehle (Colchester)
Mike Compton (Epping Forest) Sarah Carless (Harlow) , Alan Norman (Southend)
Adrian Smith & Eric Dawson (Tendring) Derrick Giffin (Uttlesford)
Colin Freeman (Event Co-ordinator) , Terry Fowles (Essex Watch Liaison Officer)
Darren Horsman (The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner)
and Stuart Rawlins (Crimestoppers)

Apologies:

Roger Passfield (Thurrock) Frank Ferguson (Basildon) Peter Fisk (Website Manager)
Peter Rudlin (Colchester), Steve Leverett (Chelmsford) Sarah Wright (Essex Police)

Police report

This was given by Terry Fowles and copies were distributed by email the next day

The Office of Police Fire & Crime Report

This was given by Darren Horsman and was distributed to all the next day

Chairman's report- Clive Stewart

This year we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in the UK so I have placed on the Agenda that we discuss what we can do throughout all the Districts for 2022.

Please note that National Neighbourhood Watch have created a new logo (see the Agenda) which we are not to use until 2022!

As you as know we have our Conference/AGM in July and I am sure that Colin Freeman will think up some extra activities on that day but it is how we celebrate this great achievement in Essex that we should all be thinking about please!!!

Firstly may I say how great it was to see so many of you at the first for eighteen months face to face meeting at The Millennium Centre , Great Baddow.

It was also appreciated that we managed to have the meeting in the large hall rather than the Tower Room.

It is important that we all keep safe and well and we shall continue to meet every two months one way or another.

In the meantime please never hesitate to contact me or in fact any of the ECNWA members directly on Neighbourhood Watch matters as just discussing any "issues" at any time is very helpful and may help resolve them.

1. Meetings

This meeting is by ZOOM , due to the general request to avoid travelling in the winter months, which it seems to have been a good decision anyway based on current Government guidelines.

But we hope that we shall be back (subject of course to Government Covid regulations) at the Millennium Centre, Great Baddow in March so please see the dates on the Agenda.

I did advise the Millennium Centre of this meeting and they totally agreed with our decision and looks forward to seeing us in March.

2. The Office of Police & Fire Commissioner

(a) Funding for 2021/2022

As you will remember I sent an email in December updating everyone on the funding agreed and I shall diary in late April to invoice them. It is worth repeating that Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner very much appreciated the comprehensive report I gave her which not only covers what we use their funding for but also what we have actioned over the past twelve months.

(b) New funding for Crime Prevention.

PFCC Roger Hirst's newsletter in which £200,000 grant is available for crime prevention. I sent an email to you all and the replies have been disappointing as only a couple of you replied...so I shall leave it. I have however placed it as an item on the Agenda for today's meeting to see if there are any new proposals.

3. Your District Co-ordinators need Deputies or Assistants .

In recent months I have been aware of a number of Districts that have not been able to contact "NW Members" due to the information not being available for one reason or another.

It is important that we must keep in touch with as many members on our local databases as often as possible-whether they are on computer or not.

You may not know that IF a Scheme Co-ordinator has registered on National Neighbourhood Watch database, with all their scheme members, and if this Co-ordinator is unable for any reason not able to continue in that role and may be probably deleted from the database, the scheme remains open and so all the contact details of each of the members of that scheme are safe.

So please can I ask everyone to do your very best and share their local information with more than one person on THEIR committee and if possible register your scheme and its members with National Neighbourhood Watch (even as a back up).

4. Communications.

This is not a complaint but a comment.

Please, whenever anyone joins your District Committee/Steering Group can you update them on what Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association is all about..eg show them the website, remind them about sending reports to Peter Fisk, update your contacts for the ECNWA list to myself, tell them we celebrated our 25th Anniversary last year when special badges were created for worthy District Co-ordinators, their Deputies and many others to acknowledge their extra efforts for Neighbourhood Watch over many years.

Also we had a NEW large members badges (4.5cm) to replace the 3cm badges (which are now not valid in Essex) as these smaller badges anyone can purchase from any websites whether or not they are members of Neighbourhood Watch.

Finally please advise them of all our meeting dates and especially our AGM/Conference in July 2022 and the venues too.

5. Your Annual Accounts a reminder please.

Sorry to remind those of you who are affiliated to ECNWA ,as we are a charity, (yes I know that there are two Districts who are registered charities in their own right) that Mike Hooper will need to receive copies of your Annual Accounts as this is a registered charity requirement .

6. Our website

Now it seems very easy for anyone to look up what is happening in each of your Districts.

However the most important issue is that YOU are responsible for updating that information even once every three months please.....surely that's not too much work?

Remember if your contact details are not updated then that will not help the image of Neighbourhood Watch in your District!

7. Bank charges

Mike Hooper and I have agreed to accept the charges for a few months whilst we look around to see what Bank will be beneficial to us.

8. National Neighbourhood Watch :

(a) Annual General Meeting

Due to my many commitments I was unable to “attend” their two hour Microsoft teams AGM, and I did ask if anyone on ECNWA was interested before giving my apologies.

Only two replied and one wondered why I could not make the date and time!

Well I will say that I had so much to do that I was unable to “spare the time” sitting in front of a PC and listening to presentations many of which would include repeating what was in their newsletters. However it is interesting to note that NOT one of the ECNWA members (or their Deputies) could represent us at the AGM. Yes sadly there were quite a few of you who were and still are very poorly and in hospital too. So I spoke to Cheryl Spruce and she accepted our apologies.

I have sent to you all the information I received after the AGM.

(b) MSA role

I have placed this item on the Agenda .As you all know I am still MSA for twelve Districts , as eleven Districts still cannot find any volunteers to take on those role. It is only five minutes a week once you have been trained. I keep every District aware of any new registrations.

However one District Co-ordinator will explain at the meeting why he is NOT interested in any one who registers directly on the National Neighbourhood Watch database in future so my being MSA has reduced to eleven .

I will give my comments regarding MSA for Castle Point and Braintree Districts in the usual reporting.

(c) National NW “Hub”

Over the past many months I have received emails and lists from National NW in which they wanted me to confirm that the persons who have applied to join their “Hub meetings” are valid NW members/Co-ordinators..and I initially did send the lists to each of the Districts and asked them to confirm one way or another if they were in fact registered with them as Co-ordinators or members..this took some considerable time and on occasions I found that in fact many of the person on the list were in fact already registered on the National NW database. So they could have seen that for themselves and not asked me to ask each of the Districts. In addition the lists were not very helpful as I had only names and no full addresses so I had to look them up on the Alert database myself..another few hours of my life went. After a few more lists were coming in and one had over twelve people I objected and in fact told them so, as this was adding to my workload, when they could check for themselves. On one occasion there was an person who did not even register themselves for the Hub. On the latest email from National NW they have now changed their rules and said we do not have to reply ! So I asked them why are they still sending out the lists..?? No reply.

I am delighted to advise you that Clive Woodward will receive these lists in future and will be in touch with the Districts who apply to anyone who has applied to be on the Hub..

Conference on Terrorism-Policing December 9th Thursday .

I sent an email to everyone on this Conference and only one person responded by saying “No thanks”..as I did ask “Is anyone interested “.

9. Radio Five Live

I was contacted to appear on BBC Radio Five Live to discuss how Neighbourhood Watch in Essex gives any advice to its members on Acts of Terrorism .

I replied that we distribute information to our members from reliable sources (our partners) eg Essex Police , The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioners, Crimestoppers and that is our role in Essex. We never give advice to our members but ensure that they receive as quickly as possible any information from our partners .

They still wanted me to “appear” on the programme and I said that all I would say is what I had just told them.

However the date and time they gave me (two days notice) I already had a commitment and could not make it so I sent the details to our Executives but no one could make the date and time either.

I feel that we must be firm in NOT giving specific advice on any crime prevention issues but distribute advice/information or direct people to right organisation , as that is our role .

IF anyone disagrees with me let me know.

10. Domstic Abuse : Essex Police and Neighbourhood Watch

I will be at a meeting on January 17th at which Jenny Brouard will also be attending.

Treasurer's report :Mike Hooper .

The updated stamen of accounts were emailed the next day. We have sufficient funding for our next year. Everyone should read again Clive Stewart's emailed note "New, Good news, better news and more news for some ". This will confirm the finding for 2022...

Reports from each District Co-ordinator.

Each of those attended gave a report and Clive Stewart requested that they send copies to Pete Fisk to publish on the ECNWA website

How to celebrate Neighbourhood Watch 40th Anniversary

After a general discussion Clive Stewart decided to send an email to everyone to propose that a working group should be formed to decide the best way "Essex NW" could celebrate the year.

Extra Funding £200,000 for crime prevention in Essex from Roger Hirst The Police Fire & Crime Commissioner.

Clive Stewart (CBS) reminded everyone again that he had already discussed the matter with Darren Horsman and that we should work with partners to be involved with any application..

Adrian Smith had a proposal and he was requested to send it to CBS to distribute to everyone.

Meeting closed 11:45 hrs