

CASTLE POINT DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



REPORT TO ECNWA ON TUESDAY 8TH MARCH

Since the last ECNWA meeting the past two months have been as busy as ever and I would like to thank Mike Hooper for his help in arranging collection of street signs to Co-ordinators, John Metcalfe for the Castle Point Facebook Group and PC Ian Ridsen for being available for the occasional questions and finally Kevin Blake for the crime reports each week at 07:30hrs on a Monday! This is great as it gives me more time to complete the newsletter and send it out before 12 noon that day!

As MSA for Castle Point I have seen people registering directly on National Neighbourhood Watch (quite a few in recent weeks too) and I have sent them emails to introduce myself and saying what we can offer and be of support. Those who never reply I leave alone after a short polite reminder.

But I am delighted to say that most of these people are pleased to hear from me and I am increasing membership and local Co-ordinators slowly which is great.

The second six monthly newsletter I have created and this time we have article about the three Essex Watch Liaison Officers ,and their photos, written by Kevin Blake ..I shall be emailing it out to each of the Co-ordinators from the end of March to enquire how many they are willing to distribute by hand . The print run for the first six monthly newsletter was 1,400..and I anticipate a print run of 1,600 for the next issue.

I also have included a article about Rachel Kearn , Essex Fire & Rescue Service ..and this is will please everyone as Rachel covers the issuing of smoke alarms too.

In fact I wrote an article on smoke alarms in one of the weekly newsletters (which was acknowledged by many as being useful) so this is an extra reminder.

The weekly newsletter I created is now in its sixth month (number 26) which is a summary of the weekly crime report from Kevin and it is very much appreciated and I receive compliments regularly . It also includes Essex Police Twitter and Facebook . I always refer to the Castle Point District NW Facebook Group and I have managed to attach it each week to that Facebook Group.

What is interesting is that two of the most popular Neighbourhood Watch items are Wheelie bin stickers and our Members Guides so I had printed a leaflet covering the updates and on the opposite side information on Castle Point District Neighbourhood Watch.

As there is not a Committee (which no one seems to want anyway for the time being) and we do not have a Bank account and the funds for Castle Point District are safe as "ringfenced" in the ECNWA accounts. Since October I have had expenditure of £862 covering postages, purchase of Contactless card protectors, Wheelie bin stickers, Stationery, printing of six monthly newsletters and a page covering updates for the Members Guide and finally No Cold Caller stickers. These items with appropriate receipts/invoices have been sent to Mike Hooper and the ringfenced funds are now £2,870.

Also in the past weeks I arranged to have TWO Zoom meetings and although not having as many as I thought it was very worthwhile. Quite a few who attended have been in touch with me regularly and are very busy expanding their Schemes-which is great!!

They were very pleased not only to see and talk to me but also meet others who manage local Neighbourhood Watch. I plan to arrange a few more in the weeks ahead.

Finally what is so pleasing to see is that for the first time for many years we have nomination for Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year. I mentioned our Awards in a weekly newsletter and received one from a NW member for his local NW Co-ordinator..this is great news.

Sadly for many years the District Co-ordinators at the time were never able to find any nominations at all.

In my view it is all about keeping in touch with anyone interested in Neighbourhood Watch and from the comments I am receiving everyone appreciates having a contact with us for the first time for along time!

Clive Stewart, Castle Point Neighbourhood Watch District Co-ordinator