

**ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

**COUNTY MEETING CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Attendees :**

Clive Stewart ( CBS ) ( Chairman & Secretary ECNWA and Braintree & Castle Point District Co-ordinator ) , Derrick Giffin ( Uttlesford ) , Clive Woodward ( Basildon ) , Grahame Stehle ( Colchester ) , Peter Salmon (ECNWA Vice Chairman and Brentwood) Peter Fisk (Website Manager ) , Stuart Rawlins ( Crimestoppers) Maria Rawlings and Paul Harris (Essex Police) , Mike Hooper ( ECNWA Treasurer & Rochford) and Alan Norman ( Southend) .

**Apologies:** Darren Horsman ( OPFCC) Sarah Carless ( Harlow) Steve Leverett ( Chelmsford) Roger Passfield ( ECNWA Vice Chairman , Thurrock and County Co-ordinator) Colin Freeman ( Event Co-ordinator) Dave Sexton and Sue Taylor ( Tendring)

**Essex Police Report**

This was presented by Maria Rawlings and also Paul Harris gave a report on EWLO activities The report was sent out by CBS .

**The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner report.** This was distributed by CBS .

**Crimestoppers report.:** Stuart Rawlins gave a very comprehensive report and this was distributed by CBS the next day.

**Chairman's report**

Once again we are back at the Tower Room, Millennium Centre, Great Baddow...start time 10:15hrs. This is our last meeting before the Annual General Meeting and Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> July so I hope that at this meeting we shall have a great atmosphere and all look forward to discussing what progress we have made in the past most difficult twelve months.

**Please a special favour.** Can you read my emails, reports and attachments as on occasions I am being asked questions which relate to what I have sent out ( I know you are busy) but reading my communications no matter how many I send you will help you to know what is happening before you ask me ? It is only a small favour as it is that it takes quite a bit of my time to find the original email and then send it again..

**Geoff Ireland ( Our President) :** I have sent a letter to Geoff at his Rest Home ...and wished him all our very best wishes..

**Duty of care to be acknowledged :** IF anyone at any time decides to resign or stand down from their District's Committee , as MSA or in fact any role for health reasons ( no matter how temporary ) they should be approved by their District Committee again to take back that role, despite the person saying they are fit enough to be able to carry on. This is because we care about everyone's health at all times and just because that the person say they are fine is not sufficient . Sadly over the years we have had ECNWA members who have been very ill and are no longer with us. The Districts Committees should therefore take the responsibility to ensure that they are happy that a person is fit and well enough to carry on in any role. I don't mean for the District to see a health report ( of course not) but at least there needs to be a majority decision of the committee to share/acknowledge the fact they are satisfied that the person is fit and can take on the role again and not have poor health in the coming months. Leaving it to the person to say "I am OK to carry on with the previous responsibilities " is in my view NOT enough as we all need to show how we care about our colleague's health. It is a "Duty of Care" for the individual rather than a rule. If an employed person was returning from any sick leave of absence due to being unwell or having an operation then there are company rules to ensure that the person is fit and well before going back to full time or even part time. I feel that we should also take such care too. Maybe I should propose this in our Constitution BUT really this is just common sense.

## Neighbourhood Watch in Essex :The way forward in 2022 and Onwards

### Reaching out to more people!

*We did have a ECNWA Zoom meeting and there were quite a few of you who attended and we discussed various actions for me in the months ahead. Please don't forget to find on your smart phone the FREE App "Live Transcribe" ( do not pay for any other App) which I showed at the ECNWA meeting . This is an excellent way to communicate to those who may have difficulties in hearing what you have to say regarding Neighbourhood Watch.*

I attended a four hour training course with Sensory Action Alliance on 20<sup>th</sup> April and this was very interesting and these are my notes:-.

First problem is that we have no idea how many of our members have any hard of hearing issues or are visually impaired / partially visually impaired or deafblind.

The simple reason is that we never ask as it is against our Code of Ethics to enquire about the person as "Everyone is welcome" with an extra statement that says "Whether or not they have or need access to a computer or the internet".

We try our very best to distribute Neighbourhood Watch information as often as we can to ensure that those who have no access to a computer will receive some information from us eg six monthly newsletters . However we do distribute information on email, Facebook, Whats App and other social media most weeks!

So how do we reach out to everyone without asking?

From the training session I have noted that we should take a little time to understand The Care Act 2014 for the deafblind and also The Equality Act 2010.

One of Essex County Neighbourhood Watch's main objectives are to reduce the opportunity of crime and keep our community feeling safe .

We also believe that we are good at reducing the fear of crime too by metaphorically placing our "arms around " those who may feel vulnerable and explaining what we can do together to help them to be more effective in protecting their own personal property .

The information we send out needs to be in a "format" which anyone who would like to receive it can be understood.

### Hard of hearing

It is noted that 70% of people over 70 years and 40% of over 50's have some form of hearing loss.

It is easier to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch by using the written word and Apps like Live Transcribe...

### HOWEVER

It is those who are visually impaired and deafblind who will be the most difficult to make contact to distribute Neighbourhood Watch.

I have a have a main contact at SAA to discuss how we can achieve this as I need to know how to make progress with those who may like to be part of Neighbourhood Watch but do have difficulties in any form of communication .

My progress will be slow ..one small step at a time..but I shall update you all as and when.

I had a Zoom meeting to discuss with my main contact regarding my notesI have invited Deborah my main contact at Sensory Action Alliance to our AGM/Conference in July to have a table to show everyone some ways of communicating with those with any difficulties..

*UPDATE: I have sent a leaflet to you all to distribute to see what response I receive in your communities.*

### Newly appointed District Co-ordinators & Deputies

I was pleased to note that my proposal of an Induction Course was accepted by you all and I have added it to the Constitution which I hope you will all sign at the AGM.

*ACTION: The Constitution will be sent out again before the AGM to enable each and everyone of you to read it.*

## MSA .

### Update on new registrations:

In the last three months ninety eight people registered with National Neighbourhood Watch. I can see who are they and a number were in Districts who do not have an MSA..

In fact in the last 28 days in April there were thirty five people

I don't know how many new schemes which have been registered are known to each District, but having an MSA at least helps to know that we are aware of these people and they can be contacted and you can be of support and service.

I am pleased that since the last meeting a few more Districts have been able to find volunteers to be their MSA's this is great news.

HOWEVER it is important to note that every MSA has to complete a National Neighbourhood Watch form and then this form is sent to me to approve based on my knowledge that the District Co-ordinator or the Deputy has confirmed to me that their committee has agreed the MSA for their District. It is also important to know that unless I approve the forms National NW will NOT begin the process of sending the Data Protection Act questionnaire to an "MSA" to be which the person has to pass. Then they will be booked on the National NW MSA training before giving them an ID and password to have access to their District's databases.

There are 106 Schemes awaiting approval and there are 3,346 members registered who live in Essex of which 28 are self registered..

*ACTION: I will be looking at each of the schemes to be approved in the weeks ahead and will notify everyone of the details whether you are an MSA or not..but it will take some weeks to do this.*

### The Office of Police & Fire Commissioner

Funding for 2022/2023 .I have sent an invoice to Darren Horsman for the £15,000.

We should receive the funding by no later than the end of May and as usual each District will receive £1,000 ( please see my email in April) .The demographics report was also sent to Darren Horsman whatever use it is due to the very low numbers who register with National NW.

*UPDATE: A new invoice has been sent to Darren Horsman with their Purchase Order number ( as requested by them ).*

### ZOOM

As you will remember we renewed Zoom for another year and we received a discount too This has been very useful as I have had many Zoom meetings with not only ECNWA meetings someone to one with District Co-ordinators but also many others to discuss Neighbourhood Watch and this has made life much easier in communications and prevents long emails and phone calls.

### National Neighbourhood Watch

May I say that we always welcome having communications from National NW as Secretary I distribute all emails to everyone..We appreciate the 10,000 window stickers and also confirmation that the Public Liability Insurance has been renewed each year.

### One last comment

Recently I have had a number of conversations with people who have contacted National NW to see if they can find a local NW scheme and hopefully be part of that scheme.

However sadly, as very few of our members or Scheme

Co-ordinators register with National NW therefore there is little information on our "local" NW schemes for such enquiries. So they either give up or they contact me!!

Please can I ask you to make sure that locally your District is known to your communities.

I always think it is better to promote our website as it is so simple to look up each District and what you offer to be of support and service to everyone.

### Demographics questions

I recently had a call asking how we shall “celebrate” their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in National NW week ( you know what I replied ) . It gave me a the opportunity to ask again why such questions on specific personal issues are in the demographics when many are against our Code of Ethics. I was advised by National NW that the database was Visav and not National NW..so I just said well you have accepted it !

### Essex Safeguarding Adults Board

I attended a Microsoft meeting and explained very clearly what we can do for the Board ie distribute information and in fact quite a few ( including Essex Police ) agreed that we have actioned this ....They deal with very vulnerable adults and we can be of assistance by letting the person know that they are not alone..as we are good at keeping in touch.

### Our website

I am still very impressed that the contact details are up to date for each District..yes thats great! But there are still quite a few Districts who are not sending their County reports to Peter Fisk despite them actually talking about it at meetings-surely it will only take 5 mins every two month.

### Election of Executives.

At this meeting we shall have on the Agenda the nominations for Executives who will be Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Treasurer , Secretary , County Co-ordinator, Event Co-ordinator which is for the ECNWA members to approve so that they will be shown on the AGM agenda .If anyone wants to proposal a person for these “jobs” the nominations must be sent to the Secretary ( myself) one month before the next meeting. I have NOT had any other nominations UPDATE: All nominations on the Agenda were accepted.

### Future meetings and venues in 2022 and 2023

As agreed at the last meeting, today’s and September meeting are at The Millennium Centre ,Great Baddow ..but the November meeting is to be on Zoom..as it is the “Winter months”. For 2023 and I have booked The Tower Room and the dates are on the Agenda .We hold January 2023 by Zoom and then March, May, September in The Millennium Centre with November by Zoom .

### Special item:

CBS gave out to everyone badges to be worn at the AGM/Conference which states the roles they have on ECNWA

### Annual General Meeting and Conference and Awards for Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year

CBS advised that the full information will be distributed in the weeks ahead.

Treasurer’s report: Mike Hooper distributed the current information on our finances . It was appreciated that everyone who attended gave him details of how write the cheques and who to send them to which will be actioned once the funds from The OPFCC are received.

District Co-ordinators reports: CBS went round the table and it is hoped that each District will send their reports to Peter Fisk for the website. Peter did say that as long he has a report he can create it in any format

### Any other business

All the details for future meetings were reminded to everyone and shown on the Agenda.

Clive Stewart

Chairman Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022