

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CHAIRMAN'S NOTES
MEETING 14TH MARCH 2023

Attended: Clive Stewart Chairman & Secretary (representing Braintree District, Castle Point and Southend)
Clive Woodward Executive ECNWA & MSA Co-ordinator (Basildon) Roger Passfield ECNWA Executive ,
Vice Chairman & County NW Co-ordinator (Thurrock) , Peter Salmon ECNWA Executive ,Vice Chairman (Brentwood)
Stuart Rawlins (Crimestoppers), David Sexton (Tendring) Kevin Blake EWLO Essex Police, Alan Lion (Epping
Forest) , Mike Hooper ECNWA Executive, Treasurer (Rochford) and Grahame Stehle (Colchester)

Apologies: Colin Freeman ECNWA Executive & Event Co-ordinator , Steve Leverett (Chelmsford & Maldon) ,
Sarah Carless (Harlow) ,Derrick Giffin (Uttlesford), Peter Fisk (ECNWA Website Manager) ,Darren Horsman (Police
Fire & Crime Commissioner's Office)

Essex Police report: Kevin Blake . KB gave the report and said he will email it the next day .

The Office of Police Fire & Crime report: Darren Horsman apologised that morning due to other commitments and
will email it the next day

Crimestoppers report: Stuart Rawlins SR gave his report and it was emailed the next day to all ECNWA members

Chairman's report:

Clive Stewart also gave an update on various matters including Southend District NW.

This is the last meeting before the Annual General Meeting & Conference on 10th May. I would like to thank Peter Salmon, Colin Freeman, Roger Passfield, Clive Woodward and Mike Hooper as Executives as they have been very supportive to me as Chairman. Their responsibilities have been advised to you and they are shown on the website. As a new member of the Executive may I say thanks again to Clive Woodward as he has taken on the roles as not only MSA Co-ordinator for ECNWA but also Essex's National Neighbourhood Watch Association lead..which means a lot to me We are in good hands with Clive being the main contact with National Neighbourhood Watch and it is appreciated.

Also a special thanks to Peter Fisk who manages our website. It is important to acknowledge that the website is a good as it can be if each District keeps their contacts updated and also any local District NW information.

May I thank each and everyone of you for attending the County meetings as often as you can in the past just under twelve months (our AGM/Conference is two months earlier due to the availability of the venue) .

Thanks to Jenny Brouard , Essex Police and the Kevin Blake. Terry Fowles and Paul Harris Police Liaison Officers for their continued support for Neighbourhood Watch in so many ways.

May I thank Stuart Rawlins Crimestoppers for attending meetings too..we also appreciate working with Crimestoppers...as many of us do on a regular basis.

Thanks to Roger Hirst Police Fire & Crime Commissioner and Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner for the financial support of £15,000 each year and whenever we approach them with requests for further funding are very supportive.

My yearly meetings with Jane Gardner is a great opportunity to not only thank them for the funding but report on all our activities in Essex and how we do the use funds.

May I say that we also appreciate Darren Horsman attending our meetings.

It has been a busy year and we have seen changes in not only the role of Neighbourhood Watch but also a few changes in the way District's are managed.

We have sadly missed the late Mike Compton and we also miss Alan Norman who has retired due to poor health. It is true however that many of us have also not been in the best of health too.

This really proves that we all should do our very best to find Deputies to cover our duties whenever possible.

Please it is important that each District should ensure that there is always someone at least to act as a contact for any enquiries and their details are stated very clearly on our website .

Just saying there is not anyone to be your District's contact is not recognising the fact that we are in the "business" of communication. So please advise your committee members that they should understand that responsibility and should have one contact to reply to any one wanting to be part of Neighbourhood Watch where they live.

In during the past months we had a meeting with Chief Executive John Hayward-Cripps and Cheryl Spruce of National Neighbourhood Watch and this gave everyone the opportunity to express any issues they had with how National Neighbourhood Watch operates. It is still worth noting that at this time there are 3,715 registered members living in Essex on the National NW database still appx only 3.5% of members which are on your local databases as stated on our lists.

In December a video was created which proves that we want to reach out to everyone in Essex who may be interested in being part of Neighbourhood Watch and we say to those who may have communication difficulties that we are here to be of service and support as best we can.

I have not been advised of any responses from any District to date but the video will remain on our website under "Taking Part" so it is hoped that you all can continue to refer to it as often as possible.

Essex Police Fire & Crime Commissioner's Office thought it was very worthwhile and agreed to the funding almost immediately.

As I said the role of Neighbourhood Watch has changed and cannot be compared to how we began in 1982 in the UK , although the basics of sending information to members has not changed we now have more important issues to advise our members.

We are working more with Essex Police on the following:-

Independent Advisory Groups

I would like to thank those of you who have replied to my email with regard to your local IAG.

I can say that these groups have even more importance in the Districts than was originally expected .

Yes the meetings are open to everyone who is keen to know how we can work together better with Essex Police, whether you are a local resident or part of an Association/Group, to keep our communities safer.

At most meetings the local Essex Police District Commanders gives a report and then are willing to have any feedback. In addition there will be issues to discuss in the Group ie Domestic Violence , Hate Crime and any local matters for discussion.

Strategic Independent Advisory Groups

Now this is an example how IAG's are becoming more important as there will be many meetings for the Chairman/Chair or Deputy Chair of the IAG in Essex to attend SIAG meetings that include training on various topics and updates e.g. the role of a "Gold Commander" for local incidents.

Essex Police

Fraud Team

David Gillies, Prevent & Project Fraud Officer Essex & Kent Serious Crime Directorate .

We have a date 21st March for the first session and more details are being sent out soon.

Hate Crime Teams.

We are given dates of sessions to attend .

Gangs and County Lines

We should be contacted again by Essex Police Jeannie Read, Essex Police for a session (whether day time or evening) sometime in 2023.

Home Office "Safer Street Funding "

As advised Braintree District are very much involved with this campaign and attend regular meetings with extra funding for Neighbourhood Watch being available.

Two other Districts were not contacted by their local District Councils. I have not heard from Epping Forest District as to their involvement in this matter but Colchester have advised me that they were not aware of it (but have regular meetings with Essex Police on crime prevention activities).

Neighbourhood Watch member of the Year 2023

At present it seems that some Districts cannot find ONE person who has been excellent in supporting Neighbourhood Watch and can be nominated for the District's award.

Surely with almost 90,000 members (according to your figures) there must be fourteen people in Essex who need to be thanked publicly for their actions.. No matter if someone may not have achieved previous award winners specific actions we should be able give them an acknowledgement for their efforts.

Please do not compare one person to another or one year to another just ensure that we can together thank them..

Annual General Meeting and Conference

As is usual this is being managed by Colin Freeman Event Co-ordinator and it is on the Agenda for an update

Guest speakers

Gary Brown ,Eastlight Community Housing Association

As you know we have in our accounts £200 ringfenced for any Neighbourhood Watch items and they have 13,000 homes in Braintree, Chelmsford, Uttlesford ,Colchester and Tendring.

David Gillies Prevent & Project Fraud Officer Essex & Kent Serious Crime Directorate .

Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

Essex Police ACC Andy Mariner

Elections of Executives

As I reported at the last meeting I asked the Executives if they are willing to stand again for re-election for the next year as well as the extra responsibilities and they all have agreed.

However this did not mean that no one else can be nominated for any responsibility as long as they have two nominees so I asked for any nominations by 1st March. To date I have NOT had any nominations so the current Executives will offered for re-election at the AGM for 2023/2024.

Finally it is hoped that each District has been successful in not only building up Neighbourhood Watch but also helping to keep crime down

I do acknowledge that each District has its own way to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and this has been the same for many years since the Association was created in 1995 by Geoff Ireland..

Each District Co-ordinator and their committee members know their communities and what works for them..and long may it continue

Southend District NW

CBS advised that after emailing all those that receive Kevin Blake's crime reports (thanks Kevin) ..and also the current committee (including Alan Norman) he held an AGM by Zoom..

Sadly only six attended BUT those who did have been very pro-active and Southend not only have an MSA (Thanks to Clive Woodward who also attended the meeting) but we now have a contact with this District.

The funds are now held in ECNWA and ringfenced.

It is not going forward and it is hoped that in a few months the actual genuine Co-ordinators will be identified and they will be able to receive regular information.

Treasurer's report: Mike Hooper: A copy of the latest accounts were distributed and explained by MH.

Report by Peter Salmon on The PFCC Even ton 10th March.

PS said that he was pleased to have support by Peter Rudlin.

New enquiries were recorded but they were from Colchester and Chelmsford . It was a worthwhile day and all on ECNWA thanked Peter S and Peter R for managing ECNWA 's event.

Each District gave a report.

CBS requested that they send their reports to Peter Fisk so that he can show them on ECNWA website under the relevant Districts

Annual General Meeting & Conference Wednesday 10th May

On behalf of CF Clive Stewart advised the meeting that it would be great if every District could have some representation at the event as it is only once a year . The Agenda will be sent out nearer the time.

Also it is hoped that those Districts who have not yet sent their NW Member of the Year names to Colin Freeman asap.. Surely each District should be able to identify one person who has been exceptional in their activities for NW where they live..even though they may not “match” the previous year’s award winners..as each year is different . WE need to thank them!

Any other business

CBS said that in the past year more “newsletters “ are being published including those from Essex Police ,Police Fire & Crime Commissioner’s Office, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, and other partners.. His view is that he advises his Districts members that if they want to have the newsletters they are to subscribe themselves as he cannot find the time to forward them and wonders if others have the same thoughts..a number did agree.

Meeting closed at 12:15hrs

Many thanks to Roger Pasfield for providing the refreshments -very much appreciated !!!!