

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 14TH JULY 2021

A Chairman's report at Annual General Meetings is always on looking back at the past year and planning something new for the next year.

The past year was to celebrate our 25th Anniversary but has not been as expected due to the most difficult times with Covid which at the mid year meeting we had hoped may not have affected 2021 as much. but sadly that is life and we must continue of course to keep safe and well.

So I must compliment everyone who have raised the profile of Neighbourhood Watch in Essex and increased the membership too.

Please can you ensure that all your members whether they are Co-ordinators covering large or small areas or just members receiving information and Neighbourhood Watch items during the past twelve months are aware how much we appreciate their involvement with Neighbourhood Watch as it all helps to reduce the opportunity of crime.

We have been very well supported by our partners in the past year and therefore I must thank the following:-

The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner.

Roger Hirst Police Fire & Crime Commissioner: Roger Hirst was re-elected for another term in May and we sent him congratulations immediately after the results were declared and said how much we appreciated his support.

I also emailed Jane Gardner Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner whom I have always been very pleased to meet (as often as we can) to update Jane on how we use the funding that we receive from them each year.

As you know this funding is our main source of income for each of the fourteen Districts and this is so much appreciated.

I cannot forget Darren Horsman for his regular reports at our County meetings keeping us in touch with what the OPFCC day to day action also with their weekly newsletters.

Essex Police

Special thanks to :-

Chief Constable Mr. B.J. Harrington whom we met early 2019 and I know that he always supports Neighbourhood Watch and his belief that more Neighbourhood Watch Street signs do help to reduce crime and keep our communities safer.

Deputy Chief Constable Pippa Mills for regularly inviting us to Essex Police Strategic Tasking Co-ordination Group meetings . Also DCC Pippa Mills has many great comments on Twitter supporting Neighbourhood Watch on a regular basis and this is very much appreciated.

Jenny Brouard: Jenny is our main contact with Essex Police and I would not know what to do without Jenny!

I am in regular contact with Jenny and we do have regular "face to face" meetings over the internet to chat about any issues which can I say are never serious I can assure you. However on occasions there are matters that I need answers from Essex Police and I very much appreciate the way that we work so well together to resolve or discuss matters.

It is important that the Essex Watch Liaison Officers know how much their involvement with us is really something that we welcome. We are also impressed by the Police Cadets and Special Constables who are all brilliant . It is important that each District receives a crime report each week to distribute the information in various formats to their members whether we as District Co-ordinators action this or the local Essex Watch Liaison Officers assist us.

These weekly reports are vital in keeping our members and others in the community up to date on any crime incidents and they are very important to us so receiving these reports shows that Essex Police do support Neighbourhood Watch!

Crimestoppers:

We are pleased that Stuart Rawlins has been able to attend our meetings and give regular reports and to be working with them at all times.

Victim Support:

As you know I do receive every so often information from them to distribute which I am always pleased to action.

Community Agents Essex :

Although we have not distributed anything on their behalf for a while Peter Salmon updates us every so often as to their current plans. Only recently I was contacted by a local Community Agent for Braintree and it was great to know that they are back to working and visiting people.

Executives

As Chairman I always need to keep my Executives updated on whatever matters I am involved with on behalf of ECNWA and there have been quite a few in the past year (!) which I shall not repeat in this report.

I thank them for their continued support and comments during that time when I have asked them for any assistance.

So I thank Peter Salmon, Roger Passfield , Mike Hooper and Colin Freeman for also taking on various responsibilities (I have sent the details) . In recent months Peter has also added to his responsibilities attending the Essex Police Strategic Tasking Co-ordination Group meetings as our representative (as it is on “Microsoft Teams” which I have IT issues on my PC).

National Neighbourhood Watch

There is no doubt that in the past twelve months we have had a few issues which were discussed face to face via Zoom and were not resolved for some time. I can only say that I do believe that we have a good working relationship with them so it helps to be able to discuss any matters.

The two “websites” managing their database can be confusing at times and quite difficult to manage and I have expressed this on a number of occasions. So it will be interesting to see the “NEW” database version in the coming months.

They need to understand that we do have the right to refuse anyone in Essex as a member/ Co-ordinator.

Also we do need to approve those who have registered directly with National NW and this has been our strength in making Neighbourhood Watch such a success in Essex keeping our communities safer from crime. We know when people are genuine and sometimes National Neighbourhood Watch do give us the impression (on occasions) that they do not always understand the grass roots of day to day managing Neighbourhood Watch.

As regards the Neighbourhood Watch week in June , well I can accept that it is an opportunity to promote Neighbourhood Watch even more and therefore if you had the time to do more then it was appreciated.

However I feel that throughout the year so many of you did so much with the time YOU have that if you could do more then I am sure that you would.

So where do we go from here from July 2021 to June 2022?

It is hoped that in the months ahead we shall be able to have face to face meetings again with our members and also anyone who is new and wants to meet us to discuss their involvement.

It is acknowledged that many of you are still finding it very difficult to actually be out and about and one District Co-ordinator who has yet to re-establish a committee and have a meeting. I know he will hang in there and that he knows we are here to be of support when he needs us. The merging of Maldon & Chelmsford made sense to Maldon and we wish them success in the year ahead.

So may I please ask you to do what you can manage in the coming months and maybe when we are almost back to “normal” we can have a big campaign to re-celebrate our 25th Anniversary.

Maybe we can find a venue which is suitable to all and we can have tables to promote Neighbourhood Watch and our partners too . Any ideas for a venue where parking is easy too ?

Finally you may like to know I have had roles as Chairman (as well as Vice Chairman) and Secretary for almost eleven years . So I hope that in those years I have represented ECNWA to your satisfaction and I have been of help to anyone who needed to contact me at any time .

Clive Stewart, Chairman July 2021