

ESSEX COUNTY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TUESDAY 10th May 2016
UPDATED 8TH MAY 2016

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Well this is my final report and meeting as Chairman for ECNWA before our AGM/Conference in July. It has been a challenging time, but in many ways an enjoyable experience, and I would like to thank all of you for your support. As I said in my last report, at times, it did feel like I was back "at work" in a full time job.

Sometimes the emails I received from , not only one or two of you , but also National and Regional NW were , at best difficult to know how to reply, without maybe "upsetting" people , as I saw issues quite differently to what others feel they should be by the Chairman of Essex County NW Association.

But I believe in a democratic society and everyone has a right to express their thoughts even if we occasionally may disagree.

We all accept that Neighbourhood Watch is in the community to reduce the opportunity of crime and NW members are there to ensure that those who may feel vulnerable can have some support too in protecting their personal property. Indeed I strongly believe we are good at reducing the fear of crime.

So thanks to all of you for your efforts on NW – I appreciate it very much.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY.

UPDATE: I am delighted to confirm that we shall have two guest speakers at the Conference:-

ACC Mr, Mason and newly elected Roger Hirst, Police & Crime Commissioner.

Roger Hirst has received congratulations for ECNWA within minutes of being elected and he has replied thanking us and looking forward to attending the Conference.

ESSEX POLICE

UPDATE: Jamie Mills is starting a 12 month secondment to the Home Office as a temporary Inspector.

I have sent him our best regards for the job and thanked him for the support he has given us.

I have been contacted by Chief Inspector Alan Ray in respect of the "Cocooning project" and have had a long discussion with him. It is hoped that those Districts will update you at the meeting.

Also it is hoped that some Officer from Essex Police will attend our meetings in future.

My many meetings, since May 2015, with Essex Police have been successful due to the fact that they clearly understood that we support them in a most difficult year.

Essex Police did not ask to have their funding drastically cut, and therefore, they have had to change their ways of operating to keep within their new budgets.

With crime changing so much in recent years too Essex Police's priorities have been based on challenging and various demands.

As Chairman, I have had more one to one meetings with Senior Police Officers, including ACC Mrs Wortley and ACC Mr. Mason, than the previous two Chairman of ECNWA had in total over the past ten years.

At these meetings Essex Police knew that we are keen to do whatever we can, with whatever time we have, to work more effectively with them to reduce the opportunity of crime.

So my earlier request to you all that we must try to make contact with our local Neighbourhood Policing Teams means even more now.

So in recent months Essex Police should have invited a number of you to their Tasking meetings.

When attending these meetings I have, on occasions, wondered not so much why was I there, but what can NW contribute.

I have actually spoken about this with Essex Police and mentioned this in writing too.

As I don't like just attending meetings and being an "observer" but I like making a contribution, and I am sure we all feel the same way.

However when I have been asked for any actions (at these meetings) , as a number of you probably have , I have dealt with them as soon as I could , as we are the grass roots of the community in respect of NW!

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Our meetings with ACC Mason are now booked so please ensure that you diary them, and every ECNWA members is invited, at Police HQ. The dates are Tuesday 14th June , Tuesday 13th September and Tuesday 13th December each of these meetings will be 14:00hrs to 16:00hrs.

Finally, I can attach my notes from our first meeting some months ago-which has recently been approved by Essex Police. I have also updated it too.

“Acting” County Co-ordinator:

It was agreed at the last meeting that Roger Passfield will be our “Acting County Co-ordinator” (until the AGM when it is hoped he shall be appointed) and he has kept up to date regarding Harlow. He has represented us on the Community Agents Essex Board (replacing Alan Johnson) and has attended the Regional NW meeting in Bedford. Roger will give us a full report.

I am sure that we appreciate all the efforts Roger has made in recent months!

Application to be a Charity.

Peter Salmon is to give an updated report at this meeting-and I would like to thank him for all his efforts to date! As advised we have four Trustees Clive Stewart, Peter Salmon, Roger Passfield and Colin Freeman.

National NW: As I have said in previous emails I am keeping in regular contact with National NW.

On 5th April I received an email in which they stated that they have “limited resources and the complexities of the new logo were not apparent at the time” They continued to say “We had to start using the new logo as our old website was at risk of failing, hence us starting to use it in November. If it was just dealing with the trademark things would happen a lot quicker but it is not. The NHW infrastructure is complex and not many understand how this impacts on all our work at NHWN”.

However I am just a little surprised that National NW did not look at the complexities before taking steps to make any changes their image.

Despite launching the “new” logo on 3rd December, they have only, in recent weeks, now been able to offer “temporary licenses” to those who want to use the “new” logo.

You may like to know that our current licence to use the NW logo is up to 2023, and also National NW have admitted to me that the “new” logo is not much different from the current one.

Incidentally I have still not been advised as to the cost of the “new” logo.

I have not applied for a temporary licence, as the majority of you have not demanded it and some of you are happy to keep the current logo. When I told National NW that fact they replied and said they were disappointed that I was not applying. My reply to that was that we are too busy at the moment and when the full licence is available we shall be in touch.

UPDATED NEWS:

1. National NW has advised me that we shall now have 2,500 “NEW” members guide books (I requested more) and also 15,000 window stickers to distribute. (The window stickers will NOT have the wording on the reverse which ours have). They have said that I should have them by end of June so hope that they will be available by 27th July or I can distribute them at our next ECNWA on 2nd August.

2. National NW has sent a Press Release and Survey report which I have distributed to you all on 28th April.

Finally, although Alan Johnson is a Trustee of National NW I have requested that he (AJ) updates me on what is happening so that it can be included in my report rather than we have a duplication of reports at ECNWA when advising you of “progress” within National NW.

Banners:

There has been a little confusion as to Districts collecting their banners which they did order, however I hope it has all been resolved.

They are excellent and it was great of CAE to fund the total order and I have taken the opportunity recently to thank them again.

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OPCC funding:

UPDATE: This has been received and Mike Hooper will distribute the £675 to each District from the grant of £10,500. The Districts will receive their funds at the meeting on 10th May.

Window stickers:

UPDATE: I have 1,100 in stock, which was not the intention as "orders" from a number of Districts were expected so we would have sold the total.

An email was sent to you all and I hope that you will look at your budgets and order some pleased.

These have the wording that we requested by a number of members at an ECNWA meeting!

The cost is £285 a 1,000 or £150 for 500. Please can a number of Districts see what they can do to purchase these specially ordered windows stickers.

County Website

May I thank Peter Fisk for his continued efforts to manage our website.

Please can you all continue to send him any new information.

New NW Booklet from Essex Police:

Although the booklet is completed it is being updated regarding "Cocooning" and ECM and it will be a few more weeks.

CAE:

I had a very positive "meeting/discussion" over the telephone with Brian Goodwin on Monday 18th April. Brian Goodwin knows that I am a big supporter of CAE and promote them in all my NW presentations. I did raise the issue of the delay (many months) for a CAE article for all of ECNWA to use as and when, but Brian apologised as this had, in fact, been sent only to Alan Johnson (Uttlesford) by mistake rather than to myself to distribute to all of us. Alan Johnson has since used the article in his Uttlesford NW newsletter (which of course is fine).

However it has been promised that it will now be sent to me soon.

UPDATE: The article has been received by me on 27th April and was distributed to all Districts (excluding Uttlesford) on 28th April.

HOWEVER I was sent the wrong article by CAE and was advised this on 4th May!

Each of you has now been sent the amended version sent by me that day.

We discussed the Rochford CAE comments (in which they emailed asking why in a NW newsletter CAE were not mentioned) and I said that we all do what we can to promote CAE in many presentations.

Brian did offer some weeks ago "funds" towards NW newsletters and I said that it was up to each District to consider this offer, on a one to one basis, but I did advise that the newsletters are for crime prevention purposes and we cannot always give details of every organisation with whom we are "partners", but can when we have appropriate space.

Brian confirmed that any NW "enquiries" from CAE will be mostly sent to our email address (he has confirmed he had scrapped the previous list he had of ECNWA members) or to the specific District Co-ordinators, who have given their personal details to CAE.

He asked me what we do when we receive any "NW enquiries" and I said that we would make contact and would prefer to meet a small group of people rather than one to one, as this helps to increase the knowledge of what NW achieve, and if CAE wanted to attend such meetings then I would be happy (in Braintree). There was a discussion on funding which has been allocated to ECNWA/CAE for 2016/2017 and items e.g. Message in a Bottle maybe ordered if needed-however I told Brian that Roger Passfield has two boxes left and Brian Goodwin said they have three boxes in stock.

As regards "CAE Delivery" meetings, he understood that my attending is not the best "use of my time".

They hardly ever ask NW to action anything at these meetings (a comment not a complaint) and we can easily be contacted after the meeting to discuss if and how we can "be of service".

Finally I said that I was delighted that Roger Passfield now represents us on the CAE Board (replacing Alan Johnson). Roger is in the process of giving me a report.

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ECM. :

Jeff Appleby will give an updated report. Please review the recent statistics at end of March which I have sent to you all on 18th April. The Registrations have increased from 8623 to 9135 in the past month. However there is still a difficulty in understanding why NON NW members are shown as 8037 with NW members as 1097, when many Districts state that this does not reflect their membership which they say have registered to receive ECM.

I have offered Braintree District to Essex Police to be a "test" so I can look at each person registered against my known NW members.

One point I will make, if anyone wonders why NW member in Essex (in the region of 120,000) do not register. The reason I was told by some NW Groups is that local Co-ordinators have been asked by their members to register and then summarise and then report to avoid each NW member receiving information by phone or email.

Finally the theme for 2016/2017 should be "Communication is the Key" to reduce the opportunity of crime even more. We are to increase distributing information more not only by email, websites ,texts, and phones but also should continue to recognise those in the communities who do not either have access to computers/broadband or do not wish to, and prefer hardcopy - it is Neighbourhood Watches responsibility to ensure they are not forgotten.

ECNWA MEMBERS UPDATE:

Maureen Figgins has stood down as NW Co-ordinator of Castlepoint.

We have a new email & contact names are Margaret Tuddenham and Pete Meekings who have been invited to the meeting. An updated list will be sent out shortly.

Clive Stewart, Chairman, Essex County NW Association, 10th May 2016.