

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association
Minutes of the 131st Executive Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th October 2016
in the Tower Room, Millennium Community Centre, Great Baddow
Special thanks to Clive Woodward for taking the minutes.

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Clive Stewart, Chairman, opened the by welcoming Jan Klimkowski (Assistant Director for Communication and Engagement OPCC) and also Sue Thomson (newly elected Vice Chair of Maldon District NW) to the meeting.

CBS then gave a special thanks to Peter Salmon for his excellent work in obtaining charitable status for ECNWA which warranted a round of applause from the attendees.

1. **Present:** Clive Stewart (CBS) (Chairman & Braintree), Grahame Stehle (Colchester), Alan Marshall (Tendring), John Wright (Tendring), Alan Johnson (Uttlesford), Jeff Appleby (ECM – Essex Police), Mike Hooper (Treasurer and Rochford), Clive Woodward (Basildon), Peter Salmon (Brentwood) Roger Passfield (Vice Chairman & Thurrock), Jan Klimkowski (Office of PCC), Colin Freeman (Essex Police EWLO) Mandy Chapman (Maldon). Sue Thomson (Maldon).
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Sally-Ann Judd (Chelmsford) , Mike Roucco (Harlow) , Peter Fisk, (Website Manager) Steve Leverett (Chelmsford) , Alan Norman (Southend), Sue Taylor (Epping) Geoff Ireland (President), Jane Gardner (Deputy Essex Police and Crime Commissioner) .

3. **Police & ECM Report:**

Jeff Appleby (JA) had sent his reports to CBS who had distributed them to all ECNWA members. JA advised that the Active Citizens programme now had forty people signed up in the County with various Districts including Basildon , Braintree and Thurrock.

CBS asked why the figure was only forty as originally Basildon had over sixty and Thurrock had twenty based on the “Pilot “ scheme.

There was a general discussion and CBS commented that he felt the application form looks more suited as an Application to be a Special Constable rather than general volunteers and this may have “prevented “ people completing the formalities and everyone agreed.

Action: CBS will raise the issue with Essex Police (Superintendent Andrew Marriner).

October is National Home Security month.

Operation Buzzard is a rural crime initiative and there are a number of policing operations being conducted in rural areas.

The Essex Watch Liaison Officers (EWLO's) restructuring will give one per local policing area, so three in total. The Crime Prevention and Tactical Advisors (CPTA) will have two per LPA which will be a reduction from ten to six for the County.

The registrations for Essex Community Messaging (ECM) for NW Co-ordinators/Members given in March this year were optimistically high and have been looked at again. The latest and more accurate figures show overall registrations at 10,911 (adjusted to 10,300) of which 1,405 were NhW. This is an increase of 200 since the last report.

ECM can send a message out to all NW who have been trained on the system. They can then decide who will receive them.

Mandy Chapman (Maldon) commented that they were not getting reports of any kind whether crime or ECM.

Action: CBS will raise this issue again at the next Force Tasking meeting.

4. **PCC Report:**

Jan Klimkowski spoke on the operation of Community Safety Hubs which work to the priorities of the CSP's . JK asked that NW groups liaise with their CSP's. Alan Johnson (Uttlesford) said that not all groups are hooked into their CSP and involvement in Tasking Meetings. Also the lack of police attendance at NhW Meetings was noted. Colin Freeman (CF) said that EWLO's will not be able to give this time as they are overstretched.

Action: CBS will also raise this issue at the next Force Tasking meeting.

5. **Minutes of the last meeting:** CBS advised the minutes of 130th Executive Committee meeting held Tuesday 2nd August 2016, were on the ECNWA website with no issues notified.

6. **Chairman's Report (Clive Stewart):**

We are a registered Charity : Brilliant work by Peter Salmon. The Trustees will be holding their first meeting immediately after this ECNWA meeting. Clive Stewart, Colin Freeman, Roger Passfield and Peter Salmon are the Trustees.

Community Agents Essex Board: I am delighted to advise you that Peter Salmon has replaced Roger Passfield on a temporary basis on the Board to represent Essex County Neighbourhood Watch. I have advised the Board and they have acknowledged the change.

ESSEX POLICE: The representative at our meetings will now be Jeff Appleby.

Website update. You have read from my recent email that Essex Police have now moved Neighbourhood Watch from "Essex Watch". As you know I asked for this to be done , (see my previous Chairman's report) and this is great news. If you look to the left and click on "Advice" there is "Neighbourhood Watch".

I can understand a comment from one of you that it would be good to have a more prominent place regarding Neighbourhood Watch (in fact I made that comment too in my last report).

However if anyone types into Google "Essex Police and Neighbourhood Watch" they will see the article that is on the Essex Police website with any enquiries for Neighbourhood Watch to make contact with ourselves (and not Essex Police) which is what it should be anyway.

Plus I have had deleted any reference to "Junior Neighbourhood Watch" as there was a contact of an Essex Police Officer (Jamie Mills who has in fact moved to The Home Office).

NB: For many years Brentwood has an excellent Junior Neighbourhood Watch in operation so if anyone wants to know what they do to start one up in their District please contact Peter Salmon!

ACTIVE CITIZENS: In the past month I have asked each District twice to please distribute the information with the poster to every NW member and any local Groups, Societies or Clubs too. Please can you do what you can to promote "Active Citizens".

Our NW members in Essex are in the region of 90,000 (according to your figures) and if Essex Police had 1% response that would be 900 volunteers! Now would that not be great???

Our next meeting with ACC Mason and Superintendent Andy Marriner is 25th October and nearer the time I shall ask you all who can attend and then book what parking is needed please note that every member of ECNWA is invited to attend.

COUNTY CO-ORDINATOR: Roger Passfield and I have been discussing various matters e.g. Harlow and other Districts and any updates on them will be advised.

I have spoken to Mike Ruocco and have offered support regarding NW in Harlow and he knows a few people who are in Old Harlow that want support for NW. I have sent him a suggested letter to be distributed to find new members and also a proposal that I will attend any meetings to promote NW . I am hoping to hear shortly.

NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH In the past month I have asked them to give us a quote to deliver a further 2500/500 guide books and have still not had a reply but will not leave this as they did promise to send us more.

The application to use the new logo has been made and I am expecting a formal reply sometime. They have made contact with me only a few days ago and I have requested again a quote for delivery of more books. They wanted to know how the original 2500 were distributed before they send any more. I have replied.

Action: CBS will enquire re progress in the next few days.

WINDOW STICKERS: Please may I remind you all that I still have FOR SALE 600 window stickers with the special wording on the back , which was requested by you all at one of our meetings. They are £150 for 500 or £160 for 600. First come first served!

ECNWA Website: At my request I am pleased to advise you that Peter Fisk has managed to change the “Contact” field to include not just comments but a “request” to have the enquiry to state their full postal address.

This will help my forward the enquiries much faster as before I had to ask them for their full details .

Please can I ask you to advise Peter Fisk of any changes in your own District’s structure and plans for 2016/2017 as many of you have had AGM’s in past months.

Some Districts have not updated their details despite sending them to me for OUR list!

NW BOOKLET EMAIL VERSION FROM ESSEX POLICE: This has been distributed.

May I specially thank Tony Davies (Thurrock) for all his efforts in creating the online guide book as his ideas and design was very much appreciated. I hope it will be useful especially as it is covering Essex only!

ESSEX POLICE TASKING MEETINGS:

I have sent an email to each of you and would welcome your feedback so that we can discuss it at the meeting-see the Agenda. I have received some feedback already from all but two Districts and I have sent them a gentle reminder . They will be summarised it at the meeting and advised to Essex Police in a meeting.

7. County Co-ordinators Report (Roger Passfield).

Eastern Region NW Partnership: RP advised that he would not be attending the next Regional NW Partnership meeting in Huntingdon on 17th October.

There was a general discussion and it was clarified by AJ (who is the Secretary of Regional NW Partnership) that the meetings are informal and is an opportunity of other County Associations to meet up. CBS said that if it was “informal” why was it mentioned that a Partnership Agreement would be discussed and “agreed”. AJ said that it will be discussed at their next meeting. It was noted that National NW do not give financial support to ERNW Partnership.

RP attended the last Basildon Steering Committee meeting on 22nd August as part of seeing group meetings in the County.

Harlow District. CBS raised the matter of Harlow District and said that he was in direct contact with Mike Ruocco and will attend any meetings , when required, to help raise NW again.

8. District Co-ordinators Reports:

Basildon District – Clive Woodward:

The Active Citizens initiative of Essex Police trundles on with no deployments effected as yet on the Dwelling Burglary assistance offered by some NhW Co-ordinators. Some volunteers may find objection to completing an application form which requires references and it will be interesting to see how many of the original 45 volunteers return their applications. A couple of meetings have been held with the SPOC for South LPA and a launch meeting has been arranged for 13th October.

We continue to encourage NhW members who have signed up for ECM to check that they have shown themselves as such. Our thanks to Jeff Appleby who has registered new members straight from their member forms.

We attended three local community events garnering new Co-ordinators and attended, along with Thurrock NhW the Barleylands Country Show on 10th and 11th September. NhW Co-ordinators can usually be relied on to carry out the functions expected of them and it was disheartening to find recently that a watch set up in February 2014 had not given the members any information whatsoever. Crime Reports which had been received by the Co-ordinator never left her in box and the Member Packs were not even delivered. Suffice to say this Watch is now being run by a new Co-ordinator .

Basildon has not attended any of the EP Tasking Meetings as we have never received an invite. *Action: Clive Stewart will mention this at his meeting with Essex Police.*

Brentwood District Report - Peter Salmon :

We have held 9 of our usual sessions in the 3 Libraries in the Borough, The Brentwood Community Hospital and at 2 Village Halls.

Had a table at 2 Council run Family Fundays

Assisted Colin Freeman on Essex Police table at AGM/Conference of Essex Association of Local Councils in respect to NhW (Essex wide) and Crimestoppers.

Expanded distribution of our 'Be Wary' posters to all Parish Council clerks.

Developed Victim Support pack with our CSP (funding allocated by them)

Attended Crimestoppers meeting (brief report sent to colleagues)

Will be supporting Essex County Council 'Winter Warmth Campaign'

Helping to launch 'Dogwatch' in South Weald on 15th October with Colin

Will be attending Essex Police 'Cyber Threat Awareness Conference' on 20th October

Braintree District- Clive Stewart

It has been quite a busy time having many meetings and correspondence due to many burglaries and other incidents.

Sadly that when there are burglaries people want to know what Neighbourhood Watch can do for them and once they know that it is their actions which can reduce the opportunity of crime some just seem to lose interest!

Every enquiry is not only contacted but they have a letter with information including a newsletter, and pen and our Nominated Neighbour Card.

We have street signs to distribute at no charge .

I have many meetings too with Parish Councils and other Groups.

In my village (Belchamp St.Paul) we had a very aggressive Pedlar trying to sell various items and he even kicked a residents car on leaving especially when he was asked for sight of his Pedlars Licence BUT the resident did not call 101!

Active Citizens activity.

I was on the front page of The Halstead Gazette giving support for Roger Hirst , Police and Crime Commissioner and took the opportunity to raise the profile of Active Citizens which was the main heading!

Well we have a team of at least eight before all the promotions since our meetings and information from Essex Police.

The posters from Essex Police have been distributed to all villages in Braintree to their magazines as well as in Sible Hedingham, Braintree, Halstead and Earls Colne libraries.

The Neighbourhood Watch weekly newsletter promotes Active Citizens each time in the hope that volunteers will be found.

Essex Police have said that "Some success stories to date Braintree District " that was good to hear!

Six monthly Newsletter-Winter issue. This month it will be distributed to 8000 hardcopies and also 40 people by email which is probably another 3000.

Castle Point District – Margaret Tuddenham No report.

Rochford District: Mike Hooper.

We have had a busy time through September erecting some 25 NHW signs in Stambridge and Great Wakering many of which replace existing old and faded ones. This all with the help of the Parish Council who facilitated the signs sponsorship by local residents.

Having Distributed 7000 copies of our Summer Newsletter we are now gathering articles for the autumn edition which will contain an item after the County meetings graphic presentation on Modern Day Slavery & Active Citizens.

In support of Rochford Community Policing team and to address the problem of antisocial driving of motorbikes/scooters/mopeds until the early hours of the morning we took part in 'Operation Turncoat' a purge on the problem leafleting the hotspot areas and also distributing NHW &ECM information. This action appears to have solved the problem, at least for the time being.

Chelmsford District – Steve Leverett: No report.

Colchester District – Grahame Stehle: No report.

Epping Forest District – Tracey Graham No report

Essex Police Liaison Officer – Colin Freeman : Gave a general report on some changes that may reflect on the availability of Essex Police resources in the months ahead. However there is to be a more detailed report from Essex Police within the next month.

Harlow District – Mike Ruocco No report.

Maldon & District – Mandy Chapman. They are still not receiving any crime reports at all and ECM is now sending out many messages either .

Action: CBS will raise this issue (again) at the next Force Tasking meeting.

Tendring District – John Wright

August and September have been busy months for us with three new coordinators, trained and in post.

Presentations have been given to two parish councils and one residents association, all with a positive outcome.

Members volunteered during Clacton Carnival Week and performed duty as street marshals, stall holders and made up a quiz team for the big Carnival Quiz Night. We also had our usual stall at Clacton Air Show with this year being our most successful yet in raising funds and lots of networking done with other organisations present.

Trading Standards and Essex Police asked if we could establish a NHW scheme in a street in Great Clacton which had been targeted by rogue traders, T.S. are looking to make it a No Cold Calling area.

After delivering promotional material to every dwelling and speaking to several residents, no one was willing to become the street coordinator, in fact there was zero response to our mail shot. We have been approached by the Essex County Councillor for Clacton East Ward with a view to expanding NHW in his ward. Together we have produced a promotional article to be published in a magazine delivered to every home in his ward; this has been done with no expense to NHW. We have also had an article published in the Frinton Residents Magazine and the Holland Residents Magazine; these are also delivered to every home in their respective areas.

I was invited by Community Volunteer Services Tendring (CVST) to a meeting with residents of Pier Ward in Clacton with a view to establishing "Road Stewards" in every road in the ward. It may well be that we can get them to double up as coordinators. This is a work in progress.

Our next NHW meeting is on 13th October where we have two guest speakers from the RNLI one being an actual crew member and as we are a coastal community this should be of great interest to our members. Also Inspector Finch from Tendring Police is attending to give an update on what is happening locally. The meeting is well advertised in Tendring via social media, emails, posters, ECM and press.

Thurrock: Roger Passfield: No report received.

Uttlesford – Alan Johnson

- Following on from our recent ECM training, we are making progress towards transferring our messaging platform for the weekly NhW Bulletins. These are circulated to nearly 500 members and comprise NhW messages ; recent reported crimes ; and crime prevention advice. Recent research indicated that many of the recipients pass this on to neighbours and friends. Therefore, the change of platform to ECM must be robust, so we are trialling this transfer using the Steering Group as a sample group.
- Throughout the summer months we have supported the local Council Housing Dept in a series of trailer visits to council-owned estates (this amounts to over 3,000 properties). This has enabled us to offer tenants crime prevention advice and also to promote the Community Agents scheme, as well as demonstrate our commitment to local partnership working.
- In the same vein, we will be supporting two Winter Warmers events which take place in October and November in Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. These are aimed at elderly and vulnerable people, and are being organised jointly by Uttlesford District Council and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Our efforts to increase coverage of NhW Schemes continues. This includes flyer drops to new building developments and discussions with local estate agents. We are also attending a Landlords Forum organised by the District Council for the first time and aimed primarily at the private rental sector. We will one of thirteen organisations participating.

9. Treasurer's Report:

A statement of Accounts as at 1st October was distributed.

There was an expenditure of £4 as Bank charge for "reject cheque" due to the cheque from South Woodham Ferrers NW as the NW group had an incorrect signatures. CBS requested that Mike Hooper send a cheque for £1341.03 to Chelmsford District NW less the £4 charge.

10. Crimestoppers and ECNWA report:

Calls to Crimestoppers about crime and criminals in Essex from March to August this year have increased by nearly 60 per cent year on year thanks to a number of initiatives and with help from members of Neighbourhood Watch.

In total there were nearly 1800 calls to Crimestoppers with 2050 reports about crime in Essex with the number in the three months from June to August up by 80 per cent on the previous time last year.

More importantly the number of arrests and charges for the 11 months to February this year has increased from 94 over the same period last year to 173 – 84 per cent up.

As well as campaigns and contact activity with CSPs and hubs and other groups, distribution of the pocket card may also have influenced the increase in calls. These have been widely distributed some at NHW events. (That's you Peter)

These figures don't include the 100 calls to Crimestoppers from the elder abuse campaign launched in spring last year. The gangs campaign too may also have influenced the figures.

Gangs report if there's time.

Gangs – Campaign 6th June – 5th July 2016-10-05

Promoted by way of : Literature incl. Posters : Conference : Police : CSP's : Media incl FB/Twitter
Great support from Police

Increase of over 31% in reports

Increase of over 66% of actionable information

Total 394 pieces information reports received.

14. Any other Business .

(a) Clive Woodward expressed his concerns regarding many local car thefts and this was supported by other members of ECNWA as this "seems" to be on the increase.

15. Dates of next ECNWA meetings in 2016:

Tuesday 6th December 2016.

This date has been booked for the Tower Room, Millennium Centre from 10:00 – 12:30 hrs.

MEETING CLOSED AT 12.50 hrs.