

Chairman's address to 2016 AGM

My first year as Chairman has been a challenging time and an enjoyable experience.

So what have I achieved in the past year?

The meetings are much more pro-active, they are more about what each District Co-ordinator has actioned since the previous meetings. I have kept my Chairman's report brief as a summary and updated was read out like today. I feel that it is the District Co-ordinator's meeting and it is their opportunity to keep us updated on what they have achieved and any new ideas too.

Guest speakers are left at the end of "business", and it is a more effective use of our time.

Also first on the Agenda are representatives of Essex Police and The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner so they can report and then, if they have other commitments, can leave. I hope they will be able to regularly attend our meetings in the months ahead.

In my first year special thanks to:

Mike Hooper. Our Treasurer who has had a busy year and has been excellent in managing the accounts.

Peter Salmon Vice Chairman: He has worked tirelessly in registering ECNWA as a Charity, and I am delighted to say that due to his excellent efforts we are very close on being a registered Charity.

He has attended various meetings throughout Essex and representing ECNWA at Crimestoppers meetings.

Roger Passfield Vice Chairman: He volunteered to be our County Co-ordinator, represented us at Regional NW Partnership meetings and also agreed to be on the Board of the Community Agents Essex. He also has the responsibility of many of our bulk purchases

Sally-Ann Judd (Minute Secretary) she has been excellent in taking the minutes and they are on our Essex County NW website. Her time is appreciated as it must be a busy time at Essex Police.

Peter Fisk For all his excellent work re County Website which I hope that each District will make more effort to update their information.

ESSEX POLICE: We all have had many face to face meetings with Essex Police since May 2015.

This included attending Tasking meetings and planning of "Active Citizens" operations.

At the beginning of my first year as Chairman I did request that all Districts Co-ordinators should and they did have regular meetings with their Essex Police District Commanders and Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Essex Police have had their funding drastically cut and have had to change their ways of operating to keep within their new budgets. Also in recent months Essex Police's priorities have been based on challenging and variable demands so we must support them in whatever way we can.

Since my election in 2015, I, as Chairman, have had more one to one meetings with Senior Police Officers, including ACC Mrs Wortley and ACC Mr. Mason, than the previous two Chairmen of ECNWA had in total over the past ten years. At all 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.

ESSEX COMMUNITY MESSAGING: At times this has been a little difficult for some of us to acknowledge any benefits but with Jeff Appleby now on board and the training of many NW members will make it more successful.

MY VISION FOR 2016/2017

My theme for Essex County Neighbourhood Watch for 2016/2017 should be "Better Communication is the Key".

We must continue to send messages in whatever form to the community to reduce the opportunity of crime.

So using all media not only ECM, but also by email, websites, texts, and phones and also the old fashion way "talking" face to face.

Finally we must always continue to recognise those in the community who want a "piece of paper" and do not choose or are unable to have access to computers/broadband - it is Neighbourhood Watches responsibility to ensure they are never forgotten.

Clive Stewart, Chairman, Essex County NW Association, 27th July 2016.