

## **Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association**

Minutes of the 126th Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015, at 10:00hrs  
in the Tower Room, Millennium Community Centre, Great Baddow

**Present:** Clive Stewart (Chairman and Braintree), Sally-Ann Judd (Minute Secretary and Chelmsford), Clive Woodward (Braintree), Frank Ferguson (Basildon), Maureen Figgins (Castle Point), Elaine Barber (Castle Point), Stuart Rawlins (Crimestoppers), Peter Salmon (Brentwood), Peter Fisk (Brentwood), Mandy Chapman (Maldon), Mick Sheen (Epping), Alan Norman (Southend), Paul Wadley (Harlow), Colin Freeman (EWLO West LPA), Phillips Edwards (Colchester), John Wright (Tendring), Mike Hooper (Rochford), Acting Chief Superintendent Ewen Wilson (Essex Police), Alan Johnson (Uttlesford), Graham Jackson (Uttlesford), Geoff Ireland (President), Sgt Jamie Mills (Essex Police), and Geoff Ireland ( President)

**1. Welcome:** Clive Stewart welcomed Acting Chief Superintendent Ewen Wilson to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Roger Passfield (Vice Chairman and Thurrock), Mike Rees (Maldon), Steve Leverett (Chelmsford)

### **3. Police Presentation: Operation Insight & NhW – A/Chief Superintendent Ewen Wilson**

Acting Chief /Supt Ewen Wilson thanked CBS for inviting Chief Supt Carl O'Malley to the ECNWA meeting and explained that due to a change in roles he was taking on Chief Supt Carl O'Malley role, he went on to thank CS for his positive attitude in these times of change.

Following a brief update on the issues Essex Police are currently facing and the austere measures being taken, it leaves Essex Police requiring the assistance of volunteers across the County. He went on to say that Operation Insight (Burglary) has been hugely successful and is looking to NW to carry on with its success. He asked whether NW could assist with the cocooning element of Operation Insight, as Essex Police now have to think out of the box and use all resources available to them in the fight against burglary. All other elements of Op Insight will continue to be carried out by Police Officers.

Following much discussion and many questions the ECNWA agreed to a formal working group which will consist of: Clive Woodward (Basildon), Alan Norman (Southend), and Sally-Ann Judd (Chelmsford). This group will keep CBS informed of progress. A pilot will be planned following the work of the working group.

**UPDATE:Sgt Jamie Mills is the contact at Essex Police for this pilot scheme and also Roger Passfield (Thurrock) has also been included in the "Working Group"**

### **4. Police Report – Jamie Mills**

Essex Police Update NHW Exec Committee 10/11/2015

ECM co-ordinator

The business case for further development of ECM is now being progressed by the Force Strategic Change Team and Assistant Chief Constable Mason has made it clear he would like this progressed quickly. It is therefore likely that the recruitment of an ECM co-ordinator role will progress within the coming weeks to assist with the day to day running of ECM, responding to return correspondence through the system and promoting further sign up. Currently this role is performed by a Sergeant at Local Policing Support Unit.

An ECM 'App' for mobile phones has also been launched in the past few weeks for users to receive live updates to their mobile phone.

NHW coordinator

Suitable dates are currently being sought by the Office of the PCC to interview candidates for the NHW Co-ordinator role. It is thought that both this member of staff and the ECM coordinator may work from the offices with the team at Local Policing Support Unit at HQ.

14/11/2015 Rural Crime Day of Action

A Rural crime action day will take place on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> November which will see increased patrols and crime prevention activity taking place within rural communities, mainly involving the Special Constabulary.

Spending reviews

Several announcements have been made of the past weeks about efficiency savings that will be made by Essex Police and the full details of these announcements have been well publicised by local media. Further reviews of Essex Police departments will continue to take place to determine where further efficiency savings can be made.

## **Active Citizens on Horseback**

Essex Police are currently looking for more ways in which the public can assist the Police in keeping communities safe. Recently further volunteer or 'active citizen' projects have been launched including Dog Watch (involving dog walkers) and Active Citizens on Horseback (involving horse riders). Both of these initiatives aim to increase awareness of crime within communities so that people going about their everyday business are provided with information about what is happening in their local area and feel confident to report these issues to the Police. Both of these schemes are in their infancy, Citizens on Horseback is only a pilot scheme at present, but it is my intention to seek interest from these participants to join NHW.

## **5. PCC Report - Gwanwyn Mason**

The report had already been distributed before the meeting with the agenda.

The main topic for discussion will sensibly be the transformation announcements which were made on 6<sup>th</sup> October – and about which you wrote such a helpful note to your members.

Carl O'Malley will be really well placed to discuss these, and the rationale behind them, but in addition more information can be found on both our website, and the Essex Police website – links below:

<http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/2015/10/policing-has-to-change-to-be-fit-for-the-future/>

[http://www.essex.police.uk/news\\_features/homepage\\_latest\\_news/essex\\_police\\_is\\_changing.aspx](http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/homepage_latest_news/essex_police_is_changing.aspx)

In particular we would encourage all NHW coordinators, and members to complete the public survey concerning the changes which is available via the EP website at the first link above, and also to engage with the various public engagement meetings and events which are being held in each district to engage with local communities about the proposed changes and how they may affect local communities.

The voice of NHW as representatives of local residents will be critical in ensuring concerns / ideas / comments from local people are helping to drive some of the detail around these decisions. Details of local meetings and events should be available on each district webpage, but I will also write to the Head of Media and Communications in Essex Police and ask him to provide you with a list of the events already confirmed over the next few weeks.

If you could bring both the survey, and these events to the attention of all colleagues on the county-wide association, and ask them to encourage all their local members to engage with these important feedback processes that would be wonderful.

In terms of other developments, we continue to drive business as usual in our office, and Nick's departure in May has in no way lessened his or our focus in terms of delivering the police and crime plan.

However, we are beginning to plan for preparing candidates for the PCC Elections, ensuring that all those who run receive the same information and opportunity for access to our office and the work going on. This won't really begin in earnest until the New Year, but as ever the work begins in advance. All this means that our office is even busier than usual at the moment, and this is unlikely to change for the foreseeable future.

It would also be helpful to remind colleagues that I will be going on maternity leave from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We are in the process of recruiting someone who will be able to pick up some of my portfolio, but this will primarily be around the administration of events and volunteer programmes etc. that I manage, and they won't be able to pick up everything.

The rest will be shared amongst our team, but in terms of a strategic NHW SPOC for our office post 4<sup>th</sup> December

I recommend you contact Greg Myddelton (cc'd) who leads on commissioning and funding, and does a lot of partnership working. I should stress that Greg will also be extremely busy delivering his existing demanding portfolio, so won't be able to attend or engage on everything, but should be available for burning questions and to provide key updates from our office. You can also contact Jan as ever, particularly around ECM issues.

## **6. Minutes of the last meeting**

Confirmation of the minutes of 125th Executive Committee meeting held Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, agreed as a true record. If you have any amendments etc. please inform CBS as soon as possible once they are seen and not wait for the next meeting.

## **7. Chairman's report – Clive Stewart**

The report had been distributed with the agenda.

## **8. District Reports**

### **Clive Stewart – Braintree District:**

It has been a busy month for this District. Our six monthly newsletter WATCHword was distributed to 7,000 household (NW members ) by the local, NW Co-ordinators and in addition 30 member received it by email so that avoided printing another 3,000, and the email version was distributed to 30 NW Co-ordinators who sent to them to at least 150 NW members. The email version was something I created a year ago and was long overdue.

I attended new meetings and three new NW Groups have been formed Toppesfield (200 new NW members), Gosfield (500 to 900 possible new NW members) and a new area of Braintree. This last one has managed to create almost 1,000 new NW members organised by just three people - quite brilliant.

In my village, Belchamp St.Paul there were three shed burglaries in as many weeks, one was where a shed was broken into and £700 of tools stolen. The victim was my next door neighbour and the burglary happened whilst I was away in London. He never spoke to me about it, and in the end I actually did say to him that I knew.

I was told (just before receiving the Police report) from a person who lives 2 miles away and heard it in the local pub!

The latest burglary was last week and the home owner had an outbuilding broken into down a very long lane to their home and they called me when they discovered the thefts of a leaf blower, strimmers etc. I asked them to call 101 which they did (but held on for 55 minutes – yes 55 minutes). This has been reported to Chief Inspector Craig Carrington. The victims have advised the Police of the serial numbers of many of the items.

The “talk” of the village via the residents who told me , is that a family has moved into another village 3 miles away who are causing these burglaries and this “information” has been passed to the local neighbourhood Policing Team.

A few years ago the village had a spate of burglaries caused by one person who was actually living in the village ( next door to the Church) and when the Police entered his house they found many items which had been stolen from houses and the Church!

A ladder was found against the wall of my village Church probably by someone inspecting to see if there was lead on the roof, which there is not, and they must have fled as the ladder was left behind!

We have had a number of “Nottingham Knockers” coming around causing concern to the elderly and claiming to be “just out of prison” or they were showing cards saying they are deaf and dumb.

However one house had some dogs and the two men “jumped” and walked away.

I have had a number of new enquires to meet up with villages to help them create NW groups in light of the Essex Police plans.

Lastly I would like to bring to your attention about a man who registered on ECM. He then started sending out emails to people in his village saying he had received messages from Essex Police and that he was the NW Co-ordinator.

In fact he had not registered his NW group with anyone ( not even Braintree District) or advised local Police either! He told me with “relish” that he refused to send out any crime messages unless they were about his village, which was very rare.

I did “take him to task” about his actions and I have now created a NW group in his village with two new volunteers who do not have “blinkers” and also asked them to try and get as many as possible to register with ECM.

I have mentioned on a number of occasions of my concern that this may happen by opening up ECM to everyone as well as NW, however it is a “risk” that I hope this occurrence may hardly ever happen again.

### **Mick Sheen-Epping Forest District**

In Epping Forest District, possibly due to the well-publicised Police headcount reductions, we have had one of our most successful periods creating new groups. In North Weald alone we have set up four new large groups and are holding a meeting there on the 22nd of November to try to build on this success. One problem from this level of success is that we are running out of the Stay Safe booklets that we try to give to each new member. We are keen to purchase a new supply but hope other groups are also interested as even a small increase in order size brings the cost down dramatically.

On Friday the 6th of November we took our stall to the winter warmer event at Buckhurst Hill. As well as handing out the usual small security items we gave a small presentation on home security to the elderly residents who attended. We will be attending 2 more of these events over the next couple of weeks.

### Grahame Stehle - Colchester District

Since the last County meeting, Colchester District has launched three new Schemes and we have two possible schemes as work in progress. Coming up is a Care Forum meeting in the village of Dedham where we are working with our Tactical Crime Prevention Liaison Officer, the Fire Service, Age UK Essex and other Community Organisations to help older people enjoy better health, be independent, and safer in their homes. Disappointingly, our planned meeting of District Coordinators, at which the Police and Crime Commissioner, Colchester's Police Commander, and others, would be hosting and presenting, has fallen by the wayside. The theme of the meeting was to have been Working Together but out of 50 Scheme Coordinators in Colchester, only three or four replied to the invitation. The best explanation we can offer is people are prepared to volunteer and give time to NhW, but only so much.

### Alan Johnson – Uttlesford District

The latest announcements from Essex Police relating to budget constraints have confirmed that the station in Saffron Walden will be the only one in Uttlesford to remain open from April next year, with the one in Dunmow closing from that date. There is a strong local campaign to retain the current Victorian building, but there is speculation that there could be a move to a 'blue light' combined facility. The announcement that the number of PCSOs will be reduced to six covering Braintree and Uttlesford has been heavily criticised in the local press. A new Partnership Document is being used by Essex Police to report crimes across Braintree and Uttlesford, with an option to call into a tele-conference every Monday morning. This is working well. We use the information to produce NhW Weekly Bulletins for the north and south of the district, with a circulation to over 300 recipients. We participated in a Safer Living programme organised by Uttlesford CSP. This comprised six multi-partner events in local Day Centres which were attended by older citizens. Our contribution included advice on avoiding scams and the Community Agents service and the take up of Message in a Bottle was well received. We are making good progress on setting up new schemes with five added in the past two months. Likewise, the review and re-design of the membership database is progressing well. We have prepared a series of recruitment templates which are designed for use by local councils and individuals who have expressed an interest in setting up a scheme.

### John Wright - Tendring District

Recruitment of coordinators in Tendring is slowly progressing. On 14<sup>th</sup> October due to the kindness and support from the Mayor of Brightlingsea we held a recruiting evening at the Parish Hall. Four people came forward as coordinators and assistance was given in helping them set up their schemes. In the past recruiting at Brightlingsea has, to be frank a dead loss, but now we appear to have got a toehold and hopefully word will spread and we will increase the number of coordinators there. Many thanks go to Nina Ezekiel for starting the ball rolling and to PC Dan Heard for his valuable input. The people of Tendring should be glad they have such dedicated local policing officers.

Another place we have had no success is St Osyth but on 15<sup>th</sup> October I met with a gentleman who wished to become a coordinator and again we assisted him in setting up his scheme and within a few days he had signed up 22 households. We hope word spreads there also.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October I attended the Clacton Carnival Presentation Ceremony at the High School and for the assistance given by NHW members in Carnival Week we received a cheque for £75, it was uplifting to hear from other voluntary organisations the work done by them locally

I have also been working closely with the secretary of the Fairclough Estate in West Clacton with a view to establish NHW on the estate which is part Housing Association and part Private Ownership. We have the full support of the residents committee and recruitment material has been delivered to every house on the estate.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October I met with another prospective coordinator in Holland on Sea and assisted in getting her scheme up and running.

So all in all October has been a busy and productive month.

On updating my own scheme on the National website I found an entry for a scheme in Clacton, the alleged coordinator is not known to us or the police administrator and local enquiries have proved negative. I believe that this may be a fraudulent entry and I am in discussion with National NHW re this.

There are also three other schemes shown which are now no longer running.

I have as I write spent a lot of time in trying to trace this man and this report would be very long if I detailed all my investigation. I do not understand when NNHW is informed of such entries they are reticent to do anything about it. I hope to have more to report on this at the next meeting.

### Peter Salmon - Brentwood District

We have held 5 of our usual sessions in the 3 Libraries in the Borough along with others being held in The Brentwood Centre, Community Hospital and West Horndon Church Hall.

In conjunction with our CSP we have taken part in 6 of the Senior Safety Road Shows in various parts of the Borough and the main Senior Safety Day itself, which lasts from 10 until 3 p.m. On the main day presentations are given by the Police, Fire & Rescue, Trading Standards, Crimestoppers, Home Instead and ourselves. A buffet lunch is provided for the seniors and in the afternoon, following a Loan Shark quiz there is a play about scams acted out by professional actors. Folk then go home with a "goodie bag". An ECM/101 day was held in Brentwood High Street where we worked alongside the Police and our CSP representatives.

We have visited Victim Support twice, once to talk with them about what we do and once to attend a seminar explaining in detail what they do.

A preliminary meeting was held with Crimestoppers before I attend my first 'official' meeting, on behalf of County, with them on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

I have also attended a course about Dementia held by Home Instead to assist in our work with Community Agents and have taken part in the PCC's Rural Crime Forum.

In conjunction with our local Community Agent we have now launched our trial of "Inpatient & Respite Watch". Along with Thurrock and Basildon we were at the Essex Show (our thanks to Roger Passfield for arranging this and doing all the hard work).

### Mandy Chapman – Maldon District

On November the 26th some of our members will be at the Maldon Christmas Market to give advice, leaflets, purse bells etc.

In my area, Little and Great Braxted, I am working with our Community Agent to set up a coffee morning where I will attend to give NHW advice, leaflets etc. I will be targeting the elderly residents to encourage their attendance but it will be open to all from the village. My hope is for this to continue fortnightly. If successful I would like to see this roll out across the Maldon district.

### Mike Hooper - Rochford District

On Saturday the 14th of November we will be promoting NHW plus Immoitag and distributing cycle lights at an event in Rochford town centre, all we need is a dry afternoon.

We are currently editing our winter newsletter for printing and distribution in early December.

Envelopes have been prepared for distribution to every household in Ashingdon, Canewdon and Paglesham.

They contain a NHW introduction letter, our Newsletter plus leaflets on EMC & Heritage Watch. This is in the hope of replicating the 100% coverage achieved last year in Stambridge.

### Clive Woodward – Basildon District

Stronger links established with Essex Fire and Rescue and we plan to work with them on a number of events that have been planned for the next 6 months.

BBNHW has moved with the CSP to the new CSAZ area identified which is Pitsea North West. We will have a presence at all CSAZ related activity to promote new watches.

The Police are having 4 "re-assurance" days in the Borough in November which we will be a part of. Use of the mobile police station to promote NHW, ECM registrations and the registering of property with Immobilise.

We attended a very "lively" LCM in Wickford on 28th October which demonstrated the strength of feeling by residents against the proposed police cuts, particularly the PCSO's whose numbers are likely to drop from 35 to 7 for the whole Borough. The audience voiced that they would be prepared to fund the retention of their PCSO's through increased Council Tax. A Councillor present said that it would need some form of referendum to achieve this which may have to be County wide.

Comment: Harlow residents have recently paid something in the region of 14pence each to have the street lighting kept on overnight so this proposal might well be doable. We are now straying of course into the realms of private security.

## Colin Freeman – EWLO

To date there is not a replacement person for Colchester. CF is updating Brentwood, Harlow and Epping Forest on Scams and winter warmer events. He added that EWLO's do not have budgets and would appreciate free copies of the Stay Safe booklet.

## 9. Treasurer's report – Mike Hooper

A full report was distributed by email with the Agenda for the next meeting.

Income	£ 848.00
Expenditure	£ 744.50
In Bank	£ 2,765.50 as at 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2015.

- MH stated that all Districts have banked their cheques
- All those that requested window stickers should now have them, all monies have been reflected in the accounts, can those who have not paid please send their money to Mike Hooper as soon as possible.

## 9. "New" NW Booklet

CS updated the meeting on progress to date.

## 10. National & Regional Update:

AJ gave a brief explanation as to why National NhW had made wrong assumptions, CBS and CW asked why this had not been mentioned prior to this meeting. National are now looking at a register of schemes and County should be the focal point for all future schemes.

## 11. ECNWA to register as a Charity?

Following a brief discussion on the benefits of ECNWA registering as a charity it, AJ added that National are looking into this and it may be beneficial to wait for their work to be completed. CS agreed to work with AJ on this.

## 12. Sponsorship

To be discussed at next meeting due to absence of RP

## 13. Message in a Bottle update:

To be discussed at next meeting due to absence of RP

## 14. Crimestoppers and ECNWA Update – PS and Stuart Rawlins (Crimestoppers)

SR stated that as our objectives are nearly the same as Crimestoppers it would be beneficial to work closer together as Crimestoppers do not have the high profile that NhW enjoys due to their role and anonymity. CS added that he would like to attend more ECNWA meetings and CS stated he was more than welcome to attend. CS went on to say that all Crimestoppers telephone numbers were to be removed from all police vehicles. PS attends Crimestoppers meetings on behalf of ECNWA.

Some brief notes about the Crimestoppers meeting:

- Very happy to be working closer with NhW
- Police will almost certainly (re) place more emphasis/time on "volume crime" (burglary/theft etc.)
- Saturday 14/11 - Rural Crime Action Day
- New generic CS pocket card to hand to public now available - all about CS (I have some and will distribute - hope to get more for our next meeting)
- Modern Day Slavery - funding secured - launch early next year
- Looking to work closer with Dentists/Opticians and Vets re Domestic Violence
- Various projects to be planned for next year.
- If you need any further info about any of the above just let me know please.

## 15. County Co-ordinators Report

Alan Johnson – County Co-Ordinators Report

- There are issues relating to two Districts that the Chairman has asked me to assist with. Both are in hand.
- I was due to attend a conference in Colchester on 24<sup>th</sup> October but the format of this was changed in consultation between the Steering Group and the EP District Commander, so my attendance was not needed.

- I was the sole representative from Essex (NhW and EP) at the last Eastern Regional Partnership meeting hosted by Suffolk on 19<sup>th</sup> October. The minutes of that meeting, along with the draft minutes of the NHWN Regional Representative Meeting, will be circulated to Executive Committee members when they are received.
- I have attended three meeting of the Community Agents Essex Board. The frequency of these meetings in primarily to progress the future funding strategy as the ECC funding begins to reduce. The aim of the partners is to retain the service beyond the initial five year term, and I have participated in preparing the documents that we are required to submit to ECC by the end of 2015.
- It is with regret that I have tendered my resignation as County Coordinator, and this has been accepted by the Chairman. This is due to the workload pressure with my commitments at District, Regional and NHWN levels, and I am in discussion with the Chairman and elected officers on the transition arrangements. I will continue to attend Executive Committee meetings as the Uttlesford representative, and will communicate any appropriate matters relating to Regional and NHWN developments via the Chairman.

#### **16. Bulk Buying clarification:**

PS requested that all in ECNWA send a list of the top three items that they buy to Paul Wadley as soon as possible, CBS had requested this on a number of occasion in past meetings, please respond so that the bulk paying group can move forward.

#### **17. Is it worth calling 101?**

Discussion took place Essex Police 101 number as reports have been received that the operators are rude, callers have to wait a long time to be answered and are often transferred to the wrong person. CBS will raise this with ACC Mason when he meets him next week.

#### **18. 12:00 12: 20hr: Smartwater: Stephen Wills**

Stephen Wills was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation on the merits of Smartwater. He outlined the benefits of purchasing Smartwater and the offer being put forward to ECNWA. CS will forward codes etc. to all.

UPDATE: CBS has emailed their proposals to every District .

**NB: Since that date CBS has advised everyone of the offer from SelectaDNA . This is an alternative solution.**

#### **19. Any other Business**

- Acting Chief Supt Ewen Wilson thanked ECNWA and all of its members for their assistance in the search for missing person Gordon Wilson. All signs indicate that he is still in the Sible Hedingham area and the search continues, he requested that the NhW groups in the Sible Hedingham area once again send out details to the members in this area. CS and AJ stated that this had already been done.
- Peter Fisk requested all to send him articles/items for inclusion on the County Website. The meeting agreed that in future all minutes would be published on the website and CBS would advise all that they are available instead of sending them out via email.
- Paul Wadley stated that Colchester Voluntary Services are available at a fee to present Annual Audit & Accounts.

#### **20. Dates of Meetings in 2016:**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 – AGM/Conference

(Please note that the January and March meetings are in the Tower Room at 10:00hrs, and the AGM/Conference is in the large room on the ground floor with doors open to those attending at 09:30hrs (10:00 – 14:00hrs). Meeting closed at 12:27 hrs.

Next Executive Committee Meeting on was agreed to be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Tower Room, Millennium Community Centre, Great Baddow at 10.00 hrs.