



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association

Minutes of Executive Meeting held at the Park Hotel, Diss on Thursday 28th September 2017

Attendance: Tony Spall (TS) - Chairman, Brian Sivyver (BS) - Secretary,
Bob Gooch (BG) - Treasurer, George Dix (GD) - Area Network Manager.

1. Apologies

Nil apologies

2. Minutes of last meeting

From meeting held on 6th July. Revised Minutes agreed.

Action: TS to publish on website.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Contact with Coffee Caravan.

BG reported that he had been contact with the organiser in the last week or so. TS asked him to maintain contact and this replaces the need to make alternative channel of contact.

3.2. Crime statistics.

There was continuing concern amongst members regarding the lack of up-to-date crime statistics available for general consumption. The Police UK website was usually up to two months out of date. It was recognised that due to reduction in staffing had the Constabulary no longer provided such details directly. Police UK rely on statistics being provided promptly by Constabularies.

Part email reply from Police UK as result of enquiry by GD:

' -We aim to update the website on or before the last working day of each month. However, due to the ever-increasing amount of data we process each month (over 36 million incidents of crime) and unavoidable delays when receiving data from each of the 43 police forces, the deadline is often unfortunately delayed - as they are now. The monthly update maps incidents reported to the police in the preceding month. -'

The matter had been raised on a number of occasions with Suffolk Constabulary but no improvement was expected under the current climate of service reduction brought about by the budget cuts. Members would have to continue to refer to the Police U.K. website or in case of local trend get in touch directly with their S.N.T.

3.3. Data Protection.

Revision of our Data Protection document was an ongoing process. The current document would need to be revised in light of EU regulation soon to come out. NHW nationally had been asked for guidance.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. New Scheme Enquiries

TS reported that there had been six requests for information about starting new Schemes this month and 4 or 5 in August. This showed a continuing interest in the value of NHW to the community.

4.2. Streetwatch

A request had been received from Streetwatch in Sudbury (the only Scheme operating in Suffolk) for contact. After a discussion it was agreed that TS should write to them and invite them to offer their aims and objectives so to discover how we might work together. It was agreed that our interests in the safety of our communities was a driving force for both organisations, being achieved by different methods.

Action: TS to email Sudbury Streetwatch

4.3. Emergency County Planning

An enquiry had been received regarding possible NHW involvement with Emergency County Planning procedures. While there had been some initial contact many years ago around the County involving community groups this had not continued. It was agreed that the enquirer should be referred to their Parish/Town/ District Council for further information about local involvement.

Action: TS to email the enquirer to pass on the view of the exec team.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

BG reported that our current funds stood at £1,352.18p. There were outstanding expenses claims to be settled. There had been no payments received from Patlock in the preceding quarter and no other form of revenue. After a discussion it was agreed that TS should write to the P.C.C. to open a discussion regarding a previously made offer of possible financial support.

Action: TS to email the PCC to request possible financial support for SNWA.

6. **Street Signs**

TS reported that he had positive news. He had received an email from SCC highways saying that they were working on a new initiative involving minor works in the community which would also include the erection of NHW signs. This would potentially involve a Memorandum of Understanding with groups regarding specific projects and may also include some training where appropriate. This was still work in progress and may yet be a little time before it may be rolled out. The intention is for NW members to be able to erect NW signs at no cost.

The renovation of existing signs by using a stick-on 'skin' was being looked at. Many signs around the County were in a poor state and did not promote NWH in good light. TS would explore this further.

Action: TS to email supplier

7. **Proposed Sector meetings**

TS had been in touch with Alan Osborne, Suffolk Constabulary, regarding his agreement to promote three sector meetings. It was hoped that some suggested dates and venues would be forthcoming in the next week or so. There would be a meeting held in each area, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and probably Halesworth. It was hoped that Suffolk Trading Standards would participate along with a member of the police Cyber Team. Coordinators would be informed of any developments as soon as they became known.

8 and 11. **Executive Committee roles, and Police Volunteers**

It was agreed that these two items could be discussed together and merged as a future agenda item.

Executive Committee roles

A list of the type of committee roles had been placed on the website. A summary article would also be sent out in the next newsletter.

Action: TS to arrange

Police Volunteers

There had been no further movement on the recruitment of volunteers via the Constabulary.

9. Area Network Coordinators

A discussion took place on the work done by GD with regard to allocation and mapping and listing of Schemes into their appropriate SNT areas. This had involved a great deal of work. This gave the committee visual picture of the spread across the County. It was agreed that seeking out volunteers from within the NHW community in the County to take responsibility for blocks of Schemes (area network) was a way forward, both to support individual schemes and to also look for potential members of the Executive Committee. Area Network Coordinators had been part of the old structure but their use had been patchy across the County. It was recognised that there were already people around the County in this role, and it was not the intention of the Committee to disturb existing practices but to build on what was already in place. GD had also logged all parish council clerks and it was thought that contact with these people would be a way of promoting NHW. A few Parishes were already Schemes in their own right.

Action: GD would take this up on behalf of the Committee.

10. Publicity

Deferred until next meeting.

11. Police Volunteers (Merged into item 8 above)

12. A.O.B.

The latest Police Connect message containing a public survey request from the constabulary should be circulated to all coordinators via our newsletter, as there were still some coordinators not yet signed up to Police Connect system.

Action: TS to arrange

Meeting closed at 12.45pm

13. Date of next meeting

Action: BS to arrange