

THE SUFFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

12TH APRIL 2023 1PM START HALESWORTH POLICE STATION
PRESENT. Sgt Steve Wright, Graham, Angela, Brian, Nick, Paul + Tony

APOLOGIES. Angie and Terry

1. Brief Introductions by all attendees.

2. SNWA background to meeting and summary of SNWA plans.

Nick started the meeting by saying the importance of re-connecting with the Police as we begin our new development plan, mainly to look at:

Marketing

Going forward post-Covid

Surveys to refresh objectives

Importance of Police partnerships

Clarify relationships with councils and National NWN

3. Update from Suffolk Police

Sgt Steve Wright is the "spoc": (single point of contact) we have with the Police. He started by saying that the Police are currently going through a transitional stage. The review team were looking at what would work to improve community policing. The plan in essence is to have a County Partnership Team to provide the tools for training and campaigns. Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be called Community Policing Teams, with approximately 80 officers across the force, once staffing permits. They will be divided into teams which would each have a generic email so that anyone in the department can react/respond to enquiries.

Policing will go through a transitional period as the new officers have a longer training period requiring them to attend university for a period of time. The new model should be operational at the start of December. This could change how we work with the Police. The response officers will answer the emergency calls. Community Police will concentrate on the community work concentrating on anti- social behaviour, problem solving and sorting out issues (hotspots, high risks, etc).

There will also be more of an emphasis on crime prevention.

Tony had some questions:

There are 18 Police SNT locations which SNWA aligns to and we need to know how the 80 officers will be divided over the area as this impacts on the way we engage with our members.

Sgt Steve Wright replied that he will know more soon and everything will take until the end of 2023 to be settled. There will be no change to the 9 locality areas. We will still have a nominated officer and he will let us know details when he knows.

Tony asked:

Will there be a hierarchy within the 80 officers?

Sgt Steve Wright suggested we need continuity, and the idea of the generic email address was intended to continue with all areas so that anyone can respond; which would help overcome delayed responses due to officers on leave or shifts.

Brian said that it would be good if the Police asked people on the ground for advice on the problems that they face.

Sgt Steve Wright replied that, the public will have a named officer for their area and that we need to cement a better way forward to communicate. Also currently there is a low level of major crime. Recently the Police Connect emails mostly concerned with the local thefts of catalytic convertors from vehicles.

There are 3 countywide full time DOCOs (Designing Out Crime Officers) whose role is to provide specialist security advice. (source police.com). (The First Principles list of crime prevention advice is central to this.)

There is a checklist within the advice to encourage the victims to self reflect on the measures they have in place or should consider putting in {householders}.

Tony said that there was a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement (MOU) between the Police and NHW which may need refreshing to maintain a reminder of our partnership.

ACTION: SNWA email the MOU to Steve.

ACTION: Nick suggested to draft a First Principles leaflet on Neighbourhood Watch.

4. AOB

Surveys. Clearly there are Police changes to happen and we can consider with regard to our survey to CEOs. We should still go ahead as proposed. Sgt Steve Wright agreed to look at the specific survey aimed at the 13/14 CEOs. Tony asked if they were currently staying in the role for long period of time? Sgt Steve Wright said mostly the retention was high and that they all understand the role of NHW.

ACTION: Committee review surveys and we can email the CEO survey for Steve to review. It is thought we need to issue as soon as possible in the light of the Police review.

Tony said that our newsletter could be better with more information from the Police. Sgt Steve Wright said that there would be new strategies with communication. He thought CEOs would still have the ability to send information out of hours, and access to Facebook and Twitter accounts. Also it could be a possibility to combine Connect emails with the rural and wildlife newsletters. Tony said that generally, the open rate for SNWA newsletters is 55%.

NWN Alert was mentioned, Tony said the constabulary preferred to use a different system due costs. Nick said the Connect messages are a perfect place to promote NHW.

Tony said we need the quarterly Command meetings to be resurrected and to get officers to attend. Also what the possibilities could be for support from the constabulary for the NHW meetings to help with saving costs on venues and refreshments. For

example, can we use Martlesham as a cost free meeting venue? Also we need to look at similar cost free venues in the future? Somewhere between Stowmarket and Bury.
ACTION: Steve thinks some funding support will be available and will confirm.

2.15pm Sgt Steve Wright left the meeting and break

2.30pm Exec Notes:

It was generally thought that officers may not feel necessarily compelled to attend NHW meetings with the new model in place.

We need to sort out venues and funding per Command area. We also need to consider the times and best days for meetings: early evening seem to be preferred (7-9pm).

Midweek was considered easier to get speakers

Tony mentioned most central location for each command areas

EAST: Is Halesworth although Holton Village Hall (has been used before).

WEST: consider Woolpit which we have used before. Area meeting could be in September after an AGM afternoon in July. (August not viable due to school holidays.)

SOUTH: Martlesham Police Station considered good for cost and attendance.

ACTION: Tony will email a list of previous venues used. Tony said we could expect a good turnout at Martlesham and perhaps use Eventbrite.

Who do we invite to Area Command meetings?

A good discussion with the view that this first round of meetings should be to our scheme member database only, not to general public. That can be something for later.

Brian mindful that Coordinators can become isolated, and also the concern that valuable information is lost when we lose NHW volunteers.

With regards to the general public, Nick said it would be beneficial for NHW to join in the community meet-and-greets that the Police have with the public. We could field questions about crime prevention and hand out leaflets for example.

Brian said he thinks that we could do more on social networks. Tony mentioned that we support the use of social media and a number of schemes do operate this way.

Speakers.

It was discussed that we should have a speaker first followed by NHW discussions and Q + A, bearing in mind we are still needing a chair person. Paul and Graham said that speakers could include Trading Standards, Yorkshire Bank, Suffolk Building Society.

ACTION: Tony to check his list of previous speakers for ideas, such as police dogs, banks to talk about Cybercrime.

ACTION Tony to also check out Woolpit for AGM venue for first 'two weeks in July so as not to fall into school break.

3.10 pm

Nick asked about incentives for survey returns and attendance at meetings: new street signs were one idea. Vouchers disregarded for the moment.

Meeting concluded approx 3.30pm with general discussion