



The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association



Executive Committee Minutes

2nd October 2024 – 7-8.30pm
Teams online

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Angela Barnetson, Brian Sivyer (19:00 - 19:45), Tony Spall, Graham Holmes, Paul Garner.

Apologies: Nick King

2. Actions from 7th August 2024 Exec Mtg.

- TS to put the draft AGM minutes on our website – closed
- NK to send a positive response to Liz Hollingworth ref PCC funding – closed (waiting further response from PCC)
- PG to check with Guy that he is available for the next planned on-line meeting (14:30 on 12th September) - closed
- TS to collate database access data by CPTs prior to the meeting with Guy - closed
- PG to ensure that A/C strategy review is a main agenda item at the October Exec meeting- closed
- GH to issue the latest list of incomplete schemes – closed (but data cleanse ongoing)
- TS to discuss next steps with Martin Shaw regarding Kesgrave area schemes – ongoing
- PG to cover the SO8 Alexandra Ward schemes - closed
- NK to obtain quotes from NSP (Official supplier) he has used in the past - closed
- TS to obtain quotes from P J Print who provided the new SNWA leaflets - closed
- PG to ask Essex NWA who they use to provide signs - closed
- NK to share Police and Council email requests for speakers – closed
- TS will arrange for a copy of the new leaflet to go onto the SNWA website and will feature this in the next newsletter - closed
- All to check the latest version of the SNWA website – ongoing
- AB to undertake the transition to Lloyds Bank for the SNWA funds – closed

3. Command Area meetings:

a. East (9/10/24)

Venue and speaker preparations are all in hand, led by NK. NK has prepared some SNWA presentation slides which we all need to review. We discussed the latest event registration data which shows 14 registered attendees (PC Ainsworth is no longer able to attend). Of the 14 registrations, 7 are NW people (including Exec members) and 7 are Police and Council reps. We all agreed that this was an extremely low and disappointing number of attendees in spite of all the communications that have been sent out including:

- TS initial email invite to 550 NW members in the East
- TS reminder email to 550 NW members in the East
- Article in the last SNWA newsletter which went to 1500 members across Suffolk
- NK direct email to 40 Coordinators in the East on 30 September

We all recognised the exceptional effort that NK has put into organising the Command Area meetings and collectively we felt that was little else that could be done to drive up interest and attendance. We all shared a concern over reputational risk to SNWA if Police and Council employees attend an event which has very few NW members in attendance. It was suggested that one way to drive up attendance might be further direct contact, by email or phone, between NK and the NW scheme coordinators in his Area. We agreed that it was NK who should make the final

decision whether to proceed with the event or not based on registration numbers over the next few days (NK should have direct access to the registration page). We were also clear that as a committee we would support him fully with either option.

b. West (23/10/24)

AB has secured the venue and some speakers have been agreed. The venue has a projection screen available. AB will check if there is a projector in the venue, if not, TS will provide his own projector for the event. TS has issued the first email invitation to NW members in the West and will issue a reminder on 9th October. So far there are a total of 9 registered attendees, 4 of which are SNWA Exec.

4. Police engagement update

a. Review of 12th September minutes of meeting with PC Ainsworth

The notes were reviewed and the next meeting with Guy noted as 11 December 2024. PG will issue a new Teams invitation for this shortly.

b. CPT database access and contact with coordinators

CPT contact with NW coordinators has increased as evidenced by PC and PCSO emails in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich respectively. GH now creates a monthly update on CPO/CPT access to our database which TS shares with Guy, the next update is due soon.

c. NW capabilities text for Suffolk Police

NK issued an email to the committee on 24 September which included draft text on "Seven ideas for valuable contact with Neighbourhood Watch". We all agreed to review this text and respond to NK by email.

d. TS/GA update on sharing web page info etc

TS has been unable to secure a meeting room at Landmark House and so he will make an alternative arrangement to meet with Guy soon.

5. Data clean

a. update on outstanding lists

There are 5 Areas still to be updated from a total of 50. Some of these are directly related to the matter which TS has to discuss with Martin Shaw. TS expects to be able to progress with those Area updates once the discussion with Martin has taken place.

b. plans for final emails to inactive schemes

We discussed the fact that the data cleanse has been ongoing for many months now and that the database has been reduced from ~850 schemes to ~500 schemes for some time. This has meant that those schemes removed from the main database have not been receiving any direct communications from SNWA, so far without any of them querying their lack of contact. It was agreed that the concept of a "final email" had timed out and that it was not necessary to send out any more comms to those removed schemes.

GH also noted that the SNWA website currently has ~40 hits per week, or 8-9 hits per day.

6. PCC Funding

NK's request for funding to the PCC office is ongoing, however, latest comments from Liz Hollingworth were not very encouraging. It was agreed that Exec members would try to reinforce the request to Tim Passmore at the forthcoming PCC open meetings if possible. We also agreed

that alternative funding options should now be considered, particularly an approach for relatively small donations to the many Councils across Suffolk. This should be discussed further at our Exec Mtg on 4 December.

7. Area Coordinators – a new strategy

We discussed Area Coordinators. TS stated that there are 15 named Area Coordinators in our database, three of which are Exec members. TS put forward the idea that the remaining 12 A/Cs should be invited to join the Exec Teams meetings and that we use this approach as a mechanism to drive up their engagement and as a source of new ideas and support for SNWA. We discussed the potential problems such a large number of attendees on the calls could create, especially with respect to voting/decision making, however, it was felt that running a trail would be the best way forward as not all 12 A/Cs were likely to attend. We would discuss this in more detail at the Exec mtg on 4 December with a view to inviting the wider A/C group to our first Exec mtg in 2025 on 5th February.

8. AoB

None