



The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association



Executive Committee Minutes

4th December 2024 – 7-8.30pm
Teams online

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: Nick King, Brian Sivyver, Tony Spall, Paul Garner

Apologies: Angela Barnetson, Graham Holmes

2. Actions from 2nd October 2024 Exec Mtg.

- TS to discuss next steps with Martin Shaw regarding Kesgrave area schemes – ongoing

3. Command Area meetings:

a. Feedback on West Area mtg

The event was held successfully with good attendance from police, councils and Neighbourhood Watch members, although the latter representation a bit disappointing. The venue was excellent and there have been two PR opportunities following the event: one with the Eastern Daily Press the other with the Bury Society Quarterly newsletter. A press release was created for both opportunities.

b. Plans for South and East Area mtgs

Following the low level of registrations for the East area event planned for 9th October, alternative options were discussed including location and time of day. It was agreed that we would seek to hold an on-line event in spring 2025. The details of this new plan for the East area will be discussed in more detail at the February 2025 Exec meeting.

Action: PG to check attendee capacity for Teams on-line meetings

4. Police engagement update

a. GA meeting with SNWA on 11 Dec at 2.30

We discussed the items that should form the agenda for our next meeting with GA. We agreed that we should discuss the previously mentioned internal 6 month review for the NW SPOC role and how we might better support GA going forward. We will also discuss the recent ASB meetings held in the East Area which GA attended along with progress on CPT access & usage of the NW database and Speedwatch. TS confirmed that he sends the monthly CPT access data to GA. TS noted that during October 2024 there had been 17 log-ins by CPOs and 1 in November 2024.

ACTION: PG to draft an agenda for the meeting on 11 Dec

b. PCSO Hannah Rogers initiative in Icewell Hill (Forest Heath) area

Following a poor response to email requests for help from PCSO Rogers to NW coordinators in the Icewell Hill area NK has been working with PCSO Rogers to plan a face to face meeting in Icewell Hill. The PCSO intends to invite local Housing Authorities, Town & Parish Councilors and NK will invite local NW coordinators to help volunteer leafletting in an attempt to start a local campaign to generate more NW schemes in the area. Two dates have been proposed: 31st January 2025 or 10 February 2025. NK will attend the event.

Related to this area, TS has recently been in contact with the administrators of the Newmarket NW Facebook Group. One of the administrators is a registered member of NW. The Facebook group has 5000 members which could be a useful mechanism to advertise the planned event in Icewell Hill.

c. TS/GA update on sharing web page info

TS and GA recently met to discuss NW content for the Suffolk Police internal webpages and to ensure that correct links were in place to the external SNWA website.

d. Update on CPT database access and contact with coordinators

This was discussed under item 4a above.

5. Area Coordinators strategy

a. Mark Smith suggestions ref parish/district council mtgs etc.

We discussed the key points raised by Mark as follows:

- Seeking council funding – this is underway and covered under item 9b below
- SNWA should mirror police structure – this is already in place
- “Best Practice” – This is ongoing with the SNWA website used as the key source of information for coordinators regarding roles, signage, organisation of activities, risk assessments, data protection etc.
- Better liaison with Police Control Room – we agreed that it would be useful for members to better understand the workings and pressures within the police control room. If a tour is not available it might be possible to get a control room supervisor to present to one of the SNWA events in future. This is an item to be discussed with our SPOC on 11 December.
- Social media usage – this is an area where the Exec lacks resources, extra help here would be useful
- Coordination of police and council meetings – Some Area Coordinators already do this through active engagement with both local police and Town/Parish councilors. We hope to build on this partnership through our Command meetings
- More support of Speedwatch – ongoing in partnership with our SPOC

BS noted that he had recently had a very positive interaction with the police control room and other officers after completing an on-line crime report for a neighbour. Within 30 minutes of submission a PC called Brian to discuss the issue. It is also well known that some issues might be reported but not responded to. It was suggested that we ask GA about how crime reports are classified and what constitutes a serious issue worthy of rapid response etc.

Action: PG to add Speedwatch and Control Room insights to the GA agenda for 11 Dec.

b. Inclusion of A/Cs in 2025 Exec mtgs

We agreed that we want to bolster the role and involvement of A/Cs in the work of SNWA. We will invite the A/Cs to the remaining planned Exec meetings for this year (Feb, Apr, Jun 2025). We also felt that we should review the role description for Area Coordinators in SNWA to ensure that it is appropriate but not too onerous.

Action: TS to share the links to the A/C role descriptions for all to comment

Action: NK to draft an invitation for the A/Cs to the Exec mtgs.

6. Guide to NW street-signs (ref TS draft document)

TS has had various comments in response to the draft document. NK had suggested the most significant overhaul, however, these suggestions were based on experiences in other counties where council planning permission has not been required in as much detail as Suffolk. After discussion it was agreed that TS had taken the complex instructions from SCC and created a very straightforward approach for new scheme signage. TS reiterated that only approved NW schemes can apply for street signs, and that the process is for new signage only. Replacement or refreshment of existing signs do not need to go through the process, this will be made clear on the SNWA website. NK is keen that we have more NW signage across Suffolk. We discussed

recovery of old signs from expired NW schemes and agreed that this was a relatively low level issue at this time and very difficult to execute.

7. National NW – Regional meetings suggestion

National NW have suggested that they could convene regional meetings of associations if the associations want that to happen. For example, for us that could mean an East of England regional discussion. TS pointed out that these meetings used to happen some 20 years ago and were disbanded as the associations had little overlapping areas of interest. SNWA already has informal contact with Norfolk, Essex and Cambridge associations. We agreed not to pursue regional meetings.

8. Data clean update – remaining lists?

This activity is ongoing. It was not discussed in detail.

9. Funding

a. Via PCC

NK is in contact with the PCC's office and continues to seek an on-line meeting with Tim Passmore to discuss funding options. It is felt unlikely that the PCC will respond before the announcement of their next funding from central government or even before the new financial year.

b. Via donations from Town/Parish Councils (see NK draft)

NK and TS have created a draft one-page note to go to all Town and Parish Councils across Suffolk (approx. 435) seeking a contribution of £50 towards NW. NK discussed the feedback from AB who suggested taking a firmer line. It was agreed that a neutral approach might be more effective than what might appear to be an ultimatum. NK will redraft the note. It was noted that the request can be sent directly to all councils concerned and that TS has a mechanism to do this. TS can also generate official receipts for any funds donated and that donations can be made electronically or by cheque. The payment details will be put on the SNWA web site and the note will include a link to this information.

Action: NK to circulate final draft of the funding request for review

Action: TS to update payment details on SNWA website and a link

c. Awards for All (Lottery)

NK described the National Lottery Awards for All scheme and suggested that SNWA could make a funding request to this scheme. NK has been on a call with 5 other association leads facilitated by National NW to discuss these awards. National NW are not involved in the application process however the scheme does look relevant. It will be necessary to demonstrate "evidence of need" from across a spectrum of people. NK felt that we already have relevant evidence from NW members and police from last year's SNWA survey. There is also evidence of concerns over community safety from the recent SALC survey. We discussed surveying the attendees at the recent West Area Command meeting, and that we might be able to cite that meeting as a pilot action which could be replicated across the county with appropriate funding for events, signage etc.

Action: NK to attend another information sharing call in due course with National NW and then draft a way forward for us.

Action: NK to draft a short West Command attendees survey.

10. AoB

- The BT digital Voice project has been progressing well in the county. BS recently attended a local event hosted by a NW member that had been successful. TS noted that he had made significant contribution to the communications in support of various events across the county and has been updating the National coordinator for the East. It appears that this level of effort by SNWA may qualify us for a grant from National NW.

Action TS to share with NK his work on this topic

Action: NK to pursue appropriate grant funding from National NW

- NK noted that he and PG had attended the last PCC/Chief Constable on-line review. At that meeting NK had asked how SNWA might help increase the level of central funding allocated to Suffolk Police, as this is a long-term issues raised by the PCC. Tim Passmore suggested a letter writing campaign to local MPs would be useful. We agreed that we would discuss this further in the new year and consider a plan to support this in 2025 with letters needed in October/November.