



# The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association



## Executive Committee Minutes

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 – 7-8.30pm  
*Teams online*

### 1. Introductions, apologies and welcome to Area Coordinators joining us

Attendees: Nick King, Brian Sivyver, Tony Spall, Paul Garner, Trevor Gibbons, Graham Holmes  
Apologies: Angela Barnetson, Mark Smith, Anthea Boast

### 2. Actions from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 Exec Mtg.

- TS will investigate what is possible regarding A/C specific NW email addresses with our existing software license – **complete**. TS now has some email addresses for use by those Area Coordinators who need it.
- TS will send out a reminder email to coordinators about the CPT look-up facility on the coordinator forum page and encourage each coordinator to send an email - **complete**
- AB to check whether the BT Digital Project funds have been received in the SNWA account – **complete**, £1000 received.
- TS to consider good AGM speakers, who come with a recommendation, for discussion at the April committee meeting - **Complete**, invitations to speakers have been issued.
- TS to underline the new Police control room logging of NW callers in a newsletter and encourage coordinators and their members to name-drop Neighbourhood Watch whenever contacting the Police – **ongoing**. It was agreed that the monthly Newsletter format is difficult to sustain going forward and will now turn into a topic based bulletin.
- TS to send crime prevention info as a pdf to NK who will send it to SALC - **complete**
- TS and GH to consider if/how we can monitor new registered/approved schemes in SNWA and on National NW going forward – **ongoing**. SNWA system can get a highly granulated view of schemes across Suffolk subject to the specific data report required and clarity over how it will be used.

NK stated that our police SPOC PC Guy Ainsworth has confirmed that Suffolk Police have decided to move to the Alert system for messaging, possibly eventually replacing Police Connect. The timescale of the changeover is not known. NK is encouraging Suffolk Police to include SNWA in planning discussions regarding use of Alert. Norfolk Police have already moved over to Alert but have used Connect in parallel during the changeover. TG mentioned that his experience of Speedwatch is that Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies work closely together and so their approach to Alert may be similar. NK added that currently only TS is a MSA (Membership Support Administrator) on the Alert system. He recommended that one or two others also do this role: possibly GH and/or PG or NK would be good. To be considered.

### 3. Update on SNWA data cleanse and use by CPTs

Every scheme on the original SNWA database has been contacted. TS has only 6 remaining scheme coordinators that require a follow-up discussion about their viability. SNWA now has 475 registered schemes on our own database, 13 of which do not have an email contact, using only voice contact. The remaining 462 schemes should be registered with National NW. To date 325 schemes are registered National NW and 137 still to register in spite of request emails from TS. NK also has stats from the National system which reflects the excellent work done increasing registered schemes in Suffolk over the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 thanks to TS efforts. NK will circulate the stats. Once all schemes in Suffolk are registered with National we will be able to message all schemes using the Alert system. We will always maintain our own SNWA database.

TS will send out an email update on use of our database by CPTs. NK noted our inability to keep up to date with internal police changes in CPT membership. TG also had found a problem with identifying the latest responsible officers in Suffolk Police. The problem appears to be related to the flow of information between Suffolk Police and SNWA. We will include this issue in our next dialogue with Guy in May.

#### 4. Police engagement

a) New poster for HAs/RAs

NK has sent the latest version of the poster to Guy and PCSO Hannah Rogers. We are awaiting feedback.

b) Plans for ASB week 30 June to 6 July

SNWA are not aware of any NW led events. If we hear of Police or Council-led events we may have opportunities to help.

#### 5. National NW

a) Feedback from Regional call on 13th Feb

Cheryl Spruce has issued notes from the Regional Meeting. These have been circulated by NK.

b) Safeguarding policy

BS has been through the new National NW safeguarding policy. Whilst there are rarely issues for us in Suffolk, this is a very important issue. BS view is that SNWA should simply have a short notice on our own web site with a link to the new policy on the National web site. **ACTION: NK and BS will both review the document and circulate thoughts to the committee.**

c) National NW Week 1-7th June

It is the 40th Anniversary of NW this year. TG has sought ideas from his active scheme members but received no positive suggestions. NK is hoping to run a joint open house event with the police on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June in Newmarket. TS suggested that SNWA could send out a bulletin to advertise the NW week and seek possible events where SNWA could also have a presence. **ACTION: TS to issue a bulletin to members seeking opportunities for us to advertise SNWA at planned events in first week of June.**

#### 6. New Funding, including Treasurer update on our account

a) Via PCC

Liz Hollingworth, head of Governance and Commissioning in the PCC office, has stated that the PCC and the Chief Constable are now supportive of our project proposal for £11250 over 2 years. We may need to create some milestones to measure the project success as it goes. Timescales for access to money is not clear but we keenly await further information. **ACTION: NK to chase Liz regarding next steps.**

b) Via donations from Town/Parish Councils via SALC

As far as we know no funds have been received in spite of a communication to 400 councils. TG has had issues with recovering £1000 after having been sanctioned by an SCC councilor to spend the money on a welcome to NW pack for up to 400 new residents. TG uses a Barclays bank account which is currently free to use.

c) Awards for All Lottery bid

No update on Lottery the bid so far. A result is expected within the next month.

## **7. AGM Planning: Tuesday 1st July, Coddensham Centre 7-9pm**

The SNWA constitution guidelines need to be followed regarding the formal part of the AGM.

**ACTION: TS and GH will define the timeline required for confirmation of the constitution.**

TS would like to see an update from Suffolk Police on how their engagement with SNWA has progressed over the last year. We agreed to ask PC Guy Ainsworth to give this update. **ACTION: NK to email GA to request this.**

We agreed to have two main speakers: one on cybercrime and one of the police control room and to build in good time for Q&As. Along with an update from Suffolk Police and the formal AGM element this would be sufficient content for the event. Mark Smith is on standby to do a short presentation on his experience setting up two schemes but we agreed this would be better content for the Command meeting(s).

We agreed to reuse the list of practical planning steps from 2024 AGM e.g. refreshments, seating, AV kit etc. **ACTION: TS to review list and re-issue.**

## **8. Command Area meetings:**

d) Plans for East & South Area mtgs

NK is waiting on the PCC funding confirmation before we can plan events, book venues, etc. Once that is confirmed the meetings will be planned in more detail.

## **9. AoB**

- NK mentioned that we are likely to need co-signatures on our SNWA bank account if/when external funding is made available to us. **Action: AG to confirm that TS has been made co-signatory.**