



Newsletter

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the OCTOBER edition of our newsletter.

There is a lot going on at the moment! In this edition, you will find details on the call for volunteers to support the BT digital changeover initiative, and registration invites for two forthcoming Face to Face events.

As always, please remember to check our “news” page on our website for updated news in between newsletter editions, and if you use social media, why not visit our [Facebook page](#), follow us and give us a “like”.

In between our newsletters you can always check the news page on our website where you will find other stories and useful information updates.

Happy reading!

The Executive Committee



Neighbourhood Watch today is still a grassroots charitable movement, with local schemes run by volunteers throughout England and Wales.

[Join the movement here](#)



Have you got a story you would like to share?

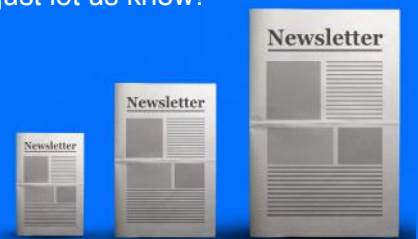
Sharing your stories help give other schemes ideas that can help communities engage more. It's not always about crime and policing - but it's always about togetherness.

Send us your story via email to the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association Comms team: comms@suffolknwa.co.uk



Thank you to all the schemes that send us their newsletters. You can send yours to comms@suffolknwa.co.uk

If you would like them uploaded to our website, just let us know!



Area Command Meetings: Your invitation

Building Neighbourhood Watch and safer communities,

Following direct feedback from our members and leaders, we have organised two face to face engagement events to effectively bring together senior Police, Neighbourhood Watch and fellow community leaders, targeted to the Eastern and Western Police Command districts. A further event for the Southern Area will be held early next year.

Eastern Event 9th October, 3–5pm

The Eastern Area Command comprises the Lowestoft and Halesworth Policing localities, served by Community Policing Areas as shown:

- E01 – Gunton, Oulton and Lothingland
- E02 – St Margarets
- E03 – Harbour
- E04 – Normanston
- E05 – Kirkley
- E06 – Pakefield and Whitton
- E07 – Carlton Colville and Kessingland
- E08 – Beccles and Worlingham
- E09 – Bungay and Wainford
- E10 – Halesworth and Southwold
- E11 – Debenham and Eye
- E12 – Framlingham and Yoxford
- E13 – Leiston, Saxmundham and Aldeburgh



For those members living within these policing areas, your attendance will be most welcomed! It will in itself help strengthen our voice with the Police and help build the partnership and resolve that we all share for safer communities.

The venue is The Old Generator Station, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY.

Our keynote speakers are: **Chief Inspector Matt Bodmer and Inspector Elizabeth Casey** providing us with an update on the progress and impact of the new Policing Model for our communities, and **Joss Mullett, local Communities Officer, East Suffolk Council**, who will give an overview of their role locally as well as district-wide regarding their community safety work. The **Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association** will also share their experience and insights to encourage existing and new Watch schemes. These can be at town or parish level, or at street(s) or a housing estate level.

Don't miss out. Please book your place via our online registration page at <https://suffolknwa.co.uk/eastern-event.php>



Area Command Meetings: Your invitation

Building Neighbourhood Watch and safer communities,

Western Event 23rd October, 3–5pm

The Western Area Command comprises the Forest Heath, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, and Sudbury & Haverhill localities, served by Community Policing Areas as shown:

W01 – Newmarket

W02 – Manor and Red Lodge

W03 – Mildenhall

W04 – Lakenheath and the Rows

W05 – Brandon

W06 – Bury Rural – North

W07 – Bury St Edmunds Town – North

W08 – Bury St Edmunds Town – South

W09 – Bury Rural – South

W10 – Haverhill Rural and Suffolk South West

W11 – Haverhill Town – North and West

W12 – Haverhill Town – South and East

W13 – Sudbury Town – South

W14 – Sudbury Town – North and East

W15 – Great Cornard

W16 – Waldingfield, Boxford and Bures

W17 – Sudbury Rural North

W18 – Mid-Suffolk – South and West

W19 – Stowmarket

W20 – Mid-Suffolk – North and East

For those members living within these policing areas, your attendance will be most welcomed! It will in itself help strengthen our voice with the Police and help build the partnership and resolve that we all share for safer communities.

The venue is The Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh, IP29 4UL.

The keynote speakers are

The Police:

Insp. Beeby (Bury St Edmunds);

Insp. Murray (Stowmarket);

Insp. Hollands (Sudbury & Haverhill);

Insp. Scott (Forest Heath),

to update us on the progress of the new Policing Model.

West Suffolk Council:

Lesley-Ann Keogh, Families and Communities Team leader.

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association.

The poster features a teal and yellow color scheme. At the top, it reads 'Building Neighbourhood Watch and safer communities across Suffolk'. Below this is the title 'Meeting Invitation' in large, bold letters. A circular logo on the right shows a group of people with the text 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH'. The central text says 'Bringing together senior Police, Neighbourhood Watch and fellow community leaders'. A yellow box contains the date and time: 'Wednesday 23 October, 2024' and 'Starting At 3:00pm'. A white box below lists the venue: 'The Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh, IP29 4UL'. At the bottom, a globe icon is followed by 'More Information' and the website 'www.suffolknwa.co.uk'. The background of the poster shows a group of people in a meeting.

Don't miss out. Please book your place via our online registration page at <https://suffolknwa.co.uk/western-event.php>



National Neighbourhood Watch Network Crime and Community Conference 2024

This year's conference took place in Manchester at the Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel in Portland Street on the 23rd September.

The theme of the Conference was 'Ahead of the Curve', which focused on a range of emerging crime prevention topics and trends through expert speakers.

The conference rounded off proceedings with a **Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony.**

Huge congratulations are in order to **Mark Smith**, an Area Coordinator for Suffolk covering the Community Policing Area W16 - Waldingfield, Boxford and Bures.

Mark was nominated by the residents of Little Cornard, and was one of the shortlisted nominees.

There were around 10 shortlisted nominations for each category, so with almost 400 nominations, this was no mean feat.

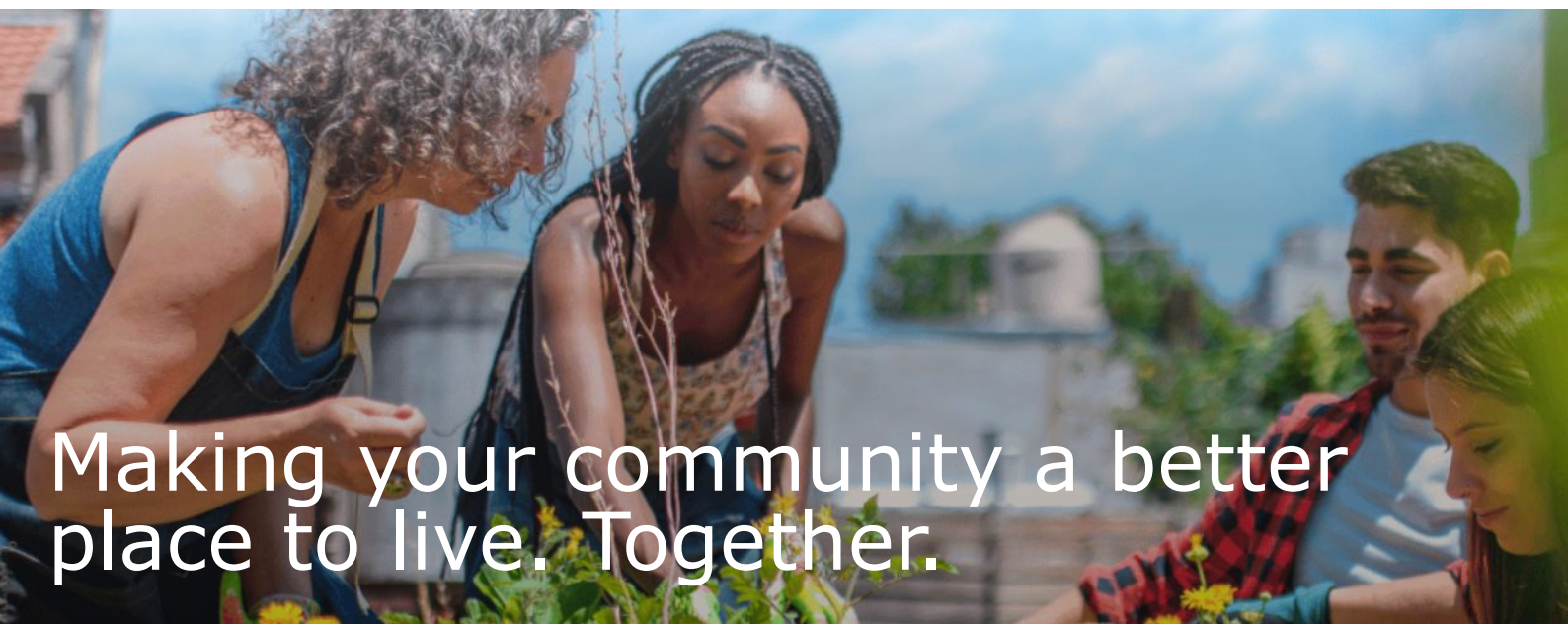


One of the panel of judges, Sue Pillar-Lea (Trustee, Vice-Chair of NWN), said

“As a shortlisted nominee, you can be extremely proud of your achievement. You have given your time, energy and commitment to help others and make a difference to people's lives.

Thank you so much for your work and very many congratulations.”

WELL DONE MARK!



Making your community a better place to live. Together.



Insurance Fraud Bureau: Ghost Broking awareness campaign



Did you know?

UK insurers reported a 6% rise in Ghost Broking activity last year and this increase is expected to continue as financial pressures loom.

A Ghost Broker is the term used to describe a fraudster who pretends to be an Insurance Broker, in order to sell too-good-to-be true motor insurance deals to the unsuspecting public.

They frequently carry out their scams on popular social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat, mainly targeting young adults and new drivers who struggle to afford insurance.

There are two distinct ways that Ghost Brokers operate: • They will sell a photoshopped document that is made to look like a genuine insurance policy. • They will steal personal details of an individual - such as an older more experienced driver who is likely to get cheaper motor insurance – to take out a policy in their name and sell-it on at profit in another person’s name.

Each year, the IFB uncovers as many as 50,000 fraudulent motor insurance policies with thousands of these linked to Ghost Broking activity.

As the cost-of-living crisis continues, it is feared Ghost Broking activity will continue rising unless more is done to alert people to the issue.

The impact

Not only are victims of Ghost Broking scams left out of pocket, but they could unwittingly be prosecuted for driving without valid insurance which comes with a £300 fine, six licence points, and the vehicle in question can be seized. One in three seized uninsured vehicles are crushed.

Ghost Brokers pose a serious cyber threat as they steal personal information to facilitate their scams. Insurance scams also add costs to everyone else’s premiums.

Detected insurance fraud of all types, costs the UK economy over £2 billion each year.



ONLY ONE IN TEN
adults in the UK have heard of Ghost Broking

SPOT THE SIGNS ifb Insurance Fraud Bureau
Source: YouGov 2024

Less than one in ten
parents of a 17 to 18 year old had heard of Ghost Broking

SPOT THE SIGNS ifb Insurance Fraud Bureau
Source: YouGov 2024

ONE IN FIVE
adults aged 18-24 has shopped for an insurance deal on social media

SPOT THE SIGNS ifb Insurance Fraud Bureau
Source: YouGov 2024

<https://www.insurancefraudbureau.org/resource-hub/ghost-broking>



Neighbourhood Watch Network: Volunteer Opportunities

BT Digital Voice switchover Volunteering opportunities in your area



Neighbourhood Watch are looking for volunteers to deliver one or more awareness events in Suffolk to provide essential information around the BT Digital Voice switchover that will be happening by end of January 2027.

This will impact anyone that has a BT analogue landline but in particular the elderly, vulnerable, remote/isolated and those with little or no mobile signal/broadband connection.

Volunteers can choose to do one or more events. Two training sessions will be provided over MS Teams by BT and Neighbourhood Watch and volunteers would not be expected to have technical expertise or knowledge. Resources will be provided to support conversations.



A number of events will take place across Suffolk in preparation for the switchover. As Venues and dates are confirmed they will appear on our website at <https://suffolknwa.co.uk/bt-digital-voice.html> where you can also find more details about this volunteering opportunity.

If you have any specific questions or would like to know more, then please contact **Ros Allen**, Digital Voice Coordinator (East of England) at rosslyn.allen@ourwatch.org.uk

Action Fraud: Stay safe online

Stay safe online after £1.4 million lost from email and social media account hacking in the last year

Action Fraud is warning people to provide an extra layer of protection and enable the 2-Step Verification (2SV) option, as more than 33,600 people had their social media or email accounts hacked in the last year.

[Read more here](#)



**Keep hackers
out of your
email and social
media accounts**

Actionfraud.police.uk



Crimestoppers: County Lines

County Lines is a term used for organised illegal drug-dealing networks, usually controlled by a person using a single telephone number, or 'deal line'.

Serious organised criminals, often from big cities, recruit vulnerable children and adults, often in rural and suburban areas, as 'runners' to transport drugs and cash all over the country, often using the rail network or taxis and other private hire vehicles, so that the criminals behind it can remain detached and less likely to be detected.

Key places where county lines gangs target, approach and manipulate vulnerable young people include schools and social care spaces, street grooming and increasingly digital channels including social media, private chat apps and online gaming.

Advertising for "runners", they glamorise gang life and entice young people who might otherwise feel like they have no options for the future, once they have their attention, they coerce their victims to commit criminal acts in return for rewards.

Most victims end up feeling 'trapped' in this criminal underworld, experiencing violence, intimidations, and threats. This crime is often associated with other serious crimes such as sexual exploitation, violence, money laundering and human trafficking.



**GIVE INFORMATION 100% ANONYMOUSLY – CALL 0800 555 111
OR CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE A FORM ONLINE**

Suffolk Trading Standards



REPORT IT, HELP OTHERS! #RogueFreeSuffolk

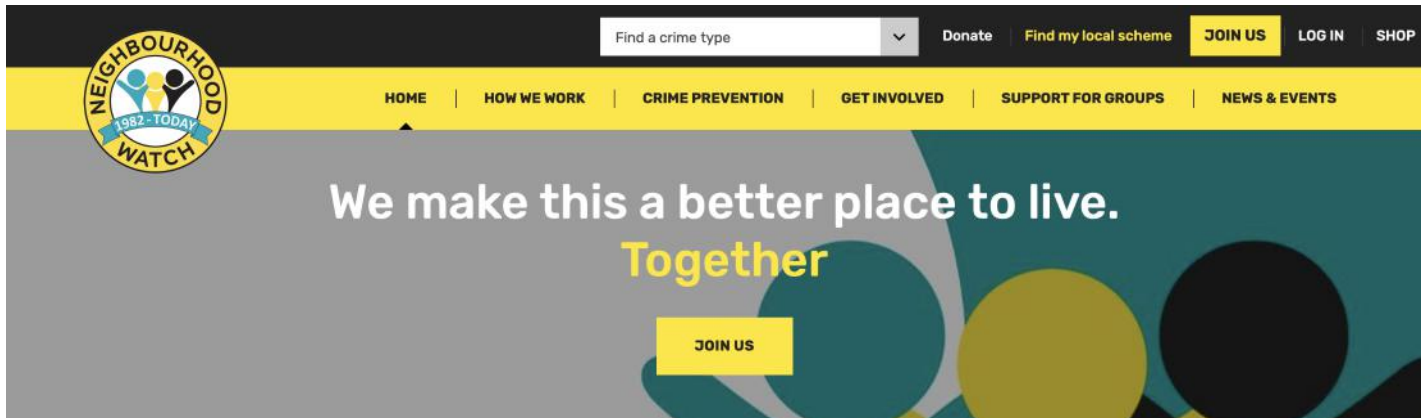
If you see a scam, an unsafe product, OR a Rogue Trader, report it via **0808 223 1133**. To find out about scams across Suffolk, [you can sign up to the Trading Standards email alert](#) on their website. Trading Standards can investigate and take court action against scammers.

By becoming a Consumer Champion you can help protect and build resilience within your local community against rogue traders and scams; and make Suffolk a safer place to live

You can also find out about [common financial scams](#) on the Financial Conduct Authority's website.



Scheme Coordinators: Registering your scheme on the national database



if you haven't already done so, we highly recommend all our scheme coordinators and their members to register individually on the national Neighbourhood Watch Network website.

We will continue to process the mapping of all schemes registered with the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) onto the National NW database. This enables the public to search for Neighbourhood Watch schemes on the national website as well as our own website.

Whilst not mandatory, we do encourage Scheme Coordinators registered with us to also register on the national database, which will enable them to "claim" their scheme on the national system.

Scheme Coordinators registered on the national database are approved and validated by the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Once registered, scheme coordinators can invite existing and future neighbours to join their scheme online, and use the built in ALERT message system as a method of engaging with their scheme members.

[Sign up to the national database here.](#)

Benefits of registering

Scheme coordinators and members can expect to receive a monthly newsletters from both the national organisation, as well as the Suffolk Association. Members can also access a range of training workshops, seminar sessions, and varying forums offered by the national organisation.

When signing up, members can also opt in to receive a range of alert messages from services such as Action Fraud, Get Safe Online, Trading Standards etc.



Our neighbours

ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN ONLINE AT

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>

