



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

*the e-newsletter for
Neighbourhood Watch supporters*

APRIL 2020

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

We hope you are all keeping well in these difficult times. More than ever, this is the time that we look out for each other. In this edition, we unforgivingly raise your awareness to some of the scams that are trying to cash in due to the coronavirus outbreak. Even if you are aware, please share with your community, as they need to be kept informed. But it's not all doom and gloom - see some of the stories from our NW schemes across the county. Thank you to those that have sent them in. Keep safe, keep well.

The Executive Committee

National Neighbourhood Watch Network

A message from **John Hayward-Cripps** | CEO

Voting members were asked in late February to vote via email on a resolution to alter the elected Officers of Neighbourhood Watch Network.

The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association were amongst the majority of voting members that responded, supporting the resolution to formally elect **Ian Bretman** as the Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Network.

David Huse has resigned as a Board Member and so will not be taking up the role of Deputy Chair. The Board will look to fill this role in due course (which may not be until the current worldwide Covid-19 crisis has abated).



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

Planning Consent for NW street signs

Suffolk Highways and Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association have an agreed planning consent process in place, allowing Neighbourhood Watch schemes to apply to erect new NW signs for their scheme.

To help schemes understand the process, we have produced a simple guide, which sets out all the criteria required to make a successful application.

Suffolk Highways will only accept applications processed through the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association, as this enables us to officially validate each scheme and the respective application.



All the information required to make an application for new NW signs can be found [here on our website](#), including links to enable you to submit your application online.

Please note: Where more than one sign is required, only a single application is necessary - but please remember that a separate sketch plan is required for each sign.



Event Programme

Not surprisingly, our event programme has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. But we still need to plan for the future, so looking ahead, feel free to suggest any events that may be in the pipeline, and local to your area that might benefit the presence of a NW stand, or even one of our gazebos. Just drop us the details in an [email](#).

Sadly, the two Community Engagement Events we promoted last month have also been cancelled.

**THE NEIGHBOURS
WILL BE TALKING**
RURAL CRIME STREET MEET
BACTON
9th May 2020 10.00am - 12.00noon
Bacton Village Hall
Consider setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the community? Get the details here?
Join us for a chance to discuss your Community Engagement Event?

CANCELLED

CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest crime prevention movement in England and Wales with schemes covering over two million households.

Our aim is to bring neighbours together to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen.

Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live.

**THE NEIGHBOURS
WILL BE TALKING**
CRIME PREVENTION POP-IN
BUNGAY
18th April 2020 09.00am - 12.00noon
Bungay Town Council Offices
Consider setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the community? Get the details here?
Join us for a chance to discuss your Community Engagement Event?

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Promote your Website or Social Media presence

We have noticed that lots of NW schemes in Suffolk have either a website and/or a social media account. We are also aware that some schemes are linked in to their parish council or local community website.

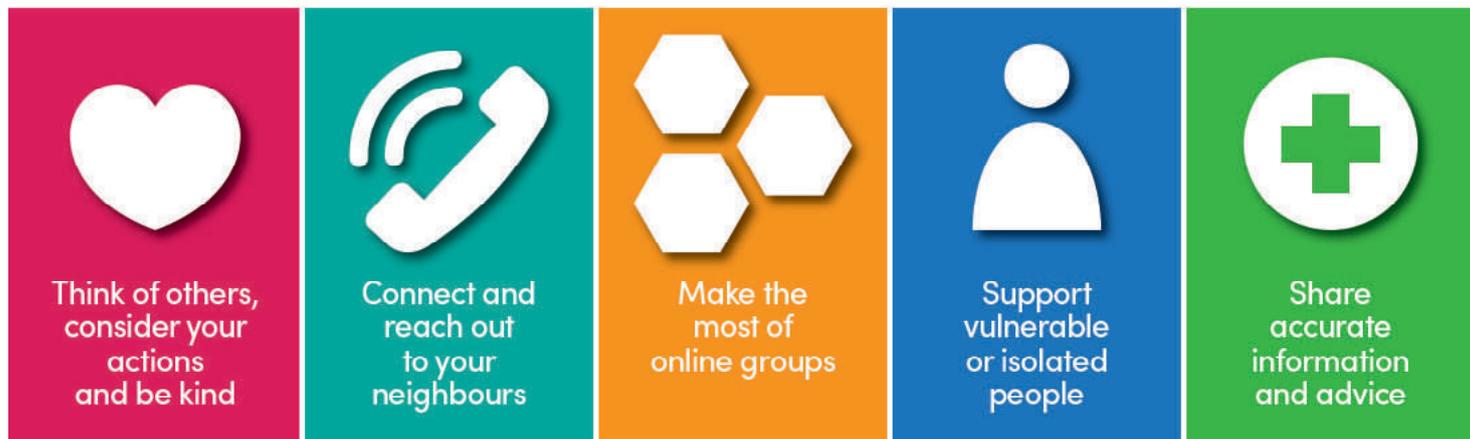
If you would like our website to provide the link to your scheme social media or community website please [send us the details](#).



Community Response to COVID-19

COMMUNITY ACTION RESPONSE: COVID-19

5 things you can do to make a positive difference in your community



As a result of the crisis, numerous groups and local charitable causes have sprung up and local co-ordination is underway with Suffolk County Council (SCC), District, Town & Parish Councils. You would also have seen the recent communication we sent out, pointing you to the group [Covid Mutual Aid UK](#), as well as a suggestion to use the NW "[calling card](#)".

Similarly, other groups are also self-mobilising from social media sites and a number are using various APPS to help them co-ordinate volunteers. As a result, it is likely a number of these groups will not be linked in with known organisations.

Most of these groups are genuine and critical to the response. However, adopting an air of caution is good practice and the guidance and advice given should be regularly reviewed.

Volunteers **MUST NOT** be permitted or request entry into homes. ID should be sought where necessary and online payments should be made in advance to the vendor **NOT** to the volunteer direct.

HOME, BUT NOT ALONE
Connecting volunteers and vulnerable people in Suffolk

DOWNLOAD
Tribe - Volunteer
APP TO VOLUNTEER



Need a volunteer's help? Call: **0800 876 6926**

#COVID19SUFFOLK

SCC have launched the **TRIBE APP** with a Countywide contact number for vulnerable people who require assistance.

The number is **0800 876 6926**

More information is available via the SCC [website](#) including links to download the app.

Inspiration for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes



Community Coffee Morning

One local neighbourhood community have kept their spirits high in these challenging times, as they carry on with their usual “get togethers”, except this time from the comfort of their own front lawns (weather permitting).

Members of **Holyrood Close NW** in Ipswich, are determined to carry on engaging with each other, whilst at the same time maintaining social distancing. This particularly help them reduce any feelings of loneliness and anxiety through these times of uncertainty.

Residents take their own tea or coffee, and a chair, and make their way out to the front, rather than the back garden - all at a set meeting time.

They have also set up a phone support system to help them provide assistance for shopping / prescriptions and the like.

Felixstowe Hanging Coffee



The concept is very simple, anyone can go into a partaking cafe and purchase an extra coffee or hot drink and leave it ‘hanging’. The payment for this drink goes into a pot behind the counter, and then when someone in need asks for a hanging coffee it is paid for from the pot. Anyone in need can ask for a hanging coffee - it could be a pensioner, job seeker, single parent or homeless person, there are countless reason why someone may be in need at any given time. There should be no stigma around asking for a hanging coffee, it is simply the community paying for it as an act of kindness.

[Facebook link](#)

We'll drink to that!

CORONAVIRUS STAY HOME PROTECT THE NHS SAVE LIVES



www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk



Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

#Coronavirus
#ScamAware



Contact

For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS

Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams, visit:

FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Be aware of doorstep callers claiming to be working for the NHS, stating that they are able to provide a Covid-19 vaccine.

Scammers will undoubtedly take advantage of the current situation, whether it is to extort money, or to gain access to your home. Remember, there is currently NO vaccine available to help fight the coronavirus. Please continue to follow the advice given by Government on how to protect yourself and your loved ones <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>



Advice from Trading Standards is:

- Never sign or agree to anything on the spot.
- Check the trader's identity. Always ask for an identity card and look up the organisation to check the salesperson's identity is genuine.
- Be wary of special offers or warnings about your home or your health.
- Read the small print. Always read documents carefully before you sign them and make sure you fully understand your rights.
- Double check the facts.
- Talk to someone you trust for a second opinion.
- Trust your instincts. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Please report any cold callers to Trading Standards via 0808 223 1133.



There have been reports in Suffolk of people pretending to be from the British Red Cross, knocking on the doors of elderly and vulnerable individuals, taking their money to do shopping – and then not returning.

There have also been reports that cards are being put through doors with the British Red Cross branding, offering help.

The British Red Cross are NOT utilising a postcard system currently in connection to Covid-19 and any distribution of these cards locally needs to be reported to us via 0808 223 1133.

Please share and make sure your neighbours and any elderly/vulnerable relatives are aware.



SUFFOLK TRADING STANDARDS

Trading Standards have received a number of queries about individuals and businesses exploiting the current Covid-19 situation and selling products at very high prices.

Although this does not breach any regulations that Trading Standards cover, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) are keen to receive reports.



The CMA wants to ensure that traders do not exploit the current situation to take advantage of people.

Retailers are urged to behave responsibly throughout the coronavirus outbreak and not to make misleading claims or charge vastly inflated prices.

Members of the public are also reminded that these obligations may apply to them too if they resell goods, for example on online marketplaces.

To report a retailer or individual, you can do so by emailing general.enquiries@cma.gov.uk with the following information:

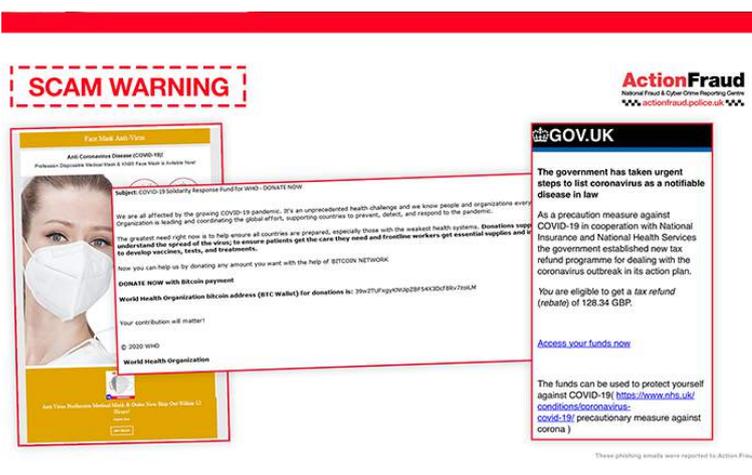
- your contact details
- the business/individual you have concerns about and a description of the issue along with any supporting evidence.

Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

Coronavirus-related fraud reports increase by 400% in March



A number of **#COVID19** related **phishing emails** have been reported to Action Fraud. These emails attempt to trick you into opening malicious attachments which could lead to fraudsters stealing your personal information, logins, passwords, or banking details.

[Read more](#)

Protect yourself

1) Watch out for scam messages

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

2) Shopping online:

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely>

3) Protect your devices from the latest threats:

Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.

For information on how to update your devices, please visit:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/securing-your-devices>

For the latest health information and advice about COVID-19 please visit the [NHS website](#).

PATLOCK



PROTECTING THE THINGS AND PEOPLE YOU LOVE

Buy the Neighbourhood Watch Patlock at our exclusive discounted rate of £42.50* (including VAT and delivery)

*£64.00 at www.patlock.co.uk



  @suffolknw

 @snwassoc