

**Minutes of the North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, (NWNHWA)**  
**Meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11th January 2018 at**  
**Polesworth Tithe Barn, Polesworth**

**[Web site; nwnhw.co.uk](http://www.nwnhw.co.uk)**

**[Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWNHW/](https://www.facebook.com/NWNHW/)**

**[Twitter: https://twitter.com/NorthWarksNHW](https://twitter.com/NorthWarksNHW)**

**1. Present**

Tony Hardman (Kingsbury) (Chairman) TH	Phill Bent (Kingsbury) (Treas) PB
Colin Cartwright (Austrey),(Secretary) CPC	Simeon Hodson NW SNT
Carol Cotterill (Shuttington/Rural Watch) CC	Mitch Oakley Sergeant NW SNT
Keith Woodward (N.Whitacre), (Vice Chair) KM	Laurence Hanson
David Atkin (Mancetter) DA	Jill Mawson (Ridge Lane) JM;

**2. Apologies**

Sue/Steve Kelley (Water Orton) SK	Allan Tabbinor (Wood End) (Ass't Treas_ AT
WCC: Martyn Stephens MS; Paul Gudger PG	Brian/Beryl Grix(Austrey)
Adam Farrell	Gary Shepheard
Dawn Cartledge	

**3. Open Forum**

- *Roadshows*  
Tony is looking at roadshow dates for 2018 and will publish them early 2018. This year's events should be similar to 2017. We will look at attending the Atherstone Dickens Event.  
Tony to forward dates to Mitch Oakley (SNT) and Robert Beggs as soon as they are available. We hope that the local SNT's will be able to support us at our future roadshow events as we believe the non-attendance will be much missed by the local communities. The Police need to ensure community events have the appropriate insurances in place and meet the Alliance's criteria otherwise they may not be able to support certain events. We would like to thank the local SNT's, Warwickshire PCC, Rural Watch and our volunteers for all their support at roadshows during 2017.
- *Cyber Crime* TH emphasised that we need to continue having a strong focus on Cyber Crime and on preventative advice in this subject in future as a growing area of criminal activity.
- *DBS checks* NWNHW All core members have completed DBS checks.
- *Safeguarding Policies* NWNHW Safeguarding Policies will be reviewed and updated if necessary.
- *Core Security Products* Minder Signal Blockers to be purchased – They are a protective storage pouch. Pouch protects against remote entry / keyless entry signals being stolen from Key Fobs. 'Relay' theft is on the rise. This can occur even when the car key is inside your house. We will review obsolete stock. We have been continuing our support of free items enabling residents to property mark their property and protect themselves from purse snatching. These free items have been funded by the PCC..
- *'A' Boards* New 'A' Board displays have been purchased and will be used to display Cyber Crime messages and raise awareness of Cyber Crime at our roadshow events.
- *Community Messaging Service* – Warwickshire Police working on improvements to the CMS messaging system..
- *Area Forums* Area Forums have been stopped and a new format will hopefully be introduced to replace the existing forums that currently have low attendances.
- *NHW Support* NWNHW would like to offer our assistance to the SNT's across North Warwickshire when attending events in local communities. It is hoped that our attendance will greatly improve the link between NHW co-ordinators and also improve ongoing support across the NW area.
- *PCC* Grant application submitted to the PCC on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Quarterly report has been sent to the PCC
- No other items raised additional to those reported below

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting** Minutes Adopted as presented.

**5. Ongoing Background/Action Points**

***Datalink*** These continue to be popular at the Road Shows and have been widely distributed. Sufficient stock at present for Roadshows.

***Smart Water*** We have a couple of out of date Smart Water kits (Dated Feb 2017). Smart Water has confirmed that they are still usable. We will make these available to those affected by recent crime through the SNT teams or other vulnerable residents/good causes.

New supplies of Smart Water are available via a voucher scheme. The new kits will property mark up to 30 items and are now available through NWNHW at a cost of £10 each..

**Guidance notes on erection criteria for street signs and application forms for completion and submission to the Highway authority are available on request from Core Group members.**

Coordinators are reminded that there is a strict procedure for providing Smart Water to individuals that involves them in opening the SW and marking an item in the recipient's house and completing the return form that is to be taken away and returned to the company separately. This is necessary to counter the potential for unscrupulous resale of the SW on the likes of Ebay that has happened elsewhere. (SW can cost much more if bought on the open market).

**Note: New supplies will cost much more from the current supplier. Warwickshire/West Mercia Police are working together to look at alternatives. We are also looking at alternatives and need to find our next source of supply**

**Horse Watch** The group continues to do well with its membership continuing to grow. They have their own alert system that people can join by just registering their email address on their website: [www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk).

A number of shows and events have been attended by the Horse Watch Ambassadors offering tack marking and crime prevention advice.

Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Carol Cotterill, the Chair at:

[warwickshirehorsewatch@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:warwickshirehorsewatch@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk) .

**Rural Watch** I have attended a number of events and wherever possible worked with and promoted NHW as well as the work of the Rural Crime Project.

Following incidents in the area and requests from the community a 'Drop in Evening' was arranged for the residents of Shustoke. The event had 37 people attend. The evening enabled people to chat with their local officers about any issues or concerns, get information and advice on fire prevention, learn about the work of the Rural Crime Project, receive information from the Development Officer from Warwickshire County Council and see the crime prevention equipment available from NHW.

On the 28th November we held our annual rural meeting for farmers, horse owners, rural businesses. It was held in Fillongley to provide an opportunity for local residents to visit too. It was an open evening with lots of partners providing information and advice. The Fire Service did a good talk on road safety which included not using your mobile phone and not eating or drinking whilst driving. Over 100 people attended the event.

I attended the Coleshill Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December at Coleshill Town Hall. This event was well attended by the residents of Coleshill and surrounding areas.

I am presently putting together community boxes and hope to have a trial with Austrey to provide equipment on loan for people having their property empty for a while including going on holiday, into hospital etc. It is hoped that we can link in with NHW Coordinators with this initiative. The local policing team will also have a supply of the community boxes.

Currently developing home security advice packs to target new home owners on new estates and will be working with NWNHW to help get them distributed.

To address thefts of tools from vans we have worked with the SNT to arrange for 3 locations (Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth/Dordon) to provide packs with an advice sheet and a PIR and personal alarm to use to make a noise if anyone enters the van and help if the vehicle's own system is overridden. If available NHW have offered to attend and support so if officers speak to the van owner about items such as cable alarms, padlock alarms, guardcams etc. which is great partnership working and much appreciated.

We held a successful event on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. in Polesworth and we were able to assist 24 van owners.

Carol Cotterill - Rural Crime Coordinator - North Warks.

**Wildlife Watch** Warwickshire Wildlife Watcher Scheme - The scheme was launched by the PCC in November, 2016, after Carol was approached by the Nuneaton and Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary who wanted to promote the importance of reporting wildlife crime. Six partners, including Nuneaton and Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary, Warwickshire Police, have come together to promote the reporting to 101, plus an option of reporting anything anonymously on line on the Warwickshire Rural Watch website [www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)

**Car Anti Tamper screws - Note: This is an ongoing issue to guard against in that an element of car crime is directed at stealing number plates for criminal purposes. This is an easy crime to counter by using the screws that we provide FREE. An increasing number of people are using the screws for caravan plates too.**

**Use the application form (available on line), copy and pass them around your Watch area.**

There are still cases of theft arising around the Borough but not focussed on any particular area at this time.

Tony Hardman is running the scheme throughout North Warwickshire on behalf of the force and the NW Association.

The screws can also be obtained from the police and through individual coordinators in their watch areas.

**Need supplies? - contact Tony Hardman 01827 873774 or email [aphardman@aol.com](mailto:aphardman@aol.com).**

**Liaison using the Database.** . Anyone wishing to contact coordinators in their local area should contact CPC who will forward their details to fellow local coordinators for them to respond and make contact. This procedure is necessary to comply with the Data Protection Act, as contact details cannot be freely circulated to other members without their agreement.

## **6. Police Update SNT – Mitch Oakley:**

Mitch Oakley advised that he would be retiring Mid-February and Neil Pearsall would be replacing him. Neil is currently Sergeant of Nuneaton's Safer Neighbourhood team.

*NW East* ABS at a low level and vehicle crime is steady with no spikes or increases, Drug use and drug dealing reported across the Atherstone area. Patrols of 'hotspot' areas and stop searches of known drug users and dealers where there are grounds. Police need the local communities to report issues in their area ASAP. Police finding that information is sometimes being posted on social media sites with a delay in reporting these issues direct to the Police. Police would welcome any information that will assist them in dealing with these issues. Police dealt with 2 CSE incidents before Christmas. Lauren Hughes moving to Staffs Police on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

*NW North* Trends show that the area has had a slight reduction in crime for the period June to the end of Dec. Social media is interrupting Police targeted campaigns where social media users are advising their followers that the Police are about.

*NW South* Reduction of one PCSO – Emma Beard moving to Nuneaton

The SNT will see changes from April 2018. Patrol resources will be aligned with demand, with more officers on at peak demand times, which may mean new shift patterns. The SNT will not change too much.

Cross border criminality affects our area and a lot of work is done with neighbouring forces, this includes identifying offenders and vehicle details put on ANPR to see if they are coming onto us.

Van attacks – Vehicles are being targeted and tools stolen. SNT are working with Carol to arrange events to help owners of vehicles/sole traders with packs funded by NWBC. One successful event already held in Polesworth in Dec 2017.

Message: Don't leave valuables in your car or van.

Parking issues continue to be a major problem.

Community Speedwatch. Nether Whitacre celebrated its first birthday and is the first Community Speedwatch Group to be set up in the Coleshill SNT Area. The team, made up of over 15 volunteers, is totally operated and run by the local community and they have seen a dramatic drop in speeding through the village since the scheme began back in 2016. The Community Speed Watch scheme will now be run by the Operations Planning Protective Services team who will be responsible for training. This will free up some SNT time.

Wheelie bins - Members should be careful where they site their wheelie bins as thieves have been using them as a useful tool to climb over into gardens to access properties.

Drink Drive operation commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Suspicious activity - Communities are reminded to report suspicious activity as this helps build intelligence which in turn helps us fight crime in our local communities.

If you think something in your area is suspicious, it probably is. You will know your area and its usual activity, and if you think something is odd, out of place and suspicious, we need to hear from you ASAP. Call 101.

Members thanked Mitch for the excellent feedback.

## **7. Treasurers Report NWN Account Balance as at 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018: £4836.81 PCC Account Balance -£1584.89**

The PCC funding is allocated/spent in accordance with the basis set out in the submitted bid.

So far this year, with restocking our core security items, we are now in a negative balance on our PCC account. It is expected that income from the sale of security items will be put back into the PCC account during the course of the year.

**8. County WNW - National Neighbourhood Watch changes are due soon.** These were discussed at the December meeting. Changes may require all co-ordinators to be on a National Data Base but this is not being received well with local NHW groups.

## **9. SIG Crime and Disorder Special Interest Group**

- Patrick Davey appointed as the new Community Safety Lead Councillor.
- Parking Issues - Insufficient Police resources to respond to the ongoing parking issues across North Warwickshire.
- Speeding Issues - Local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are being encouraged to recruit volunteers to run Community Speed Watch schemes in their local community.
- Hate Crime – As the statistics have changed there is an increase in recorded crime. Bullying is now considered to be a hate crime
- Living in Warwickshire Report – Following a recent survey that was completed by residents in Warwickshire, fear of crime is high and we will try to engage with residents through our roadshows/social media to allay those fears and give good practical advice on how to make their homes safer by taking simple steps.

- Arson – In the light of the HS2 compulsory purchases of buildings, there has been a small increase in incidents of arson. Please report any suspicious activity using the 101 service or 999 if an incident is in progress
- Fly Tipping – Since the closure of the Daw Mill Colliery, it has been noticed that fly tipping is a problem in this area and generally across North Warwickshire. Report any fly tipping to 101. If you see fly tipping in progress, try to take some pictures and report it to the Police immediately.  
Residents need to ensure that they use registered Waste companies as individuals are responsible if they use a contractor who then fly tips the waste. When giving scrap to scrap collectors, check that they have a Waste Carriers License, as if they fly tip it, it is your responsibility. If you are unsure you can take a note of the license plate number and report it to the Police who can check if they are licensed.

**10. AOB**

- Tony to attend a GDPR seminar in February. We need to ensure we comply with the new legislation.

The meeting Closed at 9.30 pm

**Signed Chairman:**

**Date:**