



Horsham District Neighbourhood Watch Association (HDNHW)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday 03 September, 2018 at 7.15pm

Ashington Community Centre, Foster Lane, Ashington RH20 3PG

Web: <http://horshamnhw.btck.co.uk>

Email- horshamnhw@gmail.com

Attendees:

*Andrew Moffat– Chairman

*Tony George – Junior NHW

Bunty George– Junior NHW

*Arthur Carden – Liaison officer

*Michael Neale- AC Southwater

*Trisha Lane – Area Coordinator/JNHW

*Barrie Lane – Area Coordinator/JNHW

*Pauline Kentell- Area Coordinator Upper Beeding

Bryony Sparks- Ashington Warden

Roger Noel- AC Woodmancote

Lucy Hallett- Horsham Town Unparished Warden

Greg Charman- HDC Community Safety Partnership

Carol Boniface- Street Coordinator and Pulborough Warden

Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter- Sussex Police (Prevention Team)

*Marc Bryant- Vice Chair and Coordinator Horsham Trafalgar and Warnham

***Committee Members**

*Ken Broomfield – Secretary & Street Coord

*Martin Bruton – Street Coordinator

*Shirley Mitchell- AC Henfield

* Nicky Fuller – Minutes Secretary

*Steve Guzy - Treasurer

Jackie Reader- Street Coordinator

Gill Muncey- AC Steyning

Kate Rowbottom- HDC Deputy Chair

Paul Conroy- Steyning Warden

Mary Irons- Street Coordinator

Jackie Dockreay- Street Coordinator

1. Welcome and Agenda, logistics etc – Ken Broomfield (Secretary)

- Welcome to all and housekeeping
- Change to order for agenda

2. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks - Andrew Moffat (Chairman)

- Special opening remarks and welcome to all including: Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter, Deputy Chair for Horsham District Council- Kate Rowbottom, Community Safety Partnership Contact for

3. Apologies for absence – Ken Broomfield

- John Wright, Brian Jacobs, Derek Pratt, Penny Groome, Diane Morrison.

4. Guest Speakers

a) Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter, Sussex Police (Prevention Team)

- The former Neighbourhood Policing Team has been working as The Prevention Team as a hub covering: Adur, Worthing and Horsham for a year now.
- The Prevention Team have Monday meetings to identify threats and risks and then prioritise accordingly. They put the resources where they are needed most.
- Operation Blackout was a significant priority at the beginning of the year but the police are on top of it now.
- Cuckooing is also a big issue, nationally, as well as locally. More people are now coming forward and so victims are being identified and supported sooner. This means more court cases.
- Rural crime is on the decline and PC Erica Baxter is leading a rural crime initiative to support this.
- Operation Minster: Led by Chief Inspector Miles Ockwell and Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter. They deploy teams to specific areas on Minster days for reassurance to the public and for a focussed approach.
- Teams are sent to prioritised community events for police presence.
- Partnership between: NHW, Wardens, partners and Police is key. Operations Tulip and Tinsel are examples where the link between the different groups works very well.
- A plea was made to report any intelligence no matter how small to the police. It could be part of a much bigger picture and therefore vital to police intelligence.

Questions for Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter

Q. Carol Boniface- Are scams under Operation Signature on the rise?

A. Not on the rise: just never gone away. Scams change so quickly and get more sophisticated.

Q. Mary Irons- Expressed concern that there are lots of vulnerable people in communities who need support but how do we find them?

A. Make sure that you are identifiable so that people know that you are offering genuine support and be nosy.

Q. Michael Neale- Questioned the reliability of 101. He used an example where someone had spent 30 minutes on the phone to 101 about a potential break in at a scout hut. The caller then called 999 but they didn't want to know.

A. If anyone ever witnesses a break-in then call 999 straight away. It will be graded. Sarah said that she knows 101 have had a big recruitment drive and have cohorts of operators but can't give a hugely positive answer at this stage.

Q. Ken Broomfield- How do the police distribute information/communicate information and intelligence between themselves and NH Wardens.

A. Sarah said that there is a communicative connection with Wardens, NHW and the police and that the communication flow is better than ever but that it could still be even better.

Pauline Kentell said that in Upper Beeding there is an excellent relationship with the Wardens and that communication is good both ways.

Andrew Moffat asked the Wardens to share any information with NHW so that NHW can flood it to all Area/Street Coordinators.

b) Councillor Kate Rowbottom, Vice Chair of Horsham District Council

- Kate opened her presentation by saying, "I must take the opportunity before going further to thank Neighbourhood Watch and the many of you here tonight who volunteer your time in support of the aims of the organisation. The District Council and other statutory service providers are very aware of the contribution made and all the good work that goes on locally."

Questions were given to Kate Rowbottom in advance of the meeting. The following summarises the address.

- **Question 1 - What action does HDC takes to assist the Police and NHW?**
 - o It is important to state up front that HDC deal with Community Safety in a partnership approach rather than in isolation. While we have a dedicated Community Safety Team, we do not work alone and have a strong history of collaborative working.
 - o All policies, strategies, plans and budgets will need to be considered from the standpoint of their potential contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder." For the District Council, this is a key cornerstone of our corporate plan and is relevant to all departments.
- **Question 2: What does HDC do to combat criminality?**
 - o The 2018/19 priorities include: Road Safety, Vulnerable People and County Lines Drug Dealing, each of which has a detailed action plan to lead and support the activity being delivered.
- **Question 3:**
How seriously does HDC regard crime, not least given the rise in population within the District?
 - o Horsham District Council takes crime and disorder extremely seriously and we incorporate community safety into our service plans, consider the impact of decisions upon crime and disorder when considering planning applications and decision making on policy, plans and priorities.
 - o The increase in our population will pose challenges for us as resources are further stretched, however we are also influencing the way that neighbourhoods are put together so that some crime can be designed out through form and structure.
- **Question 4: What budget it sets aside in support of the agenda?**
 - o This totals around £40k and in addition the District Council invests considerable funds totalling around £500k annually for community safety functions which include staffing costs, project support, running the CCTV network and indeed providing support to the voluntary sector via grant funding as the Horsham District Neighbourhood Watch Association have previously benefitted from. Around half of this funding is however recovered from contributing partners.
- **Question 5: Is there an equal focus on rural areas, in addition to Horsham itself?**
 - o Absolutely. We are acutely aware that our services are District wide and the investment in staff time and resources is spread widely, reflected for example via our Neighbourhood Warden Service. There is always something of a balance to strike between Horsham town and the parishes and clearly the partnership must put its resources where they will be most impactful. As such, it might appear that Horsham Town gets a lot of resource but equally this the unparished areas have a lot more crime. However, we know how impactful rural

crime can be on communities and as such many of our projects aim to target such issues.

- In addition to answering the advanced questions, the following was discussed:

- The National College of Policing research suggests that for every 100 'potential' crimes, 26 are prevented by the presence of an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Overlay this statistic with another from the British Crime Survey which states that "In the UK, 27% of households are members of Neighbourhood Watch" and it becomes clear what a significant impact members have on reducing crime and disorder in local communities.
- The National College of Policing research also found that there are no statistical variations in the effectiveness of a watch scheme relating to size and findings suggest that whilst large schemes have more 'eyes and ears', smaller schemes are often better connected and more familiar with local behaviours and general comings and goings in their community.

- Kate summarised by saying- "I hope that I have demonstrated that HDC plays an important an active role in improving community safety for local people. We can only do this however by working in partnership and Neighbourhood Watch is considered a key partner in our collective efforts to improve safety and reduce crime and disorder. As I said during my introduction, we are very thankful for the efforts of Neighbourhood Watch and will continue to do all that we can to support the organisation.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (Sept'17) and Matters Arising

- Minutes of the previous AGM Minutes were accepted and signed by Andrew Moffat (Proposed: Martin Bruton, Seconded: Michael Neale)

6. Nominations to, and election of, the Committee - including the Executive Officers of the Committee-

- (i) Chair - Andrew Moffat
- (ii) Vice Chair - Marc Bryant
- (iii) Treasurer - Steve Guzy
- (iv) Secretary - Ken Broomfield
- (v) Minutes Secretary - Nicky Fuller

- The proposal to elect Committee Members and Officers for a year en-masse was accepted (Proposed: Martin Bruton, Seconded: Tony George).

- New nominations to the committee:

- Jackie Reader (Proposed: Arthur Carden, Seconded: Martin Bruton).
- Roger Noel (Proposed: Arthur Carden, Seconded: Jackie Reader).

7. Review, approval of the Association's accounts for the Financial Year ended 31.08.18

- Steve Guzy presented an overview of the HDNHW accounts for the period 01 September 2017 to 31 August 2018. Current bottom-line balance is £1,086.20

- Stan Clarke has not had a chance to audit the accounts because of the meeting date. Ken Broomfield suggested that the committee formally approve the audited accounts at the Q4 HDNHW meeting in November.

- Stock value is no longer included in the account totals as it is now considered to have depreciated to £0. Any remaining stock will be used in tombola's and similar publicity actions at NHW events.
- Ken Broomfield said that highlighter pens and slap bands will be used as sellers.

8. Approval of an auditor of the accounts for the next financial year, 01.09.18 to 31.08.19

- Stan Clarke was proposed as auditor for the accounts 2018-2019. (Proposed: Andrew Moffat, Seconded: Ken Broomfield).

9. Any Other Business

- Next Committee Meeting of HDNHW – Monday 26th November, Southwater Leisure Centre, 7.15pm

10. Date for the next AGM

- Steve Guzy requested that the AGM in September 2019 be a week or two later to allow time for the accounts to be audited.
- AGM 2019- Monday 16th September 2019. Venue TBA

11. Thanks and closing remarks – Chairman

- Andrew thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and he thanked the guest speakers individually.
- He thanked the committee for everything they do for NHW. He thanked some members individually. He said that NHW Horsham District should be proud of what it has achieved this year but he stressed that NHW need to expand and recruit more Street Coordinators.
- Tony George thanked Andrew for his dedication and hard work in his role as Chair.

Meeting Closed - 9.26pm