



Horsham District Neighbourhood Watch Association (HDNHWA)

**Annual General Meeting**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Billingshurst Community and Conference Centre, Roman Way,  
Billingshurst RH14 9QW

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

Email- [horshamnhw@gmail.com](mailto:horshamnhw@gmail.com)

**Attendees:**\* Committee Member

\*Ken Broomfield (KB) – Secretary and Street Coordinator

\*Andrew Moffat (AM) – Chairman

\*Trisha Lane (TL) Area Coordinator, Highwood and Denne (Horsham)

\*Nicky Fuller (NF) – Minutes Secretary

\*Jackie Reader (JR) - Street Coordinator

\*Tony George (TG) – Junior NHW Coordinator

\*Barrie Lane (BL) Area Coordinator, Highwood and Denne (Horsham)

John Hayward-Cripps, (JHC) - CEO of National Neighbourhood Watch Network

Inspector Jim Loader, (JL) - Prevention Team, Sussex Police (Horsham)

Barry Faust (BF) - Neighbourhood Warden, Billingshurst

\*Steve Guzy (SG) – Treasurer and Area Coordinator, Billingshurst

\*Pauline Kentell (PK) - Area Coordinator, Upper Beeding

Denise Acraman (DA) – Street Coordinator

Graeme Acraman (GA) – Member of the public

\*Marc Bryant- (MBry) Vice Chair and Area Coordinator, Horsham Trafalgar and Warnham

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Andrew Moffat (AM) thanked everyone for attending, in particular John Hayward-Cripps (JHC), CEO of National Neighbourhood Watch Network and Inspector Jim Loader (JL) from Sussex Police; Jim is the **acting** replacement for Chief Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter until a permanent replacement is announced. Sarah was recently promoted to District Commander for Horsham, Worthing and Adur.

## 2. Logistics for the AGM

- Ken Broomfield (KB) introduced himself and also thanked JHC and JL for attending before explaining the format for the AGM.

## 3. Chairman's Remarks

- AM spoke about the role and importance of Neighbourhood Watch in the community.

## 4. Apologies for Absence

\*Mary Irons; \*Arthur Carden; \*Martin Bruton; \*Diane Morrison; \*Andrew Morgan; \*Paula Morgan; \*Roger Noel; \*Michael Neale; John Wright; Derek Pratt; Terry Rickards; Gill Muncey; Philippa McBean; Sandy Henney; Glyn Thomas

## 5. Guest Speakers

### A. John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of National Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN)

- NWN is roughly 12 months into a 3-year transformation strategy
- The focus of the first 18 months is providing tools to support NHW members
- The second 18 month period will focus on recruitment, paid and unpaid, and engagement in National Campaigns, e.g. cyber security, as well as focusing on support for higher-crime rate areas
- What has been done in the 1<sup>st</sup> year:
  - i. Self-Assessment Tool - this has been introduced to help areas focus on what is most important for them.
  - ii. Develop and improve IT, specifically a new website and a simpler member registration process; it is hoped these will be in place by the end of 2019.
  - iii. Innovation – NWN has created a database to share good practices across the country.
  - iv. Developed a tool to make raising funds easier for local organisations.
- The focus for the next 18 months will include making NHW more attractive and encouraging to everyone, especially younger age groups. Years ago communities were stronger as neighbours had more contact with each other, i.e. were more neighbourly.

NWN's Vision:

- a. Know your neighbour.
  - b. Be neighbourly.
  - c. Be active in the community.
- About 2/3rds of people asked about the vision said it resonated with them; therefore this simple vision will be the focus for the next 18 months.

- JHC hopes that this change will attract more people to join NWN and encourage existing and new members to become more involved.

#### Questions:-

- Steve Guzy (SG) asked for clarification about those asked for their views of the vision; if the vision resonates with them then why haven't they joined NHW?
  - JHC replied that 20% of those spoken to hadn't been asked to join; he also said that people need to be asked in a different way and change the culture.
- SG suggested that guidance on how to approach people would be helpful
  - JHC replied that the intention is to give guidance and to make it part of what NHW does. He said NHW members are its greatest strength and if every member encouraged one person to join NHW, it would make a huge difference. NHW is not about certain twitchers and older people, it's about being inclusive and encouraging to all age groups in our communities. Trish Lane (TL) said that they ask for member's ideas and that helps with the relationships in the area.
- Pauline Kentell (PK) asked if the idea is to offer advice to existing Coordinators; she was concerned about the low number of people who attend meetings. We must encourage more people to attend and get involved.
  - JHC said that the messages need to be simple and easy to implement.
- AM asked if NHW has a measurable beneficial effect on communities.
  - JHC replied that measurement tools show NHW is having a positive, beneficial effect in communities.
  - Jim Loader (JL) said that, in general, community engagement does help.
- SG asked if there is likely to be an image change for NHW.
  - JHC replied that 90% of the population are familiar with the NHW logo and, in his opinion, would be risky to change it. He thinks NHW needs to be more flexible in how it brands itself, e.g. use strap lines such as "communities that care" in conjunction with the logo.
- Graeme Acraman (GA) asked if there is something NHW could do to encourage younger people to get involved; he asked if we have focus groups for this.
  - JHC said that they want to make a position for younger persons to come on board and spread the message to their peers and younger age groups.
- PK said that she had received a lovely, positive message from a member in her area saying that they appreciated the messages that keep them safe; PK also said that she thinks much of what NHW does is simply "quietly getting on with it".
- AM and Marc Bryant (MBry) said that that on many occasions, people don't get involved with NHW until a crime is committed against them.
- MBry asked if there had been any media releases informing people about NHW.
  - JHC replied that NWN is looking at additional funds for this.

- JHC reiterated his point that it is all about simple messages to convey the importance of being part of NHW.

## **B. Inspector Jim Loader, Sussex Police - Prevention Team (Horsham)**

- JL is the Acting Inspector covering Horsham and will only be in post until a permanent replacement is found.
- JL stated that crime has increased in Horsham District; some more serious crimes are resource-intensive but only affect a small part of the community. The Police are very mindful about which crimes they target and prioritise.

### Statistics:-

- Thefts from vehicles – up from 300 to 371 in 12 months; an ongoing trend in Horsham District with many victims.
- Hate crime - up from 200 to 240, of which 27 were race-related.
- Violent crime – up by 444 to 2,500. Horsham and Southwater particularly affected, especially with a number of youth related incidents during the school summer holidays.
- A decrease in the number of Nuisance and Environment ASBO incidents; however the number of Personal ASBO incidents has risen - these are often related to neighbour disputes.
- SG said that the Police are in a no-win situation as crime has increased over the years yet the number of Police officers has dropped; JL said that the Police have to prioritise what they deal with.
- SG suggested that the Police communicate with NHW and the public to explain how they work. JL said that the Police try to do this in various ways, but any other suggestions would be welcome.
- TL asked if people are frightened to report some of these crimes. TL also said that some of the language used by children in her area is appalling and that people have been intimidated; JL said that this is a general problem; new legislation for dealing with minors is being tested by the Police, but cannot be used for under 16s. The parents of offending children can be held to account and punished for their children's misdemeanours – which is entirely appropriate.
- AM asked when the legislation was introduced; JL replied 2017; there are Police Officers trained in how to enforce it; it needs to be 100% watertight when enforced in order to make a difference going forward.
- JL said that when there is a particular issue they do try to publicise the issue/s as well.

- PK said that the Neighbourhood Wardens have been very helpful in their area. AM agreed that since the Wardens have been in place, it has made a huge difference to communities.
- TL said that one of the Horsham Town Centre Wardens has visited to offer advice on how to support their community; they have also sent their members information.
- AM said that TL and BL are model coordinators.
- AM said that the Wardens know what is going on in their patches – Billingshurst Warden Barry Faust (BF) agreed.
- Operation Minster is about being out and visible in communities. JL is hoping to get information from NHW and the Wardens as to which areas they think the Police should visit. JL explained that there are 3 [Prevention] teams, each with 3 Police officers – there are roughly 10 PCSOs.
- JL suggested that the Police assign a PCSO ‘Contact’ for Horsham District NHW to help with communications between the Police and NHW. KB said that this would be very useful; KB also stated that he has regular dialogue with PSEO Janice Brown – this works very well for both NHW and the Police. JL assured NHW that he would assign a PCSO as a contact for NHW.
- AM mentioned Operation Tulip. We have NHW volunteers visit Garden Centres to hand out security leaflets in the spring. In addition, we hand out leaflets where there are areas of criminality and for Operation Tinsel in December. If the Police let us know of further needs then AM assured JL that NHW can help.
- JL said that the Police have a lot of useful information from doorbell cameras with clear footage; as a result offenders have been identified and the Police have more evidence with which to convict offenders.
- JL asked NHW to emphasise the importance of “report everything that they see” to the Police, and not just use social media e.g. Facebook. KB said that NHW does encourage its members to report all Police related incidents.
- BF said that 101 is good for leaving information, and Operation Crackdown is also useful for reporting vehicle related incidents. MBry said that these are good but there needs to be a response when the public report a crime. JL said that the 101 service now includes a “call back” option; the aim of this is to reduce 101 waiting times and alleviate callers’ anxieties.

## **6. Updates to the Committee**

- Discussed under previous points.

## 7. Review of the Association's Accounts [www.horshamnhw.btck.co.uk/Accounts](http://www.horshamnhw.btck.co.uk/Accounts)

- Overview of the accounts
  - i. Now in a positive [surplus] position.
- Confirmation of audit status
  - i. The accounts should be signed off by next week.
- Outlook for 2019-2020 expenses
  - i. Junior NHW expenses *incurred* in financial year 2018-2019 will be shown in the 2019-2020 accounts as the final JNHW *payment* was made in the 2019-2020 financial year; we are in surplus and should remain so going forward.
- Other remarks
  - i. The next Executive Members' meeting will include discussion about what funding we could request from Sussex Federation; SG will contact Federation for the criteria for these funding requests. John Wright, Chair of Sussex NHW Federation, has already said that funds are available.
  - ii. Sussex Federation wish to see a uniform approach to branding; there are things we can do – further review needed.
  - iii. KB suggested we look into having a smaller, lighter gazebo.
  - iv. Horsham NHW needs to be discussed at the next Exec Members' meeting; suggestions welcome from all before a final check against Sussex Federation's criteria.
  - v. AM asked if we can claim for today's AGM? Answer = Yes!
  - vi. KB said we have good stock levels of marker pens, no cold caller stickers and window stickers.
  - vii. SG thanked KB for now being a signatory on the accounts.
- Vote of thanks for SG. Proposed by KB seconded by TL

## 8. Nominations for the Committee

- Prior to the AGM, Paula and Andrew Morgan stated that they wished to step down; all other Committee members stated their willingness to serve for another year.
- MBry proposed that all Committee members except Paula & Andrew Morgan be re-elected in their current roles, including the Executive Members, en masse – SG seconded the proposal.

## 9. Next Committee meeting

- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 7.15pm** – at Southwater Leisure Centre, Pevensey Road, Southwater, RH13 9XZ

## 10. Any Other Business

- The Draft Minutes from the 2018 AGM are on the website; no comments received by the date of the 2019 AGM; KB proposed, MBry seconded the proposal that the 2018 AGM Minutes be agreed and signed off. KB will arrange for formal sign-off and publication.
- Jackie Reader (JR) said that she had received a message from a member in her area who reported that she wasn't receiving messages from Alert; MBry replied that he had dealt with this and that the member was now on his list; he agreed to check and confirm all is okay. JR and MBry both asked the member if they would like to become a Street Coordinator.
- SG took some leaflets to place in various pigeon holes in the Billingshurst Community Centre reception area; he asked is anyone knew of other places we could do this - MBry suggested doctors surgeries and libraries.
- Neighbourhood Alert messaging system
  - i. There is a known weakness whereby new Alert registrations made via the "In The Know" or "Ourwatch" websites may **NOT** be communicated to the relevant Coordinator.
  - ii. We need should inform members that although "In The Know" and "Ourwatch" websites look and feel different, members registration details are logged in the same database, i.e. Neighbourhood Alert.
- SG proposed a vote of thanks to AM for his ongoing Chairmanship, support and dedication to NHW over the last year. All present agreed unanimously!
- AM thanked everyone for everything they do.

The AGM closed at 9.48pm.