



**Neighbourhood Watch Network**

8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Elizabeth House  
39 York Road  
London  
SE1 7NQ

12/8/19

Dear Neighbourhood Watch Association Leads,

My apologies for this update letter being slightly later in the month than usual but this is because of being out of the office last week. I hope that you have all been able to enjoy the summer with the very mixed weather of very hot one week then very wet the next.

The Central Support Team has just returned from a weeklong trip round England and Wales with seminars in Leeds, Cardiff and London. The 3 seminars went very well with lots of new faces attending many of whom have not been to a previous Neighbourhood Watch Network event before. It was great to be able to link up co-ordinators and area leads who have been isolated and unaware of other local NW colleagues or their Associations to other keen and active co-ordinators or area leads nearby.

At the Leeds event on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August we had a great turn out of about 70 co-ordinators and leads. There was an update on the 3-year strategy from myself then presentations from Tracy Robbins talking about the Big Lunch and from Chris Joyce on the joint work and partnerships he is leading from West Yorkshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch. Everyone attended three workshops led by the Central Support Team then a presentation on the future of Neighbourhood Watch and the 3 behaviours that we will use to clarify and talk about as the core of what we do. The 3 behaviours to reduce crime by being connected and active in communities are i) Knowing your neighbour ii) Being neighbourly and iii) Being active in your community. The response was very positive because it defines and includes what we already do in Neighbourhood Watch in lots of areas and can be inclusive of new work and projects into the future.

The Cardiff event was slightly smaller with about 45 attendees from within Wales and from the West of England. The Welsh co-ordinators and leads were very pleased that Neighbourhood watch Network were holding an event in Wales for the first time in several years and hope it will help to kick start and re-energise an association in South Wales. Several co-ordinators in Cardiff had been supporting their local watches for a few years without any contact with other NW co-ordinators who were able to link up with other NW co-ordinators and leads. They were particularly delighted to be able to talk with others about their successes and issues and gain support. The Big lunch again presented, and we had a Coop presentation that Kathleen Cunningham of the Central Support Team presented at very late notice as the Coop were unexpectedly unable to be at the event. At each seminar there was a reception at the end of the event in response to the strong request from seminar delegates last year for more time to be able to speak to each other and network with others and with the Central Support Team.

The London seminar was the largest with 75 people crammed into the old court room in Browns, Covent Garden. The 3 workshops delivered by the Central Support Team at each event were on Neighbourhood Watch Activity, Innovation and Measuring Impact. Overall feedback was very positive about the workshops and delegates at each event talked about the ideas, support and enthusiasm they felt about being more active and planning events, talks and projects they intend to instigate as part of their Neighbourhood Watch work. Crimestoppers presented along with the Big Lunch in London and both spoke about the partnerships that are being developed and broadened with Neighbourhood Watch. The London event was sponsored by Avast who are a company who provide free software to protect users' devices against internet viruses etc. Avast spoke at the event and we hope to form a sponsorship relationship with them for the next few years.

I am delighted to be able to report that the Chair of the Board of Trustees, David Huse, is now able to remain in the role until the end of the financial year which will enable him to support and lead the recruitment of a new Chair of the Board. We will be using a recruitment agency to support this and to ensure we get a high quality replacement to be able to continue the great work and achievements David has led while he has been in the role over the past 2½ years. I will keep you all informed of the process of recruitment and progress.

The Central Support Team is changing as Will Murphy (Senior Manager Communication and Digital) will be leaving us in September to go travelling and will be replaced by Debs Waller. We are hoping there will be a crossover so Debs can learn from Will and take over smoothly. Additionally, we will be taking on a 1-year Home Office funded Development Manager to develop Neighbourhood Watch in 5 areas of high crime and/or deprivation which we will keep you informed of. Finally, we will be taking on a Police Now secondee in the new year to help develop a volunteering protocol with the Cabinet Office for Neighbourhood Watch volunteers to potentially support the recovery phase of civil contingencies in their communities.

The Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting is next month, so planning for the event which is being held in Birmingham are well underway with voting members already aware.

Finally, with the summer seminars over, quite a number of the Central Support Team are taking holidays (including myself) over the next month which may mean that some of our responses might be a little delayed - please bear with us!

As ever, please share this letter with your co-ordinators and members.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hayward-Cripps', written in a cursive style.

John Hayward-Cripps CEO Neighbourhood Watch Network