



Neighbourhood Watch Network

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3/4/19

Dear Neighbourhood Watch Association Leads,

I hope that you have been able to enjoy some of the incredibly warm weather we have been having, although it seems we are in for a cold spell over the next few weeks before spring really is with us.

As you are aware, we held the Annual Members' Strategy Review Conference on 14th March which many of you attended. The event was really successful with updates on progress made on the 3-year strategy and four presentations from Neighbourhood Watch leads on the innovative work they are undertaking. From the West Midlands, we heard about the street patrolling being undertaken and the level of information being shared with the police from this and the reduction in crime. In West Mercia, NW are using Facebook to make contact and regularly share information with a reach of half a million people and up to one million who are younger and more diverse than the usual NW demographic. In Greenwich, NW are presenting knife crime information in primary schools and run a community café to create a safer, stronger community. In Sherwood, Carrington and Mapperley Park (part of Nottinghamshire), the link with businesses has been brilliant, with a growing awards scheme the whole community gets involved with along with other celebrations bringing the whole community together. These were just a few examples of the great work being undertaken by Neighbourhood Watch across England and Wales and we hope to showcase more at the AGM.

Another highlight was the speech from Nick Hurd MP, the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Services and Minister for London and the question and answer session he led afterwards. He clearly wanted to hear from members about their experiences of liaising and working with the police, while understanding the challenges in relation to the reality of police resources and priorities. He spoke very positively about his support for Neighbourhood Watch and the part we can all play in creating safer, stronger communities and supporting the police. He also stated that he wanted Neighbourhood Watch to be effective in areas of higher crime and invited us to work with him on ideas of how this can work. Participants spoke very positively about the Minister taking time to speak and interact with members and this is the result of the very positive relationship we have built with him in the course of several meetings over the past year.

There were three specific strategy sessions relating to the 3 key workstreams of IT, Impact Measurement and the Core Neighbourhood Watch offer. These sessions created lively debate but were slightly rushed due to the amount of material and the extended time with the Minister. We will take the feedback on board and use this on the workstreams to steer and influence the development and roll out of the work. Feedback on the event overall was very positive, with 87% of respondents rating the conference and its organisation as good or excellent. 87% also felt the session on the progress of the strategy was good or excellent. 82% felt the sessions on NW innovation were good or

excellent. Nearly all responders felt the IT work was very or the most important, with just 1 or 2 stating that the core offer or measurement were as or more important. Apologies to attendees who are already aware of the feedback, but a good number of the Association Leads are not.

Again, attendees are aware of the timescales for delivery of the key workstreams but for those who are not, the specific timescales on the 3 workstreams and when the work will be completed and handed over to members for you to utilise and use within your associations and watches is as follows: The planned timetable is to have the work on measuring outcomes, impact and activity coming from both the work with Nottingham Trent University and University College London published and shared by June 2019. The aim is to develop a clear, core Neighbourhood Watch offer in September 2019. However, as discussed at the strategy event, this is somewhat dependent on the IT workstream and the development of a simple workable registration system and database. The planned rollout of the simplified registration and NW database being developed by the IT Working Group is September 2019. This may include testing within one or two areas, and we are likely to request more input from associations to develop and support this work. The aim as stated is to provide Associations with a simple registration system, but not to replace Alert, OWL or any of the other systems that associations use and also critically to provide a simple system that new members can and will use. This is in order to gain a new, younger and more diverse membership which is the single most pressing issue for the organisation.

In other developments the 3 new toolkits on burglary, using social media and setting up a scheme are now available on the Ourwatch website and we were again mentioned in the Times. This time it was the Sunday Times, with a piece on setting up a scheme and the value of this.

The fundraising skills and communication workshop for associations took place in London and the feedback was extremely positive. As previously mentioned, the workshops will be rolled out across England and Wales on an ongoing basis. These workshops are to meet the need many associations and members expressed during last year's seminars.

I am out visiting Associations and schemes, including in Wales over the next few weeks and look forward to seeing those of you at these events and hearing more about the great work Neighbourhood Watch is delivering across England and Wales. 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Hayward-Cripps CEO Neighbourhood Watch Network