

BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Affiliated to Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association a registered Charity No: 1168988

Email: braintreenwsg@btinternet.com

Six Monthly Newsletter Issue Two 2019 covers from September 2019 to March 2020



BRAINTREE POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Clive Stewart , Chairman
with PCSO Jo Cooper
and PCSO John Thorne.



Since the last six monthly newsletter we have promoted Neighbourhood Watch in many ways. Our Steering group attended The Bull Hotel , Halstead in May and we met up with our local Pcsos (see picture above).

In July they both attended our Annual General Meeting at Gosfield Village Hall and gave a talk to a full capacity audience and then held one to one with our attendees. It has proved successful that, with the help of Essex Police, Neighbourhood Watch membership has increased in Braintree District which we appreciate very much. Every week we not only receive crime information from Braintree Police (*which is summarized in the weekly newsletter*) but also their Partnership Document and they are both distributed to over 120 Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators (*who then forward it to all their members which reach over 1,000 people per week*).

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA APPS.

We always acknowledge that there are people who have no need for the internet or cannot have access to it for many different reasons.

We try when we can to send them hardcopies of most communications whenever possible.

It is a fact that more people than ever are now using smart phones which enables the user to receive and reply to emails and also the use of social media Apps including Twitter!

Now hold on you may say, do I really need to use Twitter as you can read so much of it in the media about people who comment about their personal lives and other matters too, well no of course it is not essential.

But I decided to persevere (at the advice of our Pcsos) and I can say that as a user of Twitter it is absolutely brilliant when keeping in touch with Essex Police!

Not only do I know what they are achieving most days but also their daily activities in reducing crime and keeping our communities safe.

So, if you have a smart phone do ask someone to help you set up as a Twitter user so you can "follow" Essex Police including your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

It will be worthwhile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2019 AT THE GOSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Look at the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association website and under "Districts" click "Braintree" the Minutes, Chairman's report and photos are available.

**FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK WITH ESSEX POLICE TO REDUCE
CRIME PLEASE SEND YOUR FULL DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO
active.citizen@essex.pnn.police.uk**

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

We are always looking for volunteers who may have a little time in their lives to distribute Neighbourhood Watch information to their neighbours, friends and family too by email or create a Neighbourhood Watch facebook page that covers your road/street or local area.

We do not expect you to actually deliver to all the houses in your area by the way!

So if you have even 10 minutes a week that would be great. The more people who receive Neighbourhood Watch information the better as it does help to reduce the opportunity of crime. If you do have a the time to do so please send your full name, postal address and email address to braintreenwsg@btinternet.com and I shall be in touch.

Neighbourhood Watch items

If you are a member of your local Neighbourhood Group and receive from your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator information each week why not also ask for some of the following:- Window stickers, Wheelie Bin stickers, UV pens, Contactless card protector wallets* (* these are 50p each) , Purse bells , Message in a Bottle , Neighbourhood Watch Street signs, The Nominated Neighbours Cards (which prevents anyone opening doors to those they do not expect) and of course the Essex County NW Members Guide (which has our Code of Ethics) , as well as the email weekly newsletter. It is important to know that no other organisation can supply such items to you not even National Neighbourhood Watch. Only your local NW Co-ordinator can provide them as well as keeping you up to date on local Neighbourhood Watch issues.

Funding for Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch?

Ask if your Parish Council may have a once off up to £50 (from their crime prevention budget) and may be willing to give to Neighbourhood Watch?

If so please ask them to contact Clive Stewart Chairman see the email address in the heading.

Neighbourhood Watch is good at reducing the fear of crime (as well as the opportunity of crime) as we carefully communicate serious issues to family, friends neighbours and members.

COUNTY LINES:

This is a very serious issue where criminal gangs set up a drug dealing operations in a place outside their usual operating area. Gangs will move their drug dealing from big cities to smaller towns in order to make more money. This can have a really big effect on the community who live there and bring with it serious criminal behavior.

County lines commonly involves the illegal distribution and dealing of seriously dangerous drugs from one city/town to another. The most common drugs involved are heroin and cocaine (crack and powder), but also MDMA, cannabis, amphetamines.

Gangs sometimes use violence to threaten young people when recruiting them and they recruit young people to move drugs and money for them often using social media. Young people are exploited and forced to carry drugs between locations, usually on trains or coaches.

They are also forced to sell drugs to local users. Here are some signs to look out for that can suggest that someone you know might be involved in county lines activity.

Are they always going missing from school or their home? Are they travelling alone to places far away from home? Do they suddenly have lots of money/lots of new clothes/new mobile phones?

Are they receiving many more calls or texts than usual? Are they carrying or selling drugs?

Are they carrying weapons or know people that have access to weapons?

Are they in a relationship with or hanging out with someone/people that are older and controlling?

Do they have unexplained injuries?

Do they seem very reserved or seem like they have something to hide?

Do they seem scared and are they self-harming?

If you know any information please call Essex Police 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

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active.citizen@essex.pnn.police.uk**