



**Northamptonshire
Neighbourhood Watch Association
18th Annual General Meeting
at Wootton Hall Gymnasium
Northampton**



24th October 2016 at 7:00pm

County Exec Officers

Nick King- Chairman
Mary Prickett - Treasurer Rushden
Lisa Watts - Secretary Rushden
Charlotte McLeod, Crime Prevention
/ NHW Liaison

Police

Detective Sergeant Carole Walton
Detective Superintendent Steve Lingley
Stephen Mold, Police & Crime Commissioner

1. Opening Address by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:10pm and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

The chairman had issued approx 1000 emailed invites and we had 74 attendees and 22 apologies.

3. Cyber Crime and Get Safe Online.

The first speaker was DS Carole Walton from the East Midlands Regional Cyber Crime Unit. This was extremely enlightening and quite disturbing in equal measures. Her main message was that we are all at risk of our accounts being hacked by criminals, as in 2016 Cyber Crime is by far the biggest problem. Her advice was to have "one password for one account". She said that this was advisable, as if your account is hacked and you have the same password for all your accounts, then the criminal can drain all of your money. If you have separate passwords for each account, then only that account can be attacked.

We should already have anti-virus on our computers, but she said we should have it on our smart phones too, because they are mobile computers!

Another access point for the criminal is a wi-fi printer and it was suggested a Google search for "how to secure my printer" would provide information on how to do this to prevent an attack on your network via your printer.

When out and about, she advised not to use free wi-fi, as this is effectively an open door for the criminal to gain access to your account.

We were shown a video highlighting what can happen if you “like” a Facebook page, because social network sites can give criminals access to all your information. The message was don’t tell “the world” all your business!

She concluded by giving the following trusted websites, which can provide accurate advice and support:-

www.getsafeonline.org

www.cyberaware.gov.uk

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Carole has also provided some information and guidance on cyber threats called "cyber essentials" this can be found alongside with the minutes.

Social media and oversharing.

It is always advisable to not advertise when you're not at home. If you're on holiday/If you're going to share pictures leave until your home! This has been known to be a major security risk as people can look at your profile and try and enter your home.

There are lots of ways crime is committed: there are growing numbers of websites called “dark web” selling guns, drugs and even a hitman network.

Q. Why hasn't the police used a cartoon like "Charlie says" on television in regards to cyber crime but also put on Facebook?

A. Carole: not as effective but are working with NHW and everyone possible to explore ideas. The Chair thanked Carole for her through presentation.

4. Steve Lingley, Head of Safeguarding.

Detective Superintendent Steve Lingley gave us a presentation on Safeguarding. He expressed the aims of NHW is to feel more secure. Steve expressed the work the police do protect people. NHW is UK's leading voluntary movement. It has been active for 33 years and in Northants there are circa 1200 schemes covering 40,000 households. The 4 key areas and aims for the police are:-

- sexual offences
- violent crimes
- counter terrorism
- victimisation of vulnerable people

The police force is currently undergoing a major Service Delivery Model: a force-wide review to look at ways of how to deliver, and understand ways of working with NHW and other groups to protect people from harm. Steve has a personal experience as he was a NHW coordinator.

The Chair thanked Steve for his message.

5. Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold.

Stephen Mold highlighted that in Northants there are 308,000 households with children under 15s. Stephen explained the roles of a PCC and highlighted the Northants Police represent 750,000 residents. One of their aims is how to reduce crime by working in partnership with many partners to make the county safer. There are drafted policies and priorities for 2016-2021 and within these policies are challenges.

Stephen presented to us some statistics of crime and stated that cyber crime is growing at a significant pace, especially the statistics on child abuse. Prevention is a key aim: to tackle the route of problem in homes, schools and streets which the n to look at how reduce the problem and thus reduce criminal activity further down the line.

He stated that he is required to produce a five-year plan within his first year in office, which sets out the strategic direction for policing in Northants. He is proposing four main priorities, which are:-

- Keeping the Young safe
- Community Policing
- Protecting people from harm
- Putting victims at the heart of justice

The plan is now out for consultation until 24th November and he (and the chair) encourages all NHW supporters to reply to the consultation. **See <http://www.yourpcc.co.uk/>**

Stephen Mold added, 33% of burglaries are committed by leaving a window or door open. The police want to work together with organisations to underline this. The police are looking at other ways to report crimes: looking at personalising using mobile phones due to the growing number of 999 calls.

The Chair thanked Stephen Mold and asked for questions:

Q. Police on our streets: are we getting any more?

A. We need to make sure getting right funding and balance i.e. in the face of cyber crime being at its highest.

Q. Vice chair Jane Calcott: Community Connect are not getting enough messages/information.

A. The PCC office now has a new Director of Communication and the office is also looking to recruit technical skills.

Q. Liz Thomas from Harrington: rural areas are short of officers; police responses slow (RE tackling travellers' crimes).

A. Stephen advised that there is a work plan which had some success, we aware of the problem and hoping to spread across other areas, and we'll make them more aware to pick this up.

Q. Peter Holman Irchester: complaints when phoning 101 as waiting time 40 minutes report bike stolen, ring back service.

A. Stephen announced that he is in discussion with surrounding regions/police forces on handling 101 calls. There are about 900, 101 calls a day and over 50% are not relevant to the police.

Q. Burglaries: word out to co-ordinators knew nothing about it.

A. Must do a better job working through messaging and Community Connect.

Q. Saying increase cyber crime, reducing police offices in some areas, 101 service poor offices closed.

A. Online crime has some terrifying stats, We are looking at putting more money back on officers on the roads.

6. Presentations.

As is tradition, this is the opportunity for local police teams to recognise and honour the service and contributions from individual NHW members.

Det Sup. Steve Lingley read out some carefully scripted citations and awarded framed Certificates of Excellence to the following:

- Richard Gent (The Bramptons)
- Elaine Henley (Duston)
- John Gardner (Northampton)
- Rod Rodrigo (Deanshanger)
- Julie Jarrett (Braunston)

Those attending were able to pick up their awards.

The chair took the opportunity to recognise the remarkable and dedicated contributions to Northamptonshire NHW from Terry Savill (Rushden) who retired as Association treasurer after 11 years at our last AGM. Terry remains on the county Executive and also as chair of the East Northants Support Team. Terry stepped up to collect his gift.

The chair also took the opportunity to praise Ian Fearnley (retired chair) and his wife Carol (retired secretary) who have contributed at least 8 years each in these important roles. He remarked on their leadership, dedication and loyalty, as well as personal support to him as the new chair. He is pleased to add that Ian will remain as chair of the Wellingborough Support Team (and Bozeat Coordinator) and Lead Administrator for our growing database, issuing Community Messages.

7. AGM

The chair reported that the 2015 AGM Minutes had been emailed to all coordinators in preparation for this evening. No comments or questions were raised. With a good show of hands the 2015 minutes were accepted: proposed and seconded.

Chair's report

The Chair highlighted a funding grant of £13,000 from Adam Simmonds, the former PCC. This is seen as an important recognition of NHW. Key to our request for funding was a grant to support our current office costs (£3,000) and the additional grant to support our development costs. The chair's full report is at the end of these minutes.

The chair highlighted that the county Association is already using the grant to purchase marketing equipment that can be used by NHW groups across the county to become more visible in attracting new members and reinforcing the NHW work that is done: table-cloths; outside sail-flags; indoor roller banners, and PVC banners. All are branded with the new logo.

There are new Members guides and stickers (funded by Co-op Insurance). If you need copies to support your NHW group and help attract new members, please contact your Area Support group.

Also, our new Northamptonshire NHW website: see
www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk

Here you can see Community Messages (including tweets) and you can access data on crimes etc.

Treasurer's report.

Mary Prickett reported the accounts for the year starting with a bank balance of £3,221. Income was £15,152 and expenditure £3,701, leaving a fund of £14,672. The accounts had been sent prior no issues were raised.

Election of officers

The Election of officers were as follows:-

Chairman- Nick King- Secunder Carol and Ian Fearnley.

Secretary- Lisa Watts - Secunder Carol Fearnley and May Prickett.

Treasurer- Mary Prickett Secunder Carol Fearnley and Nick King.

8. Question time

Q. Purchasing a miking system for local meetings?

A. The chair responded this may be possible.

Q. David Smith Cosgrove- There's still some issues around Getting on the website and establishing who's joined who's not if everyone is not using the NHW website.

A. The Visav group and all other people within NHW with technological skills can help to try to resolve any other issues around this.

Q. Christine McKenzie Rushden: there is still an issue accessing the Northants NHW website if you previously registered on the Neighbourhood Alert website

A. Chair – yes this needs addressing. Visav (the company that runs the website) is aware of the issue.

9. AOB.

Representatives on the East Midlands NHW forum. The chair stated that there seems to be a question mark on if and how this forum will continue but at the moment he, Ian Fearnley and Jane Calcott will be our representatives.

The chair announced the purchase of new branded id badges with lanyards. He encouraged each coordinator to take one home. However, he did encourage us all to be vigilant and careful that these id badges are used for legitimate NHW purposes as we do NOT want them to fall into the wrong hands.

The meeting came to a close at 9:15pm. The chair thanked Stephen Mold, Det Spt. Stephen Lingley and DS Carole Walton for their presentations and valuable contributions.