

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to AGM Meeting Evenley Village Hall, The Green, Evenley, NN13 5RY.

Tuesday 10th October 2017.

Attendees

Nick King	Chair	Towcester nickking567@btinternet.com
Phil Renshaw	Vice Chair	Piddington
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion tadey51@btinternet.com
Jean Glanville		Grafton Regis
Barry Glanville		Grafton Regis
Peter Edwards		Road
John Hunter		Towcester
Julia Raven		Nether Heyford
David Connolly		Evenley
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges
Christy Nolan		Rothersthorpe
Margaret Bailey		Rothersthorpe
David Smith		Cosgrove
Phillip Thornton		Blisworth
Steve Wheeler		Helmdon
Colin Atkins		Weston & Weedon Lois
Gill & Will Taylor		Aston Le Walls
Inspector Kevin Byrne		Daventry and South Northants Police

Apologies

Richard Houghton	Yardley Hastings
Mike Crouch	Quinton
Alison Jones	Stoke Bruerne
Rebecca White	Milton Malsor
John Roberts	Pimlico
Sue Oswell	Wicken
Maggie Down	Paulerspury
Lawrence Howes	Cogenhoe
Deni Topliss	Kislingbury
Vernon Ilott	Nether Heyford
PCSO Charlotte Morris	

Welcome

Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Nick thanked Inspector Kevin Byrne for attending. He also thanked Shirley and Ian for doing refreshments and David for the use of Evenley Village Hall.

All present introduced themselves.

Nick advised us of the order of the meeting.

3. Police Update: Inspector Kevin Byrne - an update on the strategy, policing and crime issues that affect our district.

Inspector Byrne started by saying he recognised quite a few faces in the room. He told us he had spent 28 years in the force and for the last 5 years as Sector Commander in Northampton and involved in policing the Blackthorn Estate.

- He is the County lead for Rural Crime.
- He recognised the challenges and issues of our rural area. The numbers of crime are small compared to Northampton but there are serious offences and long standing problems (same as in towns).
- Inspector Byrne mentioned the farming community had lost confidence in the Police, the antisocial behaviour and also staffing was a major problem. He said NHW is important to the Police and they needed to engage with groups like NHW to help them.
- Service Delivery Review had concluded with a new Policing model which would be implemented in full at the end of October. The Police have had to analyse everything and set priorities: tackling online sexual abuse, hate crime, domestic abuse and dealing with vulnerable people.

The force has had to change and this is the best hoped for with limited numbers.

In Neighbourhood and Rural Policing the public can see numbers dwindling. South Northants and Daventry is not too bad as an area and no reductions. There is 1 Inspector, 2 sergeants, 5 PC's for Daventry and 3 PC's for Towcester and Brackley, 6 PCSO's for Daventry and 7 PCSO's for Towcester and Brackley.

The Neighbourhood team used to have to contribute to major events which caused a lot of pressure but generally now they are not used for these sort of events.

They used to do crime investigations and general enquiries but now the focus is on engaging with the community - the isolated, elderly, ethnic minorities and farming communities. They patrol the right areas and are identifying problems.

There is a new team to deal with investigations implemented by the end of the month.

Crime figures are in the public domain. There is nothing going on locally at the moment that is concerning or the public needs to be made aware of.

Neighbourhood Alerts have been rolled out across the County. The system is improving and the expectation is that all staff are trained and encouraged to use the Alerts.

Highlights: Specials are really valuable but because they are not part of the establishment the number fluctuates. If more Specials are needed the force will put in a request. The number of Specials has dropped from 750 to 300-350.

The Force priorities are Terrorism and Vulnerable people.

4. Questions & Answers

A published survey of locally identified Priorities for the next 3 months are Police presence, Speeding, Thefts and burglaries.

Visibility of the Police - how are they going to tackle it? Inspector Byrne has acknowledged the problem and said it is a challenge for him to take back to the Chief

Constable. Shifts for PCSO's have changed. They are now working until midnight (not 10pm)

It was mentioned that 1 PCSO is on desk duty. They cannot fill that place at the moment.

Speedwatch: David (Cosgrove) mentioned about the caravan park in their village. There is only 1 road to the caravan park over an ornamental bridge, round a sharp bend. Vehicles get stuck. Push Community speedwatch in problem areas.

Gill (Aston Le Walls) mentioned HS2. Traffic was a problem which will get worse. It would help if 1 or 2 were prosecuted. A discussion took place about Speedwatch. Nick said Speedwatch had been done in Towcester for 3 years as well as several other local villages. Roads have sent in speeding numbers and then a Police van came. The Position of Police vans can be a problem (Blisworth). The data (traffic counts) and measurements on speeding are analysed by the Safer Roads Team to build a picture. The Police tell you where to do Speedwatch. Villages should consult the Safer Roads Team and/or email SCT Brackley or Towcester, or email Nick King.

Sponsoring a PCSO: A discussion took place as something parish(es) can consider. Inspector Byrne told us the cost is £38,000 per year with a minimum of 2 years. One option would be for 3 or 4 parishes to get together to pay for one. The villages around DIRFT sponsor a PCSO. A PCSO works 40 hours a week. The recruitment and training process for a PCSO is 4-6 months. They are not from current stock.

5. Neighbourhood Alerts: how you and all our members can receive Alerts.

For the last 6 or 7 years there were very few Alerts. This has now greatly improved and the South Northants team are very good, compared to all other districts. Alerts can also be converted by the police into Facebook and Twitter. There is good dialogue between the Police and NHW and discussions should happen on (i) a bit more detail in the Alerts (ii) how wide they are distributed.

Accessibility: a list has been issued with SCT contacts, and contacting using 101, website form and emailing the SCT team.

Nick thanked Inspector Byrne for attending.

6. Neighbourhood Watch: Matters of Concern and exchange of ideas.

- Nick advised everyone he had visited the Force Control Room which was very interesting. The FCR Chief Inspector has said 999 calls are answered in 10 seconds. Nick asked about the NHW dedicated phone number 01604 888964 and was told the new process doesn't include this number only 101. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE OLD DEDICATED NUMBER IN THE FUTURE AND DELETE FROM ANY REFERENCES..**
- 101. If a caller phones from a mobile they can get an automatic response for a call-back. Julia (Nether Heyford) mentioned that phoning short numbers like 101 may not work on work mobiles.
- Street Signs: parishes attending who had paid their 2017 subscriptions can pick up their free sign this evening. Nick will write to all the SNAST database in due course.

Colin (Weedon Lois) asked about buying extra NHW street signs and how much would they cost? Contact SNAST as they may be able to trade some on at £14/£15 tbc.

- Location of street signs. NHW Coordinators need to keep a log of where all their Signs are located. County NHW maintains a log of all Signs which are fitted to County Council-controlled streetlights/signs (not those controlled by Parish Councils): please email a.g.crisp@outlook.com . The County NHW receives a licence.
- Visit to the Force Control Room: John Hunter has arranged a visit to the Force Control room on Thursday 14th December 7.30pm. If anyone is interested please let Nick or Linda know asap. Maximum of 8 people. The tour lasts 1 hour and illustrates the pressure of answering calls.
- Nick asked if Coordinators could let him know of any NHW events that you are putting on (i.e. table-top exhibition, village fete, etc.) He is keen to keep a log.
- Lead thefts from Churches. This has been happening in a few villages even though Smartwater has been used. It doesn't seem to act as a deterrent. Inspector Byrne chairs the Rural Action Group where this is being discussed.
- Contactless cards: SNAST had a small stock of tamper-proof wallets but these are now gone. You can purchase from Amazon.

7. 2017 AGM

i) **Chair's report** - had been emailed to all NHW Coordinators with the agenda. He added that we continue to receive good support from the Police and Parish Councils and he thanked the SNAST officers for their excellent work over the year.

ii) **Minutes of the previous AGM (13th October 2016)** were handed out to NHW Coordinators.

There were no matters arising. The minutes were agreed and signed as correct.

iii) Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Tina provided her report which was approved:

- The balance at the bank as at 30th September 2017 is £1,489.69 plus another £120 from subscriptions which is not shown in this figure. This takes into account the sum of £1151.40 which we paid for 100 new NHW signs. It had been agreed to increase the Parish Council subscription to £20, with the unique offer of a free street sign (worth £14).
- £650 was received in subscriptions from 32 Parish Councils. A reminder went out at the beginning of September which resulted in another 6 cheques. Grand total £790.
- Tina has a large stock of alarms that SNAST purchases in bulk and offers to NHW members at reduced prices. There are 43 mini alarms, 9 personal alarms and 10 PIR shed alarms. The shed alarms are the most popular.
- Smartwater. These kits are purchased directly from Smartwater but a unique purchase code is required. This code can be obtained by emailing Tina. Earlier this year Smartwater promoted their domestic Smartwater kits for £8.95 each (usually £25 each). SNAST purchased 20 kits which were offered

to NHW Coordinators and their members. Tina still has 1 or 2 kits available if anyone is interested.

iv). **Election of Officers**

- Chair: Nick King was proposed by Linda Hemming and seconded by Peter Edwards.
- Vice Chair: Phil Renshaw was proposed by Linda Hemming and seconded by John Hunter.
- Treasurer: Tina Adey was proposed by Nick King and seconded by Christy Nolan.
- Secretary: Linda Hemming was proposed by Jean Glanville and seconded by Phil Renshaw.

Nick welcomed others to join the small officers committee: info to follow.

8. Any Other Business

Jean thanked Nick for all the work he does for NHW as Chair of SNAST and Chair of the County NHW.

9. Dates and Venues of next meetings 2018

Nick asked for any suggestions for venues for the open SNAST meetings.

To be advised	Tuesday 13th February
Roade	Tuesday 10th April
Towcester	Tuesday 17th July
	Tuesday 9th October

Please contact Nick or Linda with suggestions.