

## **SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM**

### **Minutes to Meeting via Teams**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Nick welcomed everyone and informed us the meeting was being recorded. Everyone present introduced themselves.

#### **Attendees**

Nick Hamp	District Lead/Chairman	<a href="mailto:nick.hamp@gmail.com">nick.hamp@gmail.com</a>
Linda Hemming	Secretary	<a href="mailto:linda_hemming@hotmail.com">linda_hemming@hotmail.com</a>
Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Philip.renshaw@yahoo.co.uk
Tina Adey	Treasurer	tadey51@btinternet.com
Richard Houghton		Yardley Gobion
Sue Sharps		Yardley Hastings
Peter Howard		Brackley
Lawrence Howes		Towcester
Tom Smith		Cogenhoe
Paul Broadfield		Chipping Warden
Andrew Jenkins		Woodend
Katie Spruels		Grafton Regis
Chris Read		Milton Malsor
Shirley Watson		Blisworth
Colin Moore		Hinton in the Hedges
Inspector Dave Wakeman		County Chair
		Daventry and South Northants Police

#### **Apologies**

David Smith	Cosgrove
Mike Crouch	Quinton
Craig Coppin	Potterspury

#### **2. Approval of the minutes of meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

The minutes of the previous meeting and the results of the Consultation exercise had been sent out with the agenda.

There were no comments or concerns. The minutes were approved. Proposed by Nick Hamp and seconded by Richard Houghton.

#### **3. Introduction of Colin Moore (Newly Appointed County Chair)**

Colin took over as County NHW Chair officially in September.

He was previously head of Global Security for companies such as Federal Express and DHL. His background is in intelligence, information, and investigations. Colin is now a self-employed security consultant.

- Colin has looked at our consultation and agrees with many responses given
- Colin is proposing to focus NHW on three key areas:
  - Modernisation: Getting stale and needs modernising. Central Office in London lets the County get on with whatever they want to do, providing they are informed. Open to suggestions i.e. upgrading the County website. Central Office will advise if they see any problems.
  - Engagement: How County engages with villages, members and NHW Coordinators keeping it relevant.
  - Communication: Lots of the most devastating crime are online scams. Although we look around and think this is a low crime rate area, crime is happening but behind closed doors. People are embarrassed about losing thousands of pounds from scams.
- How we can re-engage with residents, and the Police.
- Confusion over the PLR role. A wedge seems to have driven by the council between PLR and NHW. Colin has been liaising with Danny Moody on how we can work together to improve this.
- Changed from 30-40 years ago with the use of mobile phones. We have got to get the younger generation more involved in NHW.

#### **4. Police Report and Update**

Inspector Dave Wakeman informed us he is responsible for Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Teams and the Rural Crime Team.

- The Force Priorities: These were for 12 months but have now been extended to 4-5 years. They are: Drug harm, Serious Organised Crime, Serious Violence and Serious Crime against Women and girls.
- Locally Identified Priorities: 'Survey Monkey' The Police send out a survey every 4 months. The responses from the survey dictate the local priorities. Priorities identified for December – April 23 are: Road Safety and Road Traffic Offences, Burglary and Drug dealing and drug misuse.

The Police would like to encourage as many people as possible to fill in the survey. The link is below

**<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NorthantsLocalPriorities>**

South Northants had the highest number of people completing the survey.

- Please report suspicious activity in an area for example: frequent comings and goings from an address, smell of drugs, packages being exchanged. Police rely heavily on this type of activity being reported.
- Alerts are given out for burglaries or car crime in an area. Police are keen to get descriptions of vehicles seen acting suspiciously especially in South Northants with thefts of agricultural equipment, caravans and trailers. It is helpful to get registration numbers of vehicles if possible.
- Invested heavily in the ANPR system which is an asset in South Northants and Daventry area.

- Need to know about frequent reports of antisocial behaviour. People congregating in areas need to know so they can guide their patrols.
- Facebook: Seems to be a generation who put incidents and concerns on facebook and are not then reported to the Police. The police don't monitor facebook pages. If in doubt report what you are concerned about to the Police, not just a local Facebook page
- Communication: Various ways - 101, Crimestoppers or online. Can contact your PCSO but better to report online as this is monitored 8am-midnight 7 days a week. Team email address  
[neighbourhoodteamsouthnorthants-towcester@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodteamsouthnorthants-towcester@northants.pnn.police.uk)  
[neighbourhoodteamsouthnorthants-brackley@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodteamsouthnorthants-brackley@northants.pnn.police.uk)  
 Reporting online will be picked up quickly.
- Significant delays to the 101 service at the moment so could be left waiting for a while.  
 If anyone doesn't want to put their name to something direct them to Crimestoppers
- Neighbourhood Alert System – If a message is put out to the community you can now reply to the message and they will respond to you.  
 Only relevant information should come through now to South Northants area.
- Crime data:  
 This is a low crime area. Crime has increased nationally. Northamptonshire has increased by 5.1% Crime rate per thousand people last year was 47.25 Increased by 2.68 to 49.  
 Theft from Motor vehicles is the only concerning increase but sharp decline from November due to actions taken.  
 The focus for the next 12 months is on maintaining the low crime rate in South Northants. The Police are trying to publicise these good results on Social media, although use of Social media is declining so looking at other ways to make sure the message gets out.
- Neighbourhood Alerts. In South Northants struggling to get people to sign up to alerts.  
 Do the Police actively ask people to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch? Inspector Dave Wakeman informed us PCSO's will ask people to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch.
- Feedback: Information is fed to the Police by residents, but feedback is very slow coming back. It needs 2-way communication. Important for people to have a reply to stop them becoming disenfranchised. If people feed information in, it needs a thank you back.
- Difference between Neighbourhood Alert and Neighbourhood Watch:  
 These are 2 separate systems working side by side.  
 On Neighbourhood Alert there are 27,000 people signed up with a much-reduced number on NHW. **Suggestion:** Send out an alert to encourage residents to join Neighbourhood Watch.  
 One shouldn't replace the other. They are equally important.  
 Towcester gets very little feedback on what is going on in the town.  
 Inspector Dave Wakeman is aware of this and the reluctance of his Officers to use social media but trying to rectify this.

## 5. Overview of Consultation Responses

- We need to develop actions to address the issues identified in the consultation.
- Colin: There are common issues and threads across the County. These need addressing at a County level, not just South Northants.

Share best practices across the County and liaise with senior Police to make it happen. There is a County Exec meeting 31<sup>st</sup> January 23. Look at some of these issues at County level.

Colin wants to start addressing these actions in February.

- PCSO's have a target to sign people up to the alerts. We could give them a target to sign people up to NHW.
  - Project group to look at developing best practice.
- Colin said the questions and responses in the survey do mirror the feedback across the County.

## 6. Discussion and Action Development of first 2 priority items

### a. How can we increase the relevance of NHW in low crime areas

- In South Northants we had 19 responses. 16 from NHW Coordinators, 1 from the Police and 2 from Parish Councils. This was out of 86 sent out. This is roughly the same as attendance at meetings.
- This is a low crime area. Is this a detriment to people signing up for NHW? We should address it because if something happens, we need a response in place. Ask people to sign up to NHW using a message of "Keeping Crime Low"
- A lot of Communities don't see graffiti as Crime and accept it. This is Criminal damage and can be the start of a slippery slope. How do we engage with people who see this as Crime and don't report it?
- Cogenhoe has 170 members signed up to their NHW scheme so there is something to learn from their success.
- Can we link up with security companies to engage people? Can't recommend certain companies but could write to them and ask them for discounts and put their company names on the website to drive up interest.
- County used to have speakers at their meetings. County conference could get 10-15 security companies to attend. Do we want to hold another County Conference?

### b. What steps can we take to improve communications between NHW schemes, Police and Parish Councils (especially the Parish Council Police Liaison Representative)

- Communication is not as good as it could be. Some NHW Coordinators felt they weren't being communicated with as well as they used to be.
- Yardley Gobion PLR had a meeting with the PCSO. There had been no meeting arranged with the NHW Coordinator. The PCSO hadn't invited NHW.

PLR's had been set up to provide communication between Parish Councils and the Police. Inspector Dave Wakeman will try to rectify this problem.

- Hold 1 meeting with both the PLR **AND THE** NHW Coordinator. Information should be shared.
- A few NHW Coordinators are PLR's too. They get the information. There are online meetings for PLR's and information sent out monthly. These meetings are open to PLR's but not to NHW Coordinators. There is a divide to the detriment of NHW
- Why are the talks only open to PLR's?
- Last year a large booklet was produced for PLR's and there was only 1 line in the whole booklet about NHW.  
Colin is working with Danny Moody to rectify this.
- Does everyone know who their PLR's are? Contact the local council for your PLR.
- Towcester NhW is trying to involve younger people. A 6<sup>th</sup> form student is going to draft a survey to canvas ideas and raise awareness of NHW and Crime locally.
- Increase diversity in NHW – especially younger residents to overcome the impression that NHW is only for older people.
- There is a thriving Emergency Service Cadet section in Towcester. We could seek their views. **One of the leaders is a Special Constable. Inspector Dave Wakeman will send Nick his email address.**
- Responses from the survey were very mixed meeting preferences i.e face to face meetings or on line  
Suggestion to have a meeting on a Saturday morning.

## 7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.