



# OUR NEWS

**the e-newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters**

NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION

## Nilesh from Leeds is Neighbour of the Year 2019



**Nilesh from Leeds is crowned winner of the Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch 2019 Neighbour of the Year competition.**

A well deserving winner, Nilesh helps neighbours across a wide range of issues from resolving disputes to celebrating neighbours and building communities. The disruptive behaviour Nilesh helps with ranges from disputes at student parties to overflowing bins on pavements, or rubbish in gardens.

Nilesh is a star at bringing people together. He organised residents to pot bulbs in containers and donated them to over 100 local homes, and he improved his local community by convincing the council to stop a dangerous local car rat run.

Nilesh set up a Facebook page for 400 residents in which he shares critical information about local safety issues, but he didn't stop there. Nilesh also set up a What's App group, which offers support to over 40 long term residents as they share information about events and local problems.

Nilesh is widely known for proactively engaging with his community. He knocked on 400 residents' doors, introduced himself, listened respectfully to them, and asked them to join the Facebook page. He has a gift of being incredibly positive, friendly and caring and as a result everyone signs up.

Nilesh is the first person to help someone with a problem and has a talent for organising social events. Over the last few years he organised a 'welcome to all residents' street event, sponsored by local councillors. Whilst setting up the stall he used the opportunity to share useful information about the area and offer free pakoras, onion bhajis and drinks to anyone passing.

Despite his abilities, Nilesh takes a back seat at resident's meetings, yet it is him who has the imagination, gets out in the community and proactively engages. Nilesh grasps issues, writes letters to organisations, phones heads of departments and arranges meetings. Nilesh – you are amazing, and we thank you!



**Nilesh Chohan from Headingley, Leeds**

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# Kevin from Sutton is crowned Community Spaces Champion



Coop Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch Network are proud to announce the winner of the Neighbour of the Year Community Spaces category is Kevin from Sutton.

Kevin initiated and continues to lead on the 'Your Space Sutton' community project, which converted a disregarded and unused area behind a park into a wonderful inclusive place where everybody is welcome and treated equally.

Kevin continues to put his life and soul into the project despite many setbacks along the way. A huge fire reduced so much of his efforts to ash. Kevin saw years of work going up in smoke, but he picked himself up, brushed himself down and got straight back to work! Your Space Sutton consequently gained more interest as appeals were made to find the arsonists.

Kevin and his team of volunteers work incredibly hard and are keen to continually develop the site. Kevin thinks of everybody's needs including tiny tots — a little garden with play equipment has been lovingly created especially for them. A Your Space Sutton Facebook page and website [www.yourspacestutton.org](http://www.yourspacestutton.org) provides residents with regular photos and updates.

The local community would like to show their gratitude and thank Kevin and his team of volunteers for turning a neglected area into somewhere they can meet for delicious homemade cake and afternoon tea.



Kevin Plicio from Sutton, London

***"It is a place of calm and tranquillity, a place where friends meet and where people come together."***

LOCAL RESIDENT

***"It is fast becoming a meeting place for coffee amongst mothers and their children, retired people, disabled people...everybody! Painting workshops take place, children's birthday parties, volunteers making friends, visits from schools and neighbours get to know one another. After all these years, we have a community project for us, the people of Sutton. We are more than proud, and grateful to Kevin and his lovely wife who makes the delicious cakes and often serves tea and coffee."***

LOCAL RESIDENT

***"My son Michael has specifically benefitted from the project. Michael has complex disabilities and no speech. He finds it hard to make friends, even at college. He wanted to do something on a voluntary basis but didn't know what. We were fortunate to meet Kevin who gave Michael such a warm welcome and agreed that Mike could become a volunteer! Mike is so proud to be a small part of the volunteer team."***

LOCAL RESIDENT



# Spotlight on Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch

## Getting Started

Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch group in Derbyshire was set up two years ago following antisocial behaviour on their road particularly from dusk onwards. The road is a dead end with bushes and tall trees obscuring the light: factors which contributed towards antisocial behaviour. Julie Walters and Cate Wain took ownership of the good and bad issues and, along with proactive crime and suspicious activity reporting, placed being community minded at the heart of the group and promoted “being neighbourly” as its focus.

## Involving Neighbours

A street clean-up, covered by their local Ripley and Heanor newspaper, became their first anti-crime activity. The impact was clear: crime and anti-social behaviour lessened. Wanting to keep momentum going, Julie and Cate focused on building their community and forging better relationships amongst their neighbours.



## Keeping the Momentum

Two years on and the group has gone from strength to strength, successful events such as coffee cake and craft mornings, Halloween events, Christmas card and calendar design competitions (judged by local hospital nurses), a quiz, a BBQ, a food bank collection, a visit from Santa and their Meadow Road in Bloom event led to one of their biggest projects .....their allotment!

Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch secured an allotment and received a Community Leadership Award grant for £400 for a shed. With this grant the group turned the allotment into a community project to grow vegetables for residents. This year they successfully grew strawberries, beans, tomatoes and sunflowers with the help of local children. To encourage further community involvement the group set up a messy kitchen in their allotment helping to connect families.

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Julie said ***“Children love it. Even the bigger ones! We serve tea and cake to everyone who comes and helps, whilst the children play. It is a great opportunity to connect individuals within our community. It gives the children and their families a safe space to play and build relationships with each other.”***

The group plan to build on their success and approach a local group for raised beds and strawberry troughs enabling them to continue to involve and educate children on community cohesion and how food is grown.



### From Strength to Strength

The ambitions of Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch don't stop there... they also run Amber Valley Find a Book project.

Cate said ***“It is doing quite well. The idea is to hide books for children to find, take home, enjoy, and then re-hide. There is a Facebook page ‘Amber Valley Find a Book’ so residents can post where they’ve found books.”***

The group ensures good communication and encourages active participation by running their own Facebook page and distributing a quarterly newsletter to every house regardless of whether they are part of the scheme.

### The Next Generation

Meadow Lane Neighbourhood Watch's focus is currently on its local children with the philosophy of helping children take pride in where they live, their property and that of their neighbours. They established a small-scale Junior Neighbourhood Watch and the children have designed badges and notebooks. After securing a grant of £100 from their Crime and Police Commissioner they were able to print the badges and notebooks, and purchase locks for the children's bicycles

Children from the Meadow Lane Junior Neighbourhood Watch also designed 'Keep our Street Tidy' posters which were printed and displayed on the road. The posters attracted comments from non-residents who rang their local school (with permission) to praise the children's initiative and enthusiasm. Evie Abbott, 10 years old, who designed one of the posters, was asked to speak at her school assembly about Junior Neighbourhood Watch, inspiring others to get involved.

The group hope to continue the growth of the Junior Neighbourhood Watch by approaching their Safer Neighbourhood Team, a police dog handler and the drone team to give the children talks and demonstrations.



### And on to the Future

Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch continues to focus on building their community with upcoming events of a coffee and craft morning, a Remembrance Day tribute and a visit from Santa with his reindeer and elves the Saturday before Christmas.

The group has been nominated for the Maurice Cox Award for Outstanding Contribution to Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch. They are attending the AGM in November to see who wins. Good luck Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch and keep up the amazing work!

***“Prevention is key, and strong communities where people know and look out for their neighbours is an excellent route to crime prevention. Meadow Road are an active community delivering a range of events throughout the year which bring people together to make their neighbourhood a better place to live.”***

JOHN HAYWARD-CRIPPS



# Wycombe Neighbourhood Watch Association Receives Queen's Award

Congratulations to Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association who received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2019. The Queen's Award is the highest award given to voluntary groups across the UK to recognise exceptional service within their communities and is equivalent to an MBE.

The award was given to the Association to recognise their volunteers' hard work in supporting those who have been affected by scams and fraud as well as providing valuable support and information preventing others falling victim.

The Association organised 65 seminars across Wycombe District to explain the dangerous nature of scams and how people can defend themselves against being conned.

The award, which was presented on the 18th September by Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, the Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, at a special ceremony held in the Guildhall, High Wycombe, was accepted on behalf of the Association by Stan Jones (Chairman) and Geoff Pegg (Director of Operations).

Stan Jones, Chairman Wycombe District NW Association, said



***"We were over the moon when we found out about the award and I feel very proud we have been recognised for this."***

Geoff Pegg, Director of Operations, Wycombe District NW Association, added ***"The certificate we received was signed by the Queen, so it's a very proud moment for the Association."***

Neighbourhood Watch Network has developed a scams toolkit looking in-depth at the variety of scams affecting people such as telephone, investment, doorstep, romance, emerging and common scams, and what we can do to protect ourselves. [www.ourwatch.org.uk/toolkits/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/toolkits/)

If you or someone you know has been the target of a scam, and

fallen victim to it, you should report it to the police on 101 and Action Fraud either through their [online reporting tool](#) or calling 0300 123 2040, as soon as possible. The online form takes about 20 minutes to complete.

*Image Above from left to right: Cllr Dev Dhillon, Vice Chairman, Bucks County Council; Cllr Mazamal (Maz) Hussain, Mayor of High Wycombe; Cllr Paul Turner, Chairman Wycombe District Council; Stan Jones, Chairman Wycombe District NW Association; Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant for Bucks; Geoff Pegg, Director of Operations, Wycombe District NW Association; Ian Burrell, Treasurer, Wycombe District NW Association; Doug Meredith, Committee Member of Wycombe District NW Association.*

## Inspiration for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

We know that active Neighbourhood Watch schemes are an excellent way of preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, reducing the fear of crime, and building stronger and safer communities. Even in areas where crime rates are low, the fear of crime, particularly among vulnerable people, can be high. Involvement in Neighbourhood Watch schemes can reassure vulnerable residents and provide support to those who are worried about their safety and security. To discover more success stories see our Inspiration section on OurWatch website: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/inspiration](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/inspiration)

# Cyberhood Watch Initiative Launches

A partnership between Neighbourhood Watch and Avast, a leading cybersecurity firm, launches to promote cybersecurity and prevent online fraud within communities.



Cybercrime now feels like more of a threat than physical crime for a rising number of households across England and Wales, with more people either falling victim personally, or knowing someone who has been a victim of online theft, according to research from over 14,000 Neighbourhood Watch members.

Research, carried out in conjunction with Avast, a cybersecurity leader in the UK, found that those who believe cybercrime is less of a threat than physical crime are firmly in the minority (15%).

Additionally, over a third (34%) believe cybercrime is now a bigger threat than physical crime, and half (50%) think the threat level is similar. In response, Neighbourhood Watch and Avast are announcing a new partnership called 'Cyberhood Watch' to tackle these fears and providing online cybersecurity

awareness courses to help inform and protect 2.3 million households across England and Wales.

The Cyberhood Watch initiative [www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood](http://www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood) is a response to the growing challenge that cybercrime poses to local communities who often don't have a ready resource for information on keeping themselves safe from the latest scams. The research highlighted a general lack of confidence in talking about cybercrime experiences within the community, and in understanding the best methods of online protection, for more vulnerable members of the population.

***"Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live, and in recent years that means helping members learn how to protect themselves, and their local***

***community against cybercrime has become a key priority. This may surprise some people who think Neighbourhood Watch is solely focused on physical crime prevention. Our members recognise that the threat of cybercrime is very real, and they tell us that there is a definite need for simple advice and resources so they feel better equipped to defend themselves against it and advise others."*** John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch.

The survey also revealed that a fifth (20%) of Neighbourhood Watch members have been a victim of cybercrime personally. Four in ten (38%) know at least one person who has fallen victim to cybercrime with an additional 33% having heard about it happening to people they don't know. Half of those who

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took part in the study are over 65, indicating that cyber threats are a significant issue for an age group traditionally less knowledgeable about technology and sometimes more isolated socially, and therefore perhaps more reliant on their digital world.

Avast's support will include a range of services to help Neighbourhood Watch members become more informed and less at risk of falling victim to cybercrime. This will include a training and accreditation scheme for local Neighbourhood Watch representatives, local informative events, downloadable guides and resources, and ongoing sharing of information about relevant emerging threats. Follow this link: <https://www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood>

Neighbourhood Watch members who have been a victim of cybercrime have experienced both financial and data loss, as well as emotional distress. In terms of financial impact, over a third (36%) lost money and of them, almost a third (29%) lost more than £1,000. The majority of these crimes were

kept secret by the victims with only 30% reporting it to the police. Sadly, 5% felt they couldn't tell anyone with over a third (34%) feeling foolish and embarrassed, and 36% left feeling very upset.

***"Avast has always believed that being safe online should be a basic right for all, which is why we have free versions of our cybersecurity products so that everyone can get great online protection at no cost. Neighbourhood Watch community leads, who often represent people and places that are most at risk of cyber threats, are increasingly asking for help following feedback from local members who have experienced scams or security incidents themselves, or know someone who has."***

***We are delighted to provide our support by working with them to deliver a cybersecurity accreditation programme with training courses to help members become more confident and knowledgeable in supporting their community cybersecurity requirements."***

Peter Turner, Senior Vice President, Consumer Security, Avast

### Additional findings:

- The majority have firewalls (70%), security software they regularly update (78%), strong passwords that are different across all their devices, apps and programmes (69%) and keep all of their software and apps updated when promoted (73%).
- However, 13% aren't sure their security software is always up to date and only 16% use encryption products such as a VPN and 23% a password manager tool.
- The overwhelming majority (88%) access banking, 85% shopping online, 81% accessing the DVLA, 78% bill payments, 73% council services, and 62% GP booking and prescription renewals.
- While only 6% haven't heard of phishing, and 5% of malware such as viruses, Trojans or ransomware, a much larger 88% haven't heard of spearphishing, stalkerware (87%), password attacks (48%) and hacks of a connected device (41%).

## Fraud Fighters Wanted

Newscaster Mary Nightingale and ITV's news team is set to work with Neighbourhood Watch highlighting crime against older people. We would like your help to find real life stories that will communicate vital warnings. If you have been affected by fraud, the team would like to hear from you. Whether it was a phone, doorstep or online scam the team is looking for as much information as possible.

Chris Choi, one of the reporters working on the project, says ***"Too often victims are suffering in silence and heartless fraudsters are simply moving on to their next targets. I know we are asking a lot from people, but we are hoping some of those who have been directly affected will help us push for change."***

Those who get involved may be asked whether they will agree to a short TV interview on what happened to them to help prevent others being victims. The broadcasters are also hoping to hear from relatives and friends. The TV team stresses that nobody will be under pressure to appear and no personal information will be used without express permission. Neighbourhood Watch Network will ensure that all volunteers are guided through the process.

To get involved please contact Deborah Waller, Senior Communications and Digital Manager at Neighbourhood Watch Network on [deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk) or call 0116 402 6111.



# Together for Good

This winter, Neighbourhood Watch and ABF The Soldiers' Charity are getting Together For Good again, so get your pans hot, your chopping boards ready and set a dining table with a difference.

In September, Neighbourhood Watch and The Soldiers' Charity launched a fundraising initiative bringing neighbours together to share a meal whilst raising money for both charities. **Together for Good: The Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry** ran throughout September, with supporters of both charities holding events bringing together neighbours, friends and family to share a meal while making connections and raising awareness for the work that both charities do. We know we have shared values as charities – the importance of home and community; the meaning of safety and support; and the value of connections and starting conversations.

We got great feedback on the partnership, so we've decided to continue the positive spirit generated by this initiative into the winter months. You can host a Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry at any time – either at your home, in a community centre or taking over a local restaurant— asking neighbours, friends and family for donations or to bring a dish.

To help unite the Together For Good spirit, we are launching the **Boxing Day Big Curry** this year! Invite your neighbours to pop over for a poppadum, try a turkey tikka with your leftovers, or a Boxing Day Bhuna – a great way to bring your community together and start conversations while raising funds for two special charities. There is no minimum fundraising amount – the goal is to have fun and bring people together. There will be free recipes and games to try out with your friends, family and neighbours so keep an eye out for more this December.



If you can't take part in the Boxing Day Big Curry, don't worry, you can still combat the cold of winter this January by opening your home or local community centre with the smell of cooking and join in with the **Janu-Curry Get Together!** Use free recipes and the spices in the back of your cupboards to create cooking magic! With every penny raised, you will help build friendlier and safer neighbourhoods and the Army family in one (any money raised will be split equally between Neighbourhood Watch Network and The Soldiers' Charity).

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of the Neighbourhood Watch Network, said: ***"Communities are most resilient to crime when neighbours look out for each other. What better way to get to know your neighbours than by sharing a meal with them? We're really proud to be partnering with The Soldiers' Charity on this special project."***

If you'd like to find out more or how to register to hold a Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry event, contact us at [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk)

***ABF The Soldiers' Charity (1146420/SCo39189) is a grant giving charity that has been celebrating 75 years of helping soldiers, veterans and their families since it was founded in 1944.***

# Community Conversations

Crimestoppers launch their 'Community Conversations' podcasts this month. The podcasts which explore crimes that affect local communities are recorded in a panel discussion format with Q&As from audience members. Series one discusses the impact of knife crime on local communities, with each episode focusing on a specific issue around this complex crime type. The podcast can be found on their website: [crimestoppers-uk.org/podcast](https://crimestoppers-uk.org/podcast)





# One Fifth of Victims Don't Call Police



## The Facts

One in three UK adults have been a victim of neighbourhood crime, according to a new report launched on Friday 8th November from [Co-op Insurance](#) and Neighbourhood Watch.<sup>1</sup> Based on hundreds of thousands of insurance claims and a YouGov survey of 4,000 UK adults, the report looks at crime trends across UK neighbourhoods and the effect it has on those who have been victims.

Over a third (38%) of UK adults have been a victim of neighbourhood crime, with two fifths (41%) having had their homes broken into. However, a fifth (20%) of victims chose not to contact the police. When asked why this was, over half (59%) said they weren't convinced that the police would do anything about it and a further one in six (16%) didn't trust that the police would be able to help them.

Just three in five (58%) victims who reported the crime said they were visited by the police and less than a third (31%) were visited within an hour of the crime being reported. Of those who didn't receive a police visit, three in five (58%) victims were given a crime reference number, whilst one in eight (13%) received a phone call.

## Prioritising a Response

The research highlights a potential lack of understanding among many UK adults when it comes to police response times. All calls made to the police are prioritised based on their severity of the incident and available resources and whilst some will receive an immediate response, others may not require a police visit until hours later if at all.<sup>2</sup>

Despite this, when asked how the absence of police at the scene of a neighbourhood crime made victims feel, over half (59%) said they felt as though they weren't important. Two fifths (41%) felt angry, whilst one in four (26%) were upset.

## Keeping Safe

As the nights draw in and we enter the winter months, Co-op Insurance is warning people to ensure they have robust security measures in place to keep their homes safe.

Business data from the insurer reveals that the number of theft claims increase by a third (35%)<sup>3</sup> in the months following the clocks going back, with November being the month when more burglaries take place.<sup>4</sup>

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Throughout the year, light fingered thieves are most likely to make their move on a Friday and, with November being the most common month for home break ins, Fridays in November prove to be a particularly popular time for burglars to strike.

Of the 41% of UK adults who have been a victim of burglary, almost a third (28%) said it happened during the night. A quarter (24%) were targeted in the afternoon, a fifth (20%) in the evening, whilst just 6% were burgled in the morning.

Over a quarter (29%) of victims were at home when the burglary took place, with one in five (22%) being asleep. At work, on holiday or out for dinner were also among the common places people were when their property was broken into.

When it comes to how burglars are breaking and entering, a third (33%) broke down a door, a quarter (23%) smashed a window and a tenth (10%) gained access via a door or window which was accidentally left open.

Whilst clearly there is a financial impact on victims of neighbourhood crime, Co-op's research also shows the lasting emotional impact on those targeted.

Of those people who have had their properties broken into, eight in ten (80%) say the crime has impacted their day-to-day life. One in five (23%) said they feel scared that it will happen again, whilst one in six (16%) say they still feel traumatised from the incident. As a result, one in ten have now moved to a new property.

## Co-op Insurance's top tips to protect your home from burglary

1. Leave a light on when out or invest in a light timer
2. Install exterior security lights at the front and back of the property
3. If possible, invest in a CCTV system
4. Don't post locations on social media sites when you are away
5. Ensure doors and windows are locked
6. Set burglar alarms
7. Ensure outbuildings/sheds are secured
8. Don't leave valuables on display
9. Never leave car keys within easy reach of a letterbox
10. Don't leave ladders outside your home

You can find more information on keeping your home safe in the Burglary Toolkit on [www.ourwatch.org.uk/crimes-archive/burglary-prevention-toolkit/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crimes-archive/burglary-prevention-toolkit/)

Colin Butler, Head of Strategic Partnerships at Co-op Insurance said: ***"Unfortunately, year on year, our claims data shows that darker nights lead to more burglaries. As the nights draw in, we're urging people to be vigilant when it comes to their personal safety, as well as the safety of their home."***

***"Our report unlocks the real issues that people are facing in their neighbourhoods, as well as the long-lasting impact this type of crime can have on victims. Our continuing partnership with Neighbourhood Watch has never been more important as we continue to encourage neighbours to look out for one another."***

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch, commented: ***"It's worrying that so many people have been a victim of neighbourhood crime. At Neighbourhood Watch, we believe that building strong communities where neighbours look out for each other is key to crime prevention. Being neighbourly and getting involved in your community brings long lasting rewards such as reducing fear of crime and making people proud of where they live."***

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Research conducted on behalf of Co-op Insurance by YouGov among 4,000 UK adults in October 2019

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/disclosure\\_2017/may\\_2017/information-rights-unit--a-list-of-call-grades-used-on-the-computer-aided-dispatch-cad-system-by-the-mps](https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/disclosure_2017/may_2017/information-rights-unit--a-list-of-call-grades-used-on-the-computer-aided-dispatch-cad-system-by-the-mps)

<sup>3</sup> Claims data analysed from Co-op's Home Insurance products for the three months following clocks changing over the past two years

<sup>4</sup> Claims data analysed from Co-op's Home Insurance and Motor Insurance products. Data analysed from 2013 to 2018



# We're looking for people like you to become a Co-op Member Pioneer

**If there's something that matters to your Neighbourhood Watch group, like improving a shared space or getting something started to help local people, or you just want to get involved in something in your community, then why not connect with your local Co-Op pioneer.**

## What is a Member Pioneer?

Member Pioneer's make great things happen in their communities. You'll connect with Co-op members and colleagues, along with neighbours to improve community spirit. You'll also support local community groups, connect with Co-op businesses, as well as promote national Co-op campaigns such as Fairtrade and Endangered Spaces

At the Co-op, we want to recognise your time and involvement. You'll receive the following pay and benefits if you become a Member Pioneer:

- £8.75 per hour (+ London weighting if London based)
- 4 hours a week (16 hours a month)
- 24 days holiday (rising to 30 with service)
- discounts on all kinds of Co-op products and services
- a pension with up to 10% employer contributions

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, then please search for a role near you and apply at [www.communityspirit.co.uk](http://www.communityspirit.co.uk). If there are no roles near you right now, you can sign up for alerts and be the first to know when we do. If you have any questions please email us at [memberpioneerresourcing@coop.co.uk](mailto:memberpioneerresourcing@coop.co.uk)

## Help us spread the word

If you know other community minded people who might be interested in this role, feel free to share community spirit with your networks, we'd love to hear from them too.



# 2019 Neighbourhood Watch Network AGM



**Our AGM is always a great opportunity to get associations together, share our successes and our vision for the future. Here are some things we got up to at the September 2019 AGM.**

## **Know the board**

David Huse, Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Network, summarised the changes to Trustees, namely:

- Alison Braganza, Ken Pease and Jessica Taplin resigned from the board since the previous AGM,
- Rachel Griffin sadly passed away, and
- Craig Cox and Alison McWhinnie retired from the board at the conclusion of the AGM.

The board was unanimously agreed as David Huse (Chair), Joe Pearce (Vice Chair), Kardaya Rooprai (Treasurer), Derek Pratt (Secretary) and Kirsty McHugh (Trustee). David Huse will be stepping down in March 2019 and an agency led recruitment campaign is in place to appoint a new Chair.

***“The board will grow in skills and strengths to deliver what you need.”*** David Huse

## **A snapshot of what we celebrated**

In the past year, we have moved the Central Support Team to London. We have delivered self-assessment tools, grown our knowledge in IT and new member registration, developed new toolkits and captured innovation. We have provided support and training around fundraising and social media, and reviewed

branding. Work on developing a core member offer and a measurement tool is well underway. We have developed new partnerships and we are increasing our footprint on social media with key simple messages.

***“We continue to maintain a position of financial strength. We know where we are now as a charity and that gives us the opportunity to execute our deliverables.”*** Joe Pearce

## **We discussed our future**

John Hayward-Cripps, our CEO, shared a plan, outlining key work areas we are delivering on in the next two years including improved IT systems, a core member offer and measuring the impact of Neighbourhood Watch. The Central Support Team will be finalising a detailed growth plan by December 2019 to grow our membership and reach new audiences.

***“We’re in a very different place to where we were last year. We’re more connected to our membership. We know what we need to do to support them and we know what we need to do to involve new people. My team, the Board, and I would like to thank all the volunteers involved in making this happen. It’s better because of you. With our improved IT and our work underway on the ‘offer’ for Neighbourhood Watch members, we’re on the right track.”***

John Hayward-Cripps

To read more on the AGM, the minutes can be found on our website.



# How We Support Schemes

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are founded on the premise of bringing people together as neighbours and communities to help prevent crime and the need for this is as great today as it ever was. Neighbourhood Watch has upwards of 2.3 million member households across England and Wales and to continue to ensure our relevance to you - our members - we are working to a 3 year 'Into the Future' Strategy, 2018 – 2021.

We aim to:

- Provide a great service to Neighbourhood Watch members by supporting and developing existing schemes.
- Grow the charity by attracting new members and schemes and engaging them in Neighbourhood Watch campaigns.
- Extend our reach by developing focused work to promote Neighbourhood Watch in areas of high crime, social disadvantage or need.

## What have we already delivered?

**To provide a great service to members** in the past 12 months we have delivered 5 key tools for associations and watches all available on our website.

1. A good practice database titled 'Inspiration', containing a collection of innovative work being undertaken by volunteers in England and Wales.
2. An impact measurement tool enabling local watches or associations to run surveys to measure the impact, reach or outcomes of Neighbourhood Watch within their area.
3. Fundraising information and training to support local schemes in raising funds.
4. Self-assessment tool enabling schemes to make informed assessments of how they are performing. The tool sets out five potential levels at which an association could be functioning in each of the areas that support Neighbourhood Watch activity such as:
  - planning,
  - training,
  - campaigning,
  - fundraising,
  - relationships with partners,
  - communication, and
  - relationship with the wider Neighbourhood Watch Network.

5. Toolkits which support local schemes and force areas to better understand and inform others about areas of crime such as:

- burglary,
- domestic abuse,
- scams,
- modern slavery,
- terrorism, and
- serious violence.

Toolkits on social media and creating a Neighbourhood Watch scheme have also been added.

## What are we doing next?

To grow the charity and extend our reach over the next 2 years we are:

1. enhancing our IT by improving the process of our new user registration and usability of our member database; and redeveloping our website to be more user-friendly,
2. developing our core member offer to all, and
3. measuring the impact of Neighbourhood Watch schemes nationally and locally.

## Join the Movement

We want our members and partners to join us on our journey. We know that active associations make a difference in crime reduction. We want our members to be neighbourly, get involved and volunteer in order to reduce crime and bring neighbours together.

Our vision is a society where neighbours come together to create **safer, stronger** and **active** communities.

Our mission is to support and enable individuals and communities to be **connected, active** and **safe**, which increases wellbeing and minimises crime.

# Non-Member Research Findings

To complement the work we are doing to provide a great service to current members, it's important that we work at national level to attract new members to Neighbourhood Watch to ensure growth, longevity and development for the charity. To help us do this, a working group made up of 4 representative members and 2 staff members looked at the 'Core Member Offer'. In addition to speaking to current members at events and through evaluations, the group proposed we commission market research to better understand non-members. The purpose being to help us to make informed decisions based on potential warm audiences, motivations, barriers and concerns around joining: an opportunity to explore the approaches that would most resonate with potential new members.

Market research was conducted by ICM Unlimited and consisted of a survey of 2,000 people fully representative of the population across England and Wales, and two profiled focus groups.

The research confirmed majority of non-members have heard of Neighbourhood Watch (95%) but don't know much about it (93%). After sharing Neighbourhood Watch's purpose, vision and mission 76% felt it was clear to them what the organisation stands for and 73% felt it was relevant to life today.

The main aspects of Neighbourhood Watch today which are appealing to non-members centre around preventing crime in their community (45%), being helpful to/looking out for their neighbours (45%) and being friendly to their neighbours (42%).

Non-members highlighted the top three barriers to involvement as not having enough spare time, feeling pressured to organise an event/group, and wanting to spend their time in other ways.

The top three things which would make non-members more interested in getting involved with Neighbourhood Watch were:

- if they knew who else was involved in their community,
- if someone in their community asked them to, or
- if it was clearer what would be expected of them.

The report found that those most likely to become involved in Neighbourhood Watch are those that are: knowledgeable about Neighbourhood Watch, 25-34 year olds, city dwellers, black and minority ethnic groups. It's important we approach these potential



warm audiences with the approach and offer that appeals to them.

To do this best, we will:

- the Neighbourhood Watch Core Member Offer creates a sense that members are part of something bigger, while making a difference at local level. Signing up to a set of values and beliefs of what a good neighbor and citizen is, is an important aspect of being a member.
- address the key barrier of lack of time by 'chunking up' our pitch to become a member and demonstrating:
  - becoming a member as a first step is simple and quick,
  - ways to take part with your family, and
  - being part of Neighbourhood Watch is good for your family and community.
- take new members on a journey, encouraging them to: be neighbourly, get involved in local Neighbourhood Watch activities, and ultimately, for those it best suits, volunteer as a coordinator or community champion.

Keep an eye on our communications going into the new year regarding this in practice – we want to bring all our members with us on this exciting journey of growth and futureproofing for the charity.

***"I've always wanted to be more connected with my neighbours but am not sure how to do it."***

RESPONDENT.

***"I like the idea of spreading positive involvement in protecting my community and improving the wellbeing of the local area."***

RESPONDENT.

***"It is important for neighbours and communities to watch out for each other. It enables people to get to know each other in a positive way."***

RESPONDENT.



## Self-Assessment Tool for Schemes

As described in the AGM article, Neighbourhood Watch Network has developed a self-assessment tool to help schemes and associations to assess how they are performing. The tool sets out five potential levels at which an area/association could be functioning in each of the areas that support Neighbourhood Watch activity.

The tool can be used to identify strengths, areas for development, and action plans to support, grow and diversify your local Neighbourhood Watch association

– a key aim of the organisation's three-year strategy.

Jayne Pascoe, Head of Projects and Partnerships, who spearheaded the project says ***"This is a tool for associations to use as they fit, to mould their activity around local priorities and ensure Neighbourhood Watch is delivering for local communities."***

The tool, guidance on how to use it, an action plan template and two case studies can be downloaded from the our website at [www.ourwatch.org.uk/self-assessment-tool/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/self-assessment-tool/)

## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Awards Introduced

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association introduced their first ever Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Awards for which there were a total of 26 nominations across 4 categories. Winners were presented with their awards at the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch's second ever AGM held at the Cheshire Police HQ in Winsford on the 6th November 2019.

- Cheshire NW Coordinator of the Year Winner: **Gerald Watts and Alwynne Watts**
- Cheshire New NW Coordinator of the Year Winner: Dave Brown
- Cheshire Neighbourly Neighbour Award of the Year Winner: **William Ferris**
- Cheshire Public Official of the Year Winner: **Councillor Richard Beacham**

The winners have all worked tirelessly to bring the community together through a wide range of activities from holding meetings with residents to involvement in community projects which keep areas tidy and deter anti-social behaviour.

Activities they have been involved in include taking meals to vulnerable elderly residents, litter picking, providing a Christmas lunch for elderly and vulnerable residents, reading stories to and making craft gifts for local school pupils, delivering questionnaires

to residents and disseminating vital information working with the police, obtaining funds from grant bodies to support projects, and supporting a community gardening group which helps vulnerable elderly residents with their garden.

The Cheshire Public Official of the Year Winner, Councillor Richard Beacham is a Councillor for Newton and Hoole ward and has dedicated time and energy to meaningfully engage with local people to fully understand the issues of fly-tipping in order to develop a practical, integrated and sustainable approach to dealing with it. Richard has been a true ambassador and champion of the local people to overcome inaction or obstruction from the local authorities.

Three recently retired Neighbourhood Watch coordinators — Gordon Pearce, Brian Gray and Keith Buckley — served their communities for many years were also honoured with a certificate and a £20 shopping voucher.

As a result of Neighbourhood Watch working closely with the community policing team, severe anti-social behaviour issues, knife crime, drug use, criminal damage, arson, violence and robberies have all been reduced to practically nothing.

Well done to all our winners!

## Become a Friend Against Scams Today

The National Trading Standards initiative Friends Against Scams celebrates its 3rd birthday this month. Friends Against Scams delivers online training to raise awareness of different types of fraud. The initiative sits nicely alongside our Cyberhood Watch project, which aims to provide a deeper dive into cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention. Find out more here: [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/NeighbourhoodWatch](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/NeighbourhoodWatch)

**ERA** are offering all Neighbourhood Watch members a **20% discount** on all items from their online shop until the end of December.



**MEMBERS  
EXCLUSIVE**

**20%**

**OFF**

**ALL PRODUCTS**

**Plus**  
**FORCE**  
**INCENTIVE**  
**£1000**  
**WORTH OF ERA**  
**EQUIPMENT FOR THE**  
**WINNER**

With an incentive to all Force Associations and London Boroughs to promote the offer within their area.

Force Area	Discount Code	Force Area	Discount Code	Force Area	Discount Code
Avon & Somerset	NHWAVON20	Gwent	NHWGWEN20	North Wales	NHWWALE20
Barking & Dagenham	NHWBARK20	Hackney	NHWHACK20	North Yorkshire	NHWYORK20
Barnet	NHWBARN20	Hammersmith & Fulham	NHWHAMM20	Northamptonshire	NHWNHAM20
Bedfordshire	NHWBEDF20	Hampshire	NHWHAMP20	Northumbria	NHWUMBR20
Bexley	NHWBEXL20	Haringey	NHWHARI20	Nottinghamshire	NHWNOTT20
Brent	NHWBREN20	Harrow	NHWHARR20	Redbridge	NHWREDB20
Bromley	NHWBROM20	Havering	NHWHAVE20	Richmond	NHWRICH20
Cambridgeshire	NHWCAMB20	Hertfordshire	NHWHERT20	South Wales	NHWSWAL20
Camden	NHWCAMD20	Hillingdon	NHWHILL20	South Yorkshire	NHWSYOR20
Cheshire	NHWCHE20	Hounslow	NHWHOUN20	Southwark	NHWSOUT20
City of London	NHWCITY20	Humberside	NHWHUMB20	Staffordshire	NHWSTAF20
Cleveland	NHWCLEV20	Islington	NHWISLI20	Suffolk	NHWSUFF20
Croydon	NHWCROY20	Kensington & Chelsea	NHWKENS20	Surrey	NHWSURR20
Cumbria	NHWCUMB20	Kent	NHWKENT20	Sussex	NHWSUSS20
Derbyshire	NHWDERB20	Kingston	NHWKING20	Sutton	NHWSUTT20
Devon & Cornwall	NHWDEVO20	Lambeth	NHWLAMB20	Thames Valley	NHWTHAM20
Dorset	NHWDORS20	Lancashire	NHWLANC20	Tower Hamlets	NHWTOWE20
Durham	NHWDURH20	Leicestershire	NHWLEIC20	Waltham Forest	NHWWALT20
Dyfed-Powys	NHWDYFE20	Lewisham	NHWLEWI20	Wandsworth	NHWWAND20
Ealing	NHWEALI20	Lincolnshire	NHWLINC20	Warwickshire	NHWWARW20
Enfield	NHWENFI20	Merseyside	NHWMERS20	West Mercia	NHWMERC20
Essex	NHWESSE20	Merton	NHWMERT20	West Midlands	NHWMIDL20
Gloucestershire	NHWGLOU20	Metropolitan	NHWMETR20	West Yorkshire	NHWWYOR20
Greater Manchester	NHWGREA20	Newham	NHWNEWH20	Westminster	NHWWEST20
Greenwich	NHWGREE20	Norfolk	NHWNORF20	Wiltshire	NHWWILT20

## How it works?

Members use the discount codes above at checkout to claim the 20% discount. Each force area has a separate voucher code and at the end of the three month campaign, the Force Association or London borough with the largest number of collective sales, having used the codes above, will win £1,000 worth of ERA equipment which can be auctioned off to raise money locally.