



## Neighbourhood Watch Network Annual General Meeting Event

held at 14.00 on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
by on-line Zoom Meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions

### Minutes

1	<p><b>Introduction from the Chair – Ian Bretman</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as new Chair of Trustees, having been appointed since the 2019 AGM. He thanked the many people who had shared their wisdom and experience with him during his Neighbourhood Watch learning curve.</p> <p>As this was the first ‘virtual’ AGM NWW had held, Ian explained how the Zoom meeting and Slido voting would work and the protocols that should be observed by meeting attendees.</p>
2	<p><b>Address from Kit Malthouse – Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service and MP for North West Hampshire</b></p> <p>Kit Malthouse introduced himself and explained what his role at the Home Office covers. He congratulated Neighbourhood Watch volunteers on their work generally but more recently on the COVID-19 related response and community initiatives taken in the last 6 months: it was great that Neighbourhood Watch had been so adaptable. He also thanked the Central Support Team for their work on crime prevention campaigns, the inspirational good practice database and crime survey.</p> <p>He explained the Home Office approach to crime is subtly changing, moving away from enforcement to prevention, and he sees working with Neighbourhood Watch as key in this in the future. One of the major areas of focus is ‘neighbourhood crime’ which includes burglary, robbery, and car crime, which the Neighbourhood Watch Network 5-year strategy fits with. An example is the car crime campaign that will be launched in the new year.</p> <p>Kit also explained he was encouraged to see that NWN is committed to providing universal crime prevention advice to all and was pleased to read about new volunteer initiatives in Merton and Leicestershire.</p> <p>Ian Bretman thanked Kit for his passion and knowledge on the subject.</p>
3	<p><b>Question and Answer session for Kit Malthouse</b></p> <p>Kit Malthouse answered questions from attendees covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventative crime</li><li>• Attacks on first responders and punishments</li><li>• Keyless car crime</li><li>• Crime prevention officers</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differing relationships between Neighbourhood Watch and local police</li> <li>• Cons and scams [Grant Murrell, Bexley agreed to email Kit Malthouse outside the meeting]</li> <li>• Future crime trends</li> </ul> <p>Ian Bretman thanked Kit Malthouse for his informative address and generous time taken to answer questions.</p>
4	<p><b>5-Year Strategy discussion and questions – John Hayward-Cripps</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman introduced the new 5-year strategy and emphasised the collaborative approach to its development, involving a Task Force drawn from the membership and regular dialogue that all local Associations could participate in.</p> <p>John Hayward-Cripps gave an overview of the refreshed strategy for the NW movement through to 2025. He highlighted feedback received during the consultation and updated on areas that needed clarification which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ambition of the strategy will not be scaled back, but more regular feedback is needed to report on progress and adapt plans if action is needed</li> <li>• The strategy should empower people to take action locally</li> <li>• It should be more specific including how things will actually be implemented.</li> </ul> <p>He also clarified the role of NWN in this, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to gaining funding both nationally and locally.</li> <li>• Being really clear on gathering evidence of impact.</li> <li>• Encouraging alignment with neighbourhood policing teams</li> <li>• Overall, firming up on what NWN will deliver and how the organisation will be accountable to the wider NW movement.</li> </ul> <p>Then John gave an update on recent activities which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lottery funding received for a new volunteer programme</li> <li>• Issue of the first impact report</li> <li>• Two campaigns successfully delivered (burglary, password) and a further one planned for the new year (car crime)</li> <li>• Neighbour of the year award to be announced in December</li> <li>• A family film to be released in the new year will be co-branded with NW and will help NW appeal to young families</li> </ul> <p>John answered questions from attendees covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “detection” does not appear in the new strategy</li> <li>• Campaigns should be more in sync with Crime Stoppers’ campaigns</li> <li>• how does COVID-19 affect ambitions for 2020/21?</li> </ul>

5	<p><b>Results of the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Survey 2020 – Jayne Pascoe</b></p> <p>Jayne Pascoe gave a report on the recent Crime Survey. Its purpose was to provide a benchmark for NWN so that progress of the new strategy can be measured against a starting point.</p> <p>The survey was created by University College London and informed by previous research carried out for NWN by Nottingham Trent University. The survey was designed to explore a number of aspects, including broadening our understanding of the NW perception; how people feel about their communities; what our demographic is; and if we are reaching out to different demographics.</p> <p>Bob Combes and Grant Murrell asked for summary that could be shared. JHC said summary will be shared for use locally.</p> <p>Paul Sunners asked how many people has responded: 33,000+</p> <p>JHC asked people not to share the survey results yet as this is still a preliminary report. NWN would be providing a tidied-up version in the new year with a press release, around the data, which will be used to help advertise the organisation.</p>
6	<p><b>Formal NWN AGM</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman outlined the formal part of the Annual General Meeting and asked attendees if there were any other matters to be discussed, as none had been provided in advance of the meeting. He explained voting would take place by voting-members only by using the Slido facility.</p> <p>Two informal polls were carried out to test the voting facility:</p> <p><u>Test 1</u></p> <p><i>“We welcome the new NWN strategy as an ambitious and positive plan for the movement over the next five years”.</i></p> <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 strongly agree</li> <li>• 12 agree</li> <li>• 0 neutral</li> <li>• 0 disagree</li> </ul> <p><u>Test 2</u></p> <p><i>“The new NWN strategy is relevant to our local Association and has the potential to support our work”</i></p> <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 strongly agree</li> <li>• 14 agree</li> <li>• 2 neutral</li> <li>• 1 disagree</li> </ul> <p>After carrying out these two test polls, it was assumed that the voting technology was working</p>

6.1	<p><b>Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2019</b></p> <p>These were approved by a show of hands.</p>
6.2	<p><b>Any matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p>There were none.</p>
6.3	<p><b>Overview from the Chair, and to receive the Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2020</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman gave a report on behalf of the Board of Trustees. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of changes to the trustees over the past year and asked all current trustees present at the meeting to introduce themselves.</li> <li>• He thanked trustees who have resigned since the last Annual General Meeting, namely David Huse (predecessor as Chair), Joe Pearce (former Vice-Chair) and Derek Pratt (former Secretary). He acknowledged Derek Pratt's MBE awarded in the belated Honours List for the Queen's Birthday for his services to NW and offered congratulations.</li> <li>• Ian then introduced the Annual Report and gave a summary of its highlights.</li> <li>• He then reminded everyone that NWN trustees are accountable to associations and that his focus is to strengthen the way the board works, that he sees it as a really good team, and that he will develop clearer roles and responsibilities across the board.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions about the overview.</p>
6.4	<p><b>To receive the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2020</b></p> <p>Kardaya Rooprai presented the financial statements and gave a summary of their highlights.</p> <p>Tony Spall, Suffolk - requested a summary of finances in a slide for future updates.</p>
6.5	<p><b>Retirement of longest serving Trustees</b></p> <p>In accordance with NWN's constitution, the one third of Trustees must retire at the AGM. In line with this, the two longest serving Trustees retired and were re-elected for another term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kirsty McHugh (27 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Kardaya Rooprai (27 for, none against)</li> </ul>
6.6	<p><b>Retirement then election of co-opted Trustees</b></p> <p>In accordance with NWN's constitution, all co-opted Trustees must retire at each AGM. In line with this, all other trustees retired and were re-elect for another term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ian Bretman (25 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Mohamed Hameda (25 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Peter Buchanan (25 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Sue Pillar-Lea (25 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Rebecca Bryant (25 for, none against).</li> </ul>

6.7	<p><b>Confirmation of Charity Officers from within newly re-elected Trustees</b> (Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer)</p> <p>In accordance with NWN’s constitution, members were asked to confirm the Charity Officers’ roles from within the newly confirmed Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair: Ian Bretman (27 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Treasurer: Kardaya Rooprai (27 for, none against)</li> <li>○ Sue Pillar-Lee: Vice-Chair (27 for, none against)</li> </ul>
6.8	<p><b>Update on the appointment of Auditor for 2020-2021</b> - Kardaya Rooprai.</p> <p>Kardaya Rooprai explained that NWN will be moving to an independent examination rather than a full external audit for the next financial year. He explained this was very common amongst other charities of NWN’s size, and that it will not hinder potential future funding but will give better value for money.</p>
7	<p><b>General Question and Answer session for the Board and Central Support Team</b></p> <p>After the formal business of the AGM was concluded, general questions and comments were invited from members:</p> <p><u>Mike Fox, Surrey</u></p> <p>Q: Is a safeguarding policy available for associations to use, as a potential funder required the association to have one?</p> <p>A: Yes, it is available on the OurWatch website, but needs review and update. Once this has happened, it will be formally sent out to associations.</p> <p><u>Joe Murray, Cumbria</u></p> <p>Congratulations to JHC and all the team, for the incredible amount of work carried out in a short amount of time.</p> <p><u>Sue Pillar-Lee, Trustee</u></p> <p>She has sat on board that looked at community grant applications - it’s really good to read about the excellent work that was being proposed. She would encourage more applications.</p> <p><u>Mike Winter</u></p> <p>Q: Has the issue where the Sun newspaper’s headline was “Neighbourhood Snitch” been resolved?</p> <p>A: NWN did pursue the matter very strongly and took advice on <u>how</u> strongly to pursue. This resulted in a retraction by the newspaper. NWN also gave more proactive information so the Sun could be better informed in the future.</p> <p><u>Marie Lane</u></p> <p>Q: Is NWN engaged with PCCs?</p> <p>A: Yes, NWN meets with Association of PCCs and is in the process of putting information out to candidates ahead of elections in May 2021.</p> <p><u>Amy Mawby, NWN</u></p> <p>Some positive news to report, being that NWN has been awarded funding from the National Lottery, to fund a volunteer programme.</p>

	<p><u>Lynne Fairclough</u></p> <p>Q: Have NWN got any ideas of short national campaign following the COVID-19 response, along the lines of: “so you’ve had a WhatsApp group, now take the next step and set up a NW scheme”. Also, many thanks to Cheryl for always answering questions.</p> <p>A: Some material is already available, and work is being carried out with mutual aid associations. But there is no plan for national advertising campaign, which would be expensive.</p>
Close	<p>Ian closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for all the work local Associations have been doing through this extraordinary year.</p> <p>He thanked John Hayward-Cripps and the team for keeping the organisation functioning and wished everyone well for the holidays and hope for a return to normality in 2021.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 4:20pm</p>

**AGM Attendees:**

Kit Malthouse MP – Policing Minister, Katherine Jones – Home Office, Ian Bretman – Chair of Trustees, Kardaya Rooptai – Treasurer, Kirsty McHugh – Trustee, Mohamed Hammeda – Trustee, Peter Buchanan – Trustee, Rebecca Bryant – Trustee, Sue Pillar-Lea – Vice-Chair of Trustees, Eglis Praulitis – Avon & Somerset, Julie Pal – Barnet, Graham Boyle – Bedfordshire, Colleen Atkins – Bedfordshire, Grant Murrell – Bexley, Robin Sutton – Cambridgeshire, Julia Griffiths – Cheshire, Joe Murray – Cumbria, Julie Fairman & Julie Dowton – Devon and Cornwall, Lynn Farrar – Derbyshire, John Scott – Essex, Phil Sullivan – Gloucester, Andrew Taylor – Greater Manchester, Jonathan Sanders – Greenwich, Bob Combes – Hampshire, Mike Winter – Havering, Sue Thompson – Hertfordshire, Lucy Carew & Sarah Weichardt – Humberside, Peter Rolington – Kent, Roy Baines – Lancashire, Russ Horne – Leicestershire, Selvin Reid – Lewisham, Lynne Fairclough & Barbara Yates – Merseyside, Roger Steele & Roger Steele – Merton, Alan Kennison – Norfolk, Peter French – North Yorkshire, Alan Earle – Northamptonshire, Mark Glazer – Redbridge, Carole Atkinson – Richmond, Derek Bateman – South Wales, Tony Spall – Suffolk, Mike Fox – Surrey, Stan Jones – Thames Valley, Colin Cartwright – Warwickshire, Raymond Boyle – West Mercia, Marie Lane – West Midlands, Paul Sunners – Wiltshire, Aga Korfel – Staff, Amy Mawby – Staff, Cheryl Spruce – Staff, Deborah Waller – Staff, Jayne Pascoe – Staff, Jennifer Powell – Staff, John Hayward-Cripps – CEO, Kathleen Cunningham – Staff