

**The Second Annual General Meeting of the Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association
was held in the Old York Room at The Alma Public House
on Tuesday 1st October 2024 starting at 6.30pm**

Attended By (*= online)

NW Scheme Representative		Ward
Artan	Filo	Wandsworth Town
Beatriz	Garcia-Martin	East Putney
Carol	Smith	West Putney
Christopher	Coe	Roehampton
Christopher	Downing	East Putney
Ian	Reid	Southfields
James	Murray	Nine Elms
James	Smith	Wandsworth Town
Janette	Forbes	Battersea Park
Janey	Brown	Trinity
Joanna	Chrobak	Falconbrook
Kshirja	Rohan Naik	East Putney
Laurent	Ksis	Lavender
Lesley	Theobald	Trinity
Leslie *	McDonnell	East Putney
Lloyd	Salmon	Battersea Park
Marcia*	Patterson	Battersea Park
Mark	Acharya	Tooting Broadway
Mary	Findlay	Trinity
Melanie*	Purnell	Balham
Michael	Stone	Thamesfield
Nick	Billingham	Balham
Rachael*	Delahunty	Tooting Bec
Sarah	Kitchen	Thamesfield
Sarah	Miller	South Balham
Stephan*	Kofler	Falconbrook
Sylvie	Chrzanowska	Thamesfield
Trevor	Hutton	Furzedown

In attendance:

Lee Spear – Manager, Community Safety Team, WBC
Abbie Ball – Community Safety Officer, WBC

1 - Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Jan Forbes (JF) welcomed everyone and thanked those in the room for coming out in such dreadful weather. She said the formal part of the meeting would be recorded to support writing up the minutes, but the recording would be deleted after the Minutes had been completed.

1.2 The second, less formal part of the meeting, would be the most significant when participants would be able to raise their issues of concern and meet and exchange experiences with scheme representatives from their local area. One member of the committee would be sitting with each group.

2 - Apologies for Absence

The schemes in Spencer Park, Hazelbourne Road, Highlands Heath and Fanthorpe had notified us in advance of the meeting that they could not attend or find a deputy and Hotham, Lacy & Charlwood and Pavilion Square sent their apologies on the night for unavoidably cancelling.

3 – Approval of Minutes of the 2023 AGM and Action Points Arising

3.1 The minutes of the 2023 AGM had been circulated to attendees and posted on the website about 2 weeks after the meeting and no feedback had been received.

3.2 During the year, the action points from the 2023 had been progressed. Not all were complete, but a lot had been achieved, and the action points which were not complete will be carried forward. An update on the action points had been circulated prior to this meeting.

The meeting agreed to accept the 2023 Minutes and status update of the action points with no objections.

4 - Financial Report

4.1 Leslie McDonnell (LM) explained that the Association's year end was 31 March to keep it in line with Wandsworth Council. As the Association's independent account with Lloyds Bank was not opened until April 2024, all spends before 31 March 2024 were made by Wandsworth Council who hold the receipts.

4.2 Rather than presenting formal accounts to 31 March 2024, LM presented an informal breakdown of all cash from receipt of the original grant to the end of August 2024. LM said that Wandsworth Council was also happy with this approach. He said that the receipts marked from 01 to 10 were held by the Association and available for inspection if required.

The meeting agreed to accept informal accounts for the financial year up to 31 March 2024, with no objections.

4.3 LM said the next set of accounts would cover the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. Currently there was £2065 in the account and an additional grant of £4,000 was in the pipeline.

4.4 JF said the Association was very grateful for the support given from Wandsworth Council by allocating Safer Neighbourhood Board MOPAC funds to the Association. This meant we could concentrate on building our membership, activity and impact rather than fundraising. She drew attention to the items on display in the room that had been paid for out of this grant funding – banner & flag signage, recruitment leaflets. High vis waistcoats, the Neighbourhood Watch stand and Neighbourhood Watch flag can be loaned out for events but must be returned to Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association afterwards so others have the opportunity to use them.

5 - Annual Report

5.1 JF asked all to take note of the Annual Report, which had been circulated in advance, and highlighted that we now had 101 approved schemes, more in the pipeline and that more Committee members would be very welcome.

5.2 In answer to a question about time commitment associated with joining the Committee, JF confirmed that we aimed for around four meetings a year, all had so far been online to accommodate varying diary commitments, but she did not rule out in person meetings in the future. Beatrice Garcia Martinez added that, as a relatively new Committee member, she could confirm that everyone contributed what time they could given individual circumstances.

6 - Amendment to the Constitution

JF explained the background to the change and that banking was rarely done nowadays by cheque. Both the Chair and the Treasurer were alerted to all expenditure on the bank card via the banking app and Abbie Ball has view only access to our account in order to provide the current Council oversight on our expenditure.

The meeting agreed to accept the amendment to the Constitution which had been previously circulated, with no objections.

7 - Election of Committee

7.1 JF said that our Constitution did not require existing officers to be re-nominated if they were willing to stand again. All had said they were willing to stand and no further nominations had been received

The meeting agreed the following list of Officers of the Association until the 2025 AGM

Chair - Janette Forbes
Deputy Chair – Sylvie Chrzanowska
Secretary – Carol Smith
Treasurer – Leslie McDonnell

7.2 There is no formal election process for Committee members and Beatriz Garcia-Martin, Lesley Theobald and Paul Clements have also agreed to remain as Committee Members.

8 - Any Other Business Break-Out Groups

8.1 Reaching this point at 7pm, JF invited the participants to take a glass of wine or a soft drink and move into their regional groupings for Any Other Business discussions.

8.2 Each group would be asked to summarise the most important things raised at their individual tables and this would be minuted and shared with the Police and Council where appropriate. Each group was asked to structure their feedback under four headings

9 - PUTNEY SECTOR – WESTERN WARDS

Roehampton, Thamesfield, West Putney

main crime/safety concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burglary• Speeding vehicles and other traffic issues• Car thefts• Parcel theft• Anti-social behaviour• Fireworks thrown through letterboxes• Young people crowding into shops to distract staff and steal
running your scheme and liaison with SNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership lists• Not all have deputies but acknowledge it's a good idea• Publicity leaflets for new members• Not all members join Ourwatch.org• Not too many alerts and emails
quality of communications from the Association and National NW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local and national is good• Format of messages is good• When we use WhatsApp groups and communities, we can see the contact numbers of participants• Channels can be used for transmission of messages (members' details cannot be seen) but communication to sender or other members not possible
what events members would like the Association organise for them
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer Neighbourhood events• Area coordinator is a good idea
any 'surprise' issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breaking into recycling bins for electrical items and stealing

10 – TOOTING SECTOR WARDS

Furzedown, South Balham, Tooting Bec, Tooting Broadway, Trinity (not represented: Wandle, Wandsworth Common)

main crime/safety concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parcel theft• Drugs• Homeless issues• Mental health issues• Cycles and scooters on the pavement – not regulated - max 85 mph – insurance necessary• Mobile phone theft
running your scheme and liaison with SNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victoria Boyle Community Safety officer is good
quality of communications from the Association and National NW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community police good in South Balham and Trinity SNT are excellent
what events members would like the Association organise for them
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
any 'surprise' issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

11 – PUTNEY SECTOR - EASTERN WARDS

East Putney, Southfields, Wandsworth Town (Not represented: West Hill)

main crime/safety concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parcel theft• Antisocial behaviour (urinating)• The number of drunk and disorderly near Wandsworth Town• Dangerous driving over pavement• Dangerous riding – cycles and scooters – delivery• Fly tipping
running your scheme and liaison with SNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email• Facebook
quality of communications from the Association and National NW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Really good• Join the online workshops – recommended
what events members would like the Association organise for them
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk to parents in the local schools about reporting crime,• What we can do to have a safer route (dangerous driving etc)
any 'surprise' issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

13 – BATTERSEA SECTOR

Balham, Battersea Park, Falconbrook, Lavender, Nine Elms, (Not represented: Northcote, Shaftesbury & Queenstown, St Mary's)

main crime/safety concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drugs• Homelessness• Phone theft• Parcel theft• Engine Idling
running your scheme and liaison with SNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All know how to signpost to the police• Liaison generally good• Would like police presence here at the AGM• Antisocial behaviour has reduced in one area since new scheme set up
quality of communications from the Association and National NW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OK – happy with alerts
what events members would like the Association organise for them
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not much demand• Weekend events might be more popular. Events where there is interest for children like the Blue Lights event in Battersea Park (the fire engine was popular)• Tagging onto local coffee morning events
any 'surprise' issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite MPs & Councillors to the AGM• Coffee mornings – York Gardens Library – NW presence there would be good

14 – ONLINE GROUP – MULTIPLE SECTORS

East Putney, Battersea Park, Tooting Bec, Falconbrook, Balham

main crime/safety concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crash for cash – mopeds – lone females in cars• Drug users close to people's properties, taking drugs in doorways• More open drug use• Alcohol and drinking outside• Shop theft• Begging
running your scheme and liaison with SNT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very helpful SNT – responsive• Good relationship on the whole with SNT but would like more officers who stay for longer (don't leave after a year)• Lack of police• Just the coordinators had registered online – they disseminate information on WhatsApp• Want recruitment of SNT on estates
quality of communications from the Association and National NW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better than anything else they have had for the last 25 years

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, to the point • Want to see neighbouring schemes so they can work together
what events members would like the Association organise for them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCC visits – how can we ask for more visits • Doddington Estate recruitment event with housing at the Hub, SNT, NW, CS – Marcia to help out • Crimestoppers / Fearless – anonymous reporting
any ‘surprise’ issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

15 – OPEN FORUM TO ROUND UP

15.1 - Lee Spear (LS) reminded the meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting on Tuesday 8th October from 6.30pm – 8pm at Wandsworth Town Hall. Agenda items include presentation on Live Facial Recognition and the work of the Councils ‘Safer and Stronger Communities Team’. Full details and an invitation to attend had been sent to all NW members in an Alert on Monday evening.

15.2 - LS explained the distinction between on-street begging, which is a police matter, and can be reported to the Police, and rough sleeping which is not a police matter and should be reported on the StreetLink app. StreetLink is a platform that connects people rough sleeping in England and Wales to support provided by local authorities and charities. Details of this would be circulated to all Coordinators. He also explained that parking issues could be reported to the Council, but speeding and dangerous driving are police issues.

15.3 - Crime reporting - 101 is the non-emergency number and 999 is the emergency number. The consensus was that it is much quicker to log a non-emergency issue on the website rather than call 101. Crime can also be reported anonymously on Crimestoppers. The importance of knowing the IMEI number of a phone was mentioned, so it can be blocked if stolen.

15.4 – Several attendees had heard about the “Toast Rack” scheme around Trinity Road where neighbours had joined together to engage a private security company to patrol the area overnight and it was generally believed that this had greatly reduced incidents of crime in the area. Other areas had expressed an interest in knowing more. Views were mixed about whether or not this was a good idea.

15.5 – Concern was expressed about the abstractions of Community police reducing their ability to fulfil their primary roles.

16 – CLOSING

JF thanked everyone for their willingness to contribute to some really lively discussion groups and undertook that the notes from them would be reviewed by the Committee and any action points taken forward over the coming months. The meeting formally closed at 8.30pm, with thanks to all for their contributions