Neighbourhood Watch Network
Annual General Meeting Event

held at 14.00 on Tuesday 3rd December 2024
by on-line Zoom Meeting

Minutes

1	**Introduction from the Chair – Ian Bretman** Ian Bretman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 14.00 and introduced himself as the Chair of Trustees. Ian thanked all the Association Leads and members who were attending as the AGM is a very important part of the governance of Neighbourhood Watch Network and the movement as a whole. Ian went through the Agenda explaining that John Hayward-Cripps (CEO) would be updating the meeting on the progress of the 5-Year Strategy. Then welcomed the two external speakers who were presenting Karen Ogborn – Chief of Staff, Crimestoppers, and Andrew Farrell – National Police Lead for 'Clear, Hold, Build'. Then there would be the formal AGM with voting on Trustees followed by a Q&A session to the Board and Central Support Team.
2	**5-Year Strategy Update – John Hayward-Cripps** John Hayward-Cripps updated on the progress on the 5-Year Strategy. On the three main targets there had been very positive progress with the results of the 2024 Insights survey finding that: 65% agree that NW is effective at preventing crime (2023: 64%; 2022: 57%), 65% agree that that NW provides the first step for neighbours to connect with each other (2023: 57%; 2022: 50%), and 71% agree that NW contributes to community health and wellbeing (2023: 66%; 2022: 62%). These results show the work at a local and national level is having a very positive impact on the perception of Neighbourhood Watch. Other projects that had been performing well were the BT Project that was now underway in all five targeted regions with hundreds of volunteers taking part and delivering sessions and the young people's work funded by the Lottery and the City Bridge Foundation. Many Association Leads and coordinators had taken part in a set of Task and Finish Groups over the year covering volunteer recruitment, perception change, donor development, young people, and the volunteer offer. John thanked the volunteers and their input helped to ensure the plans were relevant and useful on the ground. The Neighbourhood Watch Conference in September in Manchester had been very successful with very positive feedback and interesting presentation. Local volunteers and Associations in the north of England had been particularly pleased the event was in Manchester and that the presentations were not London centric. John thanked all the Association Leads and volunteers for all their work over the year.
3	**Presentation from Karen Ogborn – Chief of Staff, Crimestoppers** Karen presented the work of Crimestoppers, how the organisation works, the absolute anonymity of all calls and contacts into Crimestoppers and the value to the police of the intelligence gathered and shared with the police. Karen shared the volume of calls and information and how many reports are shared with all the police forces. Details of the type of crimes reported on (virtually all) and the demographics of those making contact where this was shared. Karen also shared details

	of the work they have undertaken on their youth offer 'Fearless' and the importance of offering targeted work to enable young people to report concerns. Karen described some of their recent crime specific campaigns and the increase in information following campaigns.
4	**Presentation from Andrew Farrell – National Police Lead for 'Clear, Hold, Build'** Andy shared the background and process of the 'Clear, Hold, Build' project to remove and prevent the return of Serious Organised Crime within a specifically targeted area. The three consecutive and overlapping elements relate to a very targeted approach to an area of high organised crime. 1. Clear – interventions (arrests and relentless disruption) that target organised crime group members, their networks, business interests, criminality and spheres of influence. The police use all powers and levers to impede their ability to operate. This creates safer spaces to begin restoring community confidence. 2. Hold – interventions, counter-measures and contingency plans to consolidate and stabilise the initial clear phase. This stops remaining or other organised crime group members from capitalising on the vacuum created. It improves community confidence by ensuring spaces remain safe. Visible neighbourhood policing in hotspot areas provides continuing reassurance that police are still present. 3. Build – a single, whole-system approach to delivering community-empowered interventions that tackle drivers of crime, exploitation of vulnerabilities and geographic places where crime occurs. This improves living, working and recreational environment in the community for residents. It empowers them to work with stakeholders to generate resilience and build a safer community. Andy spoke of the importance of Neighbourhood watch groups locally being actively involved in 'Build Phase' with other community leaders and groups. There was also a role in providing intelligence before and as part of the 'Clear' phase. Andy asked local leads who had good contacts within the police to ask if and how local Neighbourhood Watch groups can support 'Clear, Hold, Build'.
5	**Q & A** Ian Bretman thanked the speakers and there were questions and comments from attendees including: • How several of the area Crimestoppers volunteer leads were also Neighbourhood Watch volunteer leads • How Crimestoppers and Neighbourhood Watch shared resources and amplified each other's campaigns • If there was a list of the local areas that were a focus for 'Clear, Hold, Build'? All Police Forces were utilising 'Clear, Hold, Build' but the specific areas would need to requested locally from the Police •
6	**Formal NWN AGM** Ian Bretman (Chair) introduced the formal section of the Annual General Meeting and confirmed that all the regulatory requirements had been met which was confirmed by John Hayward-Cripps (CEO). Ian asked attendees if there were any other matters to be discussed, as none had been provided in advance of the meeting – there were none. Ian also explained that the voting process would be on the zoom voting/poll as previous.

6.1	**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th December 2023** These were approved without any questions or amendments.
6.2	**Any matters arising from the minutes** There were none.
6.3	**Overview from the Chair, and to receive the Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024** Ian Bretman explained that as is usual the Report of the Trustees is in two parts: a narrative on the work of the organisation and tie financial report. He would address the first point and Kardaya Rooprai the second. Ian reported that the year had been a year of growth and delivery of numerous projects several of which were new including the BT Project and work with Young People. The Community Safety Charter was proving very positive in engaging other organisations and volunteers using the Volunteer Hub for support and training was also very positive. Ian thanked the trustees and all local members including Association Leads, Coordinators and other volunteers for their work over the year. Ian then thanked the Central Support Team for their work and the importance of utilising the wide and diverse knowledge and skills of volunteers to support their work.
6.4	**To receive the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023** Kardaya Rooprai stated the Financial Statement had been independently examined with no issues highlighted and were available on the Ourwatch website. Kardaya mentioned that during the year we had increased our reserves levels and diversified income. The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) monitor the finances closely through the year and the details of the accounts were all contained in the notes of the Financial Statements. There were no questions relating to the Report of the Trustees.
	Voting in the AGM Ian Bretman introduced the voting process at this year's AGM. John Hayward-Cripps explained that the voting this year would be by electronic show of hands during the meeting. That way non-voting members could stay in the meeting but would not be able to vote as staff would be aware of this and not include the vote.
6.5	**Retirement of longest serving Trustees then re-election to the Board** In accordance with Neighbourhood Watch Network's constitution, the one third of Trustees must retire at the AGM each year. In line with this, Rebecca Bryant and Mohamed Hammeda retired and Rebecca Bryant was re-elected for another term with 14 votes for and none against.
6.6	**Appointment of the Chair** Ian Bretman offered to serve again as Chair and was voted in with 15 votes for and none against.
6.7	**Appointment of the Vice Chair of Trustees** Sue Pillar-Lea offered to serve again as Vice Chair and was voted in with 18 votes for and none against.

6.8	**Appointment of the Treasurer** Kardaya Rooprai offered to serve again as Treasurer and was voted in with 17 votes for none against.
6.9	**Appointment of Independent Examination of Accounts for 2024-2025 - Kardaya Rooprai.** Kardaya Rooprai reported that Neighbourhood Watch Network's annual accounts had been independently examined by Sayers Vincent for the 4th year and while we are under the threshold for a full audit, an independent examination continues to provide better value for money and a higher level of expertise than a full audit. As the Board is very happy with Sayers Vincent, Kardaya stated that we re-appoint Sayers Vincent for the 2024-2025 Independent Examination.
7.	**General Question and Answer session for the Board and Central Support Team (CST)** There were no questions for the Board or CST.
8.	**Close** Ian Bretman closed the AGM meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for all the work local Associations, coordinators and other volunteers have been doing through the year. He stated that the work to develop a new 5-Year Strategy would take place next year and will need the involvement and input from across the movement to ensure it is meaningful and relevant and owned across the movement. Ian looked forward to the Association Leads quarterly meetings next year, and that the Board will be looking at further recruitment in the new year. Ian wished all attendees an early Merry Christmas and ended the meeting.

AGM Attendees:

Andrew Whyte – Trustee, Hugh Ind, Trustee, Ian Bretman – Chair of Trustees, Kardaya Rooprai – Treasurer, Rebecca Bryant – Trustee, Sue Pillar-Lea – Vice-Chair of Trustees

Roger Baines – Lancashire, Fatima Eltinay – Derbyshire, Colleen Atkins – Bedfordshire, Graham Boyle – Bedfordshire, Heather Thompson- Cheshire, David Braziel – Devon & Cornwall, Ajay Owen – Dyfed Powys, Tony Moran – Greater Manchester, Bob Coombes – Hampshire, John Bushby – Kent, Lynne Fairclough – Merseyside, Les Rowlands – Norfolk, Andrew Crisp – Northamptonshire, Alan Howell – Surrey, Derek Pratt – Sussex, Nick King – Thames Valley, Colin Cartwright – Warwickshire, Raymond Boyle – West Mercia, Grant Murrell – LB Bexley, Paul Voden – LB Croydon, Lynne Troughton – LB Hackney, Belinda Donovan – LB, Hammersmith & Fulham, Anita Milne – LB Hammersmith & Fulham, Michael Winter – LB Havering, Selvin Reid – LB Lewisham, Amanda Knight – LB Merton, Carol Atkinson – LB Richmond, James Phillips – LB Waltham Forest

Karen Ogborn – Chief of Staff, Crimestoppers, Andrew Farrell – National Police Lead for 'Clear, Hold, Build'

Alys Davies – Staff, Ashley Fontaine – Staff, Emese Offenbacher – Staff, Fatou Gassama – Staff, Jean-Louis Lebaga – Staff, Jennifer Powell – Staff, John Hayward-Cripps – Staff, Kathleen Cunningham – Staff, Ruby Smart – Staff, Sandra Bauer – Staff, Steph Good – Staff, Veronica Ghobert – Staff