

Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association's ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITY Prepared for the 2026 Annual General Meeting



This report covers the period since our AGM on 30th September 2025 and has been prepared by Jan Forbes, for the 2026 online AGM to be held on 6th October 2026. This report will be published on the Association's web pages and circulated to all Coordinators in advance of the AGM, whether or not they have nominated a representative to attend.

Our Committee

Our Current Committee Membership:

- Jan Forbes (Chair, Battersea Park Ward)
- Sylvie Chrzanowska (Deputy Chair, Thamesfield Ward)
- Les McDonnell (Treasurer, East Putney Ward)
- Carol Smith (Secretary, West Putney Ward)
- Chris Hopkins (Committee, Shaftesbury & Queenstown Ward)
- Lesley Theobald (Committee, Trinity Ward)
- Paul Clements, (Committee, Thamesfield Ward)

All are prepared to serve on the Committee for another year and, at the time of writing this report, no further nominations have been received.

The Committee met online in December 2025, February, May and August 2026, to plan and prioritise our resources effectively. We were delighted to welcome Chris to the Committee during the year and we are benefitting, in particular, from his support with our use of IT. Unlike all our other Committee Members, Chris is not a scheme Coordinator but is a great example of how individual NW members can step up to help run the Association.

In addition to committee membership, Sylvie, Lesley and I also act as Membership Support Administrators (MSAs) for the National NW database, Neighbourhood Alert. This involves handling the administration and approval of all newly-created schemes in the Borough. We take a one-third sector of Wandsworth each; I handle Battersea, Lesley takes Tooting and Sylvie Putney. Carol has also been trained to use the Neighbourhood Alert database to follow up on and update membership records where we have had communication issues, email bounce backs, duplicate accounts etc.

Les, our Treasurer, will present his annual report at the AGM and is meticulous at balancing the books.

From Wandsworth Council we have invaluable support from Community Safety Officer, Abbie Ball, from Lee Spear's Community Safety Team. Abbie is our dedicated NW Liaison with the Council and we welcome her attendance at our Committee meetings as an ex-officio member, and her support at other events throughout the year.

We are always very happy to hear from NW members who want to offer us some support in running the NW Association in Wandsworth. This can range from formally joining our Committee through to volunteering on an occasional basis at our events. Just email us at WandsworthNWassociation@gmail.com to let us know you want to get involved.

Our Membership

This is our first full-year report since the introduction of Met Engage, the Met Police's branding of Neighbourhood Alert. There is no doubt that the Met's adoption of Neighbourhood Alert continues to drive our increase in individual membership.

At the time of writing this report, our individual membership stands at 3,470 which is a 54% increase since the end of September 2025. However, fewer than 1,000 of those members are attached to an organised scheme in the traditional NW model.

Of our 135 Schemes, 17 were newly-created in the period covered by this report. Eight more proposed schemes failed to complete the validation process and two schemes were closed through lack of anyone prepared to take over from their former Coordinator.

Household coverage in Wandsworth is estimated to be over 6,000 based on the information our Coordinators add to their scheme details page on the database. This reflects the number of schemes that have members contactable through the Coordinator locally (via WhatsApp or email) but who are not necessarily individually registered on our database.

Our Funding

Since the founding of the Association in 2023 we have been fortunate to receive annual funding by way of a grant from MOPAC (the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime in London). We apply for this via the Wandsworth Safer Neighbourhood Board. MOPAC is currently reviewing its whole approach to funding Safer Neighbourhood Boards and we are unsure whether or not this hugely beneficial arrangement will continue.

Publicising Neighbourhood Watch

We have maintained a good stock of Wandsworth-branded recruitment leaflets and, this year, placed a repeat order for street signage. These resources, along with window stickers, are all available free of charge to Coordinators. Free window stickers can also be provided on request for registered members.

We have continued to give away branded cotton tote bags at promotional events, usually in return for completing our 'Quiz Challenge' or to new Coordinators with their supply of recruitment leaflets. We have also purchased a quantity of 'Message in a Bottle' containers from the Lions Club, which are popular when offered at public events. (see details of the scheme here <https://lionsmessageinabottle.co.uk/>)

The number of schemes requesting new signs continues to rise and we are grateful for the support of the Community Safety Team in handling the installation of these. We can also provide signs for Schemes to install themselves providing they follow the clear guidelines agreed with the Council and they register the position of every sign after installation.

However, we do not yet have a clear picture of all the out-of-date or broken signs, many marking discontinued schemes, in spite of asking members to report where they have seen them. We cannot work effectively with the Council to coordinate their removal until we have a comprehensive survey of the number of redundant signs and their location.

Please help by reporting broken or out of date signage here: <https://forms.gle/4hXVYwLdKfLxP6BQ8>

Activities and Events

The change in administration at Wandsworth Council means that the regular 'Leader's Events' are no longer organised. These were useful events for us as we were able to piggyback onto the Council's organisation for venue bookings, catering and publicity and simply arrange to have volunteers there to recruit new members and publicise our activities - while always maintaining strict political impartiality. At the time of writing I am not sure if there will be any similar events in 2027.

We scheduled three tours of the Council's Joint Control Centre (JCC) at Wandsworth Town Hall during Neighbourhood Watch Week. They were heavily oversubscribed and Chris Cullen from the JCC very kindly slotted in an extra tour to fit everyone in. This gave 30 local residents the opportunity to see how CCTV is used in Wandsworth.

This year we completed three Sector Surgeries, aiming for a similar format at each, but refining the details as the year progressed. The format we settled on was a two-hour drop-in event between 6.30 and 8.30 which seemed to give most flexibility in residents' busy lives.

We ran these in March (Battersea), June (Tooting) and September (Putney). In Battersea we started with just the Police and the Council's Community Safety Team, along with NW, to host and field queries from a small but very engaged group of 17 locals.

As the events progressed, we added the Council's Animal Welfare Team and Parks & Events Police for the Tooting Surgery (attendance 33). By the time we got to Putney, other local organisations were also invited to join us including Street Angels and the Putney Society. With a drop-in attendance also of 33 residents, but with another 18 organisers/helpers present, this was our busiest Surgery so far.

We've had excellent feedback from the Police who have supported us at these events and believe they provide a worthwhile opportunity to share information. Analysis of the answers to the anonymous quiz highlight those areas where our residents are least well-informed. The invitation to the Animal Welfare Team to attend our Sector Surgeries was a direct result of looking at the quiz results.

If any group, would like to organise a recruitment drive or information stand at a local event, please contact us with the details so we can arrange to provide you with leaflets and other promotional material.

Communications

We have continued to run a WhatsApp Channel but we use it sparingly, conscious that many members tell us they receive too many messages from NW. As an Association, we send very few 'alerts' through the NW database, but the National Network does have a very active communications strategy. Depending on your communication preferences on the database, you may therefore receive quite frequent updates.

We ask that all Coordinators, as a minimum, accept the category of 'Local News', because all our alerts are sent out tagged in this way. We also recommend that members opt to receive information from the Police.

We understand that the Neighbourhood Alert database is slowly being upgraded to take advantage of WhatsApp, and we will be interested to see if this development improves our ability to engage directly with members.

We are acutely aware that not all Coordinators open the messages we send. Just a week before this AGM over 40 Coordinators have not opened the invitation to attend, and only 14 schemes have indicated they will be represented. Out of 135 registered schemes this is very far from ideal.

Our three MSAs have started work on direct engagement with our Coordinators across the Borough. If you receive a request to arrange a one-to-one online chat with one of us, please do respond.

The National NW Network

The National Network launched its new five-year strategy earlier this year, following extensive consultation with groups around the country, including here in Wandsworth.

Full details can be found on the website here:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-values>

The summary page on the strategy slides answers the question, “*What makes us distinctive?*” with three words: **Watch, Connect, Act!**

Your Association Committee will work with that guidance, and the feedback we receive from our membership, as we plan how best to support NW Schemes and individual NW members in Wandsworth throughout the coming year.



***Jan Forbes, Chair, Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association
28th September 2026***