St Nicolas & Weddington Community Emergency Plan

At the March 2014 meeting of the Weddington/St Nicolas Community Forum Andrew Daw of Nuneaton & Bedworth BC explained the process and benefits of establishing a local Community Emergency Plan (CEP).

Such projects are normally carried out in collaboration with the local Parish Council but as they do not exist in N&BBBC area an alternative residents’ based body would be required to act in partnership. The concept was supported by the Forum, and it was agreed that Neighbourhood Watch should play a leading role working alongside any interested local residents groups. Andrew Daw agreed to organise a meeting of interested parties to take forward the plan.

At a meeting convened in May, led by Terry Harris and attended by six or so volunteer Street Scheme Coordinators from North East Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Association, Andrew Daw proposed a way forward and pledged the support of Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council. A key part of this support would involve the engagement of a consultant, Michael Potter, who is well experienced in the development of such plans including the one established in Galley Common. This had worked so well following the mini tornado strike in Galley Common that caused terrible disruption and property damage earlier in the year.

At a further meeting of the working group, convened and chaired by Roy Taylor, it was established that the task of formulating the CEP comprised seven components that might be dealt with in two phases. The fist phase included an initial meeting of the group at which Terms of Reference could be agreed and a project schedule planned. This phase would then be completed by paying familiarisation visits to each of the Weddington, Sit Nicolas and Horeston Grange localities in turn.

At the time of writing (early August) the project work is on schedule though the familiarisation visits have yet to be completed. The second phase, which includes risk identification, information gathering and documentation of Community Emergency Plan itself will commence in the latter half of August with a view to completion by the end of the year.

Winter’s on the Way

It will soon be time to be storing your equipment ‘til Spring

Although overall crime rates are continuing to fall and in particular domestic burglary has significantly reduced there are one or two categories where an increase has been experienced. On the home front sheds and garages are increasingly becoming the targets of burglaries.

The value of property in sheds is often more than people think. Thieves target them for power tools, cycles and sports equipment. Sometimes hand tools are stolen and used to break into homes.

As many of us are starting to put away those items that we use mainly in the warmer seasons until next year why not take a little time ensuring that they will still be there when we next want them.

Make it difficult, where possible, for thieves to get to the places where our possessions are kept. Secure access to your shed or garage by locking gates and by using thorny bushes next to walls and fences.

As a final deterrent consider marking your valuable possessions with a visible marking system such as Cre Mark that will also aid their return by rendering them identifiable and traceable.

What are Community Safety Ambassadors?

What Can They Do For Me?

There are 30 Community Safety Ambassadors across the County who act as the ‘eyes and ears’ of Police & Crime Commissioner, Ron Ball.

They ensure that Ron is kept informed of Crime, Disorder and Community Safety issues, concerns and developments. Community Safety Ambassadors (CSA):

- Attend and report back on issues raised at Community Forums.
- Have a relationship with their local Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- Keep in touch with other relevant local groups.
- Inform Ron’s office of relevant issues, concerns and successful outcomes.

It is important to stress that Ambassadors do not speak on behalf of Ron Ball nor enter into commitments on his behalf.

Your Community safety Ambassador is:

Arbury & Stockingford
Chris Watkins chris.watkins@ntlworld.com
Bede & Poplar
Jerry Pritchard jerry.pritchard@hotmail.com
Bedworth North & West
Kolin Basra kolinba@yahoo.co.uk
Camp Hill & Galley Common
to be confirmed
Weddington & St Nicolas
Roy Taylor csaroytaylor@gmail.com
Whitestone & Bulkington
Robin Wachlin robin.wachlin@sky.com

Make your CSA aware of local community concerns in regards to Crime, Disorder and Community Safety.
Good News of Kingswood POD Watch

Do you member reports of the Nuneaton & Bedworth NWA led project regarding the establishment of PODWatch in Kingswood? Following on our project partners Positive about Young People (PaYP), supported by funding from the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner, maintained its operation. Throughout the summer, PaYP held ‘Podwatch’ sessions for 8-13 year olds with a varied programme of activities on Tuesdays afternoons at the "POD" on Kingswood Road Playing Field with the local PCSO Kerry Owens being a frequent visitor.

Now for an area where there had been little or no regular organised activity for young people that’s good news. But even better news is that the initiative has seemed to spark off further initiatives with the provision of a new Teen Shelter at Grove Farm and a Youth Club meeting at the Community Centre. Let’s hope the good work by all concerned flourishes and continues.

Crime Busters—A Success?

This Edition number 44 is the eleventh anniversary edition of Crime Busters which means that a total of over 200,000 copies have been circulated to Neighbourhood Watch member households in Nuneaton & Bedworth since its conception. Additionally it has been posted electronically to our numerous partners and published on a national website. We have received less than a handful of negative comments that were well outnumbered by plaudits. We might be justified that we have been successful in our endeavors.

Currently we have funding for for the printing and distribution of two further editions but in the light of developments in communication methods should we be considering the future of our newsletter beyond edition 46. What do you think?

Brian Lowe

Editor

Message from Local Policing Lead Chief Insp Mike Slemensek Announces New Initiatives

I would like to update all readers about two exciting initiatives – Warwickshire Police Cadets and Warwickshire Police Citizens’ Academies.

A new Warwickshire Police Cadet Scheme will commence this September. There will be a detachment of 14 cadets in the North of the County and 14 in the South, who will meet once a week at Hinckley and North Warwickshire College and Leamington College. Next year a further detachment North and South will join – so there will be a junior year and a senior year. It is a two – year programme and cadets must be 16 years on joining and have finished secondary education.

There are a wide variety of opportunities for the cadets to participate in community related activities. They will follow a programme that includes self-defence training, marching, fitness, team working, role-playing and taking part in team building weekends. Cadets will also gain an insight into police life, through talks by guest speakers from different departments and agencies and by taking part in local community policing events. Cadets will participate in an academic qualification, taught as part of the programme by Warwickshire Police cadet leaders.

It is a really exciting venture and we want to make this a fantastic and positive opportunity for the young people who have come forward to be cadets. We have now recruited all our Cadets and their uniforms (which are very smart) have been ordered. We have lots of speakers ready to volunteer their time and the cadets started with their induction week-end at Leek Wootton Police site on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September, where they met the Chief Constable Andy Parker and Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Ball.

We are also launching the Citizens’ Academy programme this autumn. This is a new and exciting opportunity to learn about what the police do and see first hand the day-to-day workings of Warwickshire Police. We are inviting members of the public who are interested in policing and who would like to find out more about how, as citizens, they can positively support the work of the police and their partner agencies. The first Citizens’ Academy will be held at Rugby College commencing on 16 September 2014. It is a 10-week programme consisting of presentations and demonstrations provided by police officers, police staff and supporting agencies and organisations.

We hope that those who attend the Citizens’ Academy will be able to pass on their experiences and increased knowledge to the rest of the community, or take up the chance to become Special Constables or Volunteers with the Police or other agencies. The course will cover a range of policing areas including crime prevention and detection, recording crimes and incidents, road safety, forensic investigation, police use of firearms, internet safety, and the role of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and other key departments. Attendees who complete the programme will ‘graduate’ from the Citizens’ Academy and their participation will be recognised with a formal ceremony.

We plan then to hold further Citizens’ Academies around the County, including one at Nuneaton, during 2015.

Brian Lowe
Free friendship phone service for older people

The statistics about older people and loneliness are frightening. More than half of all 75 year olds in the UK live alone and one in ten suffers “intense” loneliness but is reluctant to ask for help. In a poll conducted to mark the national launch of The Silver Line on 25 November 2013, 9 out of 10 older people told researchers that “a chat on the phone” is the most helpful solution when they feel lonely but 1 in 4 older people say they never or seldom have someone to chat to on the phone.

The Silver Line is the confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK. Open every day and night of the year, its specially trained helpline staff:

- Offer information, friendship and advice
- Link callers to local groups and services
- Offer regular befriending calls
- Protect and support those who are suffering abuse and neglect

The Silver Line is a helpline for older people – the Silver Generation. They have no strict age limits but most people they speak to are over 65. So, if you think it’s for you, it’s for you.

The Silver Line Helpline is free to callers.

Silver Line is a confidential helpline. Callers are free to express their feelings and describe their lives honestly, and can trust us to respect their privacy. In cases of abuse or neglect, with the callers’ permission, we will involve specialist safeguarding organisations such as Action on Elder Abuse or Social Services.

The Silver Line is the national confidential and free helpline for older people open every day and night of the year.

- No question too big
- No problem too small
- No need to be alone

Call the helpline on 0800 4 70 80 90

Home Security Advice

Your home is the place where you and your family spend most of your time. By taking simple precautions you can prevent the opportunist thief from having the chance to steal from your home. Here is some basic information to help you protect your home and your property.

What a burglar looks for:
- A home which looks empty
- Easy access to the back of the building
- Trees and high bushes in surrounding area which provide good cover
- Homes with no visible signs of protection such as alarms or lighting.

When they’ve chosen a property they will:
- Look through the windows to see inside
- Check if any neighbours are watching.

Tips to keep your home safe:
- Keep windows and doors locked when you go out and even when you’re at home
- Consider fitting an approved burglar alarm system
- Take steps to ensure your home looks secure from the outside
- If you go out in the evening, close curtains and set light timers
- Consider fitting a letter-box cage to stop intruders reaching inside
- Don’t hide spare keys in the garage, shed or outside
- If you store larger items such as bikes in a shed make sure it is secure, and use bike locks.
- If entrances to your home are dark, consider installing lighting with an infrared detector. Most thieves don't want to be seen trying a door.

Even the best security won't deter thieves if you don't LOCK THE DOOR.

When purchasing products from us PLEASE let us know that you are doing so in response to this advert in CRIME BUSTERS.

MAKE YOUR PROPERTY MORE SECURE

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To purchase any of the above items contact Brian or Heather Lowe on 02476 350 131
Identity Fraud: Don’t let it be You!

What is fraud?
Your identity and personal information are invaluable. Identity fraud occurs to an individual when their personal information is used by someone else without their knowledge to obtain credit, goods or other services fraudulently.

It is important that you understand how fraudsters can get their hands on your information so you can take steps to protect yourself and your family.

We are all under attack!
Finding out you are a victim of personal identity fraud can be quite a shock. And while there’s no doubt that the risks for children and teenagers of cybercrime are well known around the issue, what seems less of a focus for families is the risk of ID fraud to the whole family – older generations – such as parents and grandparents and particularly 18-24 year olds.

Every family is at risk of identity fraud and it’s important to take action to protect your wider family from attack, be it your partner, spouse, children and parents and grandparents too.

How does it affect us?
Identity fraud could affect any one of us – from a personal and a business perspective. Finding out that someone has stolen your identity is not just an inconvenience, it can be devastating – so ‘Don’t let it be you’!

New research shows that 24% of UK citizens have been a victim of identity fraud, which is the highest figure in Europe, plus a further 75% have been exposed to scams used by identity fraudsters.

Identity fraud is now one of the UK’s fastest growing crimes. Although most people know about it, consumers are not aware of, or are not taking steps to fully protect themselves.

The facts reflect the scale of the problem:
• 24% of British people have been a victim of identity fraud, which is the highest figure in Europe
• On average, it has taken UK victims 7 months to realise they have become a victim of identity fraud and another 3.4 months to resolve the situation, but in some instances these two phases can take many years
• 63% of victims have suffered from financial loss; and on average, ID fraud has cost British victims £1,076 per person to date, but this has been as high as £30,000 in one case
• 25% of British people believe it is likely that they will become a victim of ID fraud
• Indeed, 75% of people have been exposed to scams used by identity fraudsters; and this is one of the highest figures in Europe, along with Russia
• While 58% of British people are concerned about having their identity stolen, as many (58%) are worried about losing their wallet or purse and 49% are worried about losing their front door keys.
• 87% of people keep copies of personal information; and 83% store at least some of these items in paper form
• 92% of British people attempt to protect themselves from identity fraud; but 47% do not consistently shred all paper documents with personal information on before discarding them
• The two main reasons for this are a lack of shredders (18%) and that people believe tearing documents up is good enough (18%).
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Advice For Individuals
If you’ve been affected personally by ID fraud, review the following advice. It was introduced by the Home Office in 2007 following discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the financial sector. The intent is to reduce the level of bureaucracy involved in fraud recording and to streamline the reporting and initial investigation of such frauds.

Contact the National Fraud Authority: If you have been a victim, contact the National Fraud Authority, the national fraud reporting centre, to report the crime and to get help and support.

Contact Your Creditors: Get in touch with creditors with whom you have an account (e.g. banks, credit card companies, store cards, phone & utility companies) even if they have not been affected so that they can monitor your accounts to ensure they remain protected. Your bank, for example, is now responsible for undertaking further verification and investigation and where appropriate will report it to the police for investigation following a change in reporting procedures.

Contact a credit reference agency: Callcredit (www.callcredit.co.uk), Equifax (www.equifax.co.uk) or Experian (www.experian.co.uk) provide suggested steps to resolve the situation and prevent it happening again.

Contact CIFAS Protective Registration: If you think you have been a victim of identity theft you should consider subscribing to CIFAS Protective Registration service (www.cifas.org.uk). Notice will be placed on your credit file indicating that your name and address may be used to perpetrate identity fraud.

Top tips to keep your identity safe
• Keep your personal information, credit cards, passwords & pin numbers in a safe place (preferably a lockable drawer or safe) & don’t share these details with people or companies you don’t know or trust.
• Never throw away bills, receipts, credit or debit card slips, bank statements or even unwanted post without destroying them first, ideally with a cross-cut shredder.
• Always protect your post, especially if you live in a building where other people can easily access it. When you move house, redirect your mail from your old address to your new one for at least a year.
• Check all your statements and financial records as soon as they arrive & report any discrepancies straight away.
• Regularly obtain a copy of your credit report.
• Be wary of what information you publish online and who you make it visible to. Think before publishing phone numbers, pictures of your home, workplace / school, your address, date of birth or full name.
• Make sure your computer is protected from the threat of online attacks.