



**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH NETWORK (NHWN)
ENGLAND & WALES**

QUARTERLY MEETING

Chair: Marion Lewis
Venue: Home Office, Marsham Street
Date: 15 April 2008
Time: 12.00 – 16.00

ATTENDEES

Marion Lewis	(ML)	Chair/East Midlands	(EM)
Sonja Bowie	(SB)	Minute Secretary/East Midlands	(EM)
James Maddan	(JM)	London	(LN)
David Alford	(DA)	South East	(SE)
Jeremy Thomas	(JT)	West Midlands	(WM)
Queenie Smith	(QS)	Deputy, West Midlands	(WM)
Hugh Tyler	(HT)	Deputy, East Midlands	(EM)
John Cox	(JC)	Wales	(WS)
Keith Warren MBE	(KW)	North West	(NW)
Gerry Brierley OBE	(GB)	Eastern	(EN)
Mary Garry	(MG)	Observer (Home Office)	(HO)
Barry McGowan	(BM)	Yorkshire & Humberside	(YH)
Ann Howard	(AH)	North East	(NE)
Mark Custerson	(MC)	Project Manager for NW Issues	(ACPO)
Stephen Whitehurst	(SW)	Angel Business Communications	(ABC)
Dennis Cooper	(DC)	Angel Business Communications	(ABC)

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

Item Number

Agenda item

4.1

Welcome – ML welcomed the group and confirmed Philip Knorpel had resigned as Secretary resulting in SB acting as interim Minute Secretary. We now had a vacant position for Secretary to committee.

4.2

Apologies - Apologies noted as above.

4.3

Update on Website - The draft website had been approved. DC/SW presented an update on this. It was agreed to proceed and go live on 16 June 2008. The national website would link in to Regional sites which in turn would link down to County and Local sites.

ML reported that the meeting in Coventry with the web designers had been highly successful.

The home page would include a comment from CC Frank Whiteley and ML added that it would be ideal to also have a statement from the Home Office.

Also included would be:

- An element of sponsorship
- ‘Thought for the day’
- Main picture which would link to the ‘Events’ page
- Newsletter box
- Regional map
- Forthcoming events

‘Events’ would be searched by region and generally the public would be able to submit events for inclusion once they had been vetted.

ML suggested it was up to each region to take responsibility for its area, each should nominate a member to access the backend to update and change data. It was suggested one person per region be nominated to have a code.

NHWN committee member biographies had been submitted for inclusion on the site

ML confirmed that a volunteer was needed to replace Jeremy Thomas on the Communications Sub Committee and she thanked him for his valuable contribution to date.

4.4 **Matters arising from last meeting** - Under 3.9 – ML raised the issue of travelling expenses when attending regional meetings. Many of the County Associations do not have access to a fund from which to claim. KW, JT and BM confirmed this was also a problem in their respective regions.

Actions

- **MC agreed to take this concern to National Police Steering Group level and to Chief Constables.**

- **JM to send QS and AH relevant paperwork on how to obtain funding.**

- **DA to enquire if he could release a copy of the Kent County NHW Association Business Plan.**

- **ML to ensure ‘funding’ be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.**

4.5 **Proposed Constitution** - JM had spoken with the Charity Commission and confirmed that the new structures would not be in place until the summer 2008. He recommended we did nothing until the new registration process was available.

He would circulate documentation when it was in place. This could be downloaded from the Charity Commission website on www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

This item would be included on the next meeting’s agenda.

4.6 **Neighbourhood & Home Watch Week 2008** - ML was asked by CC Frank Whiteley to produce a statement which could be sent out to NHW Groups, Police, Local Associations etc. confirming what Neighbourhood and Home Week events would be taking place.

ML circulated a draft document 'Working Together for a Safer Community' - MC thought the only item missing from the document was the items on which to focus.

It was agreed to take the general body of the document and add a few items to focus on ie.

- doorstep crime
- anti-social behaviour
- Neighbourhood Watch – the next generation (involving young people)

Action

ML to present the above to the NSGWI meeting on 16 April 2008.

MC confirmed CC Frank Whiteley would write to each Chief Constable and attach a copy of 'Working Together for a Safer Community'.

4.7 **Neighbourhood Watch ID Cards** – MC informed the group that it is likely that the new Information Sharing Guidelines will recommend that vetting be extended to include those NHW members who are issued with an ID card by the Police which says it is issued by the Police. NHW Volunteers are not necessarily subject to vetting under the current advice.

4.8

Chair's Report - ML reported that following the last NSGWI meeting Neighbourhood/Home Watch was asked to assist in disseminating a questionnaire for the Casey Review, a cross government review commissioned by the Prime Minister, the aims of which were to understand how local communities, the police, the local criminal justice agencies and other local partners could best work together to:

- reduce crime in their areas
- raise community confidence in local agencies
- lower the fear of crime

ML thanked all those who participated in promoting this on their websites and across their regions. This gave the NHW grassroots members a chance to 'have their say'. As a key partner in a range of crime reduction, policing and community-engagement strategies and initiatives, this was a clear example of how the Watch movement should be consulted and integrated within relevant policy areas.

The NPSGWI raised the issue of 'Street Patrols' and the involvement of Neighbourhood/Home Watch members at their last meeting. Following the distribution of the ACPO briefing paper, 'Neighbourhood Watch in Context: a 'Strategic Tool for the Neighbourhood Policing Agenda' (February 2008) this topic attracted much media publicity. Currently no national position seemed to exist in regard to street patrols by Neighbourhood Watch or other volunteers. As a result this issue would be discussed further by all parties at the NSGWI on 16 April 2008.

We needed to promote the Watch movement further to ensure that NHW engaged at a local level with Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships/Community Safety Partnerships.

Formal requests for the Chair to attend regional events had been made. ML accepted the offer of attending the North Northants AGM on 24 April 2008, the Eastern Regional Partnership Event on 3 June 2008 and the Ipswich NHW Annual Meeting on 23 June 2008. Wherever possible the NHWN should be promoted at force level by regional representatives attending events within their own region.

Action

Mary Garry to look into how the travel costs of attending such events could be met.

4.9 Update from each region - See attached regional reports.

JM stated that although London NW had its own logo, there was a strong consensus from that area that the Home Office logo was out of date. The HO said that the logo was designed to reflect diversity in age, gender and ethnicity.

ML suggested putting out consultation on the logo to the regions and report back at the next meeting.

JM would report back to his region that we would be doing this – put on next NHWN meeting agenda.

BM suggested that within the ‘terms of reference’ we needed clarification on suspending a region.

4.10 Substation Watch – ML proposed that GB continued to attend NHWN meetings and report on the progress of Substation Watch. Agreed unanimously.

GB would like to see NHW groups get involved with Substation Watch as in his area. He distributed local information and it was agreed that each regional rep would take this back to their areas for discussion.

4.11 Civil Protection Network – MG reported that there would be a consultation on this – it was a Cabinet Office strategy.

4.12 Unexplained Wealth Law – AH wanted clarification on the situation. The HO formally responded to the query. (See HO explanation attached.)

4.13 Are NHW groups required to register with the ICO? – DA produced documentation advising that as NHW is a ‘not for profit’ organisation we were not required/obligated to register with the Information Commissioner Office. Despite this, many County Associations do register and it is recommended to follow the advice from the ICO website.

4.14 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 15 July 2008 at 12 noon.

20 May 2008