

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to Meeting via Zoom Tuesday 7th December 2021.

Attendees

Jeff Reynolds	Chair	Blakesley	jreynoldsnhw@gmail.com
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall	linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Piddington	Philip.renshaw@yahoo.co.uk
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion	tadey51@btinternet.com
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings	
David Smith		Cosgrove	
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges	
David Connolly		Evenley	
Christy Nolan		Rothersthorpe	
Tom Smith		Chipping Warden	
Peter Howard		Towcester	
PCSO Chris Dudley		Sponsored PCSO Bugbrooke & Nether Heyford	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	

Apologies

Sue Sharps	Brackley
Mike Crouch	Quinton
Colin Atkins	Weston & Weedon Lois
Katie Spruels	Milton Malsor
Maggie Down	Paulerspury
Craig Coppin	Potterspury
Lawrence Howes	Cogenhoe

Welcome and Introductions

Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jeff introduced PCSO Chris Dudley who will speak about his role as a sponsored PCSO.

Approval of Minutes to the SNAST Zoom meeting and AGM held 28th September 2021

The minutes had been sent out with the agenda.

One correction needed. In the section Election of Officers Linda and Tina's names were omitted. This has now been amended.

The minutes were proposed by David Connolly (Evenley) and seconded by Richard Houghton (Yardley Hastings). Minutes approved.

Police Report from PCSO Chris Dudley of our Neighbourhood Police Team including Q & A's

Jeff mentioned he is very keen for everyone to get to know a member of our local Police Team.

PCSO Chris Dudley is a sponsored PCSO and began by explaining to us what his job involves:

- He is the sponsored PCSO for Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford villages and patrols around these villages. He is a contact for the people in these villages.
- PCSO Chris has a lot of engagement with the local schools in Nether Heyford and Bugbrooke giving road safety talks and early intervention working with young children on the outskirts of crime. He is also involved with settling neighbour disputes.
- If there is crime in the area outside of these villages PCSO Chris can be called to that but primarily he is responsible to these 2 villages.
- When on his shift PCSO Chris works by patrolling in his car. He is a community presence for the Police so the residents feel safe. There are real benefits and the residents are pleased with the Police presence. Being seen around these villages prevents crime by patrolling. When he isn't in these villages he tries to cover as many villages as he can on his shift.
- Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford always have a point of contact and there is always a Police car around these areas when he is on shift.
- Feedback is positive and residents feel they aren't on their own.
- Measure of effect: PCSO Chris Dudley was asked if the sponsorship shows any benefit in a crime reduction. He replied it is hard to measure especially since he has only been appointed for two and a half months, but agreed it is a lot of money. However no reported crime in November, he believes his presence acts as a deterrent
- Various shift patterns ranging from 8am until around midnight. PCSO Chris Dudley aims for 80% of his shift to be around these 2 villages.
- He could be called off to another area for a missing person or to do house to house enquiries if a burglary has occurred.
- Every month PCSO Chris Dudley organises a surgery in the local coffee shop so everyone knows where he will be for an hour or 2 where residents can come and see him and report anything.
- If another village wants a surgery they can ask their local Neighbourhood Team to provide the Beat Bus, which has facilities for confidential talks if required
- Is PCSO Chris Dudley well received in these villages? He has only been operating there for 2 and a half months. Residents do stop and speak to him. No negative comments. It is a lot of money but it does deter crime.
- Chris gave a brief update on the Police Team in Towcester team: there are 3 PC's and a rural Officer, and a new Officer will be joining in January. PCSO's Matt Taylor and Charlotte Morris, PCSO Jen Harrison is on light duties and PCSO Nicole Degg will be back soon after maternity leave. They work closely with colleagues in the Brackley team
- The Police Team are trying their best to get out and about as much as possible.

- Chris has contact with the Local NHW Coordinator for Nether Heyford and Bugbrooke and is regularly in touch
- PCSO Chris mentioned an event in Towcester Town Hall –13th January 2022. This is being promoted by Towcester NHW and PCSO Charlotte Morris. Recruitment for Streetwatch and NHW in Towcester is taking place
Peter Howard (Towcester) told us it will be promoted through Facebook.
- PCSO Chris Dudley mentioned the Police try to get out as much as they can and for people to sign up for the alerts.

Jeff thanked PCSO Chris Dudley for talking to us.

Update by County Chair of Northants Neighbourhood Watch Alan Earle, on matters relating to County NHW and National NHW including any progress concerning the proposed Knowledge Hub

Alan started by screen sharing the map of South Northants and where the NHW schemes are. He gave us a lesson on how to access different parts of our scheme.

- Alan explained when you go into your account you can look at adding people to your scheme. Alan showed us on his screen. This is a useful way of increasing people into your schemes.
- You can invite people to join your scheme.
- Alan showed us how to edit our schemes and to invite members. The system has a standard email and you can send an invite to join through the alert system. An interesting feature that has been built into the system
- **Knowledge Hub:** This is another way for NHW Coordinators to gain knowledge. Coordinators should have had an alert asking if they want to register for the Knowledge Hub. There is a chat line on there to join in a forum discussion.
- Alan has also been working on a Project in conjunction with Northants Police as a volunteer on the alert system. Alan offered to help out and he is now officially a Police Volunteer.

This has enabled NHW to share some information with the Police such as those with CCTV or ring doorbells. It enables the Police to target messages. Can send out maybe an antisocial behaviour message geographically or target certain areas. It gives the Police and NHW more flexibility.

- **Change of Geography** – The structure will change. This has to be worked out with VISAV. This isn't in place on the system yet because the Police need to load up their files. It is in the process.

The organisation at the moment has 56 unitary boundaries with 144 different beats. With the new unitary boundaries there are now 7 in South Northants with 3 PC areas responsible for community engagements with different partners. This is still work in progress

- The change of structure won't affect the way the schemes are mapped. Coordinators need to make sure they include all the houses in their boundary. This doesn't really affect the villages but more so in a town. Otherwise it won't pick up suggested members.
- Essential to make sure scheme maps are drawn accurately.

- **National NHW AGM:** Alan attended today. Student Watch was rolled out in September. An area where they are trying to involve more younger people in NHW.

The Home Office also gave a presentation 'Beating the Crime Plan'

- Alan also had a Meeting with Danny Moody to talk about how NHW can help Parish Councils. 75% have Police Liaison Reps.

Suggested that if there are areas with no PLR to come back to Alan and will try to involve NHW.

The Alert system might be able to add PLR rep in the future.

- Phil asked about people joining your scheme without you confirming them? Alan told us that if the Coordinator feels they don't want them in their scheme they can take them out but they have to give a reason. It simplifies the admin process. Across the County some Coordinators are not doing the job.
- Phil also asked about the suggested members list. An alert was sent out with further updates about this facility.
- Tina asked where the suggested members come from – Alan shared the screen again to show us - that whatever people tick when joining the system – if anyone ticks NHW then we can see that information
- David smith asked if someone signs up to your scheme will the Coordinator get an email. The system will send you an alert so you can contact them.

- **County Organisation structure**

The County NHW is struggling with being sustainable in the future. The job is getting bigger and bigger. There are many new estates and signing up more and more people. Estates bring more issues mainly with antisocial behaviour especially around the towns.

County NHW is looking at appointing an area Coordinators covering Northamptonshire. The idea is they provide the first level of support for the schemes in their area with leaflets and stickers and can develop these roles and form steering groups for local area support teams. It was mentioned at the County NHW meeting last night.

- The County Website www.ourwatch.org.uk

Treasurer's Report by Tina Adey on current balance with questions opportunity

The balance at the bank is £4,550.72. This includes the sum of £200 for Nether Heyford NHW and £138 for Roade NHW which we have been holding for the last couple of years. £1100 has been received in subscriptions from the Parishes. This is about the same as last year. It is slightly more money because we increased the subs.

Update on Visav and Alerts

This was covered in the previous agenda items.

Report on progress of 2 restarted schemes – Towcester and Blisworth

Towcester scheme had diminished and Jeff was invited to join discussions to get it restarted. There is now strong communication between the Police Team and NHW and the local council.

Peter Howard (Towcester) told us the scheme had been dormant over lockdown.

The result of the meeting was a shared exhibition in the Town Hall and there will be another in January.

Peter mentioned the value of intelligence to the Police. Coordinating information about suspicious activity. Towcester NHW is going to have monthly meetings between NHW, the

council and the Police. They will be able to share information on crime and communicate to residents.

Peter is trying to get some deputies to help. He is also trying to invite more members and in the process of contacting interested and enthusiastic people to get involved.

He is also trying to get people involved on the new estates in Towcester. Alan mentioned that younger people tend to start up NHW schemes on new estates.

The Beat Bus is available to visit new estates in support

Blisworth Scheme has been reinvigorated and Chris Reade is very enthusiastic. This is a smaller area and has made a good start

Open discussion/questions/conclusion

David Connolly has now moved out of the area. He has been NHW Coordinator in Evenley since it started. He is looking for a replacement. He wanted to say goodbye to everyone.

Jeff thanked David for all his work as NHW Coordinator and wished him happiness in his new home.

Jeff thanked everyone attending and wished everyone a happy Christmas.