

SUFFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting

Held at The Brome Grange Hotel (upstairs conference room)
At 7.00pm on Wednesday 12th December 2007

1.Attendance

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Bob Gooch | Chair - Mildenhall |
| David Southgate | Ipswich |
| Mervyn Jones | Vice Chair – Woodbridge & Melton |
| Ben Cook | Suffolk Constabulary CRO |

2.Apologies

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| R.D. Snell | Stowmarket |
| David Castell | Lowestoft - Pakenfield |
| Tony Fowler | Treasurer – Stonhams |
| Vanessa Gregory | Woodbridge (observing) |
| Keith Cotton | Substation Watch |
| Julia Schubert | Ipswich |
| Andrew Nunn | Leiston |
| Dorothy Boggis | Lowestoft |
| Ken Stockton | Mid Suffolk |
| John Cahill | Bury Rural |

3.Minutes from Meeting 19th September 2007

Agreed by Bob Gooch and seconded by David Southgate

4.Matters arising from previous meeting

All items were covered in the agenda

5. Substation Watch- Presentation by Keith Cotton

Keith had phoned in to send apologies due to major traffic problems causing several hours delay.

This subject was to be raised and discussed, as this watch scheme has been run in other areas. This will be revisited in New Year. **Action- Ben**

*******The format of the agenda was raised at this point and it was felt the following format would be used to ensure that those members who correspond through electronic means could be represented earlier in proceedings- as such the running order of meeting did not follow the original agenda.*******

10. Correspondence – Bob

Bob Gooch raised a letter from the local Hospice requesting donations of Data Link pots. It was agreed that the SNWA no longer controlled this area of fund raising and Bob Gooch would respond to this letter explaining this. All agreed a very worthwhile cause but unable to assist.

Bob Gooch reported on correspondence with the Worcester City NW who were interested in the use of NW members linking to Safer Neighbourhood Teams and who corresponded via E-mail rather than attend the county meeting. Worcester will also try to use photos of their coordinators on their NW website rather than have identification cards, which were deemed too problematic. The SNWA felt that ID cards were also problematic and did not feel there was a need.

Bob Gooch explained that he had invited several new members of NW to the SNWA including James Henson (Mid Suffolk South), Ron Raisey (Mid Suffolk West) and Ken Stockton (Mid Suffolk North). This was part of the drive to have greater representation at SNWA. These members have been invited to either attend or communicate via E-mail.

E mail update from Ken Stockton (Mid Suffolk North).- Ken attends the Monthly SNT meetings with a view to raising any issues which affect the NW area he is responsible for. Any issues that are affecting quality of life in this area can be raised at this forum and Ken will happily do this if any member of NW wishes to bring to his attention. Ken will try and attend the next SNWA meeting.

E Mail update from John Cahill (Bury Rural)-

1) My Parish of Kedington has suffered quite a bit of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and criminal damage over the last few months. Consequently I have had a lot of contact with members of our SNT and Insp. Ady Calton. Kedington has featured at the monthly SNT Tasking meeting and police action is ongoing.

2) Steve Nutt and I are very concerned at the general lack of Communication and feed-back from SNT to Neighbourhood Watch people. Steve and I met with Diane, Nina, Colin and Insp. Calton today to discuss how this aspect might be improved. Insp Calton has made some notes which he will be following up soon.

3) It would appear that even after SNT has been running 6 months or so, the police call-centre people at Martlesham Heath and Bury St. Edmunds are still not clear on how calls from NW people should be handled I have been told of a couple of occasions where the people answering the call were very reluctant to deal with it.

Response from Ben Cook- Has spoken with the Call handler supervisors, reiterated the need to recognise NW members, and will undertake an audit in the New Year to assess this issue **Action- Ben**. Can any NW member calling the police identify themselves as a NW member please.

4) In the New Year, I plan to contact co-ordinators in Bury Rural South and see if I can get updates out of them.

6. Reports From each member, including those not in attendance attending.

Mervyn Jones (Woodbridge & Melton)- Has attended a meeting with the local SNT, issues discussed centred on the crime figures for the area and updates on anti social behaviour, parking, speeding and the Speed Indicating Device (SID) and alcohol banning. A letter has been devised which he will send out to all his NW coordinators encouraging them to bring to the attention of Deborah another

coordinator who has agreed to be the point of contact, who will then take to the regular SNT tasking meeting.

This was viewed as a positive step and would ensure that any representations made had credibility and possibly be less town centre focused.

David Southgate (Ipswich) explained that he had recently had a discussion with the local CWLO (Anthea Pipe) and it was suggested that PCSOs were best placed to be the liaison with SNT and NW. David recognised that the relationship with SNTs and NW was still patchy but improving, citing examples where PCSOs have attended meeting with NW.

7. Regional Meeting Update

Bob Gooch explained that the Eastern Region NW Partnership at Flempton on

The Eastern Region is hosting the next Regional Meeting, to be held at Flempton on 29th October 2007 went well. The full minutes are published on the website <http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/suffolkneighbourhoodwatch>

Notable was that the name for the new national group would now be Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England and Wales)

Date of meeting is 21st January 2008 at Bedfordshire Police HQ.

8. Suffolk Constabulary restructure

Ben clarified that the Constabulary have to achieve a £3.4 million efficiency saving 2008/09 and £3 million for the next two years.

The two BCU structure has now taken place, and the next part of the Strategic review is looking at the community safety structure, which includes the work undertaken by Crime Reduction Officers and the remaining CWLOs. No desions have been made yet and considerable consultation has been had. The changes should be announced either late December or Early January.

Members of the SNWA were keen to reiterate the vital role of the CWLO and how the loss in the East of this role is still being felt.

9. E-Vines-Communications Opportunity-Ben

Ben Cook explained how he had been made aware of good practice in the Cockfield area around the use of e-mail communication. He explained how the coordinator of this area (David Hodge) had built up a large e-mail list of members who were interested in many aspects of the local community. The e mail list of over 200 people is used to communicate information, ranging from crime advice and appeals to be on the look out for certain types of offenders etc. The system is also used for other circulation such as the promotion of meetings and other events of local interest.

Ben Cook explained that this system would be linked into by the local SNT in order to extend they ability to contact communities. Ben asked that if any coordinators wanted to establish something similar then they could contact David Hodge via (Ben.cook@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) who would forward any correspondence.

Ben acknowledged that there were similar systems already being used and that if coordinators had a communication system that worked, could they ensure their local SNT were aware, so they could utilise it if necessary.

Mervyn Jones- acknowledged the value of the E-Vine approach to communication

and explained that he already used a cascade e mail system.

David Southgate- Explained that he preferred the face to face approach but recognised the benefits in areas where the communities were spread out over a wider area.

Bob Gooch- Explained that he would happily place something on the NW website around this and would make contact with David Hodge. **Action- Bob**

11. Co-Option of Volunteers for email membership-Bob

Bob explained that he was trying to increase representation at the SNWA and that he proposed that any co-opted members would not be expected to attend the SNWA meeting although they would be perfectly welcome if they did. The expectation would be they replied to agenda items via E mail which could then be considered in the correspondence section of the meeting. This was agreed by all those present. The following members were co-opted by the meeting

Sandra Jackson St Eds Rural-Central

Eldon Mackridge Haverhill South

Robin Venn Bury Town Central

Ron Shaw Sudbury Rural

Action- Bob agreed to forward minutes to these members.

Action- Ben to collate this list for future meeting so that members of NW could make contact with these members to raise issues on their behalf.

12. Items to be raised with the Chief Constable on 20/12/07- All

1. Recognition that the NW and SNT are not as joined up as they could be, this was particularly relevant for the East and the loss of the CWLOs.
2. CWLO role is vital in helping to join up the NW and SNT roles as well as providing the links with the NW movement and police in general. It was felt that as time has gone on the situation has improved for some, but is not yet fully established, and that the loss of CWLOs in the East is still felt.
3. There is recognition that the SNTs are busy and have taken on extra work, but involvement of NW could assist.

13. Christmas meal

Wednesday 9th January 2008 at 7.30pm at Brome Grange was agreed.

Action- Ben to distribute menu and coordinate meal preferences.

14. AOB

There were no issues raised, except Bob wanted to wish all members of NW, the SNWA and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year

13. Next Meeting

Wednesday April 9th 2008, 7.00pm, Brome Grange Hotel where it will be the AGM

then followed by the executive committee.

Items for inclusion on next agenda – please advise Ben or Bob no later than 3rd April 2008.