

SUFFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting

Held at The Brome Grange Hotel (upstairs conference room)

At 7.00pm on Wednesday 19th September 2007

1.Attendance

Bob Gooch	Chair - Mildenhall
David Southgate	Ipswich
R.D. Snell	Stowmarket
David Castell	Lowestoft - Pakenfield (observing)
R. Blowers	Lowestoft – Pakenfield (observing)
Tony Fowler	Treasurer – Stonhams
Vanessa Gregory	Woodbridge (observing)
Mervyn Jones	Vice Chair – Woodbridge & Melton
Ben Cook	Suffolk Constabulary CRO

2.Apologies

Julia Schubert, Andrew Nunn

3.Minutes from Meeting 20th June 2007

Agreed.

4.Matters arising from previous meeting

A copy of a letter received by the Chair from Moira Hurlock, Project Lead, Safer Neighbourhood Project Team, Suffolk Constabulary, was circulated. This letter was in response to concerns raised regarding the links between NW and SNT's.

The Chair is to have a meeting with the Chief Constable on 19th November at which these issues and the reply received will be raised.

5.Reports from Members

Mervyn Jones reported that a meeting has been arranged to introduce the local SNT's to the Woodbridge / Melton NW co-ordinators. The meeting is to be held on 26th September at the Shire Hall Woodbridge, at 7.00pm.

Action Mervyn to report on proceedings at the next committee meeting.

S.D. Snell advised that he had been re-elected as Chair of the Stowmarket Area Network, and that John Richardson had been elected as Vice Chair. Stowmarket are concerned that proper connection between the SNT's and the NW is not being made.

David Castell reported that he was unaware of any local links between the SNT's and NW co-ordinators.

David Southgate advised that Ipswich NW has a sound structure in place and meets with an Inspector every 3 months. It was also acknowledged that much of this organisation is due to having a Community Watch Liaison Officer.

It was announced that John Genower has resigned (Lowestoft – Vice). It seems that he felt that the role of NW had been side-lined since the introduction of SNT's.

Action Bob Gooch will contact him to clarify the situation.

Discussion took place concerning how NW could most effectively provide feed into SNT tasking, rather than feel excluded. It was recognised that to facilitate this, the NW structure needs to be robust, especially at the local area network level. A lack of CWLO's does not help.

Actions Ben Cook to take the issues forward.

Bob Gooch to raise these issues at his meeting with the Chief Constable.

6.Regional Meeting Update

The Eastern Region is hosting the next Regional Meeting, to be held at Flempton House. Date of meeting is 29th October.

7.Suffolk Constabulary restructure

Ben reported that the Constabulary have to achieve a £2M saving year on year. The basic plan for the reorganisation is to reduce the present three areas (East, South and West) into just two - East (now to include Ipswich from the South) and West (to include Baburgh from the South). This will eliminate a complete tier of administration. Other reorganisational changes will involve new units such as Crime Management – Protective Services and Citizen Focus. Restructuring of the Basic Command Units is due to be completed by year end. It is anticipated that there will be no impact on SNT policing.

8.New 'One Suffolk' website

<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/suffolkneighbourhoodwatch>

Bob Gooch reported that he has now got the SNWA website up and running under the 'OneSuffolk' portal. Cards were provided and members were asked to ensure that every opportunity was taken to publicise the site to NW members.

The OneSuffolk site does not provide a discussion forum, therefore Bob has registered the SNWA with the 'City Watch' portal to provide such a forum.

All present were asked to provide feed-back to Bob with regards any problems and/or suggestions for improvement or new content on the SNWA website.

Action All committee members

9.Not In My Neighbourhood Week 15/10/2007

This is sponsored by the Home Office, who have selected the dates to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the formation of the NWA. Not much activity has been reported, nor is much anticipated.

10.Options to gain membership

In order to achieve a wider representation of co-opted members Bob Gooch raised for consideration, the idea that such members might, if unable to attend the committee meetings in person, be 'virtual' members and submit items by e-mail for discussion at the regular meetings. Such members would be a sub-class of co-opted members.

Action Members to consider how this might work in practice and discuss at the next meeting.

In discussion of the problems of getting representation, David Castell volunteered that as there did not appear to be an active Network Co-ordinator in South Lowestoft, he was willing to take on that role.

Action Ben Cook / Bob Gooch to confirm vacancy and forward David Castell's nomination.

11.Christmas News Letter

As ever there is a large space to be filled, Ben would appreciate articles or suggestions to fill the void. Copy to be received no later than dd/mm/07. Please!

12.AOB

As a former police officer, David Castell suggested that the present remit of the Constabulary was very different from that of even 5 years ago, far less 20 years ago. However the general public's expectations are still those of years past. He suggested that it would be advantageous for all parties if the Constabulary were to provide a realistic expectation of what can be provided, or what can no longer be done.

Ben Cook provided information on 'Protect It' database system for hi-tech items that tend to be at the top of the thieves nick list. Leaflets were handed around, more can be provided on request. Any such items found in possession of persons apprehended, can be checked against this database.

After some delay, David Southgate was pleased to advise that Ipswich were now getting crime figures for their area every quarter.

13.Next Meeting

Wednesday December 12th, 7.00pm, Brome Grange Hotel

Items for inclusion on next agenda – please advise Ben or Bob no later than 28th November.