

WATCH OVER WOKING



The news-sheet of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches (WAN)



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Message from your Chairman

We have lots of news in this Winter edition of Watch over Woking. As promised we are giving you plenty of notice of the **next Coordinators' meeting** and the **2016 Annual General Meeting**.

We have an edited version of the Surrey Community Safety Sergeant Ali Dunlop's briefing to Surrey NHW with news of the **restructuring of Surrey Police neighbourhood policing** teams, due to happen in April. I am sure you will find the edited version below very interesting. Please contact me for the full version if you wish.

And the **national NHW movement** is making changes too, as promised in its new 5 year plan. I attended the briefing on this in Birmingham earlier this month and have summarised the key messages below. More detail will be given at the next Coordinator's meeting in February.

Given the time constraints on our Inspector Nolan Heather, we have a new quarterly **State of Woking** update for you. More details below.

The Committee wishes all Coordinators a very happy Christmas and a safe 2016!

Tony Kremer, Chair

DATES

Coordinators' Conference

The Way Ahead for WAN

You can help decide the future of Community Information in Woking.

Saturday 27 February 2pm – 4pm Goldwater Lodge, Goldsworth Park (See below)

AGM

Practical Steps to resist being a victim of cybercrime

Thursday 12 May 7.30pm Venue to be announced

The Way Ahead for WAN (for discussion on 27th February)

The past year has been a challenging one for Surrey Police, with the increasing push for austerity from central Government and the on-going work toward restructuring the way policing is carried out in Surrey. This is because the nature of crime has changed fast, with burglaries much lower but reported “crime behind the closed door” rising sharply. Not surprisingly, Neighbourhood Watch must alter to meet the new policing and crime situation too.

In the coming years the Neighbourhood Watch movement will move to become a much more professional organisation than in the past, with higher standards expected in the way we organise ourselves. More will be expected of Watches too, and a new national way that newcomers can find out more and join a Watch will be introduced.

In addition the messaging system used to send emails out to WAN is being replaced in the early Summer and you will have a bigger say in what news you receive and how. There are lots of new possibilities being explored and so at this next Coordinators’ meeting you have an opportunity to help decide the future of Community Information in Surrey.

We have decided to open the meeting up to speakers from all the key people involved in this change:

- Surrey Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office
- Woking BC’s Community Safety Officer
- the NhW national organisation itself
- the supplier of the new community information system
- and other potential information sources such as the Fire & Rescue Service

Woking is leading the way and we have invited representatives from all Surrey Borough NhW groups to come to the meeting, so it should be a lively afternoon.

We have decided to invite you all to join us on Saturday afternoon, 27th February at Goldwater Lodge, 2-4pm. This is on Goldsworth Park and the post code is GU21 3RT. Hope to see you all there! A formal invite will be sent out to all coordinators nearer the time. For the moment, please put this date in your diary.

Restructuring of Surrey Police neighbourhood policing (covered in more detail on 27th Feb)

This is an edited version of Sgt Ali Dunlop’s report to Surrey NHW Association. Full details of the changes will be sent to all residents in Surrey nearer the time of implementation in April.

Surrey Police’s ‘Policing in your Neighbourhood’ project will be effective from Sunday 3rd April 2016. The primary focus remains to maintain local neighbourhood policing, whilst taking into account the need to reduce the number of officers and staff available to do the job. The result is that Surrey Police will look quite different to the way it does now.

(As communicated in previous WAN meetings) Surrey is currently divided into three geographic divisions with Woking, together with Surrey Heath, Guildford and Waverley, comprising the Western Division.

Each Division contains:

1. A divisional Targeted Patrol Team (TPT) who respond to emergency and prompt response incidents, dealing with the initial enquiries and fast time actions. This team is based at Guildford.
2. A Criminal Investigation Department (CID) within which are detectives, uniformed officers and staff investigators who deal with a wide variety of crime investigations from repeat shoplifting to robbery and serious assaults
3. A local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) which comprises of Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSO’s) and PCSO’s who are the local face of policing and deal with long term community issues and engage in community events. Woking’s SNT is based in Woking BC offices.

As of next April, the structure within each division will look like this:

1. An Area Policing Team (APT), comprising of Duty Inspector, Sergeants and PC's, which will parade and brief at the divisional stations – Staines, Reigate, Guildford – and then patrol out to their individual assigned boroughs. There will be a number of officers on each shift dedicated to each divisional borough with primary responsibility for that borough, although they will respond to calls throughout the division if required. The APT will be responsible for responding to immediate and prompt incidents providing the initial response. The attending officers will then retain any further enquiries related to that incident unless it is of sufficient severity that it requires the investigation of CID or another specialist unit like Safeguarding Investigation Unit (SIU). In order to provide sufficient staff for the APT all uniform officers will be withdrawn from CID, SIU, and other similar units.
2. SNT's will be reduced in size with approximately 2 Sergeants and 2 NSO's remaining on each borough, along with the current number of PCSO's; all under the Borough Inspector. SNT's will concentrate on dealing with chronic long-term local issues and the officers released from SNT will join APT.
3. CID will concentrate on dwelling burglaries, robberies, complex fraud and other serious or series crime. CID and SIU will be staffed entirely by detectives, releasing all of their uniformed officers out to the APT.

In addition to these changes, two teams currently based at Mount Browne in the Contact Centre (Event Assessment Unit, Hear and Solve) will be expanded and redirected to handle telephone calls and online incident reports which can be dealt with and resolved at first point of contact. This will minimise the amount of incidents being allocated out to the APT and SNT to those which require police attendance rather than the deployment of another agency; or which can be dealt with by means of remote telephone enquiries.

What these changes will mean, is that there will be an increased policing presence in local boroughs with more officers in each borough knowing their local area better. It is expected that the NSO's who will be redeployed to the APT will remain working within their specialist boroughs to retain the local knowledge and assist their colleagues in getting 'up to speed' on local issues and personages.

Where does Neighbourhood Watch fit into the new policing future? With the reduction in the size of SNT's we will be more dependent than ever on your information and action to assist us in targeting the right locations, identifying offenders, and protecting the vulnerable. The nature of the crime being committed is evolving with a decrease in traditional burglary and car crime being countered with a significant increase in domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, violence, cyber-crime and fraud. Neighbourhood Watch provides us with valuable eyes and ears within our communities – you know where your problem areas are and you know who your vulnerable residents are. The Police's ACS (Active Citizen System) is due to be replaced by the Neighbourhood Alert system which I hope will make it much easier to keep you all regularly updated with what is going on, where we've had successes and where we need your help.

Brief comments on changes to the national NHW movement

In a nutshell, there will be a big emphasis on strengthening the Force level of our organisation across the country which means in our case the Surrey level. This means upgrading and standardising them and empowering them with new tools such as websites and knowledge resources.

An important control element is the *NHW Register*, which will hold key details on all watches but coordinators' details will not be visible to public, just the scheme, potentially broken down to districts for better administration. We will take this opportunity to identify any Watches that are no longer active and either get new coordinators in place or, as a last resort, close them down.

The websites, nationally and at Surrey and Woking levels, will be thoroughly updated and become an attractive place to visit.

There will be a new version of the *logo* to make it more modern.

State of Woking Report – a new way for you to know the big picture

For some time now we have been complaining to our Inspector Nolan Heather that we are getting less and less information about crime in our areas. We do understand that they are under severe time pressure, so we have come up with a brand new idea.

Every three months we will visit the Inspector and the Crime Prevention Officers and put together an overview of crime in the Woking area, with additional detail where required on particular neighbourhoods. We will share some key statistics and trends and introduce the new faces that are important here in Woking.

I hope this will go a long way to allowing you to keep up to speed with policing here, without any spin or political influence.

Area Coordinator contact details

We hope to recruit an experienced coordinator in all 8 areas in Woking, but as you can see we still have a few vacancies:

Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford	Angela Williams	ByfleetAC@wanw.org.uk
Horsell & Goldsworth Park	Alan Taylor	horsell_area_coordinator@wanw.org.uk
Town Centre	Martin Stilwell	Centre_Area_Coordinator@wanw.org.uk
Old Woking, Barnsbury, Kingfield & Westfield	Derek Bartholomew	old_woking_area_coordinator@wanw.org.uk
Mount Hermon, St Johns, Hook Heath, Mayford & Sutton Green	Vacancy	
Sheerwater	Vacancy	
Maybury	Vacancy	
St Johns, Knaphill, Brookwood	Vacancy	

News from the neighbourhood Police teams

Please go to the Woking Police web page for news regarding your local area.

Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford:	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKBP
Horsell & Goldsworth Park	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKGH
Town Centre	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKWT
Old Woking, Barnsbury, Kingfield, Westfield, Mayford, & Sutton Green	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKOW
Sheerwater	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKSH
Maybury	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKMA
Mount Hermon, St Johns, Hook Heath, Mayford & Sutton Green	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKMH
Knaphill, Brookwood	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKNB

Call 101 for all non-emergency policing matters or **report online** at www.surrey.police.uk.

Call 999 if you have a genuine emergency requiring the attendance of the police (e.g. a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger)

Call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 if you have information about a crime and don't want to leave your name.