

WATCH OVER WOKING

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



Woking: all change ahead

Issue 20
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A message from your chairman

Dear Woking resident.

This will be the last edition of Watch over Woking with me as Chairman. I shall be handing the reins over to a proposed new chairman, Martin Stilwell, in July.

It has been quite an experience promoting our value to local residents and our visibility with the police. Our new initiative to get NhW social networks up and running in Woking reached a climax this week when we ran a training course based on the very successful Byfleet Facebook group. Since the arrival of Insp Mark Offord it is personally satisfying to see that the latter objective is also bearing fruit.

I have been invited to remain on the WAN committee with a more strategic role supporting the new Committee in the development of NhW in the Borough. It is my intention to remain dedicated to the organisation and will also retain my chairmanship of the Surrey County NhW.

InTheKnow is the front-end application of the Neighbourhood Alert system now employed by the police to report incidents to us. In addition to being the new Woking chairman, Martin will continue to administer the computer system InTheKnow for Surrey, but will hand over Woking membership and administration to Steve Dew. Martin has played a pivotal role in the introduction, training and operation of InTheKnow system and often holds dialogue directly with their development teams to resolve bugs and anomalies. This major effort has recently been recognised by Surrey NhW who selected Martin for their 2017 Outstanding Contribution award presented by the PCC.

I would like to thank all of you who are supporting WAN in your neighbourhood, for encouraging your neighbours and for your support and encouragement to me and my team.

See you on May 16 for our AGM, I hope, when we will have a superb speaker lined up – see overleaf.

Best wishes
Tony Kremer

Bike racks in Woking – not everything is bad news!

A good news story from our Chairman, Tony Kremer

Tony often leaves his bicycle on Platform 1 at Woking Station when he goes to London, but on this particular day the racks were full so he left his bike against the wall at the far end. It was gone when he returned from his trip later that day.

As he was filling in the complaints form, one of the railway staff arrived and when he heard what had happened, just said “follow me”. They walked in silence across the bridge to the Platform 1 office which he unlocked and showed Tony his bicycle! All safe and in the dry!

It turned out that he had been checking the bikes in the racks (who knew that?) and noticed that Tony’s lock had been incompletely closed leaving the poor thing vulnerable. So, he wheeled it down to his office and locked it in. Thanks Vic!

On this occasion Tony was very lucky to get his bike back due to the diligence of British Rail staff. Across Woking there is currently bike theft of epidemic proportions, so the moral of this story is: ensure you securely lock your bike in a well-lit location. You might not have Tony’s good fortune.

Our up-coming AGM

The Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches is holding its AGM at Byfleet Village Hall, 16th May 2018, 7:00 for 7:30. Finish 9:30.

Everyone registered on InTheKnow/OurWatch will receive an invite via an “Alert” email. If you would like to come please wait for that invitation and respond. In the meantime, please block the evening off in your diaries if you intend to join us.

Agenda

7:30 Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of last AGM

Chairman’s report

Treasurer’s report

Election of officers

GDPR for coordinators, Martin Stilwell

The new General Data Protection Regulations come into force on the 25th May. We will be explaining what this means for Neighbourhood Watch. There should be little impact on the coordinator’s role but coordinators need to understand what impact, if any, this may have on their role.

Guest speaker: David Huse OBE, chairman of UK’s Neighbourhood Watch Network

David has a tremendous national profile climaxing in a major role at the 2012 Olympics getting the crowds of volunteers recruited, trained and operational. He will be visiting Surrey for the first time and so we are opening up the meeting to other Boroughs. I expect David will want to talk about the potential for NhW moving from a being primarily a two-way crime information sharing network with the police into one focused on developing stronger and safer communities with a crime reduction core. As you will be well aware this approach is already embraced by several associations including Surrey, using best practices being developed using different approaches and technology.

9:30 Close

Mark Offord’s presentation at the last meeting

In case you missed them when sent out last time, Inspector Mark Offord’s presentation can be found [<here>](#)

Anne Jones’ interesting presentation on Alliance Support Coaching can be found [<here>](#)

Neighbourhood Watch chairman backs revision to crime plan

NEWS & MAIL | Thursday 5 April 2016 | 3



A NEW emphasis on neighbourhood policing by the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner has been cautiously welcomed by the county's Neighbourhood Watch chairman.

Tony Kremer, who is also chairman of Woking Neighbourhood Watch, says David Munro is right to ask Surrey Police to improve the local visibility of policing, with a better online and social media presence.

He was commenting on a proposed revision to Mr Munro's police and crime plan, which sets the strategic direction for the force and provides a basis for holding the chief constable to account.

Mr Munro is asking for residents' views on a revision of the plan which he launched when he was elected two years ago.

"The first priority is tackling crime and keeping Surrey safe and no-one would object to that being top priority," said Mr Kremer.

But he added that the neighbourhood policing proposals were vague and would be difficult to monitor. They needed minimum standards set for all the borough policing teams to meet and improve on.

"I like that Mr Munro will encourage more people to set up or join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme," said Mr Kremer, referring to the second priority in the plan revision.

He wants to bring Surrey's communities together to work with the police and other public services to solve issues that damage local areas or make people feel unsafe.

But Mr Kremer would like to see concrete proposals for Neighbourhood Watch teams to meet other similarly minded bodies.

He also welcomed the third priority of improving support for victims of crime and the fourth, preventing harm.

"I like the specific mention of missing persons, of

ten vulnerable residents. In Surrey there are almost 2,000 cases per year, and we are working with the police to use social media networks to help in the search. The key to success will be the timely sharing of information."

Mr Kremer said the plan's fifth priority – making every pound count – will mean sharing some police stations. Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and members would like to be consulted on proposed closures, in case they caused difficulty for the public.

On the final priority, a force fit for the future, Mr Kremer said that Neighbourhood Watch volunteers in police stations knew that the Surrey Police IT infrastructure "leaves a lot to be desired".

"I hope that this is addressed before Mr Munro's term of office ends in two years' time," he said.

• THE draft police and crime plan revision can be viewed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/U/C996Q6G where comments can be made.

Insight into police priorities

NEWS & MAIL | Thursday 22 March 2018 | 3



TIME was when your local Bobby had time for a chat on the street corner. Now few have any idea of the complexity of police work in today's society.

Woking's Inspector Mark Offord gave Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators an insight into current Woking Police priorities at a recent meeting.

Leaving aside crimes handled on a force, regional or national basis such as cybercrime, weapons and money laundering, there's still plenty to do. At Woking level, Mark's staff have to deal with high harm crime (domestic abuse, sexual offences including against children, and modern slavery), burglary, drug supply and anti-social behaviour.

Neighbourhood Police teams nowadays comprise two sergeants, three warranted police officers and working with them are 11 community safety officers with detailed knowledge of our villages.

In addition, Area Policing Teams (APTs) work on a 24-hour basis to respond to crimes and follow them through to, one

to look for in your community.

Meanwhile, Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro has reviewed the plan and these revised priorities and features can be found at: www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Draft-Plan-2018-2020-for-public-consultation-13.3.18.pdf.

He is seeking the public's views on the proposals through a short survey that can be found at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C996Q6G.

Alternatively you can email Tony Kremer with your views at chair@wanw.org.uk.

hopes, successful conclusions. At any one time in an APT, two sergeants and 13 PCs are on duty. In many ways, just as important is the intelligence from the community – reports on suspicious activity or perhaps just strangely unusual goings-on.

That's a key role NIW members can play.

Over the coming weeks, Neighbourhood Watch plan to issue guidelines on what to look for in your community.

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NEWS & MAIL | Thursday 1 March 2018 | 3

Hands-on training to help you embrace social media

A CALL to residents' associations across Woking to embrace social media has met with a good response, and a date of 18 April has now been set to deliver hands-on training.

It is part of the Neighbourhood Watch Refresh Strategy for 2018, which is encouraging the use of social media to build virtual watches in every community in Woking.

The campaign will then be rolled out in every Surrey borough, thanks to community funding from Surrey's Police & Crime Commissioner, David Munro.

This grant ensures that training is professionally run but free to community activists.

From Goldsworth Park to Anthons, Hook Heath to West Byfleet, associations have been approached to find candidates for this practical training.

The aim is to bring volunteers up to speed, enabling them to start new Facebook groups, promote them and importantly afterwards to ensure that they are deployed in line with a sound code of conduct.

For reservations, email Tony Kremer at chair@wanw.org.uk or ring 01483 764351.



Importance of mediation in resolving residents' disputes

NEWS & MAIL | Thursday 15 March 2018 | 3



DISPUTES between neighbours are unfortunately far from rare. Sometimes things escalate from inconsiderate behaviour to angry words, and even to confrontation. At the meeting last week attended by about 50 of Woking's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, the option of mediation was explained.

Brian Hughes said he felt strongly that he and his fellow NhW co-ordinators should take an opportunity to introduce the idea of mediation.

"Most disputes are known to the local co-ordinator who is uninvolved and objective. In my experience almost all dispute resolutions have much to gain from third-party input," Brian said.

Surrey Mediation Services have recently launched an additional service for people suffering from anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes – Alliance Support Coaching.

This has just helped its 100th client in a one year. Anne Jones said the service can help one or both parties prevent matters escalating by coaching on coping strategies and by signposting the effects of stress to other support organisations.

Woking Neighbourhood Inspector Mark Offord called for residents not to turn a blind eye to behaviour that suggests a neighbour is being taken advantage of, especially if they are vulnerable. Suspicions that they are being coerced or living in fear should be reported in confidence to their local PCSO (see Surrey Police website for the name) or anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

• THE Surrey Mediation Service can be contacted on 01483 715063 or office@westsurreymediationservice.org.uk. Anyone can join Neighbourhood Watch: contact chair@wanw.org.uk for your nearest local network.

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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/woking/byfleet-west-byfleet-pyrford/
Horsell & Goldsworth Park	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/goldsworth-park-horsell/
Town Centre	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/woking-town/
Old Woking, Barnsbury, Kingfield, Westfield, Mayford, & Sutton Green	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/old-woking/
Sheerwater	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/sheerwater/
Maybury	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/maybury/
Mount Hermon, St Johns, Hook Heath, Mayford & Sutton Green	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/mount-hermon-st-johns-hook-heath-mayford-sutton-green/
Knaphill, Brookwood	http://www.surrey.police.uk/woking/knaphill-brookwood/

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.