

**WOKING ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES (WAN)
AUTUMN CO-ORDINATORS MEETING 2020
WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2020**

This 'virtual Zoom' meeting was hosted by the Chair Martin Stilwell & attracted an on line attendance of 27 WAN members plus Guest Speaker Woking Borough Commander Inspector Dave Bentley of Surrey Police.

There were 28 people in the meeting. Thank you to all. We have identified all but 3 from the name on the Zoom screen.

Martin Stilwell (chair), Geoffrey Johnson (sec) Alan Taylor (WAN committee), Steve dew (WAN committee), Insp Dave Bentley (Woking Police), Richard Ley, David lander, Barbara Barklem, Chris Rowsell, Christina Candey, Gill Woodruffe, Halina Arendt, James Mackay. Jill Hayes, Jo Frank, Kathryn Hutchings, Kenneth Chapman, Lesley Labram, Lynn Cozens, Mandy Ferguson, Hilary Maskell, Maureen Thomas, Richard Petterson, Roy Westley, Sheila Carroll.

The 3 we could not identify were: "Gerald", "Michael" and "Michele's iPad" (please let me know who you are, for the records)

1 .Welcome and Purpose of Meeting: Martin Stilwell Chair WAN

Martin Stilwell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Association`s first virtual meeting, particularly the guest speaker Inspector Bentley who was attending his first Co-ordinators event since taking up his post earlier in the year.

2. Martin Stilwell

Martin gave a summary of recent developments both in Woking & Surrey, the text of his speech is as follows:

I'd like to welcome you to the first Zoom co-ordinator's meeting, courtesy of Surrey NhW who have purchased a number of Zoom licences to spread around the 11 boroughs.

This is the first co-ord's meeting since 14th Feb. Back then, Andy Greaves was our Inspector, but he has now moved to Spelthorne in a new role. Those of you at the previous meeting will remember the excellent talk by Andrew Gadd in cyber security. Surrey Police have just sent us all the latest Fraud newsletter and there are links to some useful free on-line training events in it.

Today it will be just myself and Inspector Dave Bentley. We intend holding these co-ord meeting's more often and will re-introduce guest speakers. All from the warmth and comfort of your home.

So, welcome to Insp Dave Bentley. He is one of a number of new appointments as borough commanders across Surrey, and these officers are expected to stay in post for a approx 4 years. This will give us some much need continuity in Woking. Dave has already done some podcasts on WokingBeat and these have been well received Dave will introduce himself in a minute.

2.1 So what has been happening in Woking?

2.1.1 Weekly Crime Reports First, an apology. You will be aware that the weekly crime reports have stopped since lockdown. This is a Surrey-wide problem. All but 2 of the 11 boroughs have their crime reports produced by civilian volunteers who go into Police premises/stations for one morning a week as they have to access the secure crime data. Because the Police cannot guarantee a secure and distanced space for the volunteers, the visits have stopped. SurreyNhW has been trying to resolve this

but without success so far. Rest assured we are trying to resolve this but it is simply not a priority for Surrey Police.

2.1.2 NhW Signs. The refurbishment of signs across Woking is now complete apart from one private road, which I will shortly deal with. Woking BC provide new signs free of charge (the only Surrey borough that does), but not for private roads. We have a few new Watches in Woking and WBC have put the signs up.

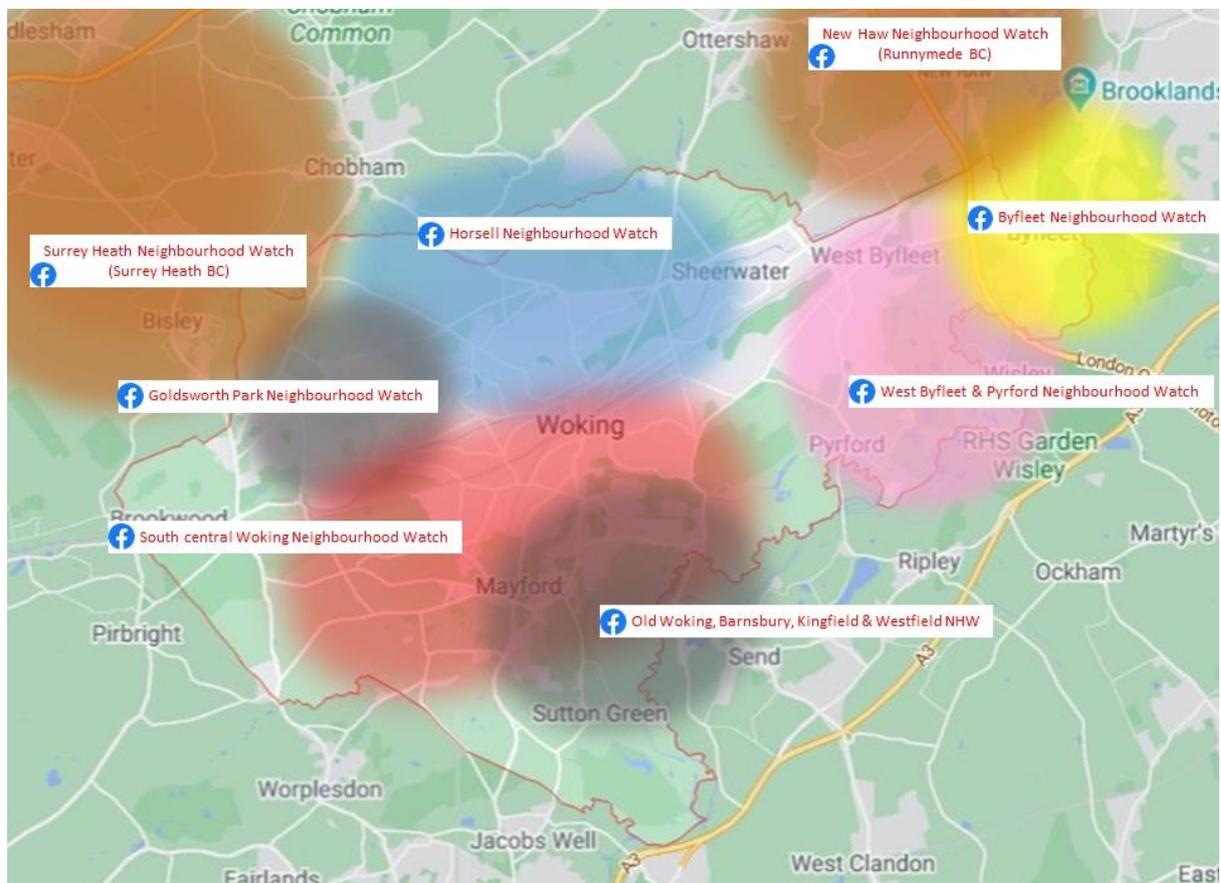
2.1.3 Local Press. Hopefully you will have read my monthly News & Mail articles. These have been well-received and will continue.

2.1.4 WAN AGM & Committee. We were due to have our 2019 AGM in May. The Committee have decided to postpone this until shortly after our March year end next year. If you feel this should be earlier please let us know as we can convene a special AGM meeting over Zoom.

Some of our Committee members have indicated that they wish to stand down so we really need a couple of co-ordinator's to step up to the committee. It is a rewarding role and takes little of your time. I will be contacting some of you with this in mind.

2.2 What's going on in Surrey?

The big project in Surrey NhW is the expansion of social-media-based Cover-Watches. These are 'top cover' Watches that cover communities, villages or even towns. Woking NhW is in the vanguard.



As seen in the image, we have covered most of the built up area of Woking but Knaphill is not covered and nor is the Maybury/Sheerwater corridor. We are working on this. These

Cover-Watches have no hard boundaries as illustrated by the Surrey Heath and New Haw Cover-Watches being included.

The advantage of these Cover-Watches is the speed and breadth of information that is passed around. The Police call this Intelligence. Street-Watches remain the core of the movement and continue to provide the much-desired local contact. The Cover-Watches have around 12,000 members at present. That is 12,000 additional people involved in the safety and well-being of our borough. The Cover-Watches and Street-Watches complement each other.

2.2 The Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner is David Munro. The post is due for re-election next spring. Please take note of the candidates and vote for the one that appeals to you. The PCC funds Surrey Police.

2.3 101 Reporting. Surrey Police are due to release some much needed improvements to the way the public can contact the Police. At present you either ring 999 or 101, or type a "101" into the Surrey website. Soon there will be other routes including a chat line from the website. These improvements are being trialled across Surrey. You will all be informed when the new services are officially launched by Surrey Police.

2.4 And finally a thank you .Surrey NhW has been sent a kind letter by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. This thank you is to all of you and shows how much we are appreciated.

 <p>Michael More-Molyneux HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey</p>	 <p>Dear Mike and Team,</p> <p>The innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting.</p> <p>As Her Majesty The Queen's Representative, I would like to thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to the County and its communities during these extraordinary and challenging times.</p> <p>With my Best Wishes to you All, Michael.</p> <p>Michael More-Molyneux HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey</p>
---	--

3. Inspector Dave Bentley:

Inspector Bentley introduced himself to the audience as having 15 year's experience in the Police, 10 years in West Mercia including qualifying as a detective & 5 with Surrey. Prior to Woking he had been a staff officer working directly for the Chief Constable who was the National Lead on neighbourhood Policing.

He summarised the current issues as:

Police Resources: The neighbourhood Team to have seven new PCSOs & 4 additional officers by the year end, some already in post or undergoing training. The PCSOs to be allocated to specific areas, the PCs allocated to meet demand where needed.

Covid & Crime: The lockdown period had a significant effect on crime, overall a 22% reduction with robberies, theft & residential burglaries showing major reductions. However, increases were recorded for drugs & vehicle crime.

All the social restrictions imposed by the Government need policing. Police advice is report and **not** to challenge or intervene with any breaches of the 'Rule of 6'.

Antisocial Behaviour also increased during lockdown. Currently a PCSO is dedicated to following up all reports from the public. The previously reported problems in West Byfleet centre have reduced with the development site boarded up.

Bike thefts significantly increased during lockdown. Posters strategically placed by cycle racks are proving effective. Police resources have been allocated & arrests have been made. 'D' locks are recommended as a basic security measure.

Speeding & Traffic: Community speedwatch has been revived three currently active & volunteers needed to operate further ones.

There are no current plans to follow some London Boroughs in implementing a Borough wide standard speed limit.

Insp Bentley will liaise with Woking BC on the effects caused by local & through traffic following the proposed closure of the A320 Victoria railway bridge.

Weekly Crime Reports: Steve Dew was thanked for his work as Police volunteer & apologies for the inability to produce the weekly reports. Efforts underway to resolve the problems. Martin Stilwell asked if more follow up information could be issued mentioning arrests, convictions to encourage community interest.

Youth Project: Kick off at Three .Together with Fearless, the young people's arm of Crimestoppers, Woking Police are acting as the Surrey pioneers for this project which encourages young people (of both sexes) to play football. Publicity is via schools, the project is funded by the Surrey PCC & Woking BC & involves several youth charities. The aim in addition to the football, is to encourage familiarisation with the Police. Teams from Woking are to participate in a London tournament.

Hate Crime: Although showing a small reduction during the lockdown period, the full extent of this is thought to be under reported. Hate crime was suggested as a subject for a further talk by Insp Bentley.

4. Close of Meeting:

In closing the meeting Martin thanked Insp Bentley & the audience for their attendance and participation. He hoped hold further meetings on a quarterly basis.

Martin Stilwell
Chair, WAN
chair@wanw.org.uk