

Minutes of Co-ord's meeting & AGM of Woking Assoc. of Neighbourhood Watches  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
Via Zoom

Martin Stilwell (MS) – chair

Committee: Steve Dew, Geoffrey Johnson, Alan Taylor, Marc Alderman, Mark Pengelly

Inspector Dave Bentley (DB) – commander, Woking Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team

29 attendees and 18 apologies. Thank you to both attendees and those who took time to give apologies. Attendees at the end of the report. Please let me know if I missed you off and I'll update the minutes.

**Apologies received from:**

Agnes Haldys, Bill Pugh, Brian Davis, Brian Hughes, David Fordham, Diana Fraser, Jill Hayes, John Washbrook, Linda Henley, Malcolm Pritchard, Rebecca Denby, Richard Petterson, Richard Kelly, Stephen Saviker, Tony Trangmar, Mandy Ferguson, Paula Eddington, Angela Williams, Jo Frank

**Chair's report:**

Please see separate attached report

**AGM business**

**Minutes of last AGM** (was postponed from May to Oct 2020)

[http://www.wanw.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Minutes\\_Co-ords\\_Oct\\_20.pdf](http://www.wanw.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Minutes_Co-ords_Oct_20.pdf)

**Finances**

Woking Assoc of Neighbourhood Watches needs little funding from year to year as signs are supplied by Woking BC and collateral usually comes from UK NhW or Surrey NhW. Paying for meeting venues has not been required over the past 12 months. Our finances have therefore remained fairly static over the last 12 months.

## AGM – WAN finances

WOKING ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES (WAN)		
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2020		
2018/9		2019/20
£		£
	<b>INCOME</b>	
	Sales @ meetings	
	Recoveries (Note a )	150.00
	Donations received (Note b )	16.50
0.54	Interest Income	
0.54	Total Income	166.50
	<b>less EXPENDITURE</b>	
80.46	AGM Expenses	
	Coordinator Events	
150.00	Surrey NhW Conference (Note a )	
	Newsletter /Printing	
	Purchase cost of stock for resale	
58.95	Web site /IT	41.76
289.41	Total Expenditure	41.76
-288.87	<b>SURPLUS / -DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	124.74
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
	Cash on deposit	
433.33	Cash in current account (Note b )	558.07
0.07	Cash in hand	0.07
	Stock value	
433.40	TOTAL NET WORTH	558.14
	Represented by:	
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
	Stock value brought forward	
722.27	Funds from prior years	433.40
-288.87	Surplus/-Deficit for current year	124.74
433.40	TOTAL FUNDS	558.14
	Note a:Recovery of prior year Conference Expenditure from Surrey NHWA	
	Note b : Donation via Easyfundraising	
	Note c : 2018/9 includes £501.32 transferred from Deposit A/c	
	(Original signed )Date	
	Geoffrey Johnson Treasurer	Deryck Fowler Independent Examiner

WOKING ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES (WAN)		
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2021		
2019/20		2020/21
£		£
	<b>INCOME</b>	
	Recoveries (Note a )	
150.00	Donations received (Note b )	23.92
16.50	Interest Income	
166.50	Total Income	23.92
	<b>less EXPENDITURE</b>	
	AGM Expenses	
	Coordinator Events	
	Surrey NhW Conference	
	NhW Signs	24.54
41.76	Web site /IT	41.76
41.76	Total Expenditure	66.30
124.74	<b>SURPLUS / -DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	-42.38
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
	Cash on deposit	
0.07	Cash in current account	515.69
558.07	Cash in hand	
558.14	TOTAL NET WORTH	515.76
	Represented by:	
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
	Funds from prior years	558.14
433.40	Surplus/-Deficit for current year	-42.38
124.74	TOTAL FUNDS	515.76
558.14		
	Note a:Recovery of prior year Conference Expenditure from Surrey & National NhWA	
	Note b : Donation via Easyfundraising	

Proposed by James Mackay and seconded by Geoffrey Johnson

### Committee members

All continue but Geoffrey Johnson has requested that he steps down as secretary/treasurer.

Alan Taylor have just taken over the chair of Horsell Residents Association and so will prioritise his time on that (congratulations Alan).

All the committee bar myself live in Horsell, and I live only just outside that Ward. We would like to have representatives from other parts of Woking. An approach has been made to one resident, who is considering the invitation.

Being on the committee is a rewarding task and needs little of your time, but you do get more insight and knowledge as to the working of the Police SNT and Woking BC in return.

If you would like to have a chat about this opportunity please email me at [Chair@Wanw.org.uk](mailto:Chair@Wanw.org.uk)

### Inspector David Bentley's report

[Martin Stilwell: Please note that Dave had booked the week off as leave but cancelled the leave on Wednesday so that he could give us his update. I have thanked him for this.]

The crime data, as shown by Martin from the Police UK data needs a little more explanation, and is also a few months behind.

"Violence & sexual offences" includes any serious crime but also lower-level crimes such as common assault. This is why that crime type always appears in the top two "crimes" across the county.

The lower level of crime experience during lockdown was expected to go up, and it has. Since easing of lockdown there has been an increase in Police time and crime. Woking has not seen the increases seen in other Surrey boroughs, +18% on this time last year, but this is more than I would have liked to see.

The increase in burglaries is not unexpected, but disappointing. There has been an expected DECREASE in drug offences (more below).

ASB has DECREASED by 40.9% on this time last year, which is fantastic. And a specific 43% reduction compared with this month last year. Some decrease has been due to less social-distancing breaches. I would have been disappointed NOT to have recorded this.

Woking has experience some positive results on crime:

Catalytic converter thefts are considerably down following some arrests, and there were some key arrests of drug suppliers (more on this below).

Please note that the Police have no impact on sentencing. This is the responsibility of magistrates and judges. The Police have received negative feedback following some court cases where the sentence has been disappointing, but this is not down to the Police. However, the Police do know they need to get better at explaining this to the public.

Following from Martin's photograph of 3 officers in The Peacocks on Sunday, this was a patrol scheduled to check there were no breaches for gatherings for key Euro2021 football matches. Officers are scheduled to patrol licenced premises during these matches. Woking has so far experienced NO issues. The Police have also been carrying out test purchases of alcohol using cadets who are (or appear) under age. I am pleased to report that none of the licenced premises visited sold any alcohol without asking for proof of age. This is a great result.

There will be a drug-awareness campaign in The Peacocks in July. One event for parents and one for youths. This will be all part of a bigger awareness programme.

The burglary awareness survey was a success, with excellent response. Thank you to all those who took part. I have a pot of money from a fund to spend on crime-awareness

Woking Police now has a rural crime PCSO – Tom Hines. Green epaulettes. Is a wild-life specialist. Although Woking is not that rural Tom will still have plenty to do as there has always been a need in the borough.

County Lines week happens twice a year. In May my team worked with British Transport Police on a Friday PM at the station. The week includes education of County Lines' type crime at schools. "County Lines" effects us all and there will be an education campaign to all in the autumn. It is a Surrey-wide campaign.

Drugs: As reported in national press "cannabis edibles" are a problem. These are sweets that contain cannabis. They are dangerous and a real concern. Please have conversations with children you now about the health risks. Schools will be targeted.

Canal Watch: Fantastic success – a great community initiative. 100+ patrols along the canal and this has made a difference in deterring criminals.

Govt/English Heritage's "Save our streets" campaign. Applying for funding through new Police and Crime Commissioner, Lisa Townsend. Graffiti along Basingstoke Canal is a big problem and much of it is on old bridges and walls and will require care to remove it. Specialist operators will be brought in to remove the graffiti and so avoid polluting the area with the paint residue. I will update you more next meeting.

#### Community priorities

- 1) Community engagement – I have been in post over 12 months and understand that consistency of reporting is important to the citizens. More opportunities for face-to-face meets will be taken up.
- 2) Problem solving – Adults causing harm; young people who can be educated to prevent crime; locations of interest; themes.
- 3) Partnerships – Woking BC, PCC's office, voluntary organisations, private organisations

## Q&A

Q1: (Submitted in advance) *"I would like to know what simple measures can be introduced to prevent antisocial behaviour or nudge people in the right direction.*

- *Would putting signs up in the park (Wheatsheaf Rec Ground/common) help? E.g. Be tidy – Bin your litter or take it home. Fire risk area – no BBQ's please. Residential area – be considerate. Etc*
- *Would local advertising campaigns help to raise awareness of suitable behaviour?*

*These would need to go to WBC, but I would like to know what works in your experience. If we get a PSPO this should be part of it, but if we don't I think some measures are still needed.*

*The most common antisocial behaviour on the park is drinking/noise disturbance and littering, followed by smoking pot, BBQ's/campfires and occasional fireworks."*

A1: A really good point. ASB week is coming up [MS: you will all receive plenty of notice]. Signs do help. As an example bike thefts have reduced by 33% partly due to effective signs ("eyes are watching you") in the town centre. Proved to also be as effective elsewhere in UK. Local advertising is OK but needs tailoring to the relevant people. Young people are best contacted through "influencers". Talk to young people and get the message over. Get them to understand the importance of consideration to others.

Q2: Have there been burglary increases?

A1: Yes. Not a huge number but burglaries are on increase as people leave their homes, even for short periods, as lockdown eases. Check doors, sheds, garages, windows. Think about a "Ring" type doorbell with camera. Burglars are professionals and can get in and out quickly. Think like a criminal.

[MS – my News & Mail article is on this very subject is in the current edition]

Q3: Is the Wey Navigation towpath more benign than Basingstoke Canal?

A: Yes. The Wey doesn't have the issues experienced on Basingstoke Canal.

Q4: What can be done to address crimes that have a root cause of homelessness?

A: There have been some issues with beggars in Woking town centre. These are being managed. The Police work with York Rd project. Although Woking is relatively affluent it does have areas that are in the top 20% of deprivation statistics in the UK. These areas are the ones being actively targeted.

Q5: There have been press reports that Sheerwater residents have ASB issues.

A: A couple of areas in Sheerwater have been targeted but there is nothing specific reported for the wider area. Police response times for ASB can be difficult to maintain as ASB is an "incident" and not a "crime" and the Police have to give priority to responding to crimes.

Q6: Catalytic converter theft update?

A: Police have been targeting areas and suspects. Catalyst thefts have decreased significantly. Arrests made resulting in charges for criminal damage. There has been a great response from the public (thank you). Owners of targeted cars are being written to (but letters delayed due to poor response time from DVLA for owner's details). But, unfortunately, all the kits have now been allocated so the letters will be just advice. The original kits were funded by Police and manufacturers. The Police will never be able to provide enough kits to meet demand. Street signs are available for areas where catalyst thefts are a problem. Contact Martin if you feel a sign would be of use.

[MS update. The kits were a mixture from Selectamark and Smartwater. The latter cannot be purchased by the public. The former are available at £24.99 incl P&P. I have ordered a kit today and will report on it when I have marked up my car's catalyst (although it's not a make/model that has been targeted).

<https://www.catalyticconvertertheft.com/>



Q7: Can you please update on how the increase in resources (officers) is going and how they will be used.

A: The team will be in the places needed most. The team is up to numbers now but I have to use them effectively – that means they are not always visible. But they WILL be where they are needed.

ASB might be irritating to locals but the Police might be responding to a crime at that time as so cannot respond to ASB immediately.

Report. Report. Report. Report all ASB.

Q8a: electric scooters

A: Bane of Police's life. Public hire schemes appearing around the UK, but none in Woking.

They are difficult to Police. Most riders are not aware of the consequences which are: fine, points on licence, and confiscation. Council approved schemes allow scooters to be ridden on public roads (not pavements) but these are a) insured, b) have lights, c) require rider to wear a helmet, and d) require a driving licence (prov. licence will do).

If rider is inebriated on a scooter they are drink-driving and can be prosecuted.

The gov is likely to soon legalise them.

[MS: Here is the wording of an Alert I sent to all in Surrey late last year:

*Dear Surrey resident*

*Currently, you can buy an e-scooter but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. Anyone who does is committing an offence. Don't let anyone - especially the seller - tell you otherwise.*

*The only place a private-owned e-scooter can be used is on private land, with the permission of the landowner.*

*They are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), and so they're treated as motor vehicles and are subject to all the same legal requirements - MOT, tax, licensing and specific construction. Because they don't always have visible rear red lights, number plates or signalling ability, they can't be used legally on the roads. If you use a privately-owned e-scooter on any public road, cycle lane or pavement you could get a £300 fixed-penalty notice and, if you have one, six points on your driving licence.*

*But please note that, starting this summer, the government has allowed local councils to run e-scooter rental trials, where members of the public can pay to hire a scooter. Renters will be required to have a driving licence and will need to be insured, and the scooters are still banned from pavements. These rental rules do NOT apply to privately-owned e-scooters."*

Nothing has changed since then.

Q8b: How should we approach youngsters riding these scooters?

A: make them aware of the fact that riding them is illegal, and that they are governed by the same rules as vehicles in that they should be insured and the rider needs a licence. Say that this info has come from the Police Inspector. If no improvement, raise a 101.

**Junior citizen scheme**

Held at Woking FC and is an annual event. Excellent response from schools and children. This year's was on on-line safety and being courteous on-line. This is a very good use of Police time but does take a few officers off the patrols for a few weeks.

MS thanked Dave and for everyone's time in attending.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm

**Attendees:**

Alan Taylor, Amanda Ferguson, Ann Smith, Bob Cowell, Chris Rowsell, Christine Little, Crista Rayner, Dave Bentley, Dino Sofos & Sharon, Fiona Syrett, Geoffrey Johnson, Gill Woodroffe, Hayley Underwood, Helen Shrub, Hilary Maskell, James Mackay, Jennie Ley + 1, Jenny and Nigel Davis, Kathryn Hitchings, Ken Chapman, Lynn Cozens, Marc Alderman, Marilyn Adcock, Martin Stilwell, Martine Young, Michael Gurr, Michael Widdup, Rajiv Jangra, Roy Westley, Simon Trick, Steve Dew