

Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch



Charity No 1062009

March 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2015. We hope you find it helpful. Our Quarterly Members meeting on Wednesday 11th March 2015, at Police Headquarters was a very positive time together. We want to thank Mr Olly Martins, Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, who joined us for some of our meeting and to those who attended for being so responsive to the questions we discussed. And thanks to all of you, our members, for your continued support in helping keep our communities safe.

At the quarterly meeting in December last year, it was requested that this meeting would be an opportunity for Members to have a question and answer time and an input into the way we move forward.

The Trustees are working to develop a five year plan and we felt this was a good opportunity to seek Members views.

In order to facilitate discussion, we changed the design of the room, having a number of round tables rather than the risers out. This gave us a good platform for open discussion.

We had four categories to consider:

1. Effective communication
2. Safer Communities
3. Crime reduction
4. Effective use of resources



The four questions for each criterion were:

- a. Where we are?
- b. What we do well?
- c. What we could do better?
- d. Where are we going?

We discussed these questions in small groups, each group supported by one Trustee. We fed back our discussions and highlighted the main themes.

The Trustees found this evening very helpful and illuminating and gave us a good base for our five year plan. We expect to have this published for the AGM in June.

**Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Commissioner.
Mr Olly Martins –**

To read more about his talk, please go to www.bedsppcc.org and click on the red **'your vote on 7 May 2015 is important – click this link to find out why'**

Neighbourhood Watch Website

Graham Boyle gave us a presentation and preview of the new website due to go live 2nd April. This is a mini website, through OURWATCH, the National Neighbourhood Watch website. At present it is being loaded with news, events, and dates; security advice and much more. There will also be links to our Partners. More information and the website address will be posted through Ringmaster. We look forward to any comments and suggestions for this new facility.

Local Neighbourhood Watch Awards

We are looking to present Local awards during Neighbourhood Watch Week in June. Please let us have names of any Members you feel we could consider.



New Registration Procedures

Our new registration procedure has been discussed at our last two meetings. Just a reminder that all new members, from now on, will be registered on our database. This does not affect existing households in the scheme. However any existing members who wish to register are welcome to do so. Registration forms can be requested through Lynne, who can send a form electronically or via the post. It will be possible for future members to register themselves directly into the database.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

GOING LIVE ON 2nd APRIL 2015

We are pleased to announce that Bedford & District will launch their new mini website.

Details of the web address will be announced through Ringmaster on that date

!NHWATCH THIS SPACE!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch Database

Our database migration to OURWATCH is almost complete. This new system will enable members to oversee their individual data and should enable us to communicate more successfully with our Members.

Area Coordinators will be sent information and instruction on managing the new system.



How to avoid becoming a victim of a telephone scam.

- Stop and think. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do not give personal or financial information or pin numbers to anyone, however plausible they might sound and even if they claim to represent a business or organisation you have heard of, or where an approach is personalised.
- Genuine businesses or organisations will never telephone you and ask you for personal or financial information.
- If you suspect a call is bogus, speak to family or friends or the Citizens Advice Service and seek advice.
- Register with the [Telephone Preference Service](#). This is a free service where you can register your preference not to receive unsolicited sales and marketing calls, although it may not stop overseas calls. You can register on 0845 070 0707 or online.
- You can arrange with your telecoms provider to reject anonymous calls to your telephone or look to buy a call blocker.
- Ask your telephone provider to set up call screening on your telephone so that you know who is calling your number before you decide to answer it. If the number is withheld it will be displayed as 'number withheld'
- Be cautious and if in doubt, hang up.

Safer Communities

**National Neighbourhood Watch Week
Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th June 2015**

Diary

**20th Family Walk. Harrold Country Park
23rd "Live Link"
24th Annual Quiz
25th Town Centre Event
28th Local Awards Event**

Library Display During The Week

**Bedford & District NHW
Our Next Quarterly Members
Meeting (AGM)**

**Is Wednesday 17 June 2015
This Will Be Our AGM**

**Lynne Arch
County Wide Support Officer**

Lynne is your first point of contact when you ring Neighbourhood Watch. She is always ready and willing to answer any questions or queries you may have.

Please note the change of her telephone number from:

01234 275165 to 01234 842043

**Bridgebury House
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters
Woburn Road
Bedford
MK43 9AX**



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