

Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch



Charity No 1062009

June 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to our second Newsletter of 2015. We hope you find it helpful.

Our Members Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 June 2015, at Police Headquarters was very informative. We thank Chief Inspector Steve Vesztrocy from Bedfordshire Police, who was our guest speaker for the evening. And thanks to all of you, our members, for your continued support in helping keep our communities safe.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Chief Inspector Steve Vesztrocy, gave us an insight to the New Operating Model adopted by Bedfordshire Police.



The new structure aims to improve the efficiency of the service, to work together to protect people, fight crime and keep Bedford safe.

There will be a transition to the new model in two phases; phase one in June 2015, phase two in the autumn, with the full model in place by early 2016.

The model is designed to ensure the Police resources are targeted to risks which have been identified by the force, stakeholders, victims, partners and communities.

Headline changes:

- More officers with powers of arrest. Giving necessary powers to tackle crime in the community.
- Additional training and support to strengthen crime investigation skills and improve the quality and outcomes of investigations.
- More appointments given for the public and giving more time in either the station or home address.
- A simplified process to ensure an Officer attends a high risk incident immediately. Tracking will show which Officer is the closest to an incident.
- Assess the **T**hreat, **H**arm, **R**isk, **I**ntelligence, **V**ulnerability, **E**ngagement, with an emphasis on Vulnerability, when attending an incident investigating a crime.
- Prioritising crimes which involve the most vulnerable victims and the most serious offenders.
- Community Officers to be skilled in crime investigation and close working between community officers and detectives.

Trustees Report

Hazel, Chair of the Trustees, gave the report on behalf of the Trustees.

It has been another busy year for the Association; with the Trustees meeting every month and two quarterly meetings have been held since the last AGM. David Padgett was our guest speaker at the first and the second was an Open Forum for Members when Olly Martins, the Police and Crime Commissioner joined us.

Our Data Protection Policy has been reviewed and accepted, and we thank Mark Everett in helping with the update.

A copy of this can be requested from Lynne Arch.

Five Year Plan.

At the last quarterly meeting on 11th March, we held a forum, where we asked our Members to help us in formulating and developing our plan for the next five years.

From this meeting, we have taken your comments and incorporated them, using the framework published by National Neighbourhood Watch.

Hazel explained this is still a "work in progress". At present the Trustees are looking at ways to achieve these goals.

The full plan will be presented at our next Members meeting.

The Memorandum Of Understanding between the County Watch Groups and Bedfordshire Police is now one year old.

We are soon going to evaluate the effectiveness of this, specifically with relationships between Coordinators and PCSO's and will be sending out a questionnaire to help us in this evaluation.

Please help us by responding. Thank you.

The Police have provided two training sessions over this period; one on Anti-social Behaviour and the second on Cybercrime.

Earlier this year, we held refresher training courses for our Area and Street Coordinators.

The Community Watch Group, of the three Neighbourhood Watch Associations and Speed Watch and Street Watch from Central Bedfordshire have met regularly. This year we have purchased, from the shared budget: purse bells, flags, two tables and tablecloths, balloons, lanyards and wheelie bin stickers, to help in our promotions and publicity.

Items bought in the previous year are still being used.

The County Watch Steering Committee, where we share ideas and resources in order to benefit our individual Watches, has met three times since the last AGM.

We continue to represent Neighbourhood Watch on a number of local groups with our Partners. These are: The Community Tactical Action Group (CTAG) - The Operational Delivery Group (ODG) - Community Safety Forums - Safer Cycling Group - Bedfordshire Victims Partnership - Regional Neighbourhood Watch Group. We also attended the Community Safety Partnership forum held in the Corn Exchange in February, where Neighbourhood Watch discussed with others, aspects of community safety and up to date information of trends in crime.

Other local events: We have provided leaflets for each house in areas prior to where Op Visions, Days of Action and Community Impact Days have been held, and we have contributed to these on the day.

OURWATCH is the National website for Neighbourhood Watch.

In April this year, we launched our own dedicated micro website in OURWATCH.

bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk

At the same time, our database was transferred to a dedicated section of OURWATCH.

One of the advantages of doing this is to allow members to access their own information on line. We would encourage all Members to log onto this website and check their details are correct and change where necessary.

All registered members should have received logging in details by email or telephone. We need to know where members have not received this information.

We would still encourage all unregistered Members to register and to receive the extra benefits that this new system will bring and it is now possible to do this on line.

As the system develops, we hope to use it as our means of communication.

Membership: We are registering approximately 80 to 100 new members per month, mainly through our community involvements, our leaflet drops and new Start-ups.

Lynne Arch's post has now transferred to the PCC's office. Lynne continues to be your first point of contact. Her email address is the same but her new telephone number is **01234 842043**.

A big thank you:

to all of you who have helped and supported Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch over the past year.

It was appreciated by us and by the Chief Constable, Colette Paul, who has thanked us for the help and assistance we have given in support of the Police over the year.

Treasurers Report

Another big thank you to Graham Boyle, who presented our annual finance report, which was accepted by the Members present. We are also grateful to, Ray Milsted, who has volunteered to be our Scrutineer for this year and next. Well done to both for their help.

NEW Mini Website and Database Launched in April 2015

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk

Log on and tell us what you think

Trustee Nominations

We are grateful for the eight Trustees who have agreed to continue for this coming year. They are: Graham Boyle – Nina Bransgrove-Knight – Margaret Carpenter – Roland Carpenter – Rosemary Drewery – Brian Marsh – Pat Maskey- Hazel Snowball. All were voted in by Members present. Officers of the Trustees will be elected at their next meeting in July.

We are sorry to report that Mark Everett has had to step down and we thank him for his support and input he has given us this year.

Lynne Arch, Administrator

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**Next Quarterly Members Meeting:
Wednesday 04 November 2015**