

# Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch



Charity No 1062009

## November 2015 Newsletter

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH

[Bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org](http://Bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org)

**Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2015. We hope you find it helpful.**

Our Members Quarterly Meeting was held on Wednesday 4 November 2015, in the Council Chamber at Borough Hall as the lecture theatre at Police Headquarters was unavailable.

Thank you to Councillor Colleen Atkins for arranging this for us and for her short description of the etiquette of the Council Chamber during Council business.

**A big thank you to our guest speaker, Thomas Warner, Prevention Technical Support Manager, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, for an excellent presentation on the Fire Service's role in prevention, and community involvement.**

Thomas started his presentation by showing us the structure and importance placed on prevention within the Fire Service. There are a number of personnel dedicated to the following aspects of prevention:



### Safer Homes

#### Home Fire Safety Check Scheme.

- Anyone can request a fire safety check of their home.
- The Home Safety Centre in Luton: a teaching environment in a house where groups or individuals can go for training and advice on fire safety in the home.
- Talks and Presentations to Community Groups, which could include NHW street meetings.
- Fire Kills Calendar: Encourages individuals to test their smoke alarms monthly.
- You are four times more likely to die in a home fire if there is no working smoke alarm.
- Why not offer to test an alarm of an older family member, neighbour, or friend.

### Safer Roads

- More people die in road accidents than in fires. The Fire Service is a members of the Bedfordshire Casualty Reduction Partnership and take part in National Road Safety Campaigns.
- **Click Car:** This is a car used to demonstrate how rescues take place. It is a vehicle that "clicks" together rather than physically dismantle a car to show how a rescue may take place. This is often used in schools and road shows.

- **Fire Bikes:** These are motorbikes often used in road safety awareness campaigns and can be used to offer first contact intervention where a motor cycle can beat traffic congestion.
- **Xellerate:** A programme of training for 16 and 17 year olds in pre-driving advice and experience of vehicle handling in a safe environment.
- **Biker Down:** A training programme for bikers in first aid, the law and accident avoidance.

### Youth Engagement

- **Firebreak:** Young offenders undertake training in "Be Healthy" "Stay Safe" "Enjoy and Achieve" "Make a Positive Contribution" "Achieve Economic Wellbeing"
- **Cadet Scheme:** Open to young people aged 14 to 17years. They meet weekly during term time.
- Two initiatives specifically in Luton: Faith based Football and "Mary Seacole Hostel"

### Arson

- Thomas told us of a number of initiatives relating to the prevention of Arson in schools, businesses, homes, vacant properties and farms.
- Other initiatives include:  
Anti-arson letter boxes. - After incident response.  
Identifying trends. - Advice to businesses.

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** have adopted the **ALERT** messaging system used by Neighbourhood Watch. All our members who are registered on the new OURWATCH database will receive these messages unless they choose not to. News and up dated information can be found at [bedsfirealert.co.uk](http://bedsfirealert.co.uk)



## BEDFORD & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS AND UPDATES

**Five Year Plan:** This is now available to view on our website.

### Data Protection Policy

Following our transition to OURWATCH in April, we reviewed and updated our data protection policy and guidelines.

This is not available on our website but will be available from Lynne on request.

This is because we have produced an addendum of the Act specifically as a guide for all our members to view as part of our new handbook.

We wanted to clarify what we consider reasonable in the sharing of data in our situation.

For example, introducing a new member to the local Coordinator. If we are not able to do this Neighbourhood Watch, as an organisation, would suffer at community level. So by stating this principle from the onset, individuals will be aware that we may pass on basic information in order to enhance and promote a scheme. This will probably be name and address.

The second principle is how Coordinators handle any personal data they have regarding Members.

All new members will be advised, through their welcome letter, to read the members handbook which will be available on our website.

**Lynne Arch has moved**  
Our County Support Officer  
is now based at  
Halsey Road  
Police Station  
Kempston  
MK42 8AX



Her telephone number and email address is the same.

**Tel: 01234 842043**

**Mobile: 07956388394**

**[lynne.arch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lynne.arch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)**

**[pnn.police.uk](http://pnn.police.uk)**

### Operation Fidelity

“Operation Fidelity” concerns Bedfordshire Police’s response to burglary across the force.

Each week an intelligence report will be sent out to you, our Area Coordinators, with details of burglary trends, types and locations.

You are asked to share this intelligence with your membership with the aim of improving intelligence gathering, partnership working and reducing crime.

Each week the force Crime Reduction Officers will review the intelligence report and make recommendations that the Neighbourhood Watch schemes could complete in their respective areas to prevent crime.

If any of our Members know of information sought, please email the information to the dedicated intelligence email address:

**[neighbourhoodwatchintel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodwatchintel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)**

### New Members Handbook.

We have updated our existing Coordinators Manual and renamed it Members Guide. Using a similar format to the old handbook, we have slimmed this down to just four pages, and this will be on our website where it can be downloaded.

For those who don’t have access to a computer or internet, Lynne will provide a hard copy.

We want a document that is relevant to all Members, so that all feel included and informed.



### Transition to OURWATCH.

In April, when we uploaded our database to OURWATCH, an automated email or telephone message was sent to each member asking them to confirm current details and to activate their account.

Out of about 6,000 registered members, some 800 have not activated their accounts.

This could be for a number of reasons and although we are working to correct this, it will take some time.

So we are asking you, our Coordinators, if you know anyone who is registered and not receiving OURWATCH information and would like to, contact Lynne and we can arrange for another verification email to be sent to them.

If they do not receive an email, it is possible we have a wrong email address. So we would ask that Member to send an email to Lynne, stating they have not received one.

Alternatively, they could go onto our website and re-register themselves and our administrator will pick this up and make any necessary adjustments.

**Sign  
the  
Petition**

**Please support the PCC’s petition for better funding for our Police force.  
For more information see: [Bedfordshire.police.uk](http://Bedfordshire.police.uk) or  
[Bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk](http://Bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk) and follow the links.**

**Thank You**

**Please make sure you click on the email link once you have completed the on-line petition**

**Next Quarterly Members Meeting: Wednesday 27 January 2016**