



Chairman's Report 2019/2020

Shortly before Christmas, Arun DC issued literature to raise awareness of both domestic abuse and mental health issues. These topics affect members of our society. Both messages were posted via the Council's social media accounts.

Whilst reduced, vehicle break-ins continue to occur and remain focused on unlocked vehicles and owners leaving possessions inside. Incidents of vehicles being entered and items including passport, sat nav, cash, iPod, driver's licence, and tools being taken have been reported. Please remember to lock your vehicle and don't leave valuables inside.

Arun DC have issued a simple flowchart to partners such as town and parish councils and traders groups confirming who is responsible for dealing with rough sleepers dependant on the land occupied ie: WSCC responsible for those on the public highway. This has been done to ensure the correct land owner takes the appropriate action and to avoid confusion amongst agencies and public when reporting. In the first instance, referrals for rough sleepers to be made via www.streetlink.org.uk.

There has been an issue of a male and female begging in retail car parks along Shripney Road Bognor. The issue was reported and attracted lots of comment via social media rather than direct to agencies. Mixed reports about whether they were being aggressive, but shoppers were feeling harassed.

The outbreak of coronavirus has had a huge impact on our communities, as it has ourselves as both statutory and non-statutory agencies/groups. Social distancing and isolation guidance has seen an unquestionable change to the way we all live our lives, something that is likely to have a bearing on how we reach and interact with local communities in the future. What has been hugely positive within Arun is the way that communities have come together to provide support to vulnerable people and those in need. Whether it be assistance with food, the collection of prescription medication, or providing a caring call to someone feeling lonely, established community groups and newly formed volunteer networks have been invaluable in servicing the needs of local people during this difficult and challenging time. At the start of April, Sky News reported that "people in Arun, West Sussex, were most likely to stick to the rules, with 98.4% saying they had not gone out." This was great news. However, it is important that people continue to act appropriately and stick to the social distancing measures asked of us. As a result, agencies such as NH Watch, Arun Police, WSCC Community Safety team, Arun District Council, and our town councils and Parish Councils are regularly posting information messages via social media to remind people of this.

There have been a number of cases of people running scams to take advantage of the current social distancing measures and people's worries about coronavirus.

- Phishing emails purporting to be from HMRC asking for personal details in order to access a tax refund.
- Offers of investment opportunities to take advantage of the coronavirus downturn.
- Emails pretending to be from groups like the World Health Organisation, offering a list of active infections in their area; the links either direct people to a credential stealing page, or require a payment into a Bitcoin account.

There are many scams out there sent via email and posted, Keep an eye on local and national media and share the safety messages with your own contact networks and amongst your community. We will keep you informed as much as possible.



Pet buying scams. Would be pet owners are being advised to remain vigilant and to never send money to people they don't know. This follows several incidents of people in Sussex being victims of pet buying scams, where the coronavirus outbreak is used as an excuse as to why they cannot visit the pet in person. Nationally, over £280,000 has been lost by people in pet buying scams during March and April alone. This is an issue which has increased during the Covid-19 situation.

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

As lockdown restrictions have eased, we have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour across the district. The improved weather, freedom of movement, and influx of visitors to our beaches and open spaces creates more reason for people to engage in ASB. It is important that we continue to ask our communities to report nuisance behaviour so that it can be tackled in the most effective way. Please, where you can, encourage reporting at the time of the incident and report it yourselves on behalf of the community. Please report.

We received several reports of 3 teenage boys setting fire to things in The Dell in Pagham (Harbour Road) and end of Sandy Lane Pagham. This has been dealt with by the local Police.

On Monday 1st June, Get Safe Online's 'Switched on Parent' campaign went live. The campaign's focus is on highlighting how to keep young people safe online whilst they are spending more time at home during the current pandemic. How long are children spending online while spending more time at home? What content are they looking at? Who are they talking to? It's just as vital to make sure children are safe online as when they are outside.

NH Watch week was 7th to 13th June. We've seen a surge in neighbourliness as people look out for the vulnerable and talk to their neighbours more than before – a silver lining to the cloud Covid-19 has cast over our daily lives. Now is a good time to say thank you and celebrate those actions our neighbours have taken, no matter how small or big.

Just a snapshot of the year from Christmas. Thank you to everyone for your dedication, care and kindness without people like you Arun West NH Watch would not exist.

Caroline Spencer Chairman Arun West Neighbourhood Watch Association

Secretary's Report 2019/2020

(1) Change of Association Name

Taking into consideration that currently 71% of our NHW street coordinators, 183 in total, reside outside Bognor Regis the committee meeting on the 5th August 2019 agreed to change the Association name from Bognor Regis Police Sector NHW Association to Arun West NHW Association. The choice of Arun West was selected to recognise parishes between Middleton and the River Arun that contained approximately 70 NHW street coordinators that were not integrated into an active NHW Association; they are Yapton, Climping, Barnham, Walberton and also Arundel.

(2) Managing the inventory of our street/scheme coordinators



At last year`s AGM on the 10th June 2019 we reported that the VISAV database contained 253 street/scheme coordinators that were receiving regular Neighbourhood Alert bulletins. We currently now have 257 coordinators in the VISAV database and 1 coordinator who does not receive the bulletins electronically.

All new coordinators after completion of the Sussex Police/ NHW Registration form and the police PNC check are entered into the VISAV database by myself and also any coordinator resignations deleted from the database.

(3) Location of street/scheme coordinators

The current breakdown of coordinator numbers by area contained in the VISAV database is as follows:

East Aldwick:	46 (+1)
West Aldwick:	24 (0) (includes Craigweil Private Estate)
Bersted:	21 (+4)
Felpham East:	33(-2)
Felpham West:	19 (+2)
Hotham:	11 (0)
Marine:	17 (+2)
Middleton:	38 (0)
Orchard:	8 (+1)
Pagham:	23 (-1)
Pevensey:	18 (+2)

Note: figure in brackets is change from AGM held on 10th June 2019.

We have increased the number of street coordinators from 253 to 258 and have seen an increase in coordinators within the Bognor Regis wards though 71% of our coordinators reside in the surrounding parishes

(4) Failure to recruit new area coordinators.

Though we have divided the larger areas, such as Middleton into smaller areas we are still do not have area coordinators covering the following.

Felpham East in the Rundle and Summerley Estate areas.
Middleton north of Middleton Rd.
North Bersted, the Trees Estate area
Bognor Regis Marine Ward
Bognor Regis Orchard Ward

This is of continued concern as in these areas some of the street coordinators will have had no personal contact with our Association for over the last twelve months.
The resignation of the Area Coordinator for Aldwick earlier in 2020 requires Aldwick to be also divided into smaller areas.

(5) Police/NHW interface

The points of our contact with the local police continue to be Hazel Fraser the Prevention Support and Engagement Officer based at Bognor Regis police station and Sgt Daniel West who is based at



Chichester police station. Hazel, together with a colleague Amanda Wells produces the weekly police Alert bulletin and issues a monthly police article for inclusion in our local area free magazines. We also receive support from Sgts Paul Coles and Ian Cheeseman both based at Bognor Regis Police Station.

The Sussex NHW Federation and Sussex Police Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pages 1&2 were signed off the Sussex Police Assistant Chief Constable Laurence Taylor and John Wright, Chair of Sussex NHW Federation on the 11th June 2018 with the pages 3&4 signed by local Sussex Police Inspector Steve Turner and our Chairman Caroline Spencer on the 20th February 2019. Pages 3 & 4 were revised and signed on 24th July 2020 by Caroline and the new local Sussex Police Inspector Jason Parry.

Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, gave a talk and answered questions to 65 street coordinators at the West Meads Community Centre on the 14th October 2019. However, a talk planned to be given at our 2020 AGM by Mark Eyre, Senior West Sussex Police Prevention Support and Engagement Officer did not take place due to the 2020 AGM being cancelled due to the Covid 19 lockdown.

Sussex Police in July 2019 assigned the PCSOs to designated areas. This enabled the specific area PCSOs being involved in the recruitment of new area coordinators. Though we had both a police officer and PCSOs meeting new street coordinators in February and March 2020 the Covid 19 lockdown and social distancing rule brought a premature end to street coordinator recruitment and police involvement.

(6) Promoting NHW and engaging with the local community.

We had a NHW promotional stall at the following local area summer fetes

- (1) Sunday 21st July 2019 Middleton-on-Sea Fete on Shrubbs Field
- (2) Saturday 27th July 2019 Bognor Regis Memorial Hospital
- (3) Saturday 3rd August 2019 Felpham Fun on the Prom
- (4) Sunday 18th August 2019 Pagham on Parade
- (5) Saturday 21st September 2019 Bognor Regis Fire Station Open Day

At four of the above fetes we borrowed a Sussex NHW Federation gazebo which proved to be rather large to transport and heavy to install. Recognising this the Sussex NHW Federation funded the purchase of a lighter and more compact NHW promotional gazebo for us to use at future summer fetes. However, the Covid 19 pandemic resulted in all the local summer fetes to be cancelled in 2020.

Sandra Trebble, our treasurer, is maintaining and regularly updating our Facebook page, which is promoted in the weekly local police Alert bulletins.

www.facebook.com/Arun-West-Neighbourhood-Watch

Barry Ashdown, executive committee member, has now redesigned our local NHW website which is limited to our Association Mission, Constitution, the Sussex Police/NHW Memorandum of Understanding, links to the National NHW Guidelines for setting up a NHW Scheme and our own points of contact. The Facebook pages being used to publish NHW news updates and police notices.

The new website **<https://www.arunwestnhw.org.uk>** went live 24th August 2020



(7) Raising the visibility of NHW

Following on from WSCC Highways erecting at no cost 24 new coloured NHW street signs in 2018 we obtained permission from both WSCC Highways and SSE Electricity Board to erect 10 more new signs in 2019. However due to budget constraints WSCC Highways were unable to carry out the erection at no cost but agreed to NHW members being allowed to carry out the erection of the signs subject to formal risk assessments being submitted.

A total of 30 old black and white NHW signs were refurbished in 2019 with the coloured NHW logo overlay. We also took down faded and soiled old black and white signs from streets that no longer have a coordinator. This means that over the last two years a total of 73 old signs have now been refurbished. Though Covid 19 prevented us doing this work after the initial lockdown in March 2020 we have installed 107 new and refurbished signs against a target of 110 set at the 10th June 2019 AGM.

Distribution new and refurbished signs (NS=new sign, RS=refurbished sign)

Aldwick: 18 RS, 17 NS
Bersted: 5 RS, 2 NS
Felpham West 10 RS
Hotham 4 RS, 6 NS
Marine 3 RS, 2 NS
Middleton 9 RS,
Orchard 5 RS, 2 NS
Pagham 12 RS,
Pevensey 7 RS, 5NS.

In 2020 we have received 10 new signs and 10 new overlays from the Sussex NHW Federation and are hoping to continue this work when members feel safe with.

Drew Millar, Secretary, Arun West Neighbourhood Watch Association