

**Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association
Committee & Annual General Meeting
28th Jan. 2021
Held via ZOOM from 11am**

Present

John Owens JO	Elmbridge
John Dibley (Treasurer) JD	Epsom & Ewell
Mike Fox (Chair) MF	Reigate & Banstead
Martin Butcher MB	Surrey Heath
Alan Hitchcock AH	Surrey Heath
Reg Ward	Surrey Heath
Keith Bendall	Runnymede
Insp. Dallas McDermott DM	Surrey Police
Vic Smith VS	Surrey Police: Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Runnymede (part time)
Steve Cake	Surrey Police DOCO (part-time)
Andrew Buchan AB	Tandridge
Martin Stilwell (Sec.) MS	Woking
Alison Griffiths AG	Spelthorne
David Munro	PCC (part-time)
Helen Hartley	Surrey Police Volunteer Programme (speaker)

This meeting was held remotely using Surrey NHW's Zoom account.

Chairman's Introductory Remarks

MF welcomed everyone to the meeting including David Munro. MF noted that this meeting was going to be recorded to facilitate the creation of the minutes.

Apologies & Approval of Minutes

He noted that he had received an apology from the DOCOs who were all involved in another meeting and from Martin Butcher who would be late in arriving. Allen Johnson was unable to attend.

The previous committee meeting's minutes were approved.

Urgent items not on the standard agenda

David Munro presented his view of the current priorities – he mentioned that two £10k fines had been issued for breaches of COVID restrictions. He was surveying opinions from Surrey residents concerning a potential increase of 5.5% in the Police precept. This would be spent on 77 new recruits including 10 Police Officers and 67 staff these resources would help with rural crime, road policing and increasing the number of PCSOs. He reported a big drop in crime except domestic abuse. He was pressing for higher priority for Police to be vaccinated. For next year he wanted to see increases in the crime solving rate. He was concerned about backlogs in the criminal justice system and the impact this had on victims. Next year will see continuation of the major recruitment programme and he was very pleased with the high standard of the new recruits. Surrey is only the second force to have introduced digital

methods of reporting. David mentioned that if NhW had any issues with local Police support then escalate it to him.

David was asked by MF to look into the issue of ensuring that victim support organisations were recommending victims to join NhW if that was appropriate. **David Munro**

David clarified that in the recruitment programme PCSO's would come under the heading staff.

The Annual General Meeting

The AGM minutes from 2020 were approved

Officer Reports

CHAIR

Chair's Summary Report

MF had circulated his summary of the year and his view of next year's priorities and thanked all those that had contributed to the successes. No changes to the priorities were suggested.

Crimestoppers

MF indicated that he expected to continue to provide the liaison to Crimestoppers and reported that at their latest meeting they had discussed increases in commercial crime e.g. cash in transit as the wrong doers were looking for alternative opportunities as residential burglaries were too risky. SNWA had distributed a poster via ITK promoting the Crimestoppers number for reporting frauds relating to COVID. Their main campaign is currently related to domestic violence and from March they will focus on crimes against commercial organisations.

MF had invited Glenys Balchin, Regional Mgr. for Surrey & Sussex, to attend these meetings if she is able to do so in future.

SNWA Awards

MF read out the list of Dedicated Service Award Winners and indicated that boroughs could still add to this list through the year as presentations of certificates were necessarily delayed due to COVID. The list will be posted on the SNWA web page. **Boroughs, MS**

MF described how a team of NhW volunteers in Surrey Heath led by Mike Potter and Alan Hitchcock had liaised with Police Volunteer Rob Freeman to conduct street patrols after dark to identify houses that were showing no lights. A letter warning the occupants that they were making themselves vulnerable to burglars was posted through the door. The burglary rate had fallen significantly in these roads therefore SNWA Trophy Awards would be made to all three of them.

MF then stated that the SNWA Trophy for a Surrey Police employee was going to go to Vic Smith for his contribution to NhW over a period of many years and also to mark the appreciation of NhW for the role played by DOCOs in helping NhW.

Find suitable occasions to present the Awards and Trophies later in the year. **MF, MS**

National Liaison

MF noted that national are advertising for staff to operate in the regions and it would be important for Surrey to liaise with anybody appointed in the SE.

Community Foundation for Surrey Grants

MF reported that he had initiated an application to this body for a £2k grant to fund both the renewal of our Zoom licenses and to fund the new signs that would be needed when we hopefully persuade Community Support groups to come under the Surrey NhW umbrella. A condition of this grant application is that we should have an approved Financial Policy. MF's proposal for this had been circulated and he proposed that it should be adopted RW seconded it and all voted in favour.

Treasurer's Report

The previously circulated report (also attached) was accepted by those present after some discussion about expenditure on signs.

MSA & Deputy Chair

Surrey Police Liaison

MS had attended the Surrey & Sussex Major Crime Meeting focusing on fraud and cybercrime. In Surrey and Sussex alone they reported that over £90m worth of money had been lost due to this type of crime. MS felt that the public was getting bombarded by so much information about cybercrime that the flow of information needed to be coordinated and he would discuss this with the Police. **MS**

He mentioned that we have a CyberWatch Champion in Surrey Heath.

InTheKnow Progress

MS is still concerned that there has been no apparent activity within either Surrey or Sussex Police to adopt the new version of the software used by ITK. MS reported that Surrey MSA's would need police vetting from now and into the future.

Police Report

See attached report. DM expects in the Northern Division that staffing levels will be achieved by May following various recruitment programmes.

Police use the four "E's" for implementation of COVID restrictions – Explain, Engage, Encourage, Enforce.

Operation Signature is the Police response to vulnerable victims of fraud. They will always get a visit.

The Police have a video promoting digital 101 a link to which is included in the attached Police report.

The Police report also includes a link to recordings of the Police in Your Community events.

A discussion took place concerning how the solution rate for crimes in Surrey could be improved. DM described training programmes and the creation of a Performance Inspector role at Divisional level.

Election of Officers

Martin Stilwell was the only candidate for Chair, Mike Fox the only candidate for Secretary and John Dibley the only candidate for Treasurer (although he stated he would only serve one more year). The motion to elect was proposed by KB and seconded and passed unanimously.

New Chair's Remarks

MS expressed the gratitude of the committee for MF's service as Chair.

Borough Reports

KB asked if SNWA might assist a joint purchase of Selecta DNA kits. MF suggested we could consider that and asked if other boroughs could consider their requirements. **ALL**

KB has been re-elected as Chair of Runnymede but this will be his last year. He was concerned with the general issue of succession planning for Coordinators and the need for more Deputies.

MF reported in R&B where he lived there was an 85 strong social media group carrying out litter picks and he thought this was good initiative for community cohesion.

AOB None

END OF AGM

Resumption of ordinary committee:

Roles of Police Volunteers

Helen Hartley (HH) explained that her remit covered Special Constables (140), Police Cadets (200), Police Support Volunteers and work experience placements from university.

There is a new role - Safer Neighbourhood Volunteers (SNV). This role and all others are advertised on the web. The need for SNVs was identified by a number of Borough Commanders (see attached job description). Main roles are liaising with local Watches, disseminating crime information and organising days of action with the public. HH hopes that these volunteers will bring greater consistency in the boroughs. They had 24 x applicants relating to 5 x boroughs – Woking, Guildford, Waverly Epsom & Ewell and Spelthorne. The role to be tried out initially before extending to all boroughs. Difficult time to take on volunteers due to COVID and they cannot yet allocate Police laptops to them to access data securely. There is consequentially a delay in actually taking the volunteers on. There will be an induction programme but some variation depending on the aptitude e.g. some are young people already familiar with social media whilst others are much older recruits with existing career experience. It is intended that these new volunteers will work with existing ones who are already liaising with NhW and will not replace them. Current volunteers can continue in their existing roles if they wish or switch to the new role. In answer to a question HH said there was no specific budget or set number to be recruited in each borough but she expected there would be 2 or more. MS pointed out that it would take volunteers longer than they might expect to extract crime data from the system. HH confirmed that there is a joint in-house vetting team between Surrey & Sussex who would carry out security checks on volunteers which might typically take one month. HH anticipates that the volunteers could start to become visible in their boroughs in two months or so. COVID will be a limiting factor. HH suggested there could be a joint meeting between the volunteers and MSAs.

HH hopes that it might be possible to advertise for volunteers in the other boroughs during National Volunteers Week = 1st – 7th June.

MF suggested Borough reps in those 6 x boroughs without volunteers might like to talk to their Borough Commanders about the value of having them. **BOROUGH REPS**

Actions from previous minutes

MS reported that Surrey Police did not intend to progress his suggestion that crime data could be automatically stripped from their system whilst excluding any confidential data.

AOB

MF raised the issue of questions that SNWA might pose to PCC candidates. It was agreed that we should do this but we needed to wait to see if the elections would be postponed. MF's initial suggestion for questions were that we should ask them to identify the top three areas where they thought that NhW could help them to achieve their objectives and then what assistance they might provide to NhW to enable it to make that contribution. **MF, MS**

Concern was expressed about the quality of NhW window stickers as they are prone to curling up. MS will investigate how we can get better ones. **MS**

MS suggested that WhatsApp might be replaced by a product called Signal.

MS mentioned the establishment of Canal Watch by the Police in Woking. If this works well other boroughs might be interested.

JD raised some issues with use of ITK, MS will assist him via a shared screen Zoom session. **MS**

DB stated she still needed help with establishing a proper NhW structure in Mole Valley. MS and MF suggested that it might be best to focus on the representation from the main conurbations especially now that Zoom meant that it was easier to set up a meeting as it did not involve travel. MS and MF offered to help. **MF, MS, DB**

MS suggested having 4 meetings of SNWA in 2021/22.

The first of which is scheduled for 8th April and the third the 21st October both expected to be held via Zoom and starting slightly earlier than before at 10.30am. We do expect to hold a meeting between April and October but are waiting to see whether the COVID situation is such that we could combine it with Award presentations. The AGM will be held on a date to be agreed in January.