

The year has brought about significant change within the structure of NottsWatch. Several people who had been active members within either the pre-amalgamation City or County committees decided they did not want to continue as members of the newly-formed Management Board, others left because they moved out of Nottinghamshire, and, of course, John Swanwick (Mansfield) sadly passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> July following a relatively short illness. We ran a campaign to attract suitably experienced replacements, and this resulted in Sam Boote (Keyworth) joining us – but we need additional people with the appropriate NHW experience. In order to clarify the recruitment procedure to be adopted, we developed a formal Approved Protocol for the Appointment of New Members, applicable to the NottsWatch Executive Committee and the Management Board.

Shortly after the 2015 AGM, the Police-commissioned review of NottsWatch was published and it immediately impacted upon our strategic thinking. The structure of the Management Board (which is effectively a sub-committee appointed by the Trustees) was transformed into a “business model”, with individual members assuming defined responsibilities & accountabilities, and consequently they now report very much as a Board of Directors.

The review also concentrated our minds on the question “why does NottsWatch exist?” To determine our future planning, we believe there are three major factors that drive our strategy:- (a) recognition & representation {to be recognised by partners as the representative of Neighbourhood Watch interests throughout the region}; (b) provision of support & advice {to be the source of support, advice and sometimes leadership to existing and potential NHW schemes}; and (c) co-ordination & integration {to provide the hub for the development & maintenance of a communications database relating to the city & county NHW schemes}.

The major objective throughout the year has been to work towards the fulfilment of the project funded by Nottinghamshire County Council, as championed by Cllr Glyn Gilfoyle, that is to encourage & support the formation of new NHW schemes throughout the seven County Districts. The objective is to help produce at least 70 new schemes, which is a big ask, but we believe it is achievable.

Our strategic focus has also changed in that, as well as continuing to provide support for the prevention of crime, our objective is now also to encourage the development of “community cohesion”, so that residents have a sense of belonging and positive community spirit within the NHW movement, and therefore are better equipped to protect the more vulnerable members of our society.

To achieve continuing success with our mission, NottsWatch is very dependent upon the support of our major partners, and as such we have developed a Service Level Agreement with Nottinghamshire Police & a Memorandum of

Understanding with Nottinghamshire County Council. Both these powerful documents (which have been agreed and are awaiting formal ratification) define the working relationships & mutual support that will apply between our organisations as we progress into the future.

We also took a conscious decision to attempt to develop reciprocal support arrangements with a number of other community-facing organisations, and we are confident this work will enable us to better “spread the word” with regard to the many benefits of being within a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We are grateful to have received financial support from the County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner, as well as experienced input from both those partners, Nottinghamshire Police & a number of other organisations such as Victim Support and Remedi.

At the 2015 AGM, some concern was expressed regarding the continuation of the name “NottsWatch”, and to allay any fears or suspicions we have now protected our position by registering it as a trade mark with the Intellectual Property Office.

Finally, like many other voluntary organisations, we have limited resources and can only achieve success if we manage to attract more “experienced hands” into the running of our organisation. If you feel you have the necessary skills in managing a NHW scheme or perhaps are experienced in IT systems & would like to help, please get in touch – you will receive a warm welcome.