

I am very pleased to present to you my Annual Report as Chair of Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch, trademarked and known as NottsWatch ®.

Overview of Changes & Challenges

The last year, since I became the first female Chair of NottsWatch, has been interesting, challenging, frustrating but ultimately rewarding – a bit of a rollercoaster ride, as they say on popular TV!

I would like to thank my colleagues (volunteers and professionals) who have been involved with NottsWatch for many years plus those who have recently joined our growing team, for their time, patience and encouragement. I'd particularly like to thank Lianne Taylor, employed by our national team. We met at last year's conference and working closely with NottsWatch, she has shaped much of the innovative, proactive work that we have taken on.

At last year's AGM our previous Chair, John Wood, spoke of the challenges neighbourhood watch face from vastly reducing police numbers and lack of community volunteers willing to get involved. John asked, "As I see it, this gives the NHW movement its biggest challenges – how do we reconnect with local communities that have lost their NHW presence, and how do we promote the formation of schemes within areas that have never been involved?" He replied, "The only way we shall achieve success is to work ever closer with our major Partners."

Over the last year, whilst continuing to work alongside Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire County Council, we have sought out and included representation at our meetings from Nottingham City Council's Nottingham Together Team, Cooperative's Engagement Team and Nottinghamshire County Council's Age Friendly Team. Additionally, we have benefitted from training and encouragement from Nottinghamshire Community Organisers. We are actively working together on several projects with Nottingham Together and Age Friendly. Action is being taken. We are truly embracing Connect 2 Protect.

2018-19 Objectives

I would like to give you some more detail about our current objectives. Our Constitution, which you should all have been invited to review, is being updated to reflect that whilst we will still have setting up and supporting neighbourhood watch schemes as our first priority, we are now working in partnership with recognised Authorities and other relevant organisations:

- To promote good citizenship and greater public awareness by increasing public participation in the prevention and detection of crime, reducing the fear of crime, improving police/community liaison and increasing community safety.
- To address loneliness, isolation, vulnerability and enhance neighbourliness in line with Nottinghamshire Police Force priorities.
- To provide effective **communication** to support communities, reduce crime and improve community cohesion.

These objectives have been further defined to create our:

2018-19 Delivery Plan

NottsWatch's objectives are to promote, develop and strengthen the Neighbourhood Watch movement throughout Nottinghamshire. Working in partnership we aim to:

- ❖ Increase public participation in the prevention and detection of crime.

By creating, developing and supporting new and existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes located across the Nottinghamshire Police Force area. In the last year we have generated or supported in the setting up of 40 schemes covering 2192 households. That is 25 schemes in the county (1502 homes) and 15 in the city (690 homes).
- ❖ Address loneliness, isolation and vulnerability.
 - By working with Good Vibes and the Nottinghamshire County Council Age Friendly Team, we are developing Good Neighbour schemes and promoting digital skills workshops. Gina Harbottle and Sara Lander are here today from Good Vibes together with Steve Smith from Age Friendly. They will be happy to chat with you over the lunch break.
- ❖ Provide effective communication to support communities, reduce crime and improve community cohesion.
 - By working with both Nottingham universities, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council plus Nottinghamshire Police, we are developing a bespoke digital service to support students in keeping safe and well. Building on our brand but identifying it as a separate resource, we have named this Student Watch. Lianne has successfully pitched the idea to both Universities, police and Cllr Dave Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Localities. We are in the process of (i) arranging meetings to put in place for 2018-19, (ii) Trent University to run a Focus Group, utilising Media Students. Additionally, (iii) University of Nottingham to look into the potential of running Student Watch as a funded project.
 - By working with partners to enhance existing and/or create new digital platforms. Our National team are very aware of the need for improved digital communication and this is included in their three-year plan. We are also keen to improve our digital experience for the general public wanting to know, simply, how to keep safe and set up or locate a neighbourhood watch scheme. I am pleased to announce that we have three new trustees joining NottsWatch. Each offer strong skills in a diverse range of areas, including communication. We are also working with Mansfield and Ashfield, who are equally keen for joined up communication to keep residents safe and well and have an initial meeting planned for 10 August.

- By developing our use of social media. This area needs more work but, with the development of Student Watch and recruiting volunteers with skills in this area, we hope to see improvement.
 - By improving our interrogation of data analysis. Commencing with our July meeting, we will review, quarterly, the demographical data that is collected from people signing up to neighbourhood alert so that we can ensure we are becoming more relevant with a younger, ethnically diverse audience.
- ❖ Support the police with their crime priorities.
- By involvement with Police & Crime Commissioner's conferences. John Lennard and I were invited, along with a diverse range of delegates involved with community safety, to contribute to our P&CC's Lives not Knives conference recently. Their new Knife Crime Strategy Manager, Detective Supt Simon Firth, is working with partners to develop a Knife Crime Strategy which will be launched this summer in a bid to reduce the number of 14 to 24-year-olds arming themselves with blades.
 - By effective use of our media systems to educate the public. This is an area that we will review along with our website, as I mentioned earlier.
 - By active participation with NPTs (Neighbourhood Policing Teams). This is an objective with which we need more police support in certain areas. We have seen, from our Hucknall colleagues, how other police forces operate and the difference a Neighbourhood Police Inspector, who supports and values community involvement, makes. I would encourage DC Barber to review best practices in embracing the value community can offer to the police. Paul Macey and I presented our Safer Communities Forum vision to the NPIs at the start of the year but, unfortunately, they couldn't see the value of the concept and website. Prototype at www.sbscf.wordpress.com.
- ❖ Support our volunteers to be effective.
- By working closely with Community Organisers, we can provide bespoke training to enable people to listen to residents, helping to identify community needs and mobilising people to come together to tackle issues to develop community activities. They use a nationally recognised approach of a structured conversation, developed by Community Organising Ltd, using a Listening Form to record what individuals love about their local area, their visions and ideas and what things they would like to get involved in so they can support them to realise these. David Jones is the East Midlands Membership Organiser, employed by Community Organisers Ltd and Steve Smith is the lead Community Organising trainer for Nottinghamshire and works with Notts County Council on its Age Friendly project. They are both here today so take this

opportunity to speak with them over lunch to understand more about their proactive approach.

- By holding quarterly meetings to review and discuss our KPIs plus progression with our projects. Additionally, meetings with our trustees and key stakeholders to set policy. Our first priority will be to review our formal partnership agreements with Notts Police and County Council. Our other priorities are to review and improve the Comms/systems we use plus training needs in the community.
- By seeking, valuing and sharing best practice. Last month we held a very successful MSA (Multi Scheme Administrator) event where we heard how the Hucknall team have a well proven system of obtaining police crime data, sharing this plus making call backs to residents who have reported incidents and thanking them, plus providing updates. Additionally, checking victim support was offered and requesting feedback regarding police handling and passing this onto their Neighbourhood Police Inspector.

Recruitment

To achieve these ambitious objectives, of course we need a team of dedicated people who have the relevant skills, passion for their community and the time to contribute to making a difference. And are prepared to work for free! A tall order and one that we had been struggling with for a few years.

Towards the end of last year, we successfully launched our *Join Us* campaign. Having researched best practice from other charities, we built in a section into our website, easily accessible from a single link that was promoted widely across Nottinghamshire and with suitable agencies. We promoted the many benefits of joining NottsWatch and gave information about our organisation. But the main difference, to previous times when we have sought volunteers, was that we have defined specific roles and recruited volunteers for their skills, not experience in neighbourhood watch. The roles are:

Trustees

Communications/Publicity Team

Minute Secretary

Multi Scheme Administrators

Event Planner

I would like to thank our Event Planner, Annabel. For all her help with planning today.

Having recently lost a couple of graduates to employment opportunities, we are currently re advertising. If you are interested or know of someone who would be keen for opportunities to enhance their CV or are just looking for a challenging, rewarding way to spend their spare time, visit www.nottswatch.co.uk/joinus.

We understand that many of you do not have the time to commit to joining us regularly but we invited a diverse range of guests to last year's meetings. If you would like to visit as a guest, to share your knowledge and thoughts and find out more about us, please write to me at communication@nottswatch.co.uk.

You will be most welcome and hopefully, benefit from the experience.