



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



Neighbourhood Watch in the United Kingdom is a partnership intended to bring people together to make their communities safer. It involves both the police and the community to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit.

The UK's first Neighbourhood Watch was set up in Mollington, Cheshire in 1982 following the success of a similar scheme in Chicago in the United States. Many more schemes followed throughout the UK, and it is now claimed that 3.8 million households are covered by a scheme. Neighbourhood Watch schemes cover many aspects of community safety, including crime.

The stated objectives are:

- To improve community safety generally.
- To prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance, creating and maintaining a caring community and reducing opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
- To assist the police in detecting crime by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity.
- To reduce undue fear of crime by providing accurate information about risks and by promoting a sense of security and community spirit, particularly amongst the more vulnerable members of the community.
- To improve police/community liaison by providing effective communications through Neighbourhood Watch messaging systems which warn Coordinators of local crime trends which they can disseminate to their scheme members and by members informing the police of incidents when they occur.

LOCAL SCHEMES

Local Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run by their members through Co-ordinators and are supported by the police and the local Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Schemes can vary in size. A volunteer resident committee supervises the scheme and liaises with the police. They receive information and messages to keep them in touch with activities, and some have marker kits, alarms and other security items, which are available to members. It must be recognised that the scheme is a community initiative, which is supported by the police, not run by them, so success depends on what the members make of it.

The police can't deal with the problems and issues arising from crime and anti-social behaviour alone; they need the help of the whole community. Neighbourhood Watch provides a way for local people to play an important part in addressing this balance and making their communities safer.

The role of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is to oversee a Neighbourhood Watch scheme within a specific street, neighbourhood or area.

- They will often be in contact, via their local association, with the crime prevention Co-ordinator at their nearest police station who will help clarify what is involved and the initial steps to take.
- They can encourage vigilance amongst scheme members and actively encourage the early reporting of suspicious incidents to the police.
- They may receive crime information from the Neighbourhood Watch messaging system and distribute these messages to scheme members.
- They can circulate newsletters and other relevant information to scheme members.

**Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch
Association website-**

www.neighbourhood.watch.alresford.org

e-mail – contact.adnwa@gmail.com

**CRIME IN PROGRESS – 999
NON URGENT – 101
CRIMESTOPPERS – 0800 555 111**