



Neighbourhood  
Watch SCOTLAND



## What is Neighbourhood Watch?

*'Neighbourhood Watch is a way for people to work together to help make communities safer.'*

*Neighbourhood Watches share information about crime prevention and community safety issues.'*

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## What do Neighbourhood Watches do?

There is no simple answer to this question, as each group is individual to its area and to the community it serves. Depending on local issues and priorities, Neighbourhood Watch groups decide how best to keep their communities safe.

In general terms, people in Neighbourhood Watch:

- Care about and have pride in their neighbourhood
- Are aware of how to stay safe and prevent crime
- Know who to contact for assistance or advice on safety issues
- Where possible, assist people who are less able to look after themselves
- Help to raise awareness of safety issues and alerts locally
- Report information to relevant agencies (e.g. police, local authority etc.)
- Are welcoming and inclusive of all members of the neighbourhood

## Why should I get involved in Neighbourhood Watch?

Getting involved in Neighbourhood Watch can bring a number of benefits to your local community.

- Brings people together and helps develop community spirit
- A visible sign that residents care about the area and the people who live in it
- Can help to prevent crime
- Helps the police and other agencies detect crime through clear communication and swift reporting
- People know how to keep themselves and others safe
- Helps to reassure people and reduce the fear of crime



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## How do I get involved in Neighbourhood Watch?

It's never been easier to get involved. You can do everything online, or just give us a call and we'll help you out.

## Is there a Neighbourhood Watch near me?

Pop your postcode into the 'Local Area' search on our website - [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk). This will check for any existing groups near to where you live. If there's a group already covering your area, you can join it directly from the website, or contact the coordinator if you have any queries.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can give us a call and we'll check the area for you. We can also send you paper copies of information and forms. You don't have to be online to start or join a watch; our system can contact you by phone or text message.

The screenshot shows the homepage of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. At the top left is the logo. The main header features the text "communities that care" and two large buttons: "Join" (green) and "Sign In" (orange). Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Neighbourhood Watch, NW Products, Links, and Contact Us. The date "Thu 04 October 2012" is displayed in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections: "Your local area" with a search prompt and a "CLICK HERE" link; "Report it" with instructions on how to report a crime; "Making contact" with address and phone number information; "Site news archive" with a table listing articles and their dates; "What's happening?" with a list of recent news items; and "Add your event here" with a form for submitting events. The "Site news archive" table is as follows:

Article title	Date added
AGM 2012 Downloads	02/10/2012

Web: [neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

Twitter: [@nwatchscotland](https://twitter.com/nwatchscotland) Facebook: [@neighbourhoodwatchscotland](https://www.facebook.com/neighbourhoodwatchscotland)



## Starting a Group

If there's no group in your area, and you want to start one, there are a few simple steps to follow. Our website has further advice and forms you can use:

- Find out if others in your area are interested in creating a Neighbourhood Watch
- Identify a coordinator or main contact for the group
- Go to [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk) and click 'Join' to register the group (or telephone us and we'll do it for you.)
- Ask the members of your scheme to register at the website and join the group
- You may wish to arrange an initial meeting for the group where you can decide:
  - How the group will work.
  - If the group wants signs, and if so, how will these be funded.
  - How you will communicate. Meetings? E-mail? Leaflets? Social Media?
  - If you have particular safety issues you want to tackle?
  - If you need to work with local partners (e.g. police, local authority, fire service)

## Sign up for alerts and information

If you're not quite ready to join or start a Neighbourhood Watch, you can still sign up to receive safety information and alerts from us. Just click 'Join' on our website and enter your details. Please encourage your family and friends to register too.

**The more people we can reach with our safety messages, the better!**