



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

newsletter

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Continuing change at Neighbourhood Watch Scotland It is true that little stands still nowadays and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland is no different.

At the beginning of the year we said goodbye to three of our Board stalwarts in Alan Dobie (Chair), John Cunningham and Duncan Littlefair. All three were co-opted Trustees who brought with them a wide range of skills and experience in business, partnership working, human resources and the charitable sector. Their resignations came as no surprise and had been their long term plan after providing a combined 16 years of service to the Board of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. They have left a strong legacy and were responsible for a head to tail review of our policy and procedures.



Alan Dobie



John Cunningham



Duncan Littlefair

With a slightly depleted Board it provided an opportunity to bring in new representation, skills and knowledge and we are delighted to have received the support of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards Scotland, Perth & Kinross Community Council, the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, all of whom are key partners of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. One of the issues highlighted when

reviewing our Board succession was the need to be more flexible and to allow the necessary skills, ability and knowledge to come and go through mutual agreement and benefit. Against that background we are reviewing our Constitution and formal membership framework.

Whilst the above Board representation is again co-opted we are also delighted to welcome a new member Trustee in Bill Gray. Bill is a long term friend and supporter of

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and the Vice Convener of Denny & Dunipace Community Council as well as a local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

As a former Sales Professional he brings with him skills in making valued and effective working and personal relationships. He works closely with local emergency services to improve the security, safety and well-being of his community.



On joining us Bill stated:

“Having enjoyed great support from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland I am delighted to make a personal contribution to the organisation and look forward to working with a great team and the other Board members.”

To accommodate this change Neighbourhood Watch Scotland are looking to partner up with the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) in order to streamline the management side of their respective organisations and thus release more resources and time to do their core work.

You can read more about the development of the SCSN/NWS partnership on Page 2.

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Scottish Community Safety Network and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland – Building a co-operative Partnership

In our last issue we introduced you to one of our key partners – the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN). Over the past 6 months we have been progressing our partnership and are delighted to report that from September 2019, SCSN will host Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.

That means we are entering a contractual partnership with SCSN who will provide management, administration and governance support to NWS. In turn NWS will allow SCSN to have much better links with communities and community groups.

This decision has not taken place overnight. Since August 2018 we have conducted joint development events and established a joint working group. This identified areas of expertise that both organisations bring to the partnership in addition to identifying their shared strategic and operational requirements.



The organisations have taken legal advice on partnership options with both agreeing on the following requirements:

- Identities and brands need to be retained and protected
- Current staff positions will be protected
- Governance processes need to be streamlined, with the desired outcome being a shared Board of Governance at some time in the future
- Flexible working arrangements will need to be established to meet the needs of both organisations and their respective service deliveries

Against these requirements the most suitable partnership option appears to be that of a Contractual Co-operative Partnership. This option should be able to meet the above requirements without the need to establish a more complex structure of governance and without incurring significant establishment or operational costs. This option would also allow the required flexibility for the partnership to further evolve in the years ahead.

The partnership will have other mutual benefits such as closer working relationships, sharing of work sites and equipment, representation on each other's boards and some shared staff resources.

For the community safety sector – the new partnership will bring together two significant organisations working to keep our communities safe and will ensure more co-ordinated support to Community Safety Partnerships and local communities across Scotland.

Importantly both organisations will retain separate identities and there will be no change to the level of service they provide to members and communities. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland will also be keeping their current office premises in Stirling.

Recognition for Community Services

Here at Neighbourhood Watch Scotland we were delighted when our nominee, PC 196 Steven Lorimer, Lower Braes Community Policing, Forth Valley (C) Division was recently awarded the Tom McDougall Trophy for exceptional community service.

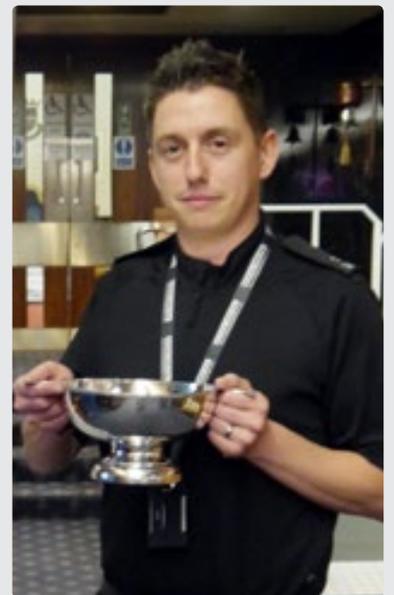
The trophy is awarded through the Falkirk & District Community Safety Panel and is named after former Police Inspector Tom McDougall, a stalwart of community safety across Central Scotland. Tom, in his retirement, still provides support to the group.

We have known Steven since July 2017 when he approached us following our awareness and training input on the Scottish Police College's Safer Communities Course asking to be specifically trained in the use of the Neighbourhood ALERT communication platform.

Since then Steven has been a key user of the system, regularly and actively promoting it resulting in significant growth of the network

within his area of responsibility. Against competing issues, Steven is very professional in his approach to Community Policing and fully believes in and understands its concepts. Through his engagement he brings an added level of reassurance to his community. We have personally witnessed this when attending community meetings where he has presented and reported back on local community issues. We were also impressed by the positive comments made about Steven by his community.

Steven is a true asset to his community and we believe a well-deserved recipient of the Tom McDougall Trophy.



RURAL CRIME STRATEGY 2019-2022

The first strategy about preventing and tackling rural crime in Scotland was published in April of this year by The Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC)

SPARC is a multi-agency partnership involving key organisations including Neighbourhood Watch Scotland collectively working together to tackle rural crime.

Whilst the volume of crime in rural communities and environments is often lower than in urban locations, the consequences and impact of an incident or crime committed often has a much deeper and far reaching impact, both on the victim and community as a whole.

It is also acknowledged particular challenges exist in tackling criminality, particularly with an all too common perception that the cost, extent and social impact of crime in rural areas is underestimated, under-reported and not fully understood.

The strategy outlines how SPARC members will work in partnership to tackle rural crime throughout Scotland.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY ARE TO:

- Develop resilient rural communities through effective partnerships utilising holistic, innovative and specialist techniques.
- Ensure we listen, are visible and understand local and national concerns relating to rural crime.
- Harness the contribution, expertise and knowledge of individuals, communities and relevant partner organisations in public, private and third sector to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Promote and improve rural community cohesion where people feel safer regardless of location.

Rural Watch Scotland, the rural arm of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland with its values of encouraging communities to look out for each other with regards to issues of crime, safety and resilience and the ongoing use of ALERT as a key communication tool will have a key role to play across all priorities of the strategy.

Poaching



- Hare coursing
- Supporting the poaching and coursing priority delivery group.

Livestock Offences



- Livestock theft
- Livestock attacks and distress
- Food supply chain, integrity and safety.

Heritage Crime



- Illegal metal detecting, theft of cultural and historic artefacts
- Anti-social behaviour/vandalism leading to damage at historic buildings or monuments.

The 7 SPARC Priorities

- Domestic - particularly in rural locations
- Commercial - particularly from forestry sites.



Agricultural Vehicle, Farm Machinery and Plant Theft

- Plant theft
- Farm and forestry machinery
- Agricultural and forestry equipment
- Quad bikes/all-terrain vehicles.

Equestrian Incidents



- Horse and tack theft
- Horse box/trailer theft
- Horse interference.

Fly Tipping



- Household and commercial waste
- Waste through organised crime.

Fuel Theft



SHUT OUT SCAMMERS

Two words that will help us beat doorstep crime "no thanks"



#WhosAtTheDoor



In April Police Scotland launched their Shut Out Scammers awareness campaign alongside various partners. The campaign ran from 15th April to 28th April in total but remains an ongoing priority of all partners. These partners included ourselves; Citizens Advice Scotland; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service safety checks; Trading Standards Scotland; Victim Support and Care and Repair.



Various workshops and roadshows took place over the course of the first week offering prevention advice to householders across the country.

Between Monday 15 April and Monday 29 April 2019 Police Scotland and its partners launched its 'Shut Out Scammers' Campaign. This annual activity aimed at tackling Doorstep Crime took on a new focus this year, better recognising the broad range of criminal activity that makes today's frauds and scams.

You may hear people talk about 'Rogue Traders' or 'Bogus Callers'. Bogus Callers pretend to be from a genuine organisation like the gas board or the council to try to gain entry into your home. Rogue Traders offer to do work for cash – this work is usually poor and not worth the price asked. If someone turns up unexpectedly at your door, follow these simple steps and don't become a victim of doorstep crime.

PRACTISE GOOD DOORSTEP HABITS

- ✓ Lock your doors. Whether you're in or out, if the door is locked, you can control who comes in.
- ✓ Don't allow in callers who haven't made an appointment.
- ✓ Fit a door-bar. This is like a door chain, but more solid. It allows you to open your door a little to see who is on your doorstep.
- ✓ Fitting a peephole is another way to see who is outside before you open your door. If you don't have one, you can answer callers to the door from a nearby window.
- ✓ Make sure the person is who they say they are. If the caller is someone you don't know and don't expect, make sure they are genuine before allowing them in.
- ✓ Don't worry about seeming rude. Genuine callers expect you to be careful.
- ✓ **ID Badges are not enough!** ID cards can be forged so do not accept one as solid proof of someone's identity. Phone their organisation but don't call a number they give you. You can also sign-up to one of the password schemes run by many utility companies.
- ✓ Look out for your neighbours and if you are concerned that something isn't right, contact your local trading standards office or Police Scotland immediately.
- ✓ Always report to the authorities if you suspect rogue traders are operating in your area.

PASSWORD SCHEMES

Most utility companies have a doorstep password scheme. These allow you to choose a password and register it with the company. When a representative of the company visits you, you can ask them to provide your password.

- ✓ If you haven't already done so, contact your providers to see about setting up a password.
- ✓ Choose passwords that are unique and that you will remember. Try not to write your passwords down, but if you do, do not let anyone else see them.

If in Doubt, Keep Them Out!

COLD CALLING

Speak to your local council trading standards to see if there is a 'No Cold Calling Zone' in your area. These can be set up to protect vulnerable people in the community. Signs or stickers let people know that Cold Calling is not wanted in the area and an appointment has to be made to speak to the occupants.

NEIGHBOURS

If unsure about the person on your doorstep, tell them you are calling a neighbour or friend to come over and be with you. A genuine caller will not mind waiting a few minutes for you to feel safe.

DON'T BUY GOODS OR SERVICES AT THE DOOR.

If someone offers to fix your roof or your driveway for cash, say no. Ask yourself if you really need work carried out, discuss with family and friends and always obtain three quotes before deciding on which trader to use.

Don't ever feel pressurised into making a decision. Paying cash at the door shows you keep money in the house, and the work may not be worth what you pay for it.

When it comes to doorstep crime
I'll say anything to part
you from your cash



IF YOU FEEL THREATENED OR UNSAFE, CONTACT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY ON 999

PLEASE SEE BELOW VARIOUS POINTS OF CONTACT SHOULD YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND/OR ADVICE.

- For free message alerts from key information providers regarding incidents and crime prevention in your area, go to **Neighbourhood Watch Scotland**
- Want advice on your consumer rights? Go to your local **Citizens Advice Bureau** or call the **Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline** on **0345 404 0506**. They also have helpful information on Spotting a Scam, Reporting a Scam, and Common Scams
- Are you a victim or witness to a crime looking for free, confidential support? Call **Victim Support Scotland** on **0800 160 1985**
- To report a matter to **Trading Standards** call **0345 404 0506**
- Report scammers and fraudsters ANONYMOUSLY at **Crimestoppers**
- **Care and Repair Scotland** offers help and advice on assisting the aged and disabled to feel safe and secure in their homes
- For safety advice and to request a free fire safety visit, **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**
- The **Telephone Preference Service** can help cut out unwanted sales, spam and scam phone calls.
- <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/shut-out-scammers>
- <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/doorstep-crime-and-bogus-callers>
- <https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/security-advice/811-2/>

Garnethill NW

Garnethill Neighbourhood Watch was set up on 12th February 2018 following increased concerns with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

It covers approximately 1500 households and covers an area which includes historic buildings such as the McIntosh Glasgow School of Art, the Church of St Aloysius, the oldest Synagogue in Scotland and the Tenement House Museum run by Scottish Heritage.

Garnethill is a strong, friendly, multicultural community and the Neighbourhood Watch group meets in the local Multi Cultural Centre in Rose Street.

Over the past 5 years the community has seen an increase in crimes of violence, fire raisings, vandalism, theft, assaults, drug abuse, road safety issues and antisocial behaviour.

The residents are determined to see the community return to the safe, friendly and welcoming community of before and through Garnethill Neighbourhood Watch have and continue to build good relationships with Police Scotland, Glasgow City Council's land and environmental services, graffiti removal teams and local elected members.

Recent work included presenting a petition on CCTV to the wellbeing, empowerment and citizens engagement city policy committee at Glasgow Council, which highlighted the above issues and is currently ongoing. The group also provides advice and information on crime prevention, safety issues and provides personal safety alarms.



William Beckett a resident of Garnethill for 16 years and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator said:

“ We are determined to bring Garnethill back to being a friendly and safe community that welcomes everyone. Driving out crime is our objective and we will continue to do so until the community is safe. Working together makes a difference. Working together makes a better place to live, work and visit ”

Almond Community Safety Panel Event



On the evening of Wednesday 1 May 2019 the Almond Group held a community safety event within the Leonardo Hotel, Clermiston Road, Edinburgh.

With these type of events there are always worries about attendance levels, however on the evening close to 60 people turned up to hear inputs from Edinburgh City Council, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Water Safety Scotland. These presenters were further

supported by the attendance of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Nationwide Building Society and the Corstorphine Response Service.

Through the presentations and by engaging with the various representatives the audience received information on Anti-Social Behaviour

legislation and practice, Scotland's Building Safer Communities programme, various Scams and how to spot them, local policing priorities, Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy and community defibrillation equipment.

The event also encouraged healthy discussion on a wide variety of issues of community concern and interest.

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP provided the closing remarks highlighting the value of community engagement and networking through these type of events. He recognised and valued the contribution made through community collective approaches such as Community Councils and Neighbourhood Watch and their ability to work alongside public services.

The Almond Safety Group Committee do not seek recognition however their Chair Percy Fekertey and the committee deserve praise for their efforts in making the Almond and surrounding areas of North West Edinburgh that bit safer. Well done!



Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) is teaming up with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to help keep communities safe.

The electricity network operator has formed a partnership with Perth & Kinross Community Watch, through the Neighbourhood Watch ALERT system, enabling its teams to send timely, local and relevant community alerts across the north of Scotland.

Last year, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland received £12,000 from SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund to bring the benefits and values of the neighbourhood watch network to Scotland's more remote communities across the north of Scotland through Rural Watch Scotland.

SSEN has now joined forces with the network, alongside Police Scotland and a number of partners, to deliver key safety information to individuals by text, phone and email in the lead up to storms, severe weather events and incidents with the potential to affect power supplies.

David Colthart, Head of Distribution Control (Scotland) at SSEN, said:

"This partnership enables us to reach more customers than ever before to help them prepare ahead of weather events or incidents that could impact the local electricity network supplying power to their communities.

"By utilising the already-established ALERT system, we can better inform our customers in the lead up to potential incidents by geo-targeting messages directly to the communities expected to be impacted, empowering our customers to prepare for the possibility of disruption and

be aware of the extra support we provide through our Priority Services Register."

Cllr Peter Barrett, Perth and Kinross Council's Convenor of Housing and Communities, added:

"I want to thank all of the partners involved in Community Watch. SSEN's ongoing commitment to working within our communities is highly valued. Community Watch helps prevent crimes through rapid sharing of information and advice. It has a real and positive impact which also helps link communities spread across a wide geographic area."

Brian Connel, Manager of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, said:

"There is no doubt that Neighbourhood ALERT is an effective, reliable, communication tool. Our approach to encouraging community engagement and resilience is probably more important and relevant now than ever. We continue to support the important work of Perth and Kinross Community Watch and are delighted at the generous and helpful funding received from SSEN to further support our work across our network in Scotland. We look forward to working with and welcome SSEN as a valued partner."

The Neighbourhood and Rural Watch Networks provide a mechanism to establish a community-led and collective approach to get the right information, to the right people, at the right time. For more information, or to sign up for alerts, visit: neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/sign-up-for-alerts/



UPDATE

"Getting the right information to the right people at the right time" is one of the key guiding principles of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.

In order to build community resilience across Scotland and to encourage people to look out for each other with regards to crime and safety we need to ensure that communities are properly and reliably informed. The Neighbourhood ALERT platform creates a direct messaging system which allows key information providers to do this individually or within a partnership approach.

AS A RESULT OF 750 DIRECT REGISTRATIONS

- 19% growth in the last year (101% growth in total since Jan 2017)
- 1820 registered community groups / schemes (85 in last year)
- 86 administration users on system (those who can send ALERTS)
- Over the last year 450 ALERTS have been sent out across Scotland to over 500,000 recipients. This was shared directly with 1.5M (not including social media sharing via various apps)
- 92% satisfaction levels on content / relevance and quality of ALERTS
- Increase in both national and local partnerships adopting ALERT as a means of community engagement relative to community safety, rural crime partnerships, financial harm / public protection, resilience etc.
- Increasing feedback from communities and partners on the effectiveness of ALERTS in preventing crime, promoting safety and how shared information has led directly to the apprehension of offenders.

Whilst the above is encouraging Neighbourhood Watch Scotland will continue through the portals of Rural Watch Scotland and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to further develop and promote our current community engagement approach, encourage national and localised partnerships, and ensure our communities are best informed to look out for each other and help prevent themselves and others being victims of crime or unintentional harm.



Maintaining your summer crime prevention

If you have a garden, it's the first thing an intruder will have to deal with if they want to try and break into your house. There are also items in your garden of which you may keep in a garden shed or garage which a thief will find attractive. Take some simple steps to secure your garden, shed and garage.

Property Marking – There are many products which can be used to mark your property. These are often inexpensive and can help to deter thieves and aid in the recovery of property which is stolen.

Make sure you let people know your property is marked – this makes it unattractive to thieves.



Property Marking

There are a number of products you can buy which contain a unique code, like DNA. This code is registered to your address. They are usually clear liquids which can be painted onto your possessions.

UV Pens and Etching

For large or outdoor objects, you may wish to etch your postcode into them using a special kit, whilst on less valuable items you can use UV pens.

Photographs

If you have something unusual or rare, it's a good idea to take a photograph of it. Make sure the background is plain and shows off the item as best as possible.

Include a ruler in the photograph for reference. A banknote or a coin for smaller objects can also provide a size comparison.

Keep a Record

Keep a note of serial numbers of large appliances and electrical goods. Register your belongings online at www.immobilise.com

Insurance

Lastly, if the worst does happen and you have your possessions stolen, make sure that you have adequate household insurance which will cover your loss.

Garden Security - Here are a few simple steps to keep your garden safe and secure.

Fencing

A good fence provides privacy and security. At the front, a low level fence or wall that marks out the boundary of your garden helps. At the back, a fence tall enough to make it hard to climb is a good idea (around 6 feet). Take care that it is not a solid fence as this may provide cover to anyone who shouldn't be there – you want your garden to be visible to others. Vertical spars (up and down) make a fence harder to climb.

Lighting

People who are up to no good don't want to be seen. A well-lit garden helps to put off thieves. Solar powered lighting, relatively cheap to buy, can come on automatically when it starts to get dark - you don't even have to remember to switch it on. Make sure that you put external lighting in a place that doesn't annoy your neighbours – especially when using motion sensitive lighting.

Sheds

Like your home, it is important to keep your shed secure. Invest in a good lock and consider fitting reinforced hinges. Keep valuable garden equipment locked away and ensure it is marked with your postcode. Why not invest in a battery operated shed alarm?

Ladders

Keep these secure and out of sight. Remember, they can help a thief gain entry to your home.

Plants

Planting prickly shrubs around borders and under windows can deter opportunist thieves. Be careful that plants and trees do not obscure entrances to your property.

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