**Minutes of the Wiltshire NHW Association Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 13th July 2019**

**Devizes Police HQ**

**Attendance**

**Wiltshire NHW Association Committee**

Mike Davidson MD Chair

Paul Sunners PS Vice Chair

Reg Halsall RH Community Messaging/Scheme Registration Advisor

Chris Holden CH Treasurer

Tina Parker-Royle TPR Secretary

**Wiltshire Police Representatives**

Lauren Clark Wiltshire Police Citizens in Policing Watch Scheme Coordinator

Sarah Holden Wiltshire Police Citizens in Policing Supervisor

Kier Pritchard Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police

Phil Walker Detective Inspector, Wiltshire Police

Angus McPherson Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Will Todd The Bobby Van Trust

**WNHWA members and other attendees**

Reg Halsall, Evelyn Halsall, Mike Brandwood, Merv Quick, Wendy Quick, David Evans, Keith Cockerton, Chris Callow, Ali Auburn, Tony Bradford, Vivien Comley, Suzanne MacDonald, Martin Lansdowne, Judy Maitland-Jones, John Henly, Carole King, Allen Woods, Philip Hunt, Shirley Harper-O’Neill, Les Long, Michael Neal, Roger Smith, Pauline Smith, Geoff Lupton, Ken Brown, Mike Sharp, Hazel Matthews, Mike Matthews, David Whetton, Richard Jackson.

**Apologies**

14 apologies were noted

**Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all present and introduced members of the committee, the Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson, Chief Constable Kier Pritchard, Detective Inspector Phil Walker, and Will Todd from the Bobby Van Trust.

**Health and Safety**

Lauren Clark, Watch Scheme Coordinator, advised all present of the Health and Safety issues of the meeting venue including emergency exits.

**Minutes of the last AGM meeting held on the 7th July 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held in 2018 had been circulated. Reg Halsall proposed that the minutes represented a true and accurate record and Wendy Quick seconded. The minutes were approved by those present.

**Chair’s Report – Mike Davidson**

MD advised that he would be standing down as Chair at the end of the AGM. He went on to highlight that during the past year, dialogue involving the Association, Wiltshire Police and the Office of the PCC reflected the spirit of the Partnership Agreement which had been signed by each organisation in July 2018. The Association had been invited to nominate two representatives to attend Citizens in Policing strategy meetings which subsequently involved both Chair and Vice Chair.

Closer links involving Community Police Teams and their respective WNHWA Committee member had been evident in some areas but required further development. MD recently attended a weekly tasking meeting run by the CPT Inspector and his team which revealed how the use of intelligence assisted in the response and management of crime.

MD noted that closer links between CPTs and WNHWA Committee had highlighted gaps in WNHWA representation in some areas. Currently Wiltshire East (Marlborough, Devizes and Pewsey) and a new CPT area, Wiltshire South-East (Tidworth and Amesbury), required volunteers to come on to the Committee. WNHWA are keen to get district Coordinators to work with schemes locally, supporting each individual scheme, and each group of schemes, helping them promote NHW, encouraging attendance at Community Safety Forums, previously called Tasking Groups, and forging good links between NHW and Parish Councils.

**Finance Report – Chris Holden**

Currently, the Association funds are slightly less than reported in 2018. There is a current balance of just over £3800. The only source of funding remains the sale of NHW street signs. There was little activity in the first half of year due to transferring the Treasurers name on the bank account which proved difficult and time-consuming.

**Website and Community Messaging – Reg Halsall**

In August 2014 the Membership Register for NHW passed from Wiltshire Police to NHW and was held on Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging. Scheme status checks remain a priority.

We continued with the mapping of schemes, and this was accelerated by having some police volunteers. In the years from 2014 to the AGM in 2018, we grew mapped schemes by 4% and this has grown by another 4% this year. 12% of schemes are now mapped - so there is still a way to go.

Having Schemes mapped is important as they are verified as being active. Our current Wiltshire NHW website maintains a postcode search link.

Analysis of visits to our website reveal the average amount of time spent on the website is 12 minutes. Average number of pages visited is 14. Less than 3% of visitors go to the home page and then leave. This is encouraging and we want to expand on it.

**Call for Volunteers - Mike Davidson**

MD encouraged attendees to consider joining the committee due to vacancies. He invited anyone interested to speak to him following the meeting. The commitment required presently is monthly online meetings with quarterly face to face meetings usually held at Police HQ, Devizes. Interest from members living in Wiltshire East (Devizes, Marlborough, Pewsey) and Wiltshire South-East (Tidworth and Amesbury) is sought. Allen Woods from Tidworth expressed interest and following brief discussion agreed to join the committee. He was proposed by Chris Holden and seconded by Merv Quick. Members voted in favour of Allen Woods joining the committee.

Volunteers are also sought with requisite skills to support the Association’s administration including oversight of a digital storage system. The volunteer recruitment resource available through Wiltshire Police would be used to support recruitment.

MD concluded by expressing his gratitude to current committee members for their support over the past year.

**Election of Chair**

Due to MD stepping down from the role of Chair of WNHWA, he advised the meeting that one nomination for Chair had been received. The Committee had discussed this in June and confirmed its support of Paul Sunners as the next Chair of WNHWA. A proposer was sought for Paul Sunners to be elected as Chair. Martin Lansdale proposed his nomination and this was seconded by Mike Neil. Members were invited to support the proposal and the vote was unanimous in favour of Paul Sunners being elected as Chair.

**Presentation – Mike Davidson**

MD noted that Reg Halsall has been a Committee Member for seven years. Reg had played a strategic role in the roll-out of Community Messaging in collaboration with Wiltshire Police which enabled NHW members to subscribe to the messaging system. Reg had organised meetings across Wiltshire to support awareness of Community Messaging and in encouraging members to subscribe. In acknowledgement of his commitment and service to the Association, MD presented Reg with a Service Award in recognition of his contribution to the Association in recent years.

**WNHWA New Chair - Paul Sunners**

PS conveyed thanks to MD, CH, and RH for their earlier presentations to members and expressed his gratitude to all committee members for their support of the Association over the past year. PS extended a special message of gratitude to MD who in his role as Chair since 2016 had steered the Association through some difficult times which had concluded with the signing-off of the Partnership Agreement aimed at instilling greater confidence in the future role of the Association.

**There was a short break for refreshments.**

**Guest presentations**

**Wiltshire Chief Constable – Kier Pritchard**

**An Overview**

KP had been a member of the Police for 26 years. He cited Sir Robert Peel’s ‘Peelian Principles’ which focussed on the importance of preventing crime which relies heavily on the willing cooperation and support of the public.

Wiltshire has the least number of police officers per capita and this was put into some context when viewed within the extreme demand placed on the Force during the Salisbury Novichok incident which had far-reaching implications for Wiltshire Police and its resources.

The demand on policing is changing rapidly and KP acknowledged the demand in meeting public expectations. Whilst the public value the visibility of Police, KP posed the question ‘Where are young people most at risk?’ before indicating ‘Online’. Today’s crime trends support that people are more likely to be a victim of online crime than any other crime. KP stressed that the incidence of online crime does not diminish the effect of any other type of crime. Fundamentally, all crime involves a victim.

WP are third worst funded of Police Forces. The PCC has lobbied hard for additional funding with the Policing Minister, Home Secretary and Central Government. Twenty-two thousand police officers had been lost since 2010.

We must remember that in Wiltshire, we live in one of the safest counties in the country.

Key responsibility of PCC is to consult with the public and set the priority in the Police and Crime Action Plan. KP in his role as Chief Constable has responsibility for delivering the PCC’s Action Plan including:

* Prevent Crime
* Protect vulnerable people
* Victims and witnesses at heart of everything police do
* Support a workforce that is efficient and fit for purpose

**Overview of Demand on the Police Service in Wiltshire**

Incoming demand on a day-by-day basis. Around 2,000 members of staff, 1,000 police staff. Respond to 750 ‘101’ calls for non-emergency each day; 250 ‘999’ calls daily with 80 reports involving vulnerable people.

Ongoing demand includes sex and dangerous offenders as well as the demand imposed by County Lines.

‘999’ calls are being answered in under 5 seconds; responding within 11 minutes; responding within 60 minutes for ‘101’ calls.

1 in 5 officers across the Country experience PTSD. WP have seen a 100% increase in assaults on police officers in last 12 months.

Community Policing model - seven Community areas (two in Swindon, five in Wiltshire). Tasking meetings happen in each CPT to meet the daily demand on the police service resource as effectively as possible.

Citizens in Policing (CiP) – KP highlighted he was proud of the work undertaken by Lauren and Sarah. KP was an advocate of mobilising communities to come together to support Safer Communities.

Wiltshire CiP has overseen the recruitment of 250 Special Constabulary members. KP highlighted the service of Richard Warren in Malmesbury, the longest serving Special Constable in Wiltshire. There were now 110 Police Cadets in Wiltshire. Some have later joined the Force as PCSO’s and several have now become involved with the Special Constabulary. Up to 160 volunteers are helping in police stations and across communities. There are now 80 Mini Police aged 9 and 10 across Wiltshire.

Watch Schemes – including Canal, Lorry and Hotel Watch are all established in various locations across the County. This reflects the philosophy of Wiltshire Police to work in collaboration with the community.

KP advocated the use of Community Messaging and encouraged NHW members to subscribe. KP endorsed the social media profile adopted by Wiltshire Police in helping it extend its reach to the public.

Community Policing is at the heart of everything. Will carefully continue to invest the precept to develop the CPT model. Need to ensure it is done in partnership with community, voluntary and statutory organisations.

Martin Lansdale asked how the recent TV series ‘999 What’s Your Emergency’ had been received. KP advised recruitment went up. Control room represented well. There was evidence that some Police Officers dropped their guard but in doing so this merely illustrated human side of policing.

Keith Cocken, Collingbourne Ducis - moved here 35 years as it was a good place to live. But small villages feel like they are overlooked. KP advised we need communities to come together to help.

Chris Callow - Devizes recently had referendum for Community Plan for Devizes to 2026. Now looking towards the 2036 plan and would welcome advice on making the new housing estates easier to police. KP indicated he was aware of architectural staff who can assist. Contact details would be given to Mr Callow.

**DI Phil Walker - Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking**

Modern Day Slavery is an Umbrella term for people held in servitude, forced labour and human trafficking. In 2015, the Modern Slavery Act was introduced. With four years of legislation, the Act is still new to policing and is evolving. There were already a number of recommendations to amend the Act.

Exploitation includes:

**Labour exploitation**, i.e. car wash, nail bars, restaurants, delivery drivers (fast food), construction sites, agriculture, barber shops. This is not just about foreign nationals. This can happen with British victims and affects men, women and children from different cultural backgrounds.

What to look out for:

appearance dishevelled, unfed, dirty. Police are working hard with NHS to identify exploitation. Living and sleeping at the workplace i.e. cabins on site; access to money or lack of access with someone else controlling their money; not having the right protective equipment and clothing etc; living conditions, lots of people living in a small house etc; working very long hours. If you have any concerns, please inform the police.

**Sexual exploitation** which is not all about prostitution. Charging people to bring them in to the country and then forcing them to work in the sex trade to pay off the debt. Pop up brothels, escort services, massage parlours, strip bars, online-work and street work. Victims represent some of the most vulnerable in our community.

What to look out for: house rented with lots of people; coming and going at all hours; a disproportionate number of women at one address, and possibly one man. Curtains closed permanently; red light; do you know your neighbours? Does something just not feel right? Child Sexual Exploitation, young females being groomed. Twenty-five per cent of all CSE crimes have an online element.

**Criminal exploitation**, i.e. drug supply; County Lines; cannabis farms; shop lifting; begging; benefit fraud. Often led by organised crime group. People are forced to beg or shoplift. Benefit fraud where someone else takes over their bank accounts etc.

What to look out for: regular exchange of packages, cuckooing, smell of cannabis, blacked out windows, trolley dash (bulk shoplifting); begging - is someone controlling them, telling them where to sit on the street; people selling counterfeit goods.

**Domestic Servitude,** this largely affects foreign nationals on domestic work visas, but also British nationals. Recently, there was a man found in the Midlands who had been living in a shed for 40 years. Domestic Servitude can be really hard to spot.

What to look out for: does someone stand out from rest of family? do they never leave the house? are they not allowed to speak? do they look scared? do they have access to their passport or identity docs? are they isolated?

People stay because they are embarrassed, ashamed, scared, under threat, debt bondage (£30k to come to UK); feeding on people’s drug and alcohol addictions; they may not trust the Police; language barriers.

Does it happen in Wiltshire – Yes!

50 complaints of modern slavery and trafficking recorded in last 12 months… 43% increase over previous year. This should be considered positive as this means it is reported more.

April to June 2019 - 18 crimes, 16 still under investigation.

Regional - Wiltshire has 26 live operations: 112 across the south-west.

Wiltshire Police have a dedicated intelligence team who daily scan for intelligence, with regular visits to car washes, nail bars etc.

How do you report it? ‘101’, ‘999’, online reporting through WP website. Modern Slavery helpline run through the charity Unseen - 24-hour service - 08000 121 700.

The Chair expressed gratitude on behalf of the Association to the Chief Constable and Detective Inspector Phil Walker for their detailed and informative presentations. Members were thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 12.10**