**Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association**

**Annual General Meeting 8th October 2022**

**Attendees:**

Committee members: Chris Holden, Merv Quick, Wendy Quick, Reg Halsall, Mike Davidson, Mike Brandwood, Paul Sunners (Chair)

**Committee members apologies**: Nigel Walker, Evelyn Halsall and Liz Smith

**Members attending:**

Howard Chandler Les Long Colin Gale Roger Evans David Bell

Jim Reid Di Webb Angus Macpherson

**Members apologies received:**

Pam Robinson Izabelle Bunting Andy Nash Bill Thomas

Edward McKay Claire Purnell Roz Busby James Robinson

Bernie Jones Mary Sainsbury Arthur Rowley Ray Sanderson

Carolyn Whistler Kate Goodenough Nick Goddard Tony Bradford

David Germain

**Guest speakers:**

Kier Pritchard, Wiltshire Police Chief Constable

Russell Holland, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Meeting admin support provided by Sarah Holden and Tracy Ince, Citizens in Policing

The Chair conveyed his thanks to Sarah and Tracy for their strategic support in the arrangements of the AGM and welcomed guest speakers Kier Pritchard and Russell Holland.

The Chair then introduced members of the NHW committee.

Sarah Holden outlined housekeeping arrangements.

**Approval of Minutes – July 2019**

The committee approved the minutes of the last AGM in 2019.

**Chair’s presentation**

The Chair gave his presentation which highlighted community enthusiasm for Neighbourhood Watch but pointing to the issue of the demographic/age of people who are engaged in being coordinators and issues around reliance on technology.

Paul then discussed partnership with the police and other local agencies across Wiltshire and Swindon citing the significance of the Partnership Agreement signed off in 2018.

Paul gave a couple of examples describing the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch when working with the police and reducing crime in the community.

The Chief Constable commented that the role of policing is now very broad, and that we are going to see different tensions and different pressures within the communities, more people being pushed towards perhaps being vulnerable around criminality, more people using drugs being drawn into criminality. He stressed the importance of the community in supporting community policing.

The Chair reviewed developments in the past year plus which inevitably included the COVID-pause:

* the printing of 10,000 leaflets, which were distributed within 15 months, resulting in another 5000 leaflets being published.
* a meeting with the Chief Constable and members of the Citizens in Policing team, to establish a formal arrangement re NHW communication with Wiltshire Police via the CiP team, primarily via Sarah and Tracy We have been able to maintain a regular monthly meeting with Sarah and Tracy who have been extremely helpful and have addressed questions and queries.
* August 2021 we launched our Association’s new website, which includes members stories and social media platforms Facebook and Twitter.
* September 2021 Mike Davidson and Paul met with the then newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner.
* November 2021 - our Association have representation at every consultation meeting that the Police and Crime Commissioner organized in relation to his Police and Crime Plan to which our association submitted a comprehensive response.
* About 90 NHW street signs have been sold and assistance given to schemes in terms of putting those signs up.
* Version 4 of Neighbourhood Alert was adopted by Wiltshire. Some management issues reported.

**Treasurers Report** - presented by Chris Holden. Funding balance reported £3221.45 (March 2022). See separate report.

**Website and Social Media update**

Reg presented his update with reference to the website and community messaging.

* about 1400 new users since the new website.
* about 5000 page views which NHW would like to be higher.

Reg pointed out that if people want to get in touch with the Association there is a Contact link.

If members experience problems during log-in or editing their schemes, then it is important they let us know.

**Call for volunteers**

The Chair requested anyone interested in joining the committee to contact him.

**Election of Officers**

Paul was elected to continue as Chair and Chris will continue as Treasurer.

Paul thanked Mike for his service as both Chair 2016-19 and Vice Chair 2019-22 and presented him with a gift as a token of the Committee’s appreciation for all he has done for the Association.

Mike thanked Paul and the Committee.

**Guest Speaker presentations**

**Kier Pritchard,** Chief Constable then addressed the meeting.

He thanked Wiltshire NHW for their important work, particularly during Covid, and touched on the problems regarding promised police numbers and training.

* to get the extra 20,000 needed nationally, need to recruit 57,000 police officers to counter natural attrition due to retirement and resignations.
* by the end of 2023, one in three police officers across the country will have less than three years’ service.

Policing has needed to face new demands during Covid as stretch and demand has been placed on public services. The threat of public disorder and civil disobedience is evident.

The police need to regain the trust and consent of the community following the horrific murder of Sarah Everard by a serving member of the Metropolitan Police Force and misconduct and gross misconduct cases in Wiltshire.

There is a different level of respect for authority which poses difficulties.

On top of this there are the challenges in responding to the Peel Assessment that placed Wiltshire Police in ‘special measures’ judging the Force to require improvement in a number of strategic areas.

The Chief Constable outlined how the Force was going to respond to these failings and raise standards through a 12-month roadmap highlighting the strategic acronym VIV citing the importance of Victims, Investigations and Vulnerability.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable for his informative and reassuring presentation.

**Russell Holland**, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner addressed the meeting.

Following a brief personal introduction, he explained the functions of the PCC:

* set the Police and Crime Plan
* set the precept on Council tax bills
* hold the Chief Constable to account

Referring to the Peel Report, Russell outlined acceptance of the report’s findings and how the Force is working extremely hard to get it right with a focus on rigour, energy and determination.

Russell acknowledged the important role played by NHW in supporting the police and in helping to make communities as safe as possible.

**Q&A**

Questions included:

* The actions in response to the Peel report
* Dealing with masked scooter and bike riders
* County lines drug dealing
* Gang culture and violence
* Changing the demographic and impact of NHW membership via social media
* Citizens in policing / police engagement and response with the community
* 101 calls & incident reporting on the police website
* Police engagement and response with the community
* PCSO powers of arrest
* Publicising PCC activities and value
* Changes to the culture of policing

On behalf of the Association, the Chair expressed his thanks to all meeting attendees for their respective contributions to the meeting.

**Meeting closed at 11.55**