



Neighbourhood Watch Network

WG07, Vox Studios
1 – 45 Durham Street
Vauxhall
ASSOCIATION LEADS

4th August 2022

Hello Association Leads,

As we all get back to a new normal, it has been rewarding to visit groups and members and see the great work they and all of you are doing. We look forward to seeing lots of you and our Coordinators at the Summer Seminars next week.

ASSOCIATION LEADS QUARTERLY MEETINGS

32 Leads attended our latest round of meetings and participated in discussions about the Community Safety Charter, the street harassment campaign, funding and the 'world café' topics. Developing work with you is so important. It is fantastic these meetings are continuing to be so well attended.

SUMMER SEMINARS

While the feedback from Summer Seminars 2021 was very positive, a few found there was a great deal to take in, and the agendas were very full. As a result, we have simplified the seminars this year and given more time to the discussions and questions. The two seminars we are running are 'Crimes in Public Spaces' and 'Tools and Support for Coordinators'. We will run them twice at different times to allow as many people as possible to attend. We have outside speakers and Coordinators presenting. The invites have been sent to all Coordinators on Alert, but please promote them further within your areas.

WORLD CAFÉ GROUPS

We will start the 'World Café' discussions and survey in the next few weeks. As mentioned, the topics that you wanted to discuss the most are:

- Improving our offer to volunteers
- Increasing our influence
- Relationships with the police
- Raising our presence locally
- Strengthening our accountability

The first four topics we will address through working groups, which will report back to the Association Leads quarterly meetings. 'Strengthening our accountability' is a broader topic. It runs alongside the succession discussions Cheryl Spruce has been having with Association Leads and with areas which are struggling with recruitment or with no Association.

Given the importance of governance and structure, we are keen to hear from as many Leads and active members as possible. You have all been invited to a dedicated Slack account called 'Neighbourhood Watch 2032'. We will use this platform to discuss and explore potential future versions of Neighbourhood Watch. To initiate discussion, we encourage you to post blog-type thought pieces on what our charity may look like in 2032 and post your thoughts and views in response to others' posts. This will form the initial work and will likely include different models of Neighbourhood Watch, including digital supporters and groups, accountability to our members, structure, different types of volunteering, and how best to support the current structure of Associations.

We look forward to the discussion and ideas on how we develop as a whole organisation. For now, please accept your invitation to Slack. If you are unfamiliar with the platform, here is a [quick-fire video](#) to get you started, but don't worry - it is fairly easy to learn.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROMOTIONAL FILM

As part of our 40th Anniversary, we are developing a short film on the work and aims of Neighbourhood Watch to use as part of a recruitment drive later in the year. We commissioned a film company that filmed our supporters speaking about what the charity does and why they became involved. The film will be short and can be used by everyone to showcase the movement.

We also developed a short film entitled, 'Are you OK?', to support the street harassment campaign launching shortly. We have shown this film to a few groups, including the 40th Anniversary working group, with very positive feedback.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COORDINATOR BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE

There has been a lot of debate and concern about removing the 'Contact your local Coordinator' button from our website. This was removed during the transition from V3 to V4 as the website needed access to both versions, which was complex. Additionally, we had received many complaints and negative feedback from members of the public who used the button to contact their local Coordinator but had never received a response. This is obviously concerning as it gives a poor impression of Neighbourhood Watch.

Having discussed this with a few Association Leads, there is a consensus that the expectation of Leads and the organisation is that, at a minimum, a Coordinator needs to respond to the request for contact as local contact is at the core of Neighbourhood Watch.

I would like to hear your thoughts regarding this expectation of Coordinators. Please give me a call or email me. We initially wanted to wait until all areas were on V4 before reviewing whether to re-instate the button; however, as there have been many requests to re-instate it we are doing so now. **It is vital that people get a response from Coordinators when reaching out to them.** We will be looking at how to ensure this happens to mitigate reputational risk to Neighbourhood Watch.

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT

The Board have interviewed trustee candidates and is making final decisions before voting them on formally at the AGM. The quality of candidates has been exceptional. We will inform members as soon as we can about the appointments.

COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

Nearly 1,000 people and organisations have signed up to our Charter, including Police Forces, PCC's local businesses etc. Several Association Leads have commented that it is so positive to be able to approach companies and organisations with such a great offer and how keen they are to sign up. We hope that all Association Leads and volunteers can champion the Charter locally as another way of engaging our communities to reduce crime and harassment. As you know, signing up is FREE and easy with more information at ourwatch.org.uk/charter.

As always, please let us know what you have been doing locally and share this letter with your Coordinators, members, and partners.

Yours faithfully,



John Hayward-Cripps
CEO Neighbourhood Watch Network