

## Meeting held at Huntingdon Police Headquarters: 10:00 to 12:55

### 1. Policing in Cambridgeshire: Alec Wood: Chief Constable

#### 1.1 Address

The Chief Constable started his address by referring to the two recent tragic incidents that had occurred in the county i.e. the Fenland air crash and the fatal shooting incident in St. Neots as vivid examples of the diversity and challenges that can be posed to local policing.

Referring to the shooting of a member of the public by a police officer in St. Neots, Alec pointed out that this was the first occasion that the Police in Cambridgeshire have ever shot anyone. The incident is now under independent investigation lead by the IPCC and he was unable to comment further. The event is an indication of dangers that there are in current policing.

The national “austerity cuts” continue to present a massive challenge. With great effort, those imposed so far have been managed effectively without a reduction in the front-line staffing. Alec drew attention to the importance of values for all members of his force. In particular “Respect” which he believes was being delivered, and “Openness” which needs to be “refreshed”. He was pleased to be able to point out that regarding “Innovation” Cambridgeshire is seen across the country to be the leader in the use of technology, including the equipping of front-line policeman with “slates” and smart phones.

His overriding goal is to safeguard the vulnerable, which includes all those people on whom criminals prey. Part of this involves attacking those who do the preying. His force is also working to reduce reoffending. At the same time, a visible presence of the police on the streets remains vital.

In the drive to provide value for money to the community, Alec noted the importance of the partners to the Constabulary, such as Neighbourhood Watch, those members play a vital role in reassuring their community. He noted that on occasion, the Police–NHW relationship was not as it should be: he had taken this on board and would be taking action. One of the challenges for the police and NHW members is that expectations are set by the near real-time posting of information on social media, not least Twitter.

He noted the significance of NHW to the County by reporting that an initial meeting of NHW for Hemingford Grey was attended by fifty people.

The Chief Constable also noted other successes over the last few years listing the Bobby Scheme, the Victims Hub, and the many able PCSOs on the streets.

Notwithstanding some publicity, Cambridgeshire remains a very safe environment. Over a five-year period, 80% of the population have no reason to call the police. However this is not to play down the problems that do exist with the 101 phone number.

Alec noted key 101 issues and emphasised that improvement was in progress. Additional staff were being recruited, training is being improved, and additional technology is planned, not least “Queue Buster”. This would allow callers to request a call-back at a specific time. The aim is also to advise callers the probable duration of the queue in which they are being held.

#### 1.2 Question and Answer

1. What proportion of crimes being investigated are historical sex crimes?

The Chief Constable did not have a specific breakdown but assured the meeting that the bulk of his Protection Team are working primarily on current cases. He emphasised that in addition to the direction from the Home Office, claims of historical views should be taken very seriously because many of the complainants have not previously had the courage to talk about their experiences.

**2. Re: 101, can there not be a “channel shift” from the phone line? For example a live chat option (with call-back), direct contact to neighbourhood policeman, or text input.**

Alec agreed that non-phone contact is very important. There are however problems regarding direct access to individual police members given their variable shifts et cetera.

**3. We live in a ‘no through’ village and suffer occasional crime. If CCTV linked to ANPR were installed we would feel much safer. Can this be considered?**

Alec stated that there are conditions and criterion that need to be considered and met and that it is for the local authorities to consider initially such requests. Suggested he spoke with an officer during the break.

**4. We are losing our PCSO in January: is there an overall reduction in PCSOs?**

We aim to maintain the numbers of PCSOs as far as possible but, though we will not know until December, we are expecting further budget reductions. Depending on the size of the reductions, there may have to be some frontline staff reductions.

**5. Have representations have been made to the Home Office about budget reductions?**

“I will be at the Home Office next week” for such discussions, and the Police and Crime Commissioner has had lots of contact with them over the last two years. Note though the Force still has the same number as officers on the street as it had in 2010. However, the best case for next year and thereafter is that while Cambridgeshire will get an increased share of the national policing “pot”, there are still likely to be cuts to Cambridgeshire budgets.

**6. Have you considered issuing a questionnaire asking the public to consider their priorities with sliders to show the financial impact of the various options?**

We will consider this approach once our budget is known. However, some of the items in our budget are in fact mandated by Government, not least terrorism prevention work.

**7. What about the number of cycles that are stolen even from high profile areas?**

This is a challenging problem not least because of poor locking devices used and the lack of feedback to the police when members of the public witness bolt cutters being used and bicycles removed.

**8. Regarding the shooting in St Neots, are the officers involved receiving the support they need?**

Thank you for your concern and yes I can confirm all is being done to provide them with the support needed.

**9. Why is there such variation across the county between different areas in facilities and practices?**

It is important that local policing reflects local demands but it is also important to ensure that the best practice which occurs in one area is spread to the other areas.

**10. We experience considerable shortcomings in the communications between ourselves and the police.**

I have started a project to address this issue, though the Superintendent who will be responsible has not yet been briefed.

## 2. The way ahead for NHW: Sundeep Moore - NHWN Development Manager

### 2.1 Note: Link for delegates to download the presentation and video:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8o4kvtvksqvr10/AACe\\_H\\_Tmxi3ag0KaJ5uFDjia?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8o4kvtvksqvr10/AACe_H_Tmxi3ag0KaJ5uFDjia?dl=0)

### 2.2

The Neighbourhood and Home Watch network (England and Wales) is moving to new territory because of financial pressures and new technology availability.

The key aims over the 2010-2015 national plan were to provide a national voice for neighbourhood watch and to share best practice.

The 2015-2020 Plan has been compiled through consultations, workshops, internal and external surveys, followed by the establishment of priorities which were discussed in national meetings, and themed workshops.

The “brand” is being refreshed, in particular the roundel logo that is used for street signs in many areas and on much documentation.

The website is being updated not least because of the many criticisms about accessing the content in the existing website. A key feature will be a facility for counties to have their own segment on the new website to which enquirers will be directed from their entry of their local postcode. The segment will have facilities for simple transfer to any local website capability.

It will also cater for the near 60 watches that belong to the NHW family, including Farm Watch, Junior NHW, et cetera.

### 2.3 Questions and Answers

#### 1. An increasing proportion of the property is rented with an impact on NHW recruitment.

Agreed: the surveys undertaken showed that people who rent property have little interest in neighbourhood watch schemes. We would appreciate suggestions as to best practice.

#### 2. Will there be new logo window stickers?

We are waiting till the new logo has been launched (in December) before ordering new logo window stickers.

## 3. Sir Graham Bright

Sir Graham started by pointing out that the Cambridgeshire police is having to devote massive effort on the prevention of terrorist attacks and on the scourge of human trafficking.

He went on to express his appreciation for all the efforts of Neighbourhood Watch in Cambridgeshire, the dialogue he has had with the county NHW chairman John Fuller, and for the attendance of those present at the AGM.

He had always been a supporter of NHW, hence the implementation of the ALERT system. His term of office would end in May and he will not be standing for re-election, largely due to age! Over his tenure, the police budget has remained in balance and the front line numbers unchanged.

The performance of the Cambridgeshire police has been outstanding and he expressed his belief that Alec Wood would be the best Chief Constable anywhere. Related to his appreciation of the police support, Graham said that he was “thrilled at the legacy” he was leaving.

He closed with a reminder of the huge amount of police time that is necessarily spent on tasks which remain unseen.

#### **4. Workshops**

The meeting then split into small workgroups which discussed and listed the key issues as they saw them in their local NHW areas. A composite list was compiled and is attached as Appendix 1.

## Workshop Feedback

## Appendix 1

### What is required to make your scheme more successful?

- Establish key links with Parish councils across the county
- Peer support links to enable Coordinators to effectively share best practice
- Clear definitions outlining roles and responsibilities within Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)
- Improved communication flow and greater clarity
- The national website is user hostile and could do with a review / revamp
- Some areas lack regular Alerts from police
- More continuity of support from police – changes too often due to role changes which hinders support to NHW
- Greater feedback mechanisms resulting from NHW meetings and forums
- Better coordination of crime information required (timely, relevant) including feedback from reported incidents (specifically those using 101 and 999)
- Need to consider non-internet users and those with special needs that may not be able to use digital media etc.
- Greater consistency with 101 calls
- Need to engage a younger demographic
- Need to overcome apathy and look into developing better ways to maintain interest
- Greater promotion of neighbourliness
- Access to national leaflets and literature
- Improved content of information from Alerts (in comparison to North Lincolnshire)
- Coordinators require timely information from police to pass on to members
- Require more NHW stickers
- Uniform 'best price' for NHW signs
- NHW welcome packs would be desirable
- Potential NHW pop up signs that could be used in community locations to promote NHW
- Fade resistant NHW signs
- Need to overcome negative stereotype of NHW (curtain twitcher / nosey neighbour image)
- Make greater use of supermarkets to support NHW
- National NHW days of action
- Make use of local events to promote NHW, e.g. 'library bus tour'
- Establish a reporting portal to fill 101 gap e.g. email facility
- Clear stipulations from insurance companies around criteria (e.g. window lock requirements)
- NHW identification cards – acknowledged that the administration could outweigh the value. High vis jackets seen as a possible alternative
- More district Associations to support groups within the respective areas

## 2015 Annual General Meeting

## Appendix 2

The Chairman, John Fuller, opened the meeting at 12:10

### 1. Apologies

The list of apologies received is given in Appendix 5 – “Attendance”.

The Chairman drew attention to two unfortunate absences: Alan Paul, chairman of Peterborough NHWA who had a serious fall and is in hospital with a broken pelvis and Vic Nickson.

### 2. Minutes from 2014 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were agreed as published subject to the inclusion of the name of the proposer for the approval of the annual Accounts (Brian Wilson).

### 3. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman, John Fuller, drew attention to the text report that he had issued as part of the papers for the meeting. He made the following additional points.

1. From ALERT, we can see the number of coordinators who are registered. However, we have no knowledge of how active they are overall and have to trust that they are doing the appropriate job for their community.
2. A related point is that we have no way of knowing the true size of the NHW membership. The Chairman asked those present to use ALERT to validate the numbers in their area.
3. His final point was to ask those present to consider joining the Executive Group because of its importance to the effective delivery of NHW County responsibilities.

### 4. Treasurer’s Report

Morcom Lunt presented the summary financial details for the year to the end of June 2015.

The detailed report is attached as Appendix 3. Additional points made were as follows.

1. The assets held by the County reduced over the year by £2200. This comprised almost £2000 awarded for grants and £284 for trustee travel expenses for attendance at meetings. There are thirteen trustees, not all of whom claim travel costs, and car mileage is reimbursed at 25p per mile.
2. We still have funds to support areas that need equipment to assist with the establishment of new NHW groups. The funds should be focused on assets that can be used over a number of years. Full details of how to apply for a grant are given on the County website.
3. The County can continue to offer grants at the rate of the last two years for not more than two more years.

Brian Wilson proposed approval of the Treasurer’s Report and Peter Daw seconded the motion that was carried nem con.

## 5. Nominations and Election of Members of the Executive Group

John Fuller drew attention to the fact that Brian Wilson, previously a member for Huntingdonshire was standing down. John thanked him for his efforts and assistance with IT matters. A replacement for him was important and that he had agreed to assist anyone taking on the role.

There were no nominations additional to those listed by the Chairman (see Appendix 4) and their election, proposed by <> and seconded by <> was carried nem con.

The Chairman asked is anyone was prepared to be co-opted onto the Executive Group. None was forthcoming and the chairman is that all consider if they could provide assistance not least with social media activities.

## 6. Election of Honorary Officers

According with the constitution, only members of the Executive Group can vote in the election of the Honorary Officers. The three names proposed, John Fuller for Chairman, Morcom Lunt for Treasurer and Val Godby for secretary. were approved.

## 7. Any Other Business

No other business items had been advised to the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

Having reiterated the need for additional membership of the Executive Group, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:55.

## Treasurer's Report

## Appendix 3

Income & Expenditure for the Year ended 30th June 2015							
				2014-2015		2013-2014	
<b>Income</b>							
Sale of Street Signs	67	780.00			168	2,016.00	
Scottish Widows Interest		31.97				36.15	
Grants received		nil				2,500.00	
				<b>811.97</b>			<b>4,552.15</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Trustees Expenses		294.76				338.05	
Chairman & Secretarial Expenses		20.50				136.50	
Web Expenses		12.00				nil	
Grants paid		1,986.46				3,164.40	
Stock Purchase		766.78				1,689.60	
				<b>3,080.50</b>			<b>5,328.55</b>

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2015							
				2014-2015		2013-2014	
N&P Current Account		1,290.54				214.54	
Scottish Widows Interest Account		5,568.12				9,036.15	
Stock (street signs & packaging)		615.37				517.55	
Liabilities		(419.50)				-554.00	
<b>Net assets carried forward</b>				<b>7,054.53</b>			<b>9,214.24</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		<b>Brought forward</b>		<b>Movement</b>		<b>Carried forward</b>	
Brought forward		9,250.39		0.00		9,250.39	
Losses for current year		0.00		(2,195.86)		(2,195.86)	
Surplus Carried forward		<u>9,250.39</u>		<u>(2,195.86)</u>		<u>7,054.53</u>	
Morcom Lunt, Treasurer							Iain Wilson FCCA, Accounts' Independent Examiner



**Executive Group Nominations****Appendix 4****Tabled List of Nominations for Executive Group**

John Fuller	Bar Hill
Morcom Lunt	Cambridge City
Val Godby	Girton, South Cambs
Dave Harrowing	Wisbech, Fenland
Alan Paul	Peterborough
Richard Taylor	Peterborough
Geoff Varley	Linton and Sawston, South Cambs
Karoly Von Glos	Cambridge City
Roy Gerstner	Whittlesey, Fenland
Vic Nickson	Bassingbourn, South Cambs
David Godsmark	Ely, East Cambs
Eddie Cloke	Huntingdon

Proposed by Brian Wilson

Seconded by Polly Wilderspin

**Nominations for Honorary Officers**

		Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	John Fuller	Geoff Varley	David Godsmark
Secretary	Val Godby	David Harrowing	John Fuller
Treasurer	Morcom Lunt	Val Godby	Geoff Varley

**Attendance and Apologies****Appendix 5**

Backhouse Frank	Baker – Ann	Ian Bates	Richard Belringer
Ryan Berridge	Sir Graham Bright	Andy Bush	Robin Chandler
Laurence Chapman	Eddie Cloke	Janice Cole	Julie Coales
Brian NK Davis	Roger Daw	Elizabeth Dear	Dougie Donald
Kevin Evans	Margaret Footner	Paul Fawcett	Colin Fotland
John Fuller	Val Godby	David Godsmark	Joan Gooding
Anthony Gray	Terri Griffin	Joan Gutteridge	Ivan hammond
Violet Hardware	Dave harrowing	Sue Harrowing	Ken Harris
Roy Harknett	Peter Hennell	Mike Keeble	Andy Jennings
Ray King-Underwood	Wendy King-Underwood	Donald Lambert	Lee-West HougNeo
Alastair Lorimer	Margaret Lumb	Morcom Lunt	Sandra Lunt
Clive Mabry	Bob Marston	Michael McNulty	Bill Mercer
Phillip Miller	Kym Moussi	Sndeeep Moore	Angela Owen-Smith
Chris Potter	Lisa raby	Brain Robins	Liz Sim
Peter Sharp	Phil Sheppard	Ashley Shepherd	Karen Springthorpe
Kate Twaites	Geoff Varley	Pam Vendy	Mary Webber
Andrew West	Polly Wilderspin	Brian Wilson	Mary Wilson
Valerie Wilson	Lawrence Wright		

**APOLOGIES**

Philip Dendy	Chris Cunnell	Pearl Burdock	Kathy Ingram
Shepherd	Gillian Bywater	Richard Smallshaw	Vic Nickson
Dorothy Thompson	Maggie Wharrier	Philip Gould	Black - Marylyn
Debbie Hose	Bev Edwards	Brian Walker	Robert Muir
Graham Clare	Robin grant	Jo Lauterpacht	Alan Paul
Marilyn Gardner	David Parsons	David Butterworth	Diane Donald
John Olver	David Wordsworth	John Hicks	Jo Hart
Edward Sowell	Peter Stopp	Byron Williams	Norman Hutchinson
Richard Cross	Gillian Smallshaw	Diane Crane	David Murray
Keith King	Rosemary Westwell	Diane Donald	Pamela Raspe
Raymond Thompson	Deborah Walker	Carol Barker	Doreen Francis
David Wordsworth	Anne Ellis	Katherine White	Karoly Von Glos