

REDGRAVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2017

Communication with the Police: The cutbacks in policing have resulted in considerable difficulties regarding communication for Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. Four Safer Neighbourhood Teams were previously based in five locations. This has been reduced to one SNT based in Stowmarket. I'm working with Peter Beck (Rickinghall Coordinator) to try to get more information from the police regarding local incidents soon after they occur, so we can warn residents and also appeal for witnesses - two main reasons for Neighbourhood Watch in the first place!

A recent burglary in Half-Moon Lane exemplified the problem, as I only found out about it five days later when a resident contacted me. I immediately phoned the SNT at Stowmarket, and the policewoman was very sympathetic. She said they all felt the same, and were hoping that communications would be restored soon. Until then, I have to rely on information from residents, and area crime details on the Suffolk Police website, which is two months old.

Neighbourhood Watch Bulletins: I've sent out 31 bulletins since last April. I've continued to encourage residents to get more detailed reports from Police Connect and from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and the Neighbourhood Watch website if they want them. Although the Suffolk Police area crime website is always a couple of months out-of-date, it still gives an interesting comparison with crime levels in other areas. Otherwise I continue to trawl through all the various reports and send on all those of relevance to our area. I have also sent out details from Suffolk Trading Standards, mainly about product recalls.

Present situation regarding members: There are now 116 people getting information from me by email, a net increase of two from last year, and a further 38 still getting information by phone calls and printouts, with the Ringers and neighbours of these people still doing a valuable service to the village.

Recruitment: I have asked neighbours of residents who are moving if they would contact new residents as they move in with a view to joining the Neighbourhood Watch. Also, I have updated the details on the notice-board.

Meetings: With the police being unable to attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings, I don't really see the point in calling a meeting that would probably last only a few minutes - probably not as long as the tea & biscuits. I have asked residents to contact me if they feel there is need of a meeting, but so far nobody has thought one was necessary.

Crime figures: These are from April to December 2016. No figures are available for 2017 as yet. The figures are taken from the Suffolk Police website. They only give crime categories, not full details.

'Violence & Sexual Offences' (3) One occurrence in each of July, September, and December. The December incident is under investigation and the other two were unable to prosecute.

'Anti-social behaviour' (2) May and October - no further details.

'Burglary' (3) April (2) and August - no suspects identified.

'Criminal damage' (2) May and June - no suspects identified.

'Vehicle crime' (1) May - no suspect identified.

John Campbell
Redgrave Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator