

## **REDGRAVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2018**

### **Communication with the Police**

I attended the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch AGM last April together with Peter Beck (Rickinghall Coordinator), where I asked about the lack of liaison with the police. The answer was that this was due to cutbacks in the service, which were even more than I had thought. Many N Watch Coordinators also expressed their concern. Four Safer Neighbourhood Teams were previously based in five locations. This has been reduced to one SNT based in Stowmarket (as I reported last year).

I went to the public meeting at Eye Town Hall in May 2017, where I was able to talk to Tim Passmore, the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner and Inspector Mark Jackson of the Eye Safer Neighbourhood Team. Both Peter Beck and I asked them about the lack of communication between Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and the police, and expressed our concerns. They pointed out the problems caused by cutbacks in the service, but promised to look further into ways in which it could be improved. Even though this was rather what I expected their answer to be, I was impressed by their sincerity, and by their assertion that things will be improved in the near future. Watch this space....

### **Neighbourhood Watch Bulletins**

I've sent out 33 bulletins since last April. I've continued to encourage residents to get more detailed reports from Police Connect, Suffolk Trading Standards, 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 Although the Suffolk Police area crime website is always a couple of months out-of-date, it still gives an interesting comparison with crime levels in other areas.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.

### **Present situation regarding members**

Currently 139 households receive information from me by email, an increase of 8 from last year, and a further 38 are still getting information by phone calls and printouts from neighbours, although I'm in the process of updating this list at the moment.

### **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 need to know when people change their email addresses.

### **Meetings**

Police presence at N Watch meetings is limited by 'operational requirements'. This was the response to my question at last May's meeting. It means there's little chance of getting an officer to speak to us at one of our meetings, so I'm still not arranging them. I've emailed all residents to ask if there are improvements I could make, and if anyone would like to take over as coordinator - although I'm happy to continue (just an exercise in democracy).

## Crime figures

These are from April 2017 to January 2018. The figures are taken from the Suffolk Police website. They only give crime categories, not full details.

April 2017	1 x anti-social behaviour	No details
June 2017	1 x violence, Helen's Close	Unable to prosecute suspect
August 2017	1 x violence, Sports area	Unable to prosecute suspect
September 2017	1 x violence, Halfmoon Lane	No details
October 2017	1 x public order offence	No suspect identified
November 2017	1 x violence, Sports area	Unable to prosecute suspect
December 2017	1 x theft, Hinderclay Road	Under investigation
	1 x burglary, Rectory Green	No suspect identified
January 2018	3 x burglaries, Halfmoon Lane	No suspect identified
	1 x vehicle crime, Halfmoon Lane	No suspect identified

On none of these occasions have the police been in contact with me to ask for help or to warn residents. In any case the details on the website are always two months later than the crime itself.

In view of the police cutbacks it's more important than ever that residents inform me if they are aware of a crime having taken place, so I can pass details on to other residents, although I never mention names or addresses unless they want me to.

*John Campbell*  
*Redgrave Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator*