

## **Chair's Report to the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**CNWA in Cheshire covers a population of just over 1 million people** in 439,335 households, and has over 1,400 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators working to keep their communities safe. Our objectives continue to include supporting local coordinators and members of Neighbourhood Watch, with the aim to grow and develop existing schemes and to expand the organisation across the county. We are proud to partner with the Cheshire Constabulary PCSOs and local policing units (LPUs), local councils, and other community groups and organisations to prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime and increase awareness of all forms of crime.

**Our 5 Year Engagement and Communications Plan is the backbone to our efforts.** This is available on our website via the following link, <https://cheshirenw.org/mission-values-and-goals>. With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, we have been able to meet a number of new communities who were looking to promote Neighbourhood Watch, or had just become a registered scheme on the back of their community coming together.

**Our developing website ([www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org)), Facebook Group ([www.facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw)) and Twitter account ([https://twitter.com/watch\\_cheshire](https://twitter.com/watch_cheshire)) have been our main focus during the past year.** It is rewarding to see an increase in followers although we would appreciate more engagement over 'likes'. We are interested in what you are doing in your communities to keep yourself and neighbours safe and secure. What are the challenges you face and how might we help you? Thanks go to CNWA Committee members Bob Marshall and Helen Kynnersley, who have used their expertise and experience to set us up and guide us with our social media. It has helped us reach out to the wider community, particularly during the pandemic and it has helped us realise the power (and pitfalls) of social media.

**Our plans to develop a Young Person Award (for their positive contribution to the community) are being piloted with Ormiston Chadwick Academy and Wade Deacon High School in Widnes.** This piece of work is being led by CNWA Committee Member Dave Brown. The idea is to reach out to a younger audience and engage them with the importance of neighbourliness by acknowledging the contribution that young people (ages 11 to 18) have made, and continue to do so, within their communities. Working in partnership with local high schools, we want to explore how the CNWA can support the school in recognising young individuals who make a difference within their community, and to give them the recognition and thanks that they deserve.

**The CNWA team** also includes Graham Bushill, who is our Secretary, and Joan Gibbison who is our Treasurer.

**Our supportive partners** include John Dwyer (PCC), Mark Robert (Chief Constable), and Peter Crowcroft (Supt for Local Policing) who routinely give us ideas, resources, time and funding. When I look at other counties across the country who have nothing at all, it makes me realise how lucky we are.

**We have been replacing the old red triangle Home Watch street signs to signs that show the round yellow Neighbourhood Watch logo.** An Alert message was sent out in July to all Coordinators inviting them to request either overlay stickers to place on the old signs, or in the case that those signs are no longer there, new signs. If you haven't yet requested your new signs details of how to do this can be found on the website, or by clicking on the following link <https://cheshirenw.org/how-can-we-support-you%3F>

**The alert system behind Neighbourhood Watch has had an update** coordinated via our national colleagues. This much needed change has required a great deal of effort from our Multi-Scheme Administrators (and CNWA Committee members) Heather Thompson and Clare Harrison. The functionality behind the update will allow greater opportunities for all coordinators across Cheshire. Once the new version goes live all Coordinators will be sent an Alert message from Neighbourhood Watch Network which includes a 'How to' guide.

**In June 2022 Neighbourhood Watch will celebrate its 40th Anniversary.** As the first scheme (known as Home Watch) was set up in Cheshire in 1982, we are keen to join those celebrations. On that note, we have decided to postpone our annual 'Good Neighbour Awards' until then to dovetail with other activities still in the planning stage.