

BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Affiliated to Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association- a registered Charity No: 1168988

SIX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : WINTER ISSUE 2017



WELCOME TO THE WINTER ISSUE 2017.

Membership of Neighbourhood Watch is increasing throughout Braintree District and despite many who use the internet the hardcopies have not reduced as expected. I believe that we must consider those who do not need or have access to the internet. So I am pleased that so many of you still want to receive a copy and I thank all those who do deliver them too! Please can those who have an email version send it to as many of your friends & family even if they do not live in Braintree District as it does raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and may highlight the actions of Neighbourhood Watch in their area too.

Since the last summer issue I have had many enquiries who want to know about Neighbourhood Watch. So I contact them by telephone first and then send them a letter with enclosures to inform them that Neighbourhood Watch is all about reducing the opportunity of crime by distributing information to as many people as possible. This "information" is given to us by Essex Police. We also give advice on how to help you protect your own property and encourage you to help those who may feel vulnerable to do the same. In my letter to these enquiries I offer to visit their home to meet local neighbours too and discuss Neighbourhood Watch. In the letter I enclose a number of small notes for them to deliver to their local friends and neighbours to see if they are keen to meet me. This is important as it indicates immediately who would be willing to be part of any local Group. I intend to keep Neighbourhood Watch on a simple but effective basis. Neighbourhood Watch was formed in the UK in 1982; it would not have been supported by millions of members of the public, the Police, Crimestoppers and Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners if it had not proven to be of benefit to the communities. If you know of anyone who is interested in NW please give them my email address if they are not on the internet please send me their name and address and I shall be in touch.

Clive Stewart, Chairman Braintree District NW.

Email: braintreenwsg@btinternet.com

REPORTING A CRIME.

Anyone of any age can report a crime or a suspicious incident or package at any time.

You can do so by phoning Essex Police on 999 if it is an emergency and life threatening or 101 if it is non-emergency. You can actually go to Essex Police website and report 101 matters on-line.

You can also use the FREE "Self-Evident App" to report crime go to "Google" and read about it.

The Police will want to know who they are speaking to so that they can contact you again should they need to do so. Give them your name, an address where you can be reached, your landline and mobile telephone number. The Police who attend to your call may not know the local area. Give a clear location and include how to reach it. A postcode will help to pin point rural locations and advise any landmarks, such as signs or buildings can also assist.

When you report an incident describe exactly what you saw. If the incident was witnessed by someone else make sure you give the Police their details. If you are still witnessing the incident when you make the call, stay on the line as long as you can. In this way you can update the Officers who are attending. Outline any obvious dangers to the Officers for example guns or weapons seen.

Take a note and, if possible, write down a description of the suspects involved. Their physical appearance to include height, age, build, colour and length of hair etc. Note any distinguishing features such as a moustache, beard, spectacles. Note their dress and any items e.g. hat, "T" shirt etc., and anything they may be carrying. If there is a vehicle make a note of the model, colour and registration number of any suspect vehicle and other factors as if there is any damage to the vehicle eg: a broken wing mirror, different colour panels, writing on the side of the vehicle.

Lastly note the direction where the vehicle is travelling. Most importantly however never put yourself at risk but do what you can to obtain any information for the Police.

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INFORMATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PLEASE ASK THEM TO SEND THEIR NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS TO braintreenwsg@btinternet.com