

Neighbourhood Watch

The most successful crime reduction initiative.....ever



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH is the UK's largest membership organisation, including over 173,000 coordinators working with 3.8m households, of which there are already over 1000 schemes in Suffolk

“Setting up a scheme brings neighbours together to create stronger, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen”



Guidelines to setting up and running a neighbourhood watch scheme in Suffolk



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SUFFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH ASSOCIATION
Creating safer neighbourhoods in Suffolk

Guidelines to setting up and running a NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH scheme in Suffolk

What's involved?

The first step is to talk to your neighbours and see who is interested and how they'd like to improve the area. You don't need everyone in your road/area to be interested, though the more involved the better.

What sort of things should we do?

Each scheme is unique to its own community. Some schemes make it their priority just to receive current crime information and advice which can then be passed onto members. Other schemes extend their activities to include social events such as BBQ's, coffee mornings, producing newsletters and even having days out! You may also need a treasurer if you want to raise funds for the scheme.

Do I need any equipment?

A telephone and, these days access to a computer and possibly a printer. The equipment does not have to be yours, but you do need someone who is happy to use them on behalf of your scheme.

All Neighbourhood Watch schemes need to have a lead coordinator. We also recommend a deputy, which allows for when holidays or illness and the like occur. A co-ordinator shall act as representative, and be able to liaise with the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Setting aims & objectives for a scheme

One of the most important steps when starting up a scheme is to decide on its aims and objectives. We recommend a simple four-step process for setting the aims and objectives of a scheme.

Step 1 - Identify issues

The first step in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme must be to ask: 'What do you want to achieve in your street, neighbourhood or estate?' Think about any specific issues that may exist and how Neighbourhood Watch can help reduce them. The easiest way of doing this is, of course, to ask neighbours and other local residents. It might also be useful to look at your area's crime statistics on www.police.uk. But also remember that there does not necessarily always have to be a problem for a NW scheme to be set up. It can be used as a preventative tool also.

Step 2 - Decide what can be done

Once problems or issues have been identified, consider what a Neighbourhood Watch group might be able to do to help solve or improve these situations.

Step 3 - How to make it happen?

Think about the resources that will help carry out planned activities. Resources don't just mean money; they also include things like time, space for meetings, and access to resources such as stationery and printers.

Step 4 - Review expectations

If plans do not meet the original expectations, it is important that these are altered before they are put into action.

Maintaining a scheme

We recommend aims and objectives of schemes are reviewed once a year to ensure that they are achieving their goals. Schemes should change activities and their emphasis to ensure that they always remain responsive to the needs of its members. It's important that you don't treat your original plans as set in stone.

