

AREA REPORT FOR WEST BERKSHIRE

My next Neighbourhood Watch Meeting is being held on Monday 27 February 2017 at 7.30 pm in West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury. We shall be having an interesting talk by Graham Loxton-Best about "A Day in an English Court Room".

Representatives from the Police and Fire Service will also be attending and both will be available to answer any questions. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Dates and speakers for the rest of the year are:

Monday 22 May 2017 – Neighbourhood Watch Meeting. Talk by Detective Chief Superintendent Ray Howard on Cybercrime.

Monday 21 August 2017 – Neighbourhood Watch Meeting. Talk by Susan Powell, Safer Communities Partnership Manager.

Monday 20 November 2017 – Neighbourhood Watch Meeting. Talk by Dr Nick Young on Newbury Then and Now.

Since my last report a very good Neighbourhood Watch Meeting was held in November and DC Jackie Murdock gave a talk. I have chaired one NAG meeting during this period and helped with "Have your Says" in my area. Also had a meeting with Susan Powell, Safer Communities Partnership Manager to discuss various projects such as setting up Junior Neighbourhood Watch.

We shall be having another Neighbourhood Watch stand in Newbury Kennet Shopping Centre on 27 April. I am currently liaising with local Parish Councils to encourage more schemes to be set up in the Villages and they are publicising an article for me on their websites and/or in newsletters.

We now have 68 roads or Sovereign Housing schemes in West Berkshire with No Cold Calling Zones and other Co-ordinators are going through the process of setting one up. I am hoping to get the Sheltered Housing schemes to have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme if there is not already one. I have been publicising the No Cold Calling Zones scheme in various newsletters to try and get more set up in the area and helping to promote Police Cadets.

There are two local community sites www.streetlife.com and Facebook groups called Suspicious Activity in Newbury, Thatcham and Surrounding Areas and one for Suspicious Activity in Rural areas. I have been able to publicise NHW, my meetings, current scams and give advice on all these sites. The Facebook Group has Police and ex Police administering the site and with the help of members items of stolen property have been found and through intelligence information some criminals have been arrested. It is working really well in our area.

Still give crime prevention advice and notify on scams and crimes at the Civil Service Retirement Group meetings each month, periodically speak on one of our local radio stations and write articles for local publications.

I am also contacting residents that receive the messages for themselves to try and get them to set up a NHW scheme if there is not one in their road.

I am still trying to get a discount nationally from Maplins and awaiting reply from their Regional Office (it is looking more hopeful) but have obtained discounts from our local A-Plan on Home and Motor Insurance.

Angela Money BEM
Chair of Newbury and Thatcham NHW and
TVNHWA Committee Member
6 February 2017