



OUR NEWS

APRIL 2016 EDITION

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A welcome message from our chairman Jim Maddan OBE

Welcome to the latest edition of *Our News*.

It's been a busy Spring for the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network.

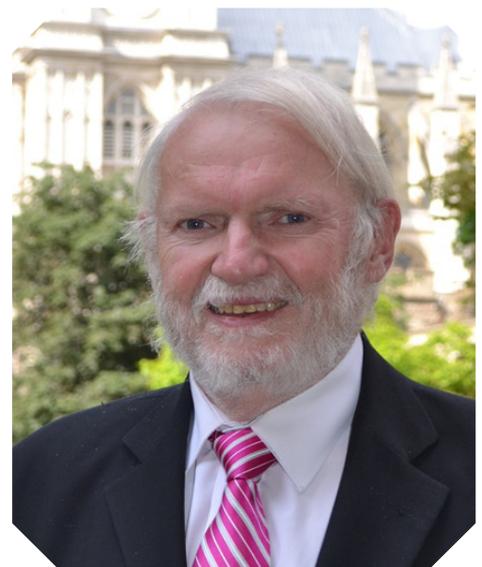
Last month Theresa May, the Home Secretary, launched the new **Modern Crime Prevention Strategy**, that builds on new research, techniques and technology to update the way we think about crime prevention.

I am proud to say that Neighbourhood Watch had a significant input into the writing of the national strategy, as an organisation we are mentioned and referenced several times and I am delighted crime prevention has been placed firmly at the heart of policing.

In addition our work on the Public Interventions Model with Action Fraud to tackle cyber-crime and fraud was referenced as a key piece of research work in the **Strategy** which shows how we can influence and shape more targeted crime prevention advice.

Of course we know crimes like burglary still happen too many times, and we know how devastating that can be for homeowners. But the Home Secretary is right **crime is changing** and we at Neighbourhood Watch must acknowledge this and look at ways we can help you, our valued members prevent many types of crimes.

I look forward to working with all our members as we face those challenges together. I would also like to thank our sponsor **Avocet** for their invaluable support to our movement over the past 3 years.



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Young drivers call for an overhaul of the driving test

A new report from our primary sponsor the Co-operative Insurance provides a striking snapshot of the challenges facing young drivers in 2016.

- Over a third of young drivers don't feel prepared to drive after passing their test
- Three quarters want motorway driving adding to the driving test
- Two-fifths of young drivers admit to dangerous habits behind the wheel
- Young drivers in Hull are the safest in the UK and those in Redhill the most dangerous

A new study from the **Co-operative Insurance** has found that over a third (36%) of the UK's young drivers don't believe that the driving test is fit for purpose as it doesn't fully prepare them for driving after passing their driving test*.

It has found that only a third of young drivers (35%) felt partly prepared to take to the roads on their own after passing their test. One per cent didn't feel at all prepared after ripping the 'L' plates up.

And despite being a rite of passage for over 6 million drivers** over the last decade, when asked about the test itself young drivers are clear – changes do need to be made.

With over two thousand miles of motorway in the UK perhaps it is rational that the main addition of motorway driving to the test is the most popular change with three quarters (75%) of young drivers calling for its inclusion. Over half (57%) want to see both day and night time driving on the test and half (50%) are calling for a mandatory number of lessons before you can even take a test.

With the driving test now in its 81st year, the report findings have shown just how much driving has moved on in the UK. Nearly two fifths (39%) of 17-25 year old drivers are now calling for Sat Nav training to be included in the driving test.



The report, 'Young people in the driving seat' is based on data held by the Co-op Insurance from over 60,000 young drivers and which questioned 1,000 young drivers aged 17-25.

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/driver-and-rider-testing-and-instructor-statistics-october-to-december-2015>

**Data from over 60,000 Co-operative Young Driver Insurance Customers March 2011-February 2016. The policy is aimed at Young Drivers aged 17-25.

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Petition launched against new CCTV ruling

Neighbourhood Watch is supporting a new petition against homeowners having to pay to register their CCTV systems.

The petition has been launched against a new European Union ruling which could mean that ***every domestic CCTV system in the UK that films beyond the boundaries of the property and into the street*** would need to be registered.

In addition homeowners who have their own systems could have to pay an annual fee of around £35 to register their camera system.

Jim Maddan OBE, chairman of NHWN, told *Our News*: ***“Currently the Data Protection Act 1998 allows for images collected by CCTV installed by homeowners to protect their personal property. If perchance images identify individuals caught in the act committing crime and anti-social behaviour, then so be it.***

“However in 2013, a case was decided by the Czech Supreme Court Administration and the court ruled that evidence obtained by domestic CCTV cameras in this way was inadmissible. The ruling was upheld by the EU Information Commissioner’s Office and is binding on our own Information Commissioner.

“This means that every individual CCTV system may need to be registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office and there is a cost to this.”

Neighbourhood Watch believes that CCTV images are a vital tool in the fight against crime. Individuals are prepared to invest considerable sums in the protection of their property, and Neighbourhood Watch believes the new register is an added burden to householders who will have to register their system and pay the fee.

As a consequence of this, a group of neighbourhood watch members in Hillingdon, London have started an online petition to encourage the ICO to waive the registration fee.

The Trustees of Neighbourhood Watch support this approach.

How you can help?

Please sign the petition, (details below), and lobby your new Police and Crime Commissioner to get this unfair state of affairs reversed.

www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/122236

NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

PCC SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey about Police and Crime Commissioners.

The results make for interesting reading!



- 5,006 members and coordinators took the survey across the country.
- 54% of respondents voted in the first ever PCC elections in November 2012. Compared to an average turnout of just 15% nationally. (30% of respondents did not vote in the PCC election and 16% did not remember why they didn't).
- When asked why they didn't vote in the 2012 election – 19% had a lack of knowledge of the candidates, 13% were unaware of the elections and 34% had other reasons for not voting.
- 67% of respondents said they intended to vote in this 2016 election (compared with 50% who said they intended to vote before the 2012 election) 11% did not intend to vote and 22% were undecided.
- 64% of respondents said they did not know which candidates were standing in the 2016 election. 24% did know the candidates and 12% said they knew some of the candidates.

Of those who responded to our survey 41% were members, 48% were coordinators and 11% were classed as 'other'- police officers, police staff or other people with a connection to Neighbourhood Watch, that the survey was passed onto.

Jim Maddan OBE said: "These results show our members and coordinators are very interested in who is holding the police to account in their area. But it also shows that

elected PCC's - and organisations like ours - still have work to do to raise the profile of the PCC role locally.

"With this in mind we are making sure that we can influence and assist PCC's in their role. We are investing in a new role within our organisation of **Police Liaison Manager** to make sure our movement is front and centre with PCC's and senior police officers across England and Wales."

Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/news-and-events for further information.

Disabled people at increased risk of violent crime, Victim Support research reveals

People with a limiting disability or illness are almost three and a half times more likely to suffer serious violence, analysis from our partner Victim Support (VS) reveals.

Detailed VS analysis of the Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that, although violent crime has fallen by almost half (48 per cent) for the non-disabled population over the past 10 years, over the same period the proportion of people with a limiting disability or illness who were victims of violence increased by 3.7 per cent.



In contrast to the rest of the population, people with a limiting disability or illness are at greater risk of suffering violent crime than they were a decade ago. Having a limiting disability puts you at statistically greater risk of violence than visiting a nightclub once a week or more.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

We are delighted to have secured an excellent deal on our Public Liability Insurance cover for the year ahead.

You can download the new policy and FAQs from the Knowledge Base section of our website. www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-base-category/force-level-association/

NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK

JUNE 18 - 26, 2016

Making our movement - the UK's biggest crime prevention community - bigger, safer and friendlier

This year's National Neighbourhood Watch Week will run from Saturday, June 18th to Sunday, June 26th.

This year - in lots of different ways - we want to focus on making our movement **Bigger, Safer and Friendlier** and this will be our theme for the week.

We'll be kicking off the week by sending out half a million new **Members' Guide** booklets and new window stickers - showcasing our new, updated yellow roundel logo.

The stickers are sponsored by our new primary sponsor the Co-operative Insurance.



Bigger

We're delighted the Co-operative Insurance has chosen to help us recruit more members and co-ordinators.

We're very proud of our organisation - the largest crime prevention community in the UK - and we want to show potential new members that if they sign up to join us

they'll be joining a movement that really makes a difference.

Ask your **Neighbourhood Watch Force Area Representative** for booklets and stickers. Their contact details can be found on our website www.ourwatch.org.uk/force-level-association

They have been busy placing their orders in time for @National Neighbourhood Watch Week. Make sure you get yours!

Safer

Crime is changing and as an organisation we're looking at new ways we can help our members protect themselves and their communities from these new challenges.

We'll be working with our partners and sponsors to bring you the very latest advice on a range of crimes that are becoming more and more common.

Friendlier

Tell us what you're up to!

As in previous years we will be doing everything we can to promote the good work you do as widely as possible in National Neighbourhood Watch Week.

We want you to let us know what you're doing so please contact our Communications and PR Officer Lisa Parker on lisa.parker@ourwatch.org.uk and tell us what's happening in your area so we can help you to promote it.