

REPORT TO GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL

I am pleased to be able to provide this report to council and it is especially special and important as it is the first meeting of your council in the Chilmington Hub building.

In truth I wondered if it would ever happen and the road to this evening has had many bumps along the way, but we have now arrived!

I feel it appropriate that this report charts the beginning and road of progress of Neighbourhood Watch to date.

Back in 2019 the first residents were enrolled into Neighbourhood Watch. It was a project I started to ensure, rather than wait until thousands resided there, that I build the NHW membership along the way. I still recall the first resident who joined NHW. I soon struck up a working partnership with BARRATS HOMES



Early erection of signs helps keep the first residents safe and secure and provided the developers and builders with assistance to help keep sites crime free especially during shut down periods where criminals become active.

The traditional Christmas building industry close down is a special time for criminals. My early NHW members provided an extra level of eyes and ears protection for sites.



Barratts staff and Regional Sales manager all bought into my project.



A supportive group of Parish Councillors and clerks all bought into my project and provided vital support with funding for signage and badges.



Jarvis Homes quickly came onboard with the project and deployed their Communications Team to spread the word. People who purchased off plan were NHW members before they moved into their new homes.



At that time, I was having ongoing dialogue with HODSON'S builders and full and frank discussions were held resulting in an agreement on a way forward to continue to enhance Neighbourhood Watch on the development.

At about this time the CMO Charity Award Group funded wheelie bin stickers which along with window badges and lamppost signage send criminals the clear message If you come on this development you are not picking on an isolated family but all residents, many of which have CCTV, Camera Doorbells and Dashcams.



HODSONS BUILDERS NOW SUPPORTING NHW.



Sadly, the first crimes on Chilmington occurred as the development just became another few streets in Ashford!!

The first crime was the thefts of potted plants and shrubs by the occupants of a vehicle that just drove around the estate looking for “a chance and opportunity”.

Good early alerts from residents followed by my NHW appeals for information, but especially any CCTV footage identified the vehicle used.



Criminals seen leaving HIGHWOOD DRIVE past several cameras.

The type of theft of expensive potted plants and shrubs information allowed me to alert other new build developments.



The thefts were soon linked, and an arrest was made in Willesborough following identical thefts on nearby Conningbrook Lakes.

The second theft was a laptop snatched from a resident who had advertised on ebay and a buyer travelled from London. On inspecting the laptop on the doorstep the criminal made off in a vehicle with a co-driver. The car was on false plates which were quickly changed.

These events however showed the community how strong we could be together and the laptop theft was used as a crime prevention alert prior to Xmas into the whole District and served as a warning to be so careful. My risk assessment was and still is that kind of on the doorstep cash deal can and could lead to violence.



Laptop thieves seen, car and registrations numbers passed to the police.

Both those crimes on Chilmington sent out the message to criminals. This community is as one. You are not taking on one family or property you are taking us all on. We have

built a community. We are building community cohesion. We are building a togetherness to support one another.

NHW is a system for helping to keep residents crime free and free from the fear of crime. These events reassured residents and importantly sent out a message to criminals too. They have their network just like ours and hopefully it will have said “give Chilmington a miss”!!

All the time NHW Chilmington was continually growing.

During these early years and still to date I have attended every AGM of the CMO with residents and made a presentation of NHW and progress to date. At the time of writing, I await the 2024 CMO AGM date.

During the Pandemic lockdown face to face recruitment stalled however a full online work programme continued and I hit the ground running once it was lifted.



Work continues right up to and alongside building plots with my vision that residents are already in Neighbourhood Watch at the time the move into their new homes.

Please remember developers, builders and sales teams enjoy the fact that every resident is a pair of eyes and ears addition security and protection. Sites are a target! I operate and manage 32 schemes on the development. In these latest schemes the incredible diversity of residents is noted.

CHILMINGTON (32 OPERATIONAL SCHEMES)

1. BARTLETS LANE (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
2. BAYSIDE (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
3. BULL BRIDGE WAY (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
4. CHILMINGTON AVENUE (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
5. CHILMINGTON CRESCENT (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
6. CHILMINGTON GREEN LANE (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
7. COPPICCE DRIVE (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
8. COWSLIP COURT (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
9. DISCOVERY DRIVE (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
10. GLEN VIEW (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
11. GREEN MEWS (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
12. HERDERS LANE (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
13. HIGHWOOD DRIVE (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
14. HOGGS DRIVE (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
15. KETTLE LANE (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
16. LAKEVIEW GARDENS (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
17. LAMB LANE (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
18. MARSH RISE (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
19. MEADOWS GROVE (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
20. OAK BOURNE PLACE. (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
21. OAKWOOD MEWS (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
22. PARKLAND CRESCENT (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
23. PARKLAND CRESCENT (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
24. RAM CRESCENT (New Build JARVIS HOMES)
25. WOODLANDS RISE (New Build HODSON BUILDERS)
26. OXBOW COURT (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
27. THICKET WALK. (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
28. FENLAND WAY (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
29. WIMBOURNE MEWS. (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
30. LOCHAN GREEN. (New Build BARRATT HOMES)
31. CHILMINGTON GENERAL (Other than new builds)
32. CHILMINGTON MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION in ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL.



Can I also draw to everyone's attention that this formula and method brought me a National award in London and has now been taken further afield in the country.

I hope the council reflect on the support and backing you have given me especially in the early struggles and very importantly shall we say with people who did not always see the longer term benefits quick enough.



NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AWARD

We are set fair going forward in 2024 and onwards. We have a proven track record.

The risk assessment remains the same, which is as follows

Construction Phase, theft of plant and materials

Houses under construction, theft of materials

Houses completed and cleaned ready for occupants,' thieves come for white goods and boilers

Building stores and supplies thefts. Plant machinery always ongoing.

Theft of ground works plants and trees again ongoing

Bogus callers/Rogue Traders looking to carry out patio work etc.

I am concerned about poor or no street lighting.

I am concerned about carports and the worry of theft opportunities.

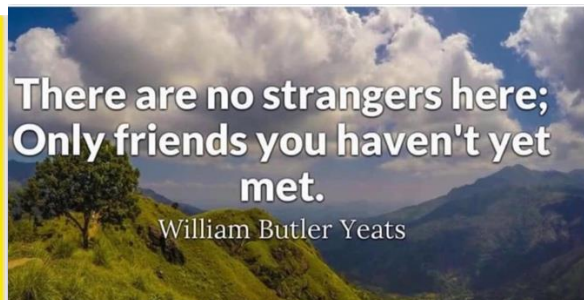
I am concerned about a balcony over a carport now gives first floor entry to criminals with wheelie bins to stand on.

All the time NHW residents provide an additional layer of security and are briefed to actuate 999 calls immediately especially persons on site out of hours.

However council the most important part of this brief is

“This is just now another part of Ashford and just another few streets.!! And all normal crimes are risks could strike if we are not vigilant and alert.

I have a NHW Facebook group for Chilmington and write on a Residents Community Group also.



Thank you.

Peter

Peter New (Kent Police Volunteer &Community Neighbourhood Watch)