



# Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch



## NHW/Police Closer Working

### Background

There has been a long relationship between Northants Police, and Neighbourhood Watch for nearly 40 years. We know that where a well-run Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has a close working relationship with the local Neighbourhood Policing teams, it not only helps reduce crime, but also builds safer and stronger communities.

In developing this closer working document, we want to be able to take the best practices that have made the above work and replicate that across the county.

Following several productive meetings between Northants Chief Constable, Nick Adderley, and Northants Neighbourhood Watch Association, it was agreed that we would find a closer way of working together.

1. The creation of a virtual NHW arrangement where members can share with the police suspicious activity, they record on various home security devices.
2. Inviting a representative of the local NHW scheme to problem solving meetings. This will enable them to make a tangible contribution to the work going on in their area to tackle the issues of greatest concern.
3. Share information identifying the priority areas (hot spots) in the force so that NHW can concentrate efforts on creating, developing and publicising schemes in those areas.

### Action Plan

As a result of various meetings between the Police and Northants NW, we discussed the above points and agreed on the following

- **The creation of a virtual NHW arrangement where members can share with the police suspicious activity, they record on various home security devices.**

Presently there are many methods of communication used across the county, it was agreed that reports should be made as follows:-

In an emergency calls - crime in progress, threat to life, or person safety, immediate threat call **999**

Any other non-emergency calls – call **101**

To Report to the Police online:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

To Report suspicious activity:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/contact/cubp/northants/tell-us-about-something-youve-seen-or-heard/>

To send dash cam footage:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/police-forces/northamptonshire-police/areas/northamptonshire-force-content/about-us/about-us/operation-snap-northamptonshire/>

The above methods of reporting are all logged and followed up, if coordinators wish to also advise their police contact as well, that is ok, but please remember they may not be on duty.

Coordinators should also ensure all their scheme members are registered on the neighbourhood alert system, and also if they have CCTV or video door cameras that they select that they have these on their account.

Information on crime can be given anonymously to CrimeStoppers on **0800 555 111** or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

- **Inviting a representative of the local NHW scheme to problem solving meetings. This will enable them to make a tangible contribution to the work going on in their area to tackle the issues of greatest concern.**

NHW will contact all NHW coordinators to invite them to meet their local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) officer. This relationship has proven extremely successful in reducing crime and the fear of crime, and helping to build Safer and Stronger Communities. Contact to be on an appropriate frequency, mutually agreed.

Local Neighbourhood Police teams will engage appropriately with NHW District leads on appropriate problem solving to further understand local problems and develop appropriate solutions.

- **Share information building on the citizens in policing scheme.**

Watch in every local sector identifying the priority areas (hot spots) in the force so that NHW can concentrate efforts on creating, developing and publicising schemes in those areas.

NHW will contact all NHW coordinators and district leads in these areas to invite them to meet their local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) officer, to review where the issues are, to see what help can be given to further support the scheme. Signage, leaflets, door stickers etc.

Where no scheme exists the local District Leads will work with NPT in endeavoring to appoint new NHW schemes in these areas.