

ASNWA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

8th October 2018



Present:

Nick Gough (NG) - Chairman/ Secretary
Egils Praulitis (EP) - Deputy Chairman
Wendy Hull (WH) - Treasurer

There was a discussion around the meeting minutes of the A&S Police Neighbourhood Watch (NW) steering group meeting held on the 20th September 2018 at police HQ, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Stephen Cullen and attended by NG. There was a lack of specific detail in what the police were going to look at to align themselves to the Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) 3 year plan. NG pointed out the plan was already aligned to the Home Office priorities which were also the Police priorities, so in theory we should all be on the same page anyway. NG raised a concern around the 3 months allocated for officers to report back to ACC Cullen. There is a tendency with A&S Police for things to get forgotten and other priorities to push items down the list. NG said he would work with Sergeant Jon Hill to push for faster progress on the items highlighted by the steering group. NG reiterated the need for a close relationship with the police but that a defining line be drawn between the two organisations, as being seen as 'Police' lead would undoubtedly deter some elements of communities from embracing NW. NG reiterated NW was not a panacea and that the association would encourage other groups outside NW to embrace the NW principals but perhaps badge themselves up differently from NW.

NG said we needed to obtain the contact details of wider watchers ASAP to let them be part of this process. This was an action for Sergeant Jon Hill in the last committee meeting.

***Action: NG to chase Sergeant Jon Hill for wider watches contact details**

EP raised the matter of the NWN 'offer' referred to in their 3 year plan as there didn't appear to be any detail about it. He said the NWH don't seem to have actually thought about what this offer is and this needs to be clarified.

***Action: EP to chase NWN for details of the 'offer'**

We discussed our proposed name change. NG advised the aswa.org domain was taken and that he thought it looked better if we used whole words rather than an acronym. We discussed and ratified losing 'Association' from our name as this is long winded and made us seem old fashioned. We will be called the 'Avon and Somerset Watch'. NG has bought the domain avonandsomersetwatch.org and set up a redirect of all traffic to the current domain 'asnwa.org' until we officially make the change when the process will run the other way - asnwa.org to avonandsomersetwatch.org

We had a discussion around how difficult it was to contact the police as a member of the public. Reporting crime and other issues should be quick and simple; but it isn't. Feedback to the Association from membership is still showing both the 101 process and the online contact form on the Avon and Somerset Police website are verbose and discourage people from reporting crime. We discussed a need for a 101 smartphone App. EP suggested we should speak to the

police about creating this App as a way of reducing demand on the 101 service not add to it. A proposal on the functionality should be written up and a workshop is to be arranged. If the police were not interested or did not have the resources, EP could speak to his University contacts to see if undergraduate/post-graduate students could create the App as part of their project/dissertation.

***Action:** EP to speak to UWE and Bristol University about the possibility of creating an App and what that would entail.

We have taken the decision to defer the AGM to December 2018 because of the pending changes to our 'brand' name and the proposal to adopt wider watches as part of our core work. We also wanted to be able to present our vision for the 101 App to members. We will advise a date as part of our communication to members.

EP said we need to communicate with our membership about the deferred AGM date and some of the initiatives we were looking at. NG suggested we ask A&S Police for a refresh of the current data on Community Alerts and use the facilities on our website to mailshot the membership.

****Action: NG to ask Sergeant Jon Hill to arrange for a data download of Coordinator and Deputy contact details from Community Alerts***