

FLINTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration 1101555

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Each year, Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association continues to develop and an important feature of this is our commitment to the Flintshire Community Safety Strategic plan 2008-2011 and the priorities that are set annually.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to work with agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to effectively tackle crime, disorder and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment in which they live. As part of this, the Home Office requires every CSP to produce an annual strategic assessment of local crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour, which provides the basis for reviewing the strategic plan, so it continues to be relevant to local people and communities.

FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN - 2008/11

"Since the Partnership's inception, this is the 3rd Community Strategy that has been produced, and it seeks to build on the good work undertaken over the last 9 years"

Colin Everett – Chief Executive Flintshire County Council

Flintshire Community Safety Partnership

In Flintshire, the CSP (FCSP) is a statutory organisation made up of representatives from key agencies, which work together to tackle and reduce local levels of crime & disorder. We are pleased that Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (FNWA) is part of this partnership, so that we can make a contribution to its achievements.

Aim of the Flintshire Community Safety Partnership

Our aim is to make sure that Flintshire is a safe place to live, work and visit; a County where people live together, respect each other and have a shared vision for our neighbourhoods.

Currently the CSP comprises representatives from:

- Flintshire County Council
- Betsi Cadwaladr |University Local Health Board
- North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
- Prawf Cymru Wales Probation
- North Wales Police
- North Wales Police Authority
- Voluntary Sector
- A range of the public, voluntary and community organisations involved in specific activities

Flintshire Community Safety Partnership – Strategic Assessment April 2010 – March 2011

A full copy can be downloaded or viewed from our website www.fnwa.org.uk

The FCSP is a strong working partnership with a good track record of performance and impact. We are one of the highest performing partnerships in Wales. Our success comes from setting clear priorities, sharing resources, having trustful and effective strategic and operational relationships, working with common purpose in the public interest and learning from experience.

Priorities for the partnership include:

- Responding to a 2.5% increase in crime, compared to the previous reporting period, despite Flintshire being a safe place to live, work and visit
- Responding to the types of crime where we have experienced the most significant increases
- Improving prevention of burglary and violence against a person
- Building on areas of good local practise, including anti social behaviour and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles
- Raising public confidence in the safety of our communities – as the fear of crime is much greater than the risk and incidence of crime
- Making the best use of our resources during a period of severe public sector financial constraint

This assessment has been made possible thanks to the expert contributions of our partner organisations and the real life views of local communities who have taken part in consultation.

The Flintshire Community Safety Partnership is committed to working with the communities of Flintshire to prevent, deter and respond to criminal and anti social behaviour. We ask for your continued support, trust and confidence in what we do together to serve the public.

Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council



Snapshot of History of Neighbourhood Watch:



It began in America following a murder of a young woman.

People became outraged after reports that a dozen witnesses did nothing to save her or to apprehend her killer.



1960's - Neighbourhood Watch began in the Queens's area of New York, United States of America.

Some locals formed groups to watch over their neighbourhoods and to look out for any suspicious activity in their areas; these groups, although committed, did not succeed in carrying out their objective.



- 1972 - Revitalised nationwide by National Sheriffs' Association of America, which, through a concerted effort, revitalised "watch groups"



- 1982 - This sensible and simple idea began in the United Kingdom in 1982 in Mollington, a Cheshire village not too far from Flintshire. First coordinator in the United Kingdom was Mr Harold Cooper
- 2007 marked the 25th Anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in the UK with 170,000 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes covering 6 million homes, making it the largest voluntary community movement in the UK

How it started in Flintshire



- 1987 - A volunteer group of residents, supported by a 'Special Constable' who was a retired Sub-Divisional Officer of the Special Constabulary, set up a Neighbourhood Watch
- This progressed into an informal group of local people who were interested in looking at ways to combat crime and making neighbourhoods safer



- **1993 HRH The Princess Royal – President of the Patrons of Crime Concern**

"Sadly, crime has become one of the major social issues of our time, touching all our lives in one way or another. We know that the Police and the Criminal Justice System cannot tackle the crime problem without the active support of the community. And we know that much crime can be prevented. Neighbourhood Watch is living proof of the concern we all share about crime and the support the community is prepared to offer to make our community safe and secure.

I hope the Neighbourhood watch Guide will be a useful tool to the thousands of volunteers who co-ordinate the local schemes and help them to become even more effective in their invaluable work"

Home Watch & Neighbourhood Watch were designed to make communities safer, through bringing together the local community with the police & local authority safety departments, and any other interested parties, with the aim of making local neighbourhoods a better & safer place to live.

Originally they were set up as a result of a need to bring both communities and the police closer together.

- 1994 - Evening Leader newspaper “Crimewatch Campaign”
- Interest in volunteering to keep watch for a neighbour
- Locally based WPC ‘Crime Prevention Officer & Divisional Crime Prevention Sergeant’



- 1994 - Home Office launch of National Neighbourhood Watch Week(s), attended by many, including Crime Concern – Nigel Whiskin MBE
- The Rt Hon. Michael Howard QC “congratulates efforts of neighbourhood watch co-ordinators”
- Sir John Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, “praised the growth of Neighbourhood Watch”



**Mr Bill Owen ‘Compo’
Last of the Summer Wine refers to
“Fear of crime”**

At the conference launch in 1994, Sir John Smith makes a mention about the protestors who had climbed onto the roof of the houses of Parliament the previous evening.

He praises the growth of Neighbourhood Watch since its inception. He stresses that communications between Co-ordinators and the Police must be upgraded. In this way, Neighbourhood watch would become much more efficient, supporting the objectives of the Country.

The Right Honourable Michael Howard points out that “Neighbourhood Watch is not just about covering theft, but it can and does cover other things such as drugs, child care, and the needs of the elderly.”

Actor Bill Owen (Compo – Last of the Summer Wine, a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme) said:

“The line of defence against crim, are the Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

They are valuable as a means of being close to other people.

Fear of crime makes the senior citizens’ way of life a frightening time.

This can be some way helped by Neighbourhood Watch members”.

This has been the basis for the development of FNWA over the years and has helped us become a well governed and structured organisation that is recognised for its innovative approach, as it is seen by many in Changing Lives – Making Neighbourhoods Safer.

Governance & Leadership

FNWA is an effective non-bureaucratic community association registered as a Charity. It employs several staff and owns equipment and vehicles that help in running various crime prevention projects, which in turn help in combating problems that affect people or property. FNWA is recognised locally and nationally. We also have international contacts with schemes that operate in America, Australia, Pakistan & Barbados. FNWA was part of the North Wales Neighbourhood Watch, which was replaced in 2007 by an All Wales Neighbourhood Development Group, which is strategic in the development of neighbourhood watch and watch type schemes in Wales.

Volunteers continue to be the mainstay of our contribution and value – they are the ‘Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association’ and our Board of Governors is drawn from their membership.

In collaboration with the Charity Commission, we recognised the valuable work of the Trustees in the first national celebration of Trustee’s week in October 2010 to celebrate the fantastic work that trustees do for charities.

Trustees are the people in charge of a charity. They play a vital role, volunteering their time and working together to make important decisions about the charity’s work. This report is an ideal opportunity to highlight the great work done by our trustees. They are the people with ultimate responsibility for directing the business of the charity. They are the unsung heroes of FNWA, playing a vital role, volunteering their time, working together to make the decisions that really matter about the charity’s finances, activities and plans for the future.

The Trustees are the mainstay in the continuation of the Association; without them we would not have remained active in Flintshire. We are fortunate to have people who care and are committed to delivering our services and promoting the aims of the Association and to making a real difference to local citizens and neighbourhoods; they are all unpaid and give their time freely.

Our Governors have won awards and recognition for their contribution in helping build a safe and secure environment that embraces diversity, race, faith, and spans generations. They are supportive of vulnerable people and neighbours, respond to concerns of people and enable them to be and feel safer, secure and respected.

One of our trustees said:

“One of the personal challenges for me was to recognise that the role includes steering the direction of the Association and keeping an oversight. It is not the usual detail of



Committee meetings as we all enjoy getting stuck into the community initiatives. It's been great helping take care of the environment, planting areas to improve how neighbourhoods look and supporting older people or creating opportunities for younger residents".

Our brand of **'Good Neighbouring'** continues to grow and develop and it is still about getting upstream of problems that beset or threaten local people and communities.

Our achievements include involving young and older people in action plans, enabling local people to take ownership of their environment by improving and maintaining it. We are good at making links and connections across generations that reduce anxieties and combat threats to the safety and wellbeing of people and neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Watch in Flintshire has proved to be a good example of people and communities collaborating to prevent crime and vandalism, reduce the fear of crime and generally improve the quality of life which is recognised and valued.

FNWA - Making a Contribution

Volunteers are pivotal to the running of the office and administration and sincere thanks go to them for their commitment and hard work. We are fortunate to have had help from people from a range of backgrounds that have included work placements from high schools, colleges and universities, as well as foreign exchange students.

Online Watch Link - OWL communication system

The Online Watch System continues to play an important part in combating local crime and has achieved so much. It has helped in building public confidence and enables people to play their part in reducing crime and disorder in their neighbourhoods.

Flintshire Community Safety Partnership values and recognises the contribution of the OWL communication system; it is utilised by Trading Standards, North Wales Police, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Arson Reduction Unit, Community Cohesion officers and by Neighbourhood Policing Teams as an effective method for communicating proactive crime prevention messages in Flintshire & Wrexham.

Confidence through communication

To know more about OWL communication system, visit our website www.fnwa.org.uk
Or contact Jackie Lee 01352 708118

Wrexham Community Safety Partnership has also invested funds in the OWL system to enable it to operate throughout their area. It has moved Neighbourhood Watch into the 21st Century and more people are joining each week. The OWL & Watch service in Wrexham has helped increase community involvement through developing new watch type schemes. Community First areas, Schools, Farms, Pubwatch & Nite Safe are now operating watch schemes supported by OWL, facilitated by FNWA .



Last year OWL featured on the BBC and was also the top story in the BAPCO Journal *“Flintshire stays safe under OWL’s wing”* –

Earlier this year it achieved runner-up in the National Guardian Award for communication and in November 2010 it was short-listed for the Network Wales Award category, Class Award for Best Communications.

Many OWL alert message feature in our local papers daily.

If you want to know more about OWL communication system, visit our website

www.fnwa.org.uk

Or contact Jackie Lee 01352 708118

Neighbourhood & Watch type networks

Whilst awards and recognition of our achievements is great news and helps us in applying for funding, what is more important is that our work is highly valued and appreciated by ordinary folks who live, work in or visit Flintshire.

Our neighbourhood networks are growing and Street Co-ordinators are working harder than ever in helping their Neighbourhood Policing Teams build better and stronger communities for everyone. We currently support 35,000 households in Flintshire. This is the heart of our Association and it is the quality of life in each of the streets and neighbourhoods in our community of Flintshire that is most important.

The support and growth of Watch Schemes is the core of our work and each week we see new schemes being formed as well as new types of watch schemes being developed with the support of the Flintshire Community Safety Partnership. Our approach has now been welcomed by other groups and has seen the emergence of new types of Watch schemes which are all managed and linked with the OWL communication system:

- Farmwatch – supporting rural communities
- School Watch – helping to keep our schools free from criminal damage and arson
- Business Watch – helping to reduce crime that affects us all especially in the economic climate
- Golf Watch – following a spate of crime
- Caravan Watch
- Church Watch
- Pubwatch



The OWL system is now working with Local Authority, FCSP & Licensing to help our Pubwatch Schemes and improve communication between licensed premises, Local Authority and the Police.

During the past year, MP's David Hanson & Mark Tami have spent time visiting us, gaining an insight into the OWL system and its benefits.

Supt J Vaughan of the North Wales Police Confidence Board requested a presentation of the system for the 3 Policing Divisions.

We were particularly pleased when Social Justice & Local Government Minister Carl Sergeant came to see how the next generation of OWL system could help the Local Service Boards in North Wales building 'Confidence through Communication', which is soon to be launched in Flintshire & Wrexham.

Jackie Lee is the OWL & Watch administrator for Eastern Division and she does a fantastic job. Congratulations and a big 'Thank you,' are due to Jackie for her dedication and commitment to making OWL such a success. The positive impact on crime figures clearly demonstrates the importance of OWL and Jackie's contribution.

If you want to know more about OWL & Watch communication system, visit our website www.fnwa.org.uk or contact Jackie Lee 01352 708118

Public Confidence Safety & Assurance Service

The service continues to support victims of crime and people, who are older or vulnerable, enabling them to feel and be safe, as well as reassured. For many of our older and housebound neighbours, their main perspective of the outside world is through the media. Consequently, supporting them to live safely and free from fear in their home is vital. Fears can quickly grow with successive reports of crimes. Our role in reassuring people, especially at seasonal events such as Halloween and Bonfire nights and Christmas time, through campaigns such as Twilight and Be Safe Be Seen, are important to ensure the safety of young as well as older people.

Financial support to the Flintshire Community Safety Partnership from the Welsh Assembly Government funding stream 'Reassurance for Older People' has enabled us to set up more 'No Cold Calling Areas'. We now have over 30 schemes actively operating and according to residents in these areas – they are working well!

We have also now begun a 12 month programme in developing a stronger working relationship with the North Wales Fire & Rescue Service in training to be able to help in the Home Fire Safety checks programme.

Thank you to the team and in particular, Helen Griffiths and Jean Wood who never fail to contact and support people – and put the victim first, to help them overcome the effects of crime and enable them to continue with their lives, feeling safer and supported.

This service is helping build confidence and reduces crimes which target older people and

their homes. Jean Woods' contribution was recognised when she was awarded the Volunteer Community Justice Award 2010 in October for 'supporting victims or witnesses of crime emotionally or practically'.

Older people engagement

We are into our third year of working with our Older Residents on the implementation of the Welsh Assembly's Older Peoples' Strategy. The 50+ Forum Development Project has gone from strength to strength with the valuable and recognised contribution of Ella Ellis, who is committed to her role and in particular to helping older people. The participation of local older people in local groups under the auspices of the forum has taken root in Flintshire and this was recognised by Ruth Marks the Older People's Commissioner for Wales when she attended Flintshire as part of the Annual International Older People's Day. Unfortunately, funding to enable us to continue with this project is coming to an end.



Ella Ellis has done a fantastic job and typically, is maintaining her characteristic excitement for the future of what the older peoples' strategy could achieve and we hope she is right. However, we are familiar with government initiatives that are deprived of continued resources just as they become established. Well done Ella - you have done a great job. Thank you.



-FACTOR Youth volunteering programme and initiatives

I am sure many of us feel concerned when we read press reports and watch television programs about young people finding themselves in difficulties. Yet we have all made errors of judgement in our lives and not one of us can say that we have never broken the law or done anything wrong. For many of us, this was a characteristic of growing up and fortunately, we moved on to maturity and hopefully, became wiser. People don't get up in the morning thinking, 'today will be the day I become a drug user, drug dealer or drive dangerously'. Things like this are not planned, they just happen – then it blights their life and devastates the lives of their family and friends as well as our communities.

It is difficult to understand how such problems came about, yet the impact is massive. Looking back, there seems to be a **fine line** between success and disaster in growing up. Sometimes, the difference was probably a few positive role models that expressed a kind word or maybe the occasional straight talking by someone that cared and was close enough to matter. So, what can we do to supplement the many efforts of parents, families, teachers, police and other agencies that exist to help? Although we may not have been part of someone's past, we can be a positive part of their future.



Good Neighbouring in Flintshire is why, in 2002, the Association decided it was important to involve and make time for young people and recognising and valuing their achievements. Being open to talking about the dangers that face them as well as manage the risks that could damage their lives and snatch away their hopes and future might also help.

It is just fantastic that we now have so many young people involved in *Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association* and our youth programme of work, the **Y**-factor. Our youth mobile vehicle has undertaken a change of appearance and recently we were able to launch the **Y**-kops Vintage vehicle. This was a lovely event and we are most grateful for the help of the High Sheriff of Clwyd, Lady Janet Jones JP DL and Mr A Rashud (Head Teacher) and pupils of John Summers High School. Lady Jones has been a great support to all of our work with young people throughout the year and we greatly appreciate her interest and commitment.

These vehicles have both been highly successful and well received on the many times they have been out and about assisting young people, their families, schools and neighbourhoods to succeed in getting upstream of the threats to them being *Good Neighbours*. It is also a great joy to have young people working in the organisation and this year we have had more than ever who have given their time and tremendous contributions and we are grateful to them.

Our work with younger people is greatly enhanced by the commitment and dedication of Allan Ellis and a special 'Thank you' is due for his special contribution in engaging young people, developing projects that help channel their energy into volunteering and enabling them to achieve recognition and job opportunities, at the same time as improving their neighbourhoods and helping reduce anti-social behaviour.

Good work recognised

Our work seems to continue to attract national and regional recognition from ACPO, Home Office, and Welsh Assembly Government. We have been pleased to welcome and continue ties to other areas and organisations during the year:

All Wales Neighbourhood Watch Development Group
Gwent & Dyfed Powys Constabulary
Abergavenny Neighbourhood Watch Association
Cheshire Community Safety Partnership
All Wales Doorstep Crime Reduction Group
Home Office Pathfinders pilot of 12 Neighbourhoods Agreements, with one out two in Wales taking place in Flintshire



Keeping FNWA in touch

There are many attributes which help *FNWA* continue as an effective organisation and it is extremely important to note some of those things, as well as the people that make a difference:

- Our '**Good Neighbour**' Newsletters and Website help us communicate what we are actively doing on a daily basis and our local press evidence some of the good things that we have been delivering throughout the year. Thank you to Emma Warbrick & Sylvain Jacquin, whose commitment and volunteering efforts are tremendous – absolutely fantastic contributions.
- Over the past few years, we have acquired a fleet of vehicles to assist us in the maintenance and promotion of the presence we seek in local communities. Peter Shone has been absolutely remarkable in helping us with this and our President Rt. Hon. Lord Jones P.C., has observed, *'We are so lucky to have the support and help of Peter. He makes such a tremendous contribution to keeping our vehicles out and about and focusing our work in local communities'*.
- We have continued to provide work placements for students from local schools, colleges and universities. It is good to have people around that require us to think about what we do and why.
- We are privileged that our President, Rt. Hon. Lord Jones P.C., is the Chancellor of the Glyndwr University, and this facilitates new opportunities for making connections with academic interests in our work and communities. We appreciate the opportunities to continue learning.

Keeping FNWA going.....

The Board of Governors has focused time on spreading messages about Neighbourhood Watch and news about things that have happened in our local communities, and this is making a difference in Flintshire. The displays and information provided at our community open day demonstrate the number of people that are working hard to make neighbourhoods safer. It is about **team work**, volunteers and paid staff working together. Look at your local school, think of the children and young people that you know personally. Take a glance at the notice board in your community centre or village shops. Count the number of groups operating in the area. What do you see? Are there good things happening? I suspect that the answer will be 'yes'. There are lots of folks working hard together to make lives and communities interesting and vibrant places to live. We should continue to aim for high standards but not fail to celebrate small achievements along the way. Our particular work benefits from contributions from:

- RT Hon Lord Jones PC, who is our President, and is a tower of strength and wisdom. He and Lady Janet Jones never fail to provide us with support and good counsel.

- The vital work of the Board of Governors of *FNWA*, who continue to watch over the operation of the Association and provide support whenever needed.
- We also continue to rely heavily on our good working relationships with our partners and *FNWA* would significantly be wanting without the excellent support, resources and encouragement we receive, particularly from:-
 - North Wales Police in particular the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and
 - The North Wales Police Divisional Commander Ruth Purdie
 - Flintshire County Council
 - North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
 - North Wales Probation Service
 - Flintshire Voluntary Services Council
 - **Flintshire Community Safety Partnership**

“Thank you all very much”

And finally

It continues to be a great joy to work with Denise Edwards. Her dynamism, commitment and tireless hard work place her in a league of her own. We are so lucky and appreciative of your efforts & those of the *FNWA* staff team. Thank you.

Graham Harper
Chairman November 2010

North Wales Police Mounted Section, FNWA Y-factor initiative meeting the High Sheriff of Clwyd, Lady Janet Jones JP DL with Brownie Groups





Launch of Home Office Pathfinders initiative in Flintshire & launch of the Y-kops vintage vehicle and project at John Summers High School, Queensferry

Contact us via :

Visiting our website www.fnwa.org.uk or call us 01352 708118
By post Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
Mold Police Station,
King Street,
Mold, Flintshire CH7 1EF