

BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Affiliated to Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association

which is a registered Charity No: 1168988

Email: braintreenwsg@btinternet.com Six Monthly Newsletter Issue One 2021



I asked Stephen Armson-Smith to update me on his role in Essex Police as we used to work together a little over eleven years ago and here is his reply:-



What I do....? Now that's a question, a lot different to our days together at Bocking all those years ago As you know I have two roles Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor and Designing Out Crime Officer. There are now just four with a post in Southend waiting to be filled as opposed to the ten or twelve when I started.

I cover Braintree, Uttlesford, Chelmsford and Maldon for geographic districts, but also end up elsewhere from time to time as the need arises.

Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor

This is a lot different to the Crime Prevention Officer role where we routinely visited members of the public conducting home security reviews and attended meetings like NHW and WI giving talks on crime prevention. Largely that role has got merged into the Community Safety Engagement Officers, Community Policing Teams, Essex Watch Liaison Officers and Rural Engagement Team where they can fit it in with their other duties.

In this role we work more strategically now delivering the more complex technical crime prevention advice beyond the basic issues and advice, and we advise on our own estates and other sensitive locations. We carry out home surveys for those that are high risk and vulnerable such as high risk domestic violence victim and such like.

The four of us also have specialist areas, as you know mine is Heritage Crime Prevention where I work both locally, regionally and nationally.

We are also involved in dealing with crime trends, local major crime prevention operations, projects, studies and training.

Designing Out Crime Officer

This role is all about what the title says, this is really looking to the future reducing the risks of crime before building developments happen.

We trawl each of our districts planning application lists each week and comment on the security elements of any applications, when a local or other strategic plan is being drawn up we will endeavour to influence the content by including reference to Secured by Design and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

We sit down with building developers where invited to design out crime from housing, public realm and commercial development for future generations using Secured by Design as our enabler (what its about here <https://www.securedbydesign.com/> and good Utube

video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFqxlnEaZEk>).

With these Secured by Design award applications we carry out a series of visits to sites from start to finish ensuring the design and products used mitigate the risks of crime.

On top of this major infrastructure projects such as the new Thames river crossing, and power station at Bradwell come under the watchful eye of the Strategic Designing Out Crime Officer and HQ Designing Out Crime Officer, at Police HQ.

Needless to say with these constantly evolving fields there is a an important need to keep up to date with planning policy changes, new products and site specific elements requiring time being put aside for continued professional development.

BRAINTREE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.

This is available by email only & covers a summary of crime incidents and often Essex Police crime prevention advice. If you would like a copy please email your full name & road/street where you live in Braintree district to braintreenwsg@btinternet.com

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER AS AN ACTIVE CITIZEN AND WORK WITH ESSEX POLICE TO REDUCE CRIME?
PLEASE SEND YOUR FULL DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO active.citizen@essex.pnn.police.uk**

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Welcome to the first six monthly newsletter in 2021 and what a year has been for everyone in 2020 and we hope that, if we all take extra care of ourselves and also those we care about , we may see a better year ahead of us. So please do keep safe and well.

In recent months I heard a comment that Neighbourhood Watch seemed to be at a standstill as we were unable to have any face to face meetings with new enquiries and hold normal meetings to discuss actions that we all need to take to reduce the opportunity of crime.

Well, it was in fact quite the opposite as we have been as busy as ever with “Zoom” meetings and also joining Essex Police on “Microsoft Teams”.

These meetings have been useful as no one has had to drive to venues and when the meeting is over you are safe at home.

Many Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are “working” most days of the week including weekends and evenings too to keep in touch with their communities which is what Neighbourhood Watch is all about.

We do respond to every request for information as they are posted to enquiries if they are unable to be sent by email ie: window & wheelie bin stickers.

There have also been many more Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Groups created or Neighbourhood Watch has been added to existing Facebook Groups which has helped tremendously in distributing weekly information on crime incidents and crime prevention advice from Essex Police.

We continue to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch not just in Braintree District but throughout Essex too that is why there has been a general increase in membership with the help of Essex Police, The Office of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner, Crimestoppers and Victim Support.

There are many examples of providing items and messages of good advice ie: to reduce dwelling house burglaries by securing your property more effectively and recommending that everyone displays No Cold Caller stickers.

ADVICE ON HOW TO SECURE YOUR UPVC DOOR.

There have been dwelling house burglaries due to Upvc doors not being locked properly.

Some offences have occurred overnight and the method the suspect(s) are using is ‘popping’ UPVC doors which have not been double locked. It is essential that if you have a UPVC door that you double lock it.

Your UPVC door will be vulnerable if it is just shut not double locked.



NO COLD CALLER STICKERS

These are available FREE from Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group-if you would like one email braintreenwsg@btinternet.com with your full name and postal address.



DO YOU WANT TO SET UP A LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP?

If you would like to create a local Neighbourhood Watch Group? Well we can supply a leaflet to enable you to pop into the houses’ letter boxes with my contact name and email address. Any enquiries can be answered by myself initially before passing them on to you.

So email me braintreenwsg@btinternet.com with your name and postal address and I shall then send you a copy of the leaflet to approve .

Clive Stewart ,Chairman Braintree Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

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