

The Future for Neighbourhood Watch in Chineham.

Dear Coordinators and Deputies:

Other areas of Basingstoke have established an area-based Neighbourhood Watch where rather than street-based schemes, there is a single Neighbourhood Watch covering an area or a whole village in the rural districts. Whilst this works where there are no existing schemes, Chineham already has many well-established street schemes. However, we currently have 4 schemes that have no coordinator and one scheme where the coordinator moved away, and the replacement is not a resident in that street. Clearly continuity in the role of coordinator is a problem.

It is proposed that we add an area based scheme structure to our existing street based schemes so that we can manage those schemes that currently do not have a coordinator and in the future provide Neighbourhood Watch coverage to the whole of Chineham rather than just those streets with an existing scheme and coordinator.

To do this the OURWATCH system will be used to establish the new area based scheme with an area coordinator and Deputy for Chineham. Existing street schemes will continue as they do now. Those schemes with no coordinator or no resident coordinator will form the basis of the area scheme for Chineham.

As new members sign up for Neighbourhood Watch in Chineham using the OURWATCH system, if they are residents of an existing street scheme then they would be added to the membership of their street scheme by the coordinator, those living in parts of the village not already covered would be added to the Chineham Village Area Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and they would be looked after by the Area Coordinator for Chineham. The key to achieving this will be the use of OURWATCH and the Hampshire Alert systems to manage the membership and communication to members.

At this month's coordinators meeting on 14th August, John Dick, who is the chair of the Basingstoke and Dean Neighbourhood Watch and a street coordinator in Chineham reported on the success of the new area-based schemes across other parts of Basingstoke. We discussed the how Chineham might respond to this approach and it was proposed that I should communicate with all the coordinators and deputies on this subject.

I would take on the role of Area Coordinator with Sue Fuller as Deputy. We will hold an additional meeting of coordinators at 19:30 on 18th September in the Village Hall Committee room to discuss and hopefully approve the move to an area-based Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. If agreed, we will have the required changes made to the OURWATCH and ALERT data to reflect such a change.

I must stress that this will not change the responsibilities of existing coordinators and deputies nor the relationship with your scheme members.

Please feel free to contact me if you want any further information or clarification on this proposed change. I would encourage you to come to the meeting on 18th September so that we can progress this change with full support from you all.

My Best Regards
Malcolm Wells