



WORKING FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WYCOMBE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY, 21ST MAY 2026.

- The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Alex Ash, Neighbourhood and Partnerships, TVP and Gideon Springer, Community Safety, Buckinghamshire Council.
- Attendees: Committee Members – Caterina Doderio, Geoff Pegg, Eric Hambling, Derek Colegrove, Jonathan Foster and Stan Jones plus others totalling 23 people.
- Apologies for absence: David Gresswell, Tony Shea and Robert Frost.

Chairmans Introduction

Another busy year, much of it with a smaller than usual committee. Rosie Lewry, Ray Cox, Shafait Ali and Bill Potts have resigned so thanks to them for their past contribution. However, we have a new committee member Jonathan Foster and three new contributors, Alison Charman, Malcolm D'Souza and Riaz Ahmed that I hope will become committee members going forward.

We have maintained our link with Bucks New University, increasing contact with students and staff, and are supporting them with their initiative to reduce antisocial behaviour in the Eden centre and bus station.

Our tables outside the main mosques in Wycombe have become a well-recognised feature, although cold weather and rain do act as a dampener.

We continue to support the Youth Watch Scheme at Cressex Community school, using an innovative model where two staff members are formal NHW coordinators, and several students are informal coordinators. The scheme is self-maintained in the school with the students deciding the areas of potential crime of importance to them they would like to hear more about and discuss.

We are also a member of Wycombe BIDCO, which represents businesses in the town. They have become a NHW Scheme covering Wycombe town centre and we have provided them with NHW signs in the hope of deterring crime there.

The police areas seem to have settled, with Bucks as a single command area led by a Chief Superintendent. Sadly Emma Burroughs, the previous incumbent, has moved on and her replacement is Simon Mason. Our local contact with the police is through our regular meetings with inspector Jodie Duggan., as well as of course with the local sergeants, PCs and PCSOs.

We continue to support Bucks Council safety team, regularly attending events they organise.

Now for the crime picture around Wycombe District. As usual, cons and scams represent some 50% of all crimes, but a lot is not reported as often people realise they could have been more vigilant. However, with criminals dreaming up new ways of taking your money it is not always easy. The general rule is if you get any

communication you don't expect, phone, mail or e-mails, do not respond immediately, have a good think about whether it could be luring you into giving away personal details.

Burglaries continue and tend to happen in spurts as some criminals move around the country and sometimes descend on our area. It can also go quiet while the burglar is spending time at his majesty's pleasure. Areas covered by a NHW scheme with prominent notices tend to deter burglars who would look for an easier target.

Cars are still being stolen from drives because of the new remote door opening or keyless fob technology. You can prevent it by making sure your car keys are inaccessible.

Drug dealing is still prevalent, from Nitrous oxide cylinders poisoning young people to hard drugs. It is important to report it and any other crime to the police. All information is recorded and acted on based on its severity. If you see drug dealing in your area, reported it each time it is seen, and by all those who witness it, so it raises its level of severity and will be acted on accordingly – so keep reporting.

I hope that being a member of a NHW scheme makes you feel safer and be safer in your home and neighbourhood.

Finally I would like to thank Geoff Pegg for the enormous effort he puts into NHW, Eric Hambling for his technical support, Derek Colegrave, who I hope has a speedy recovery and the other members of the committee.

Minutes of the last AGM on 15th May 2025: Accepted with no comments.

Operations Director's report of the work done by the Association during 2025:
This was available to members. There were no questions or comments.

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025:

These have already been posted on the website. Derek Colegrave explained the financial status, showing a balanced year with adequate reserves going forward. David Rouse was thanked for auditing the accounts and was voted as auditor for next year by the remote election.

Election of members of the committee:

Voting results: Election of members of the committee of the Association – Caterina Doderio, Eric Hambling, Derek Colegrave, Jonathan Foster, Geoff Pegg and Stan Jones were elected unopposed.

Election of officers of the Association – Stan Jones, Geoff Pegg and Derek Colegrave were elected unopposed.

Amendment to the Constitution:

The amendment concerning banking was carried.

Any other business:

It was proposed and accepted that Malcolm D'Souza would join the committee.

Following the conclusion of the official business of the Annual General Meeting the chairman closed the meeting.

There followed the presentations of our two speakers, Chief Inspector Alex Ash, Neighbourhood and Partnerships, TVP and Gideon Springer, Community Safety, Buckinghamshire Council.

Alex described the structure of the police in Bucks and the continued increase in numbers of PCs and PCSOs. He also gave the positive results of their operations to counter burglaries, vehicle crime, knife crime, and retail crime. There were a number of questions from the audience, showing the keen interest in policing in our area.

Gideon described the small team he had to cover Bucks, but how they worked closely with others such as Trading Standards and Street Wardens. They work on non-crime related ASB but also work closely with the police and others through their monthly multi-agency meetings. Their aim is to resolve as many problems as possible avoiding formal procedures or police action, but can act formally if necessary. The wide ranging roles played was illustrated by their organisation of Community Action Days where agencies/organisations present the roles they play including NHW.

After the presentations the Chairman thanked Alex and Gideon for their interesting contributions, everyone for attending and closed the meeting.