

Neighbourhood Watch Report March 2025

Pattishall NHW Scheme has been running for nearly 17 years.

A brief history

I attended a Parish Plan meeting in early 2007 and one of the tasks was to set up/restart Pattishall Parish NHW Scheme. I volunteered to take on this task.

A first meeting was set up with the help of SNAST (South Northants Area NHW Support Team) and our first meeting was held 22nd November 2007 chaired by Bill Dredge from SNAST. Quite a few residents attended. I agreed to be NHW Coordinator with Colin Marsh as deputy.

1. We started with 33 street wardens covering nearly all roads in Pattishall Parish.
2. We had a dedicated 01604 phone number to call the Police
3. We had quarterly meetings in the village hall which were attended by a Police Officer/PCSO.
4. Smartwater was recommended to mark our valuables.
5. We had an email loop to inform residents quickly about suspicious vehicles/persons and any crime in the Parish and information from the Police. I would cascade the information to the street wardens who in turn would inform residents on their patch.
6. The Parish Council funded NHW street Signs and paid for the cost of the hire of the hall and anything else we needed.
7. Myself and Colin attended SNAST meetings held quarterly which were very informative and we met other NHW Coordinators in the South Northants area and we were able to share information and best practice. Every NHW Scheme operates slightly differently.
8. We produced welcome packs for new residents.

For about 10 years this system worked very well.

Over the last few years NHW needed to evolve.

1. The Alert system (Northamptonshire talking) was set up by the Police. The Police want people to sign up to receive messages and information about crime in the area.
2. Residents of Pattishall Parish can sign up directly to Pattishall NHW Scheme by scanning the QR code (I have leaflets) to make it easier. I encourage residents and Parish Councillors to join this system. To date there are 37 members on the Pattishall NHW Scheme as well as quite a few residents still receiving information via the email loop.
3. I have a Pattishall Parish NHW FaceBook page. There are 307 followers. Not sure they all live in Pattishall Parish!
4. The Police along with CALC (County Association of Local Councils) have set up the PLR Scheme. This hasn't been received too well with quite a few NHW Coordinators. The PLR's don't always communicate with the NHW Coordinator. It is fortunate that I am both the NHW Coordinator and PLR. The PLR receives information every month from CALC which is passed on the Parish Councillors. PLR's are the contact between the Police and Parish Councils whereas the NHW Coordinator is the contact between the Police and the Community. The Police have become more focussed on PLR's and Parish Councils. SNAST and County NHW have been liaising with the Inspector to remedy this.
5. Police Beat Buses were set up. These Beat Buses visit the villages for an hour every couple of months to enable residents to come along and speak about any issues or concerns. One thing to mention – No-one attends apart from me! This is the same as all other villages. I

think this resource may be stopped in the near future because it is wasted resource. PCSO Matt Taylor thinks it will be better to try to attend events in the Parishes.

6. Street wardens have moved away from the area and a few have died. Others have felt they are too old to continue. It has been very difficult to recruit more street wardens. As to date we are a band of 8. Iris is Deputy NHW Coordinator.
7. We haven't had NHW meetings since before Covid although we celebrated 15 years of Pattishall NHW in September 2023. The Police attended in force!
8. There were 70 NHW Schemes in South Northants. In recent years and especially since Covid NHW Coordinators have resigned and there is no one willing to take it on. Some villages think they don't need a NHW Scheme. To date there are only 50 NHW Schemes in South Northants.
9. Snast meetings are on 'Teams' for all NHW Coordinators now and we have various talks on topics such as cybercrime and Fraud, Rural Crime etc. and a Police Officer gives a report. The SNAST Committee are a small band of 6 NHW Coordinators. SNAST covers a very large rural area from Aynho to Old Stratford and up as far as Cogenhoe/Yardley Hastings.

I have a supply of NHW dustbin stickers, NHW Stickers, No cold Calling stickers and NHW Street Signs.

We do get the odd bits of crime but we live in a very safe village.

Linda Hemming (NHW Coordinator)