NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PLAN for 2024

By 91725 Peter New B.E.M. Kent Police Volunteer & Community NHW.





This will be the plan that I work to during 2024. I will present this to my Neighbourhood Watch Members and to partners especially the following.

1. Individual councillors
2. Community and Parish Councils across the District
3. Ashford Borough councillors
4. Kent County Council councillors
5. Any agency that helps to provide support to the Community.

I will look to work as closely as possible with Kent Police especially the newly appointed Beat Officers to help keep the communities safe and secure.

To keep residents as crime free as possible and, also as important, free from the fear of being a victim of crime.
That will be achieved by:

1. To provide as much crime prevention and safety advice to prevent crime occurring in the first instance.
2. When a crime has occurred to prevent a similar crime nearby and then prevent a crime trend developing across the wider district, whilst at the same time support front line officers to obtain evidence, witnesses, and information to assist in investigations whilst supporting the victims of crime.
3. To re issue crime prevention and advice from the information learnt from crime investigations.

IN SIMPLE TERMS

Can we prevent crimes in the first place? if they occur can we provide as much support to the Police as we can and support the victims. Can we learn from those crimes and issue better more informed and targeted crime prevention from those “lessons learned”.

HOW WILL I ACHIEVE THAT?

1. Recruiting, growing and developing an email data base of residents in NHW
2. By building a data base of telephone contacts for those residents who are not on the internet and only have landline telephone contact.
3. By developing my Facebook groups to reach communities which at present stands at 200 groups.
4. By exploring and developing other media platforms to communicate quickly with communities e.g. Nextdoor, WhatsApp, X (Twitter).
5. By writing and contributing to Community magazines.
6. By writing and contributing to Council Newsletters and Magazines.
7. By writing and contributing to Individual Councillors newsletters.
8. By contributing when requested by local and national media platforms.
9. To make presentations at the Annual Electors meeting of Parish and Community Councils
10. By holding public Engagement meetings.

Items 2,5,6,7,8,9 and 10 above are essential to address the concerns that Kent Police rely heavily on internet platforms to communicate, many residents especially the elderly and vulnerable in communities only have a landline telephone. My plan will not and must not leave them behind.

I make no comment on the effectiveness or how Kent Police communications platform MY COMMUNITY VOICE has worked to date or is working. That assessment will be made by the end users, the people in communities! I have a proven track record with NHW over 5 years, it will be for MCV to try to match those. The public will judge. Our residents are not actually too concerned how they are told, they just want to be told!

Residents and councils will decide on performance and effectiveness, and I am very confident that my work with Neighbourhood Watch in communities has stood the test of time and my performance and will continue to grow and develop very strongly.

My continued goal is to lobby and seek a root and branch review of communications in Kent Police with very simple terms of reference.

‘How does Kent Police want to communicate with residents in the years 2025 to 2030’.

‘How are current communications working and their effectiveness’.

‘What are the approved methods for use in the communications process and are they still right and effective in 2024.

