

Prevention – Local Watch

Farm Watch

Nottinghamshire Police use a tailored and specific communication plan to engage with the rural community. This is led and delivered under the Rural Crime portfolio, via Rural Crime officers and Neighbourhood Alert, rather than the Farm Watch alternative.

The rural neighbourhood alert program is now well established, we have sent out 38 messages over the last three months. These messages reached 35,195 of rural residents. We will continue to promote sign ups to the alert program and ensure officers feel empowered to send out messages.

Funding has just been secured for a rural crime prevention officer as part of the PCC's target hardening funding. Part of their role will involve re-visiting victims of rural crime and completing a crime prevention risk assessment and subsequently arranging target hardening products to be installed. We are currently recruiting into this post.

Neighbourhood Watch

Nottinghamshire Police support the Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the force, with members of NHW working with us within police stations sending out crime prevention advice, details of crimes in the local area to members and Nottinghamshire Alerts.

At the start of the pandemic, and restrictions, a lot of traditional activity paused, but the Neighbourhood Watch Annual Conference has now taken place once again, allowing for the sharing of best practice.

Work is ongoing regarding further support to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and will be captured as part of the review into the Neighbourhood Policing Hub.

Community Speed Watch

Volunteer led speed operations have existed in Nottinghamshire for a number of years in various guises. The concept allows members of the community to take an active role in combatting speeding within their own areas. Over the years, each new initiate has brought with it differing tactics, training, and equipment levels. This has resulted in many hybrid operations taking place across the force depending upon knowledge and investment.

It was identified that the force would benefit from a more uniformed approach to volunteer speed watch, bringing a consistency to the training, risk assessment tools and levels of equipment.

Following significant work via a focus group, a standard equipment list was agreed which brought the total cost down from thousands of pounds to just under five hundred pounds, making it an achievable acquisition for most parish councils.

In September, the revised Nottinghamshire Community Speed Watch programme was launched. The new policy document contained all the templates required to operate the scheme safely and legally,

including site risk assessments approved by health and safety, volunteer contracts and revised enforcement letters.

The programme remains simple; on completion of training, the volunteers are encouraged to run their operations independently with minimum Police involvement. The volunteers identify their own speed hotspot locations then work with their Police contact to complete a site risk assessment. Once approved, the operation will then commence on site with the volunteers utilising their own speed cameras and documenting speeding vehicles in line with their training. Any breaches are communicated with their local Police contact who will collate and send out the appropriate enforcement letter. The data will then be used as an evidential basis for future Police speed operations.

To test the new scheme, Awsworth Parish Council stepped in as the pilot team during September. They purchased the equipment using their Parish Council budget and completed their volunteer training in the presence of the PCC. The volunteers have since gone on to deploy their own operations on six occasions and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

To share the concept force wide, two 'train the trainer' events took place in October. Both sessions were well attended by PCs and PCSOs from across Notts. The staff who attended will now roll out the training to their own groups of community volunteers.

A force media campaign will now launch the scheme over the next few weeks to encourage councils to partake, with all enquiries directed to a single Speed Watch email address for onward coordination with the appropriate local area SPOC.