



Welcome to
Horsham District Neighbourhood
Watch Association

**Minutes/Notes from the HDNWA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Friday 31 October 2025, held at Horsham Police Station**

Attendees: 22, Apologies: 24. Names removed for the website version.

Key: **Purple font** pending actions and **royal blue font** completed actions.

1. 9.36 am – MI opened proceedings with a welcome and thank-you message and advised all attendees to utilise their information packs for the meeting. Mary hoped everyone would find time to read this year's Chair's report. Rather than complete introductions, a list of attendees was provided in the packs, listing everyone's connection to NW. A summary review followed (i) the infrequency of crime ALERT bulletins; (ii) there was a recent change in the Chief Inspector for the local policing service improvement and engagement department. (iii) Inspector Neil Durkan and Mary Irons have met with Coordinators in Kilnwood Vale, Steyning and Pulborough, Coldwaltham & West Chiltington, which have been well received. More are planned across the Horsham District with additional committee members attending. (iv) Volunteers have kindly come forward to run stalls for NW and work alongside the Rural Crime Police Teams. They have successfully recruited 30 new NW members. Thanks were expressed to them, and Niamh xx, who was in attendance. (v) MI mentioned that due to a police collaboration exercise in 2025, this had enabled the introduction of a streamlined procedure for CO applicants. (vi) Mary concluded that each act of kindness and collaboration not only benefits individuals but also enriches the whole neighbourhood, reinforcing the bonds that make our community strong. By maintaining these connections, we lay the groundwork for a future where everyone can thrive together. A copy of the Chair's report can be provided on request.
2. Vision & Strategy Project An overview was provided by JD about the progress since the last AGM, including updates on Vision & Ambition, Strategy & Abridged Strategic Narrative, Critical Success Factors, the Tactical Plan (a full document is available for this item), and the Tier1, Tier2 next steps. Everything was well received by everyone; MB said that whilst the Project has progressed, if the Project is to be seen as 'successful', it is vital that NW receives crime bulletin and news information from Sussex Police, or there is risk of many members questioning the value of what NW does, and their own role. DP confirmed that the V&S Project is aligned with the main aims of the Sussex NW Federation, i.e. to prevent crime, to reduce the fear of crime and to improve safety. MI mentioned that a new procedure for producing the Alerts is under review, and more will be heard soon.
3. Treasurer's report- KB provided an update on the Treasurer's behalf. Update for the 2024-2025-(Copy in the packs).

The accounts were checked and signed off by an independent verifier (Accountant), PF, in early September. Highlights;

- (i) C/F from previous year £1,655.49,
- (ii) income £150, (iii) outgoings/expenses £706.33 & (iv) balance C/F £1,099.16.

AM commented that without other income sources, e.g. grants, donations, etc., funds will continue to deplete. Suggestions for additional income included (i) the Police Property Fund (PPF), (ii) Sussex Federation, (iii) District/Local Councils. DP said that specific Project-based applications for funding often yield success; **Action – Treasurer, Chair to consider further.**

- i) The accounts were formally accepted - Proposed by DF, seconded by LB.
 - ii) Motion to re-select PF as the independent verifier for this year's accounts, 2025-2026, was approved - Proposed by MI, seconded by AM.
 - iii) The Treasurer is progressing the transfer of HDNWA's accounts to a different bank. A motion for all present to support this was approved unanimously - Proposed by MI, seconded by MG, the vote was carried by everyone present, 100% in favour. This is to avoid bank charges currently being levied by Lloyds.
4. i) (Re)Election of existing Committee Members- Jonathan Dancer, Matt Gould, John Evans, Mary Longden, and Andrew Moffat. Proposed by MI, seconded by DF – all duly re-elected. Mary Irons – Proposed by DF, seconded by MG – duly re-elected. Leslie Barnes was elected to the Committee – Proposed by MI, seconded by DF.

ii) Election of the Executive Committee

Chair – Mary Irons – Proposed by DF, seconded by MB

Vice-Chair – Andrew Moffat – Proposed by MI, seconded by MB

Treasurer – Pete Hansen – Proposed by MI, seconded by MB

Secretary – Mary Longden – Proposed by MI, seconded by MB

Liaison Officer – Mary Longden – Proposed by MI, seconded by MB

Projects & Workshop Lead – Mary Irons will continue in this role.

Other roles which do not require a vote.

(1) HDNWA website, X and Facebook accounts (Peter Wood)

(2) Document custodian & HDNWA mailbox (Mary Irons)

(3) ALERT System - Membership Support Administrator (MSA) (Ken Broomfield). The above names are on our website; we have left these visible

At this point, tributes were paid to former Honorary President Arthur Carden, who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Arthur's contributions and enthusiasm for HDNWA over many years, led to the high esteem that HDNWA is held in today. Please see the Chair's report for a fuller tribute.

5. Police updates Inspector Neil Durkan (ND). Details of 'Force-confidential' items are not noted here. Details of the highlights can be provided on request to our mailbox address.. Thank you.

6. Q&A session following ND's update:

- a. JE comments about potential exclusion for those with limited or no IT/digital facilities; ND assured us that in such cases, traditional methods of obtaining information and interacting with people apply.
- b. CB asked a question about Cybercrime. [AP MI Completed, sent DS email address to Carol.](#)
- c. DF asked a question about speeding in West Chiltington – ND suggested DF contact Inspector Steve O Connell (Roads Policing, Casualty Reduction). [MI has provided his email address to Derrick. Completed](#)
- d. MB asked if 101 was still the best way to report noise levels on A264. Yes, it is in the first instance (but also see 6c). [MI has sent MB details.](#)
- e. JE asked about crime figures for more rural communities, and ND confirmed that the data he spoke about includes all demographics, urban and rural. [JE to draft the question for MI to raise with Sgt TC.](#)
- f. DP asked if the previously mentioned Victim Portal could also include a feature to link victims to Neighbourhood Watch. [AP MI & ND to discuss.](#)

7. Breakout Session Groups

- i) How would you make NW more attractive to a younger audience?
- ii) What changes would you make/encourage to modernise NW's image?

The feedback notes from all three groups have been separately documented for the Committee to consider and prioritise. Thanks to group facilitators JD, MG and AM. [Action - HDNWA](#) may hold a follow-up meeting with everyone and possibly set up a separate project team to embed and implement these ideas. Please see Appendix A – available on request to our mailbox.

8. Wrap up and AOB – GS asked if the pending Local Government Reorganisation changes would impact NW. The dates for these changes are unconfirmed, but NW have already been informed that we will be closely involved in the geographical changes.

DF commented that he attended the National NW Conference earlier this year; his feedback, based on interactions with members from other Associations, is that NW members in the Horsham District are very lucky to have such an effective and coordinated Association.

DP presented Niamh with a citation plaque to thank her on behalf of the SNW Federation for her attendance at numerous Rural Crime Team shows and events. The success of her public interactions resulted in many new NW members. Other volunteers were also acknowledged for their help. Well done, Niamh, applause followed.

As the formal proceedings drew to a close, Mary encouraged and thanked everyone for remaining engaged with NW's ongoing initiatives and to look out for forthcoming communications regarding the follow-up to the breakout sessions. There is a collective commitment to continuous improvement and inclusivity within HDNWA. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose was

palpable, setting a positive tone for future activities and underlining the valuable partnerships that underpin our success. Andrew thanked Mary for her unwavering efforts in the past 12 months. Much has been achieved, with more to come. The AGM closed at 12.09 pm.

Thank you to Ken for all his help at the AGM and for capturing the notes so efficiently. We appreciate all the help given to us by Neil, and also thank Kelly for welcoming and helping us navigate the corridors of the Horsham Police Station.

With kind regards, Mary Irons, Andrew Moffat, Mary Longden, Jonathan Dancer, John Evans, Matt Gould and Leslie Barnes.

Our website: <https://www.horshamnhw.org.uk>

Our email address: horshamnhw@gmail.com

X: @HorshamNhw

Facebook: <https://www.horshamnhw.com/horshamneighbourhoodwatch>

SNWF website: <https://www.sussexnwfed.org.uk>

Most full names have been removed respectfully, other than known committee members or known Inspectors whose names are already easily available. If anyone connected to HDNWA requires more information, please contact our mailbox listed above, and we will aim to provide it, if not of a confidential nature.