

As per your request relating to starting Neighbourhood Watch Schemes again in Chaddesley and surrounding areas, please find below some information which I hope you will find useful.

West Mercia Police has been working with the West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch Association in West Mercia and also with the Neighbourhood Watch Network (the charity that supports Neighbourhood Watch groups across England and Wales) to agree how we can best enable Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Coordinators to manage their membership contact lists, ensure that their schemes are visible to potential new members and are able to communicate with their own members.

Neighbourhood Watch Network has recently simplified the initial sign on process for new Neighbourhood members and supporters on the OurWatch website and are working to similarly improve the process of registering schemes. Once a scheme is registered, members can join that scheme and coordinators can set up their own contact lists to send their members messages about local issues and crime prevention advice etc.

How do you join?

You can check if there is already a group in your street or local area that you can team up with by entering your postcode and contacting the Coordinator of that scheme to request to join <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/find-my-local-neighbourhood-watch/find-my-local-scheme>

If there are no existing schemes registered in your area, you can register your own and invite all your neighbours and current members to join. This isn't a daunting task and there is lots of support and guidance available at <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/support/support-schemes/set-and-run-local-scheme> .

Or you can simply join as an individual supporter by registering on the OurWatch website <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/join>.

In addition to being able to communicate with your members there are several other benefits to registering with OurWatch:-

- Neighbourhood Watch schemes are mapped onto streets - <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/find-my-local-neighbourhood-watch/find-my-local-scheme> so new members joining Neighbourhood Watch can see whether there is a scheme in their area and join that one or if not, to start their own. This also helps avoid overlapping schemes in the same area.
- You will receive a monthly e-newsletter 'Our News' with ideas about what other Neighbourhood Watch schemes are doing and help to connect you with other coordinators locally and across England and Wales.
- You will be able to distribute and receive local Neighbourhood Watch newsletters.
- There are practical benefits, such as exclusive discounts and offers, that NHW offer to its members.

- Be the first to receive information on activities and campaigns and ways you can use these to benefit your local community
- You will be able to access opportunities for training in topics such as fundraising, crime prevention, domestic abuse

The OurWatch website also contains lots of useful advice and resources to help you with your local activity: -

- Neighbourhood Watch members and schemes are covered by Public Liability Insurance which covers involvement in events and activity to help prevent crime in neighbourhoods and also practical support for neighbours who are on their own or otherwise at higher risk, such as collecting shopping and prescriptions etc. More detail is available here: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-01/Public-Liability-Insurance-FAQs-2019-20.pdf>
- Toolkits are available giving practical advice and providing you with resources to help tackle Loneliness and Vulnerability <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/support-neighborhood-watch-groups/toolkits/loneliness-and-vulnerability> as well as support people who are affected by Domestic Abuse <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/help-and-advice/crime-prevention-toolkits/domestic-abuse> and other types of crimes <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/help-and-advice> .

There are resources on the Our Watch website to help you protect your neighbourhood from the fraudsters that are trying to take advantage of COVID-19 confusion and panic <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/help-and-advice/crime-prevention-toolkits/scams> . There's a new section on the website that has been developed specifically for COVID-19 with the links to the latest advice from Govt, the NHS and Public Health England, as well as information about COVID-19 related scams. https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news/NW_national-news/covid-19

You can also request / order stickers and signs from National NHW. <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/contact/> and <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge/logo-download/>

It would then be advisable to contact the West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch Association,(WMNHW),on the following link www.westmercianw.org.uk informing them of your contact details and the details of the Watch Scheme that you have registered onto the our-watch web site. They will also be more than happy to assist you in registering your scheme if you are encountering any problems with the registration process.

Again on this site there is lots of useful information from both a National and Regional perspective. They will also be able to assist you in obtaining NHW Watch street signs and overlay stickers that can be placed onto the old NHW logo signs if you have any within the area of your Watch Scheme. You may also be able to obtain new NHW window stickers and car window stickers for your Watch Scheme members.

However please note that this will depend upon your Watch Scheme members registering their details onto your Watch Scheme via the National NHW website.

In order to find out more about how you order the signs and stickers then please go to the FAQ's section of the WMNHW home page www.westmercianw.org.uk

The majority of the funding for the NHW street signs and overlay stickers has been kindly provided by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Mr John Campion and this funding goes directly to WMNHW. However that being said they only have a limited resource of these which they are able to give out to Coordinators.

Unfortunately your Local Policing Teams no longer have access to NHW signs and stickers but they can assist you with crime prevention leaflets to hand out to your members if you require any.

Once the Watch Scheme has been set up you should then contact the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team (SNT) for your area which is Kidderminster East in order to provide them with your contact details and the full details of your Watch Scheme. The email address that you can contact them on is .kidderminstereast.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk .

An officer will then be in a better position to discuss what reasonable support they can provide to you as a Watch Scheme Coordinator and to also confirm and obtain your permission to enter your personal contact details and the details of the Watch Scheme onto the West Mercia Police Watch Scheme database. This consent is then renewed annually as part of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

If you would like to keep up to date about local policing news for your area then you can follow us on Facebook under Wyre Forest Police or Twitter following Kidderminster SNT's

West Mercia Police also have several central accounts which you may also be interested in looking at. They are: Twitter: @WMerciaPolice, Facebook: @westmerciapolice and Instagram @WestMerciaPolice

You can also access news and advice via The West Mercia Police website: www.westmercia.police.uk and crime data for your area can also be found at www.police.uk

I hope that this information has assisted you with your request and please do not hesitate to contact me again if you require any further assistance.

Kind regards,

Kate Easthope
PCSO Kidderminster East and North