



## Neighbourhood Watch.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run by their members through a chosen co-ordinator, this volunteer resident co-ordinator supervises the scheme and liaises with the police.

It must be recognised that the scheme is a community initiative, which is supported by the police, not run by them, so success depends on what the members make of it.

Neighbourhood Watch provides a way for local people to play an important part in addressing the balance of their neighbourhood and making their communities safer

The co-ordinators role is to set up and maintain a Neighbourhood Watch scheme within a specific area. They will need to contact the Crime Prevention Officer at the nearest Police station that will clarify what is involved and the initial steps to take. Whilst each crime prevention co-ordinator may develop specific procedures, the following are suggested as the main duties, which the co-ordinator will need to manage.

1. Encourage vigilance amongst scheme members and encourage the reporting of suspicious incidents to the police.
2. Receive crime information from the Neighbourhood Watch Ringmaster messaging system and distribute this to members of the scheme.
3. Encourage members of the scheme to actively partake in crime prevention measures such as property marking and installing security devices.
4. Keep a check on vulnerable households.
5. Circulate newsletters and other relevant information to the members.
6. Welcome newcomers to the area and invite them to be part of the scheme.

Once a co-ordinator has been chosen/volunteered they along with their local Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Crime Prevention Officer set objectives for the scheme. Through this, activities will be planned to enable these targets to be met and for resources to be identified that will enable each scheme to carry out these objectives.

Enclosed is an example Watch Scheme Agreement, this is what is filled out by the co-ordinator with the support of the police to confirm the chosen objectives this will enable each scheme to be able to focus on what they wish to achieve, this can be altered should certain objectives be completed.

Also enclosed is a template letter that can be distributed by the co-ordinator to register interest from neighbours/fellow residents.