

## **Neighbourhood Watch Welcome Event**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 at the Martlesham Heath Pavilion**

We would like to thank everyone who joined us last Thursday at our Neighbourhood Watch Welcome Event at the Martlesham Heath Pavilion. Despite the weather, it was encouraging to see residents come together for hot drinks and biscuits to support the launch of our scheme.

### **Nick King. Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association**

#### **About the Scheme**

We were pleased to welcome Nick King from the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association, who kindly provided a talk about the value of being part of a scheme.

Nick explained that the new Neighbourhood Watch is a replacement for the old scheme created by the police over 25 years ago. These older schemes relied on one resident to raise awareness and share information.

Today, Neighbourhood Watch provides a platform for residents to report crimes, share information and come together to build a stronger community.

#### **Benefits of Being Involved**

Nick highlighted how visibility can act as a deterrent to crime, with scheme areas typically experiencing lower crimes rates with an average reduction of 20%. This can result in lower insurance premiums for residents within an area.

Attendees were provided with window stickers and leaflets to help spread the word.

Our scheme has already reached 50 members and signing up is very straightforward through the [OurWatch](#) website. Joining a scheme enables members to receive alerts from Suffolk Connected, share concerns and information, and provide suggestions for scheme initiatives.

#### **Local Police**

Nick introduced Suffolk Connected, a service provided by the constabulary where members of the scheme can receive updates about local crimes and issues affecting their area.

He also highlighted their online reporting tool which features a live chat function for direct contact with officers as an alternative means of contact alongside their 101 telephone service.

### **PC Sally King. Community Policing Team**

Our thanks also go to PC Sally King from the Community Policing Team.

#### **Local Concerns Raised**

Sally took time to discuss local concerns including pavement parking and speeding and confirmed that she will report these issues back for follow-up.

#### **Reporting and Response**

She outlined how the triage processes work following an initial report and highlighted the ability for officers to respond quickly.

### **Community Engagement**

PC King also emphasised community engagement; the importance of being able to recognise your local officer and build relationships between the police and the community. Part of their role is to engage with local residents to address and solve community-level problems.

### **Our Local Officers**

Sally confirmed that there are two community officers for our area,

- PC Sally King
- PC Arlene Ell

They cover Felixstowe, Martlesham, Waldringfield and smaller communities including Newbourne.

### **Upcoming Police Drop-In Events**

The next events planned will be held on:

- 17<sup>th</sup> February at Costa
- 20<sup>th</sup> February at 21 Young Hearts Community Café
- 21<sup>st</sup> March at Costa

Events are regularly added to their website: [Suffolk Police. Meetings and Events](#)

## **Scheme Updates and Community Roles**

### **Signage**

We were happy to confirm that we have received the new Neighbourhood Watch signs and we are in the process of arranging installation. Several members kindly volunteered to assist with this.

### **Volunteering Opportunities**

Roles within the scheme were also discussed, including the potential introduction of Volunteer Deputies.

This would enable us to connect with harder to reach members of our community, and to run additional initiatives within our scheme including visual audits and litter picks.

### **Future Events and Guest Speakers**

Looking ahead, at our event on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, we will welcome **Gemma Theobald**, Cyber Security Advisor for Suffolk Constabulary who will speak about online safety and digital awareness, and important topic in our increasingly digital world.

### **Upcoming Events**

We look forward to welcoming representatives from:

- Anglia Care Trust on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- East Suffolk Citizens Advice on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Suffolk trading standards on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to express our appreciation to our Councillor, Christine Geeson, whose input and support has been vital to the establishment of our scheme and our community events.

## **Looking Ahead**

The strong turnout and positive engagement at our first meeting has given us great confidence as we work towards our goals of being **Better Connected** and **Future Ready**.

These events aim to:

- Encourage open conversations on local issues
- Increase awareness of local services
- Promote crime-prevention initiatives