

## **REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SPEED WATCH For the AGM of Wouldham Parish Council 2022**

Peters Village Neighbourhood Watch (PV NHW) has continued to maintain a reasonable level of membership considering the number of properties occupied within PV. Unfortunately, despite various attempts it has not been possible to develop a similar scheme in Wouldham. Information has been sent out via the Parish council website, Community magazine and social media sites in an attempt to encourage further membership. It is clear both Wouldham and PV have active social media sites where information on suspicious / criminal activity is shared to all, however this can impact on the ability of enforcement authorities being able to conduct impartial investigations when required. All incidents should be reported direct to the relevant authorities along with any evidence.

Despite incidents of low-level crime and limited police resources the parish remains relatively crime free of late, there are still incidents of criminal damage/ASB and low-level drug activity. However, with the support of all residents within the parish and the ongoing picture of information being passed onto law enforcement authorities and intelligence picture is being developed to reduce the criminal activity even further.

It is hoped further membership can be encouraged following a leaflet drop and follow up home visit for those residents interested in starting a NHW scheme in their street/road.

### **Speedwatch**

The pandemic did result in operational activity having to be suspended on several occasions over the last couple of years, the situation is now back to normal. The on-loan Speedwatch equipment is still available for use across both locations, although PV has been restricted by the ongoing building work within the designed monitoring locations. The Parish Council has purchased new equipment and we are currently waiting for the Kent police coordinator to conduct an assessment to ensure it meets the specific legal data collection requirements. This is a moot point as the equipment was purchased against a police recommendation, so is just a formality.

Due to the limited numbers of volunteers a further recruitment drive will be required to bolster the numbers to run the scheme within the parish, this will also involve refresher training and a coordinated approach to identify days of activity across both sites. I'm aware Burham have shown an interest and this will need to be investigated further. The current ongoing negotiations to resolve the traffic flow and speed within Wouldham High Street may impact upon the delivery of Speedwatch, this will need to be investigated further.

I'm not sure on the currently situation with Wouldham Against Traffic, this group was very pro-active and it is hoped they will continue to focus their efforts in conjunction with the PC to resolve/find a beneficial solution to reduce the traffic flow through the High Street.

Cllr Steve Rimmington