

**MINUTES OF CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION (CBNWA)
COMMITTEE MEETING**

29th January 2026, 14.00 via Zoom

1) Welcome and apologies for absence.

Present: Paul Voden (Chair), Julian Roche (Treasurer), Kate Clark (Secretary), Sarah Wise (Office Manager), John Kennedy, Christopher Adams, Caspar Kennerdale, Janet Campbell, Inspector Rodney Kenny.

Apologies: Inspector Andy Smith, Inspector Miriam Chapman-Rosenfeld, Inspector Ryan Holliday.

2) Minutes of last meeting, November 26th 2025. Accuracy and any matters arising not covered below.

The minutes had been circulated with the meeting papers. They were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3) Treasurer's Report

JR had circulated his report before the meeting. He noted that there had been a fair amount of activity to report as the last meeting had been in November 2025. Thanks to SW's efforts in contacting the Council, CBNWA had now received the £3,000 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) funding. Two payments, amounting to £125.50, had been received from the Croydon Community Lottery. Two payments had been made to SW, in response to the monthly invoices she had presented. The Croydon Eye print had cost £279.00 so the amount spent on printing the Eye this year had been £958.00. £50.00 had been paid to hire the Scout Hut for the distribution of the Croydon Eye. He noted that the bank charge amount had not changed although he had not received written confirmation that they were staying the same. . The closing balance on 27th January 2026 was £15,820.72. CA asked about the £1,000 VAWG payment. PV noted that it had been a payment to Renee Lord-Lindsay of Croydon Community Leaders for work on the project and JR noted that it had been covered in the previous report. She is working with CK at present, arranging focus groups and working on content to be circulated.

4) Age UK/CBNWA project.

PV had attended a meeting with Age UK Croydon on 23rd January, which he reported as very productive. CA had suggested that a member of their staff attend the next CBNWA Committee meeting to discuss the project further and explain it to other members of the Committee. Age UK Croydon had been unable to provide a member of staff to attend the January meeting but will be invited to the February meeting.

Action: PV to ask Anne Vigor of Age UK Croydon to contact SW to discuss the newsletter content required to enable CBNWA co-ordinators to assist vulnerable watch members in obtaining any necessary support.

Action: KC to send joining instructions and meeting papers for the February Meeting to Age UK Croydon.

5) Police Report

RK reported that AS is planning another vehicle crime operation for February, targeting the theft of vehicles, which is a priority there. Coulsdon officers had arrested a suspect thought to have committed

robberies on seven schoolchildren. He has been remanded in custody. Speed gun operations are taking place in Kenley and Purley, again, priorities for these areas. Fines for speeding have been issued. Coulsdon officers had arrested a suspect thought to have committed robberies on seven schoolchildren. In RK's area to the north of the borough, steps are being taken to revitalise the wards, residents' associations and street associations. Two meetings had been held recently, with volunteers stepping forward to become involved. Litter picks and street cleaning is being organised, using Council resources. Messy streets cause people to avoid certain areas, leaving them more accessible for criminal activity. JC suggested the police speak with the councillors in order to arrange activities like litter picking. PV noted that these activities usually were arranged for the spring.

Action: PV to pass RK the name of the Council staff member who deals with litter picking.

RK observed that he is hoping to have litter picks undertaken in all boroughs to the north of Croydon and, if possible, in all Croydon boroughs.

CA asked if RK was looking for CBNWA to use its co-ordinators to organise litter picks but it was felt there may be a variety of organisations who could usefully be involved. KC observed that, if CBNWA were involved with the litter picking, it could lead to more people knowing about Neighbourhood Watch. RK observed that he frequently promotes Neighbourhood Watch. PV noted that CBNWA could produce leaflets for co-ordinators to let their watch members know that litter picks were happening.

Action: JC and PV to meet with RK to arrange to involve councillors in organising litter picks.

A business association is being started in the north of the borough. The Home Office has supplied a large sum of money to help deal with violent and knife crime in the area covering Thornton Heath, down to Thornton Heath Pond. Officers have been very active around South Norwood, where there has been a slight increase in robberies, knife crime and some sex offences in Norwood Park. Another drug raid had been carried out on 26th January, under Project Web, a county lines initiative. Under the initiative 14 class A drug lines have been removed in about 7 months. They are targeting cuckooed addresses and there will be intense police activity around county lines early in March. RK observed that the north of the borough had featured highly in the monthly Tactical Task and Co-ordination Group meeting held a couple of months ago but at the latest meeting it had only been mentioned on a couple of slides, which was a credit to the focussed work carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs). Police need more people to sign up for Met Engage. PV noted that about 2,200 people had signed up who also received information from Neighbourhood Watch. The Town Centre has been busy. It is the UK pilot site for the use of fixed facial recognition equipment, which is proving very successful and has led to over 100 arrests. While there is some concern about the new technology, the public are generally very positive about it and officers always thoroughly check out the people who have been stopped. A public company is going to be patrolling in Croydon. Staff will be supplied by Parkguard, a company accredited by the Home Office. The company is already supporting other boroughs. Their staff have civil enforcement powers, being able to enforce things like Public Space Protection Orders, no-drinking zones and bye-laws. They will be working eight hours a day, five days a week. Police are considering possible alternative premises for their officers to use as bases closer to the communities they patrol.

JC left the meeting at 3.02 p.m.

PV noted that off-road motorcycling had been raised at the Purley and Woodcote Ward Panel Meeting he and JR had attended. It had been going on for some time off Purley Way, to the left of the War Memorial on the tarmacked and grassed area on the west side. He had agreed to raise it at the CBNWA

meeting.

Action: RK to raise the issue of off-road motorcycling with AS.

KC asked about the government proposal to form a national terrorist police force. RK commented that it seemed an eminently sensible proposal but that discussions would just be starting about it. He noted that another white paper had suggested a national roads police. He commented that there is already a National Police Air Service and that the Metropolitan Police have begun to use drones, though relationships with the Civil Aviation Authority need to be considered on the matter.

RK left the meeting at 3.14 p.m.

6) Funding

PV noted that, while CBNWA had just received funding from MOPAC, via the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), SNB had recently been notified that MOPAC is looking to possibly remove both Admin and Project Funding from SNBs. MOPAC want SNBs to continue their work without any funding. PV observed that, without money for administrative support, the SNB cannot function. Project work could not easily be undertaken without the availability of grant money. PV noted that it had been suggested that SNBs should be funded by the police but then they would not be independent from the police. The Croydon SNB Chair, Andrew Browning, had written to MOPAC outlining the impracticalities of the proposal and the matter is to be discussed at a Croydon SNB meeting on 12th February.

SW queried whether Crystal Palace football club had been approached for funding. PV indicated that they mainly supported youth groups and football clubs, working in partnership with local organisations to help improve the lives of young south Londoners. It was noted that Tesco's, the Co-op and Waitrose made donations to local charities and that it could be worth approaching them.

7) Update from Office Manager (SW)

SW reported that she had been able to spend more time copying records to the CBNWA database from the V4 Met Alert records. While she would like to be able to use V4 more, some co-ordinators had declined to allow their records be added to it. For occasions when only co-ordinators are being contacted, a separate file of the co-ordinators not on V4 would be needed. PV noted that the database did allow CBNWA to complete spreadsheets and produce labels for the Croydon Eye. KC observed that she could no longer access V4 as an MSA as she had not accessed it for some time. She would not pursue regaining access, owing to the time involved.

Action: SW to either contact Cheryl Spruce, Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) to discuss wider use of V4 or to attend a monthly MSA's V4 workshop.

Action: SW to contact Colin Leggatt, Operations Manager, Royal Russell School to discuss the accommodation and date for the Crime Prevention Day 2026.

CK arrived at 3.24 p.m.

It was agreed that no content for publication should be accepted from political candidates nor should they be accepted as speakers at events. Editorials or spoken contributions would be acceptable from people already in office. Specific, relevant information could be forwarded to CBNWA for inclusion.

JK arrived 3.30 p.m.

KC noted that a member had been in touch asking how to add members to his watch on V4. She queried how CBNWA advised its members about this, observing that most co-ordinators did not use V4 to maintain their records. She felt that there were advantages to maintaining personal systems, as there is more control over emails that are circulated. PV noted that there is guidance on the Knowledge Hub for members and co-ordinators on matters such as this and on the General Data Protection Regulation.

8) CBNWA systems, software and communication methods. Update.

SW has been having problems with the email server, sometimes not receiving emails. She has been in touch with Ken Smith and received an email that suggested something must have changed on the server as regards CBNWA settings.

Action: SW to forward Ken Smith's email to CK.

CK noted that CBNWA now has its Office 365 charity licence and CBNWA systems and files can be migrated to the new, secure software. CBNWA governance files will be able to be centrally stored and accessed. Decisions will need to be made about things like email format and migrating the old emails. He suggested that Committee members interested should meet to discuss and agree how things should be set up. Generally he was recommending that each Committee member would have their own email address and would be able to access files centrally.

Action: CK to arrange a date for Committee members to meet to discuss the set-up for CBNWA Office 365. Initial meeting to be by Zoom.

SW queried if it would be a good idea for her to have the new laptop before migrating the systems to Office 365.

Action: CK to arrange for the new laptop and telephone to be transferred to SW.

Action: CK to complete the application for a free charity 0345 number on behalf of CBNWA.

9) Cyber sessions for co-ordinators

CK reported that there will be a follow-on session on 12th February at the Central Library. This will be focussing on things like cyber-stalking and on-line harm and will include sessions by the police. This will link to a practical session 2 weeks later. There will be some additional broader workshops and a community fair element, with stands for organisations, including one for CBNWA. There had been about 45 people at the first session, with about 18 at the follow-on practical session. The feedback had been good although some things could be usefully changed. Both sessions are to be repeated again during May and the dates are about to be advertised. He has noticed little uptake from Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, attendees coming mainly from other groups. CK suggested that the low attendance from Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators could be because they were during the day and not at the weekend or in an evening. He thought there had been greater co-ordinator involvement at the evening event in the Braithwaite Hall. PV noted that of the 80 people at CPD 2025, about 50 had been co-ordinators. Many of them did not stay for the AGM, with some leaving before the afternoon sessions. It is worth considering the timing of future events although availability of facilitators, speakers and facilities would also have to be considered. The police involved in running the cyber sessions find attendance on Saturdays problematic.

JR left the meeting at approximately 3.50 p.m.

CK observed that using the Braithwaite Hall for events offered the possibility of including wider activities as the Central Library can also be used. PV noted that planning for sessions in the future would be good as it would allow greater time for publicising the event to co-ordinators. It was agreed that it is important to brief speakers and that they should be directed to speak on relatively specific topics. However, it was noted, that there do occasionally need to be last minute changes to the programme.

Action: CK to complete an overall evaluation of the cyber sessions at their completion.

Action: CK to plan future cyber sessions, drawing on feedback from the original sessions and circulate his plans to the Committee.

Action: CK to ask participants if they are Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.

Action: CK to discuss the possibility of running Saturday courses with the police involved in the cyber sessions.

Action: Once the date for CPD 2026 has been set, SW to prepare fliers to promote the day at the cyber events.

Action: CA to find out details of the current round of grant funding from the NWN, with a view to bidding for funds to pay for training events.

10) VAWG/MOPAC project

CK reported that, working with Off the Record, a local mental health support service for young people, focus groups are being run in the library. Uptake has been low so far. Further rounds are to be run and also some with a group suggested by Renee Lord-Lindsay, Be Inspired, which is involved with inspiring young people. One of the Croydon Oasis Academies had been in touch, so could also be involved. CK has been working with Joshua Russell, Digital Ambassador at ClearCommunityWeb, to compile resources to offer as links from a web-page. They are also putting the finishing touches to a community safety newsletter which should be circulated in the next week. A future edition will focus on tech abuse and online harming.

Action: CK to check progress with Renee Lord Lindsay mid-February.

11) Events

PV and JR had attended the Purley and Woodcote Ward Panel Meeting on 27th January, to represent Neighbourhood Watch. It had been an open meeting and well attended. The new sergeant had seemed good and the meeting progressive. The meeting was held at St Swithun's Church Hall in Purley and they noted that the hall seemed to be made freely available for community meetings. PV and JR had promoted Neighbourhood Watch, the Safer Neighbourhood Board open meeting on 18th February and the NWN Bystander Training.

CK had promoted Neighbourhood Watch and spoken about cybercrime at the Park Hill and Whitgift Ward Panel meeting in December. His input was particularly appreciated as a police officer booked to speak about cybercrime at the meeting, had been unable to attend and CK was able to step in at the last moment.

12) Neighbourhood Watch Network

PV's National Neighbourhood Watch update 21st January 2026 had been circulated with the meeting papers. PV reported that the impact report was due to be issued in the next week. Neighbourhood Watch Week is due to be held Monday 1st June to Sunday 7th June 2026 and NWN will be producing materials for organisations to download to help organise events to promote Neighbourhood Watch. The online shop has some new resources, including packs for new co-ordinators explaining the role of the co-ordinator. A Leads' meeting had taken place in the week beginning 26th January. It had included coverage of the new strategy, widening the organisation from its focus on crime prevention to being community led. PV had shared this with Age UK Croydon so that they could understand the principles of CBNWA. There had been input about NWN's involvement with the Home Office and coverage of expected changes to the relationship between the Home Secretary and the Police.

Action: KC to add discussion of the new NWN strategy to the agenda of the 26th February 2026 CBNWA committee meeting.

13) Local Community Partnerships (LCP)

The Programme of Events for 2026 for the LCPs had been circulated with the meeting papers. It detailed the dates and times of the resource fairs, community planning meetings and celebration meetings for all 6 LCP.

Action: SW to send the Programme of Events to all contacts.

14) Charity Commission update

KC reported that she and JR had completed the Annual Review on the Charity Commission Website. It had been less involved than the previous year, she assumed because CBNWA's income had been a lot lower.

She had added JC to CBNWA's Charity Commission record as a trustee.

15) Date, time and venue of next meeting: Thursday 26th February 2026, 14.00. Via Zoom.

Kate Clark, Hon Secretary