

MINUTES OF CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION (CBNWA)
COMMITTEE MEETING
26th November 2025, 14.00 via Zoom

1) Welcome and apologies for absence.

Present: Paul Voden (Chair), Kate Clark (Secretary), Sarah Wise (Office Manager), John Kennedy, Inspector Andy Smith.

Apologies: Julian Roche (Treasurer), Christopher Adams, Caspar Kennerdale, Janet Campbell, Inspector Miriam Chapman-Rosenfeld, Inspector Rodney Kenny, Inspector Ryan Holliday.

2) Minutes of last meeting, 30th October 2025. Accuracy and any matters arising not covered below.

The minutes had been circulated with the meeting papers. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. It was noted that, as KC had omitted to add the word Draft as a header, the minutes were now ready to be filed by SW and PV and to be placed on the CBNWA website, replacing the previous month's minutes.

3) Treasurer's Report

JR had circulated his statement, together with a narrative report, in emails on 24th November. The closing balance on 24th November 2025 was £13,654.30.

He had received notification that CBNWA no longer met the criteria to hold a community account and that the account would become a business account in January 2026. After in person and telephone discussions with Lloyds Bank staff, JR had received agreement that the CBNWA did still meet the criteria required to hold a community account, so that the status of its account would not change in January. Bank staff had undertaken to confirm this in a letter.

He had logged on to the Council's supplier portal, changed the password and attempted to correct the address registered for CBNWA. His amendments were not, however, accepted. SW then contacted the Council and managed to get the necessary changes made. She had been assured that the MOPAC payment to CBNWA should now go ahead relatively swiftly.

4) Police Report

AS reported that their autumn and winter plan was now in effect. Each Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has been paired with another and abstractions planned across the 2 teams, to ensure that some team members can be committed to Safer Neighbourhood duties every day. Their focus is on shop-lifting, anti-social behaviour and, for the next couple of weeks, on violence against women and girls (VAWG). Additional staff have been made available to assist with developing search warrants, investigating premises associated with high-levels of ASB or being used to sell drugs. Five search warrants had been executed on 25th November, with two the previous week, together with a closure order.

The New Met for London event had taken place on 19th November. The Assistant Commissioner had joined Superintendent Dillon in a conversation about the plan with members of the public. PV

commented that it had been a well-attended meeting, with good questions from the floor. He thought that the Assistant Commissioner asking young people to come to the front of the hall and ask questions proactive, positive and a good way of obtaining their feedback. The main message coming from the police at this meeting and at the Open Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) meeting, was that their finances are reduced and they are having to prioritise their activities. It is important for them to be honest about what they can and cannot do, to focus on what the public are concerned about, like anti-social behaviour and on using effective initiatives like the static facial recognition cameras. Met Engage needs to be used more to let the public know how police have responded to their concerns. AS noted that he had circulated the draft of the 2nd phase of the New Met for London plan via Met Engage on 20th November, observing that there were some innovative proposals, including trialling the use of drones. The plan is scheduled to be launched during December. AS is happy to respond to questions about the plan.

AS reported that about 3,000 people have signed up for Met Engage, which, considering the population of Croydon, is comparatively low. A police supervisors' meeting is due to be held in the week beginning 1st December and it will discuss performance measurement, including the use of Met Engage. The police are not receiving information from the Met Engage Neighbourhood Watch link.

Action: PV to speak with Cheryl Spruce, Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) about the police receiving Neighbourhood Watch information via Met Engage.

PV noted that Met Engage had been promoted at the New Met for London meeting, the SNB open meeting and at the Cyber Security and Support event on 20th November.

5) Update from Office Manager (SW)

SW reported that she had been working on the Croydon Eye and had been updating the ward lists with details of the co-ordinators' needs in terms of numbers of copies and collection or delivery arrangements.

Action: SW to forward updated ward lists to PV early in the week beginning 1st December.

Action: PV to print labels from the ward lists and to prepare envelopes for the copies of the Croydon Eye.

Action: PV, SW, JR, JK, CA and some volunteer co-ordinators to arrive at the Scout Hut for 11.00 a.m. to prepare the publications for collection.

Action: PV to bring refreshments to the Scout Hut.

Action: PV and SW to bring street signs, clips, stickers and remaining identity cards.

PV reported that he had advised the printer to print the Croydon Eye without the final check in order to ensure that they were able to achieve the printing time limit and not have to be charged more. It will be delivered 3rd Wednesday.

Action: Committee to ensure that publications are ready for print 2 weeks before being required whenever possible.

PV noted that this edition of the Croydon Eye looks impressive. He was particularly pleased that SW had managed to fit in a thank you to the Royal Russell School at the bottom of the first page. He had shown it to AS who was interested to know that about 7,500 copies were distributed.

SW had been continuing to work on the Met Engage records so that they would receive records from CBNWA. She thought there were about 1,800 records but AS had indicated 3,000. This was presumably because not everyone had signed up for Neighbourhood Watch records. SW noted that some people had unsubscribed from Neighbourhood Watch after she had added them to CBNWA files. It was noted that some subscribers may assume that this will unsubscribe them from Met Engage.

Action: PV to look for completed interview details of the co-ordinator he had met in February and let SW know the results.

KC queried whether SW was still sending round regular e-bulletins. She indicated that there were so many emails that she did not now have time. KC suggested that some messages that were not urgent, could wait to be added to a monthly bulletin.

Action: SW to review the possibility of sending out regular bulletins again.

KC enquired if SW had received the laptop and telephone from CK yet: she had not. PV reported that CK had been busy organising the cyber security sessions. It was expected that he would transfer the items on a Tuesday.

6) CBNWA systems, software and communication methods.

PV reported that CK had undertaken to send an email update.

7) Cyber sessions for co-ordinators

About 40 people had attended the first meeting on 20/11/25. PV had spoken about Neighbourhood Watch, had given out leaflets and had run a stall. He had mentioned Met Engage, referring to an email that AS had very recently sent about the meeting with the Assistant Commissioner.

Action: PV to forward AS's email to Committee members.

Action: Committee members to check they are receiving Met Engage messages.

8) VAWG/MOPAC project

Action: CK to circulate a report on the project.

PV reported that the draft leaflet and booklet had been passed to Magdalene Usikaro, CEO of the Music Relief Foundation and the co-chair of the Local Community Partnerships (LCP) north-east. She will run some focus groups with young people to check if they will find the materials useful. She has contacts with some schools and contact is being made with the Guides at St Andrew's Church. PV asked for other suggestions of youth groups. KC noted that CA's work towards a National Lottery Bid, had changed into being the MOPAC project. PV said that CA had explained that he was handing the project over to CK in his last email about it. CK had obtained money from the LCP to put towards focus groups with the digital ambassadors. Once the publications are produced they will be distributed to the schools and the project will then move on to a social media campaign. Some of the MOPAC funding is being used to pay Renee Lord-Lindsay to do this work. PV has updated the SNB about the project developments. KC commented that, while this is a joint venture, the Committee need to make sure that CBNWA and Neighbourhood Watch are promoted throughout.

9) Events

Julian and Chris had represented CBNWA at the Public Safety Week event in North End on 11th November. Several people had expressed an interest in becoming co-ordinators and several application forms had been given out.

KC noted that one person at the Crime Prevention Day (CPD) had suggested having some interactive sessions next year. She wondered if interactive sessions in the afternoon might attract more co-ordinators to attend the AGM. PV noted that we had not received the copies of the presentations used.

Action: SW to ask Colin Leggatt at Royal Russell School if he has the presentations and, if so, to forward them to PV.

KC asked how many co-ordinators attended the CPD as only about 15 had been present at the AGM. PV confirmed that he did have the information. KC commented that it would be useful to know how many co-ordinators attended any events with which we were involved with.

Action: CK to ensure that evaluations from cyber events involving CBNWA should ask if participants are Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.

10) Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN)

PV's National Neighbourhood Watch update 21st November 25 had been circulated with the meeting papers. He had attended a meeting on 24th November. Final details of the NWN strategy had been agreed and he had circulated the strategy that will be presented to the NWN AGM in December. He observed that it has been reduced to four pages, with a one page summary which summarises NWN's goals. The other pages include the milestones, dates and success measurements.

Action: CBNWA to agree a date at their next meeting to discuss, in person, implementing the strategy, once it has been accepted at the AGM.

11) Local Community Partnerships (LCP)

PV noted that the LCP Celebration Day was taking place on 27th November. Each of the 6 localities would be presenting its projects. More LCP meetings were being organised as fairs, so that participants can make contact more easily with organisations and individuals with whom they want to speak. CBNWA does not have representatives attending meetings in all 6 localities: Committee members agreed that it is important that it does.

12) Any Other Business

It was agreed to consider the NWN Safeguarding Policy when the Committee reviewed their other policies.

KC had circulated to Committee members details of her discussion about the secretary's role with Niall McNevin. He is working full-time but had volunteered to take on the role if KC needed to give it up immediately. She has taken it on for the year and had envisaged undertaking the core functions of the secretary's role for that year. What she had been hoping to find was someone to support the Committee with some of the other activities she normally undertook. However, Mr McNevin was only interested in helping with the minutes, which would be difficult for him at the moment because of his work commitments. He is hoping to reduce his working hours during 2026.

Action: KC to arrange to meet with Mr McNevin in summer 2026, discuss the role further, then arrange for him to attend a Committee meeting, with a view to nominating him as secretary at the 2026 AGM.

KC had started to draft a document with a list of core activities and a list of additional activities that needed to be undertaken if time allowed. She had circulated it to Committee members.

KC queried if new co-ordinators received a welcome once they had been accepted. It was noted that the interview by a Committee member would pass essential information to them and offer them an opportunity to ask questions. PV noted that there is a welcome pack on the NWN's Knowledge Hub, to which new members should be referred.

KC had postponed the date she and JR had set to complete the Charity Commission Annual Review and would arrange another date after her mother's funeral. It did not have to be completed until the end of January. JC is going to ring KC when she can, so that KC can explain her trustee role now that she is formally a Committee member. When that has been completed, KC will add her details as a trustee to the CBNWA entry on the Charity Commission website.

KC observed that it would be good to have a search facility on the CBNWA website but realised that this was not a priority.

13) Date, time and venue of next meeting: Thursday 29th January 2026, 14.30. Via Zoom.

Kate Clark, Hon Secretary