

**MINUTES OF CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION (CBNWA)**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February 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), Christopher Adams, Janet Campbell, Inspector Andy Smith.

Apologies: John Kennedy, Caspar Kennerdale, Inspector Miriam Chapman-Rosenfeld, Inspector Rodney Kenny.

Guest: Emma Cardoso, Age UK Croydon

**2. Minutes of last meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. 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. Another £64.00 had been received from the Croydon Community Lottery, bringing the total received this year to £641.50. Expenditure this month had been for 1 month of Manager's Costs and £4.25 for bank charges. The closing balance on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 was £15,702.27.

**4. Police Report**

AS reported that all staff were very busy. A lot of work has been generated by social media posts about Croydon Wars, encouraging people to come into the town centre to fight on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Police have been responding with messages to schools encouraging children not to become involved and have been removing the social media posts where possible. A large police presence is planned for the town centre on 27<sup>th</sup> to deter anyone who does attend intent on fighting. CA asked if this would involve abstractions of officers from other areas of the borough. AS replied that there may be a small amount of abstraction but that additional officers were being obtained with funding from Operation Martello.

A lot of burglaries are occurring in the south of the borough, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Additional patrols are being undertaken at peak times and messages being passed encouraging local people to be extra vigilant with their security.

**Action: SW to send messages to co-ordinators in the south of the borough warning them about the burglaries, encouraging them to be vigilant with their security and to report any suspicious activity to the police.**

Next week is County Lines Week. There are a lot of plans for proactive work in the week, including automatic number plate recognition, traffic operations and serving of drug warrants.

11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of February there had been an operation targeting most vehicle offences. The

outcome was not as successful as wished. A lot of stolen cars were recovered and a couple of offenders driving stolen vehicles were arrested. 1 person being chased crashed into another car and then escaped when police stopped to assist the crash victims. Vehicle crime is a big issue and a lot of work continues to try to prevent it. PV noted that it had been raised at the Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting 18<sup>th</sup> February, so AS's Met Engage message about the operation sent on 23<sup>rd</sup> February will have been well received. AS observed that it is expensive to run a big operation like this: on one night there had been 18 police cars involved and a lot of overtime is also involved. He hopes they will be able to run one operation per quarter, which will involve a lot of preparatory work, identifying offenders and areas being targeted. JR asked if the permanent Live Facial Recognition cameras were now in fulltime operation. AS replied that they were only in use when they had enough staff to operate them and to respond when wanted people were identified. JC was concerned about the use of AI to promote events such as Croydon Wars, keen to find ways to prevent the spread of information about them. She had been asked by the Council to put information about the possibility of the Wars on her status page but had refused to do so as it would be further publicising the information. AS agreed with her that the less information like this was shared, the better. Officers working on Project Alpha, are able to remove postings where there is good reason to do so and can often identify who had posted them. PV said that Superintendent Luke Dillon had reported in an update on the situation that 6 online streaming organisations had been closed down already.

## **5. AGE UK Croydon/CBNWA project**

EC works as part of Age Concern UK Croydon's Community Referral Team, offering their Personal Independence Co-ordinator (PIC) Service. They work with people over 50 with long-term or multiple health issues, aiming to help them increase their independence and age well. The service does not work with people with unmanaged mental health problems, drug and alcohol problems or who lack the capacity to set goals. EC and PV had met a month ago to discuss how CBNWA and AGE UK Croydon could work together, with co-ordinators being able to refer people in to the PIC service. EC commented that the PIC service are thinking of starting a once a month drop-in Zoom meeting for people unsure about referring someone to the service. PV noted that he had suggested that we circulate a newsletter to co-ordinators, explaining what the PIC service offers, how to identify people who might benefit from the service and how to refer them. EC would provide the content with SW editing and issuing the newsletter by email. This could be completed by the end of next month. Copy could also be added to the June Croydon Eye. JR commented that he could copy information into newsletters aimed at Residents' Associations, which would spread the message further.

## **6. Funding**

PV reported that MOPAC had changed their proposals and decided to offer funding again this year. It is hoped that the same amount will be given as last year. CBNWA will need to bid for funds for a new initiative. It is anticipated that the application forms for bidding should be available at the end of April. Andrew Brown, chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), has asked the Council if they will match the funding that MOPAC provides so that projects proposed by more organisations can be supported: over 40 proposals had been submitted last year but only 6 could be funded.

## **7. Update from Office Manager (SW)**

SW reported that she had not heard from Colin Leggatt about the date for the Crime Prevention Day (CPD) 2026.

**Action: SW to contact Colin Leggatt again about possible dates for CPD 2026.**

PV said that it would be good to start getting out publicity about CPD 26 as soon as possible.

She has been concentrating on authorising Croydon people who have registered for Met Engage to receive Neighbourhood Watch messages via V4 and copying their details to the CBNWA database. She has completed another 300 approximately and is nearing the end of the work. The total Met Engage records authorised and copied is approximately 2,000 so far.

She had received a telephone call from a potential member, spoke to her about Neighbourhood Watch and sent her an application form.

## **8. CBNWA systems, software and communication methods. Update**

PV noted that SW had received a laptop from CK on behalf of Clear Community Web (CCW). SW said that she is not yet using it as it does not have Excel or Word, though she has downloaded something similar. She will check out the viability of using the CBNWA database with the alternative software. She had not received the mobile telephone yet.

**Action: PV to check with CK that CCW is still able to supply CBNWA with a telephone.**

## **9. Cyber sessions for co-ordinators (CK)**

PV reported that a session had been run in Croydon Central Library on 12<sup>th</sup> February. About 30 people attended. CBNWA had had a stand. KC asked how many who had attended were co-ordinators. PV did not know but thought that CK was planning to ask in future registration or evaluation forms. CK had mentioned to PV repeating the evening Cyber event held at Braithwaite Hall last July. He noted that some attendants had queried holding the event in July, as a lot of people were away on holiday: he suggested late June or very early July for the 2026 repeat. It was decided to go for an early evening again as it was felt that people may be busy on a Saturday.

**Action: JC to check the availability of the Braithwaite Hall for Friday evenings in late June and early July.**

Stall holders would be invited as previously, Trish Burls from Croydon Trading Standards, representatives of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs), Barclays, Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) Police Officers and CK with Clear Community Web. CA observed that the focus of the day would be cyber plus other things and PV agreed. CA said this would need to be borne in mind if Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) were approached for Community Grant Funding for the event. Both he and PV had asked NWN when the next funding window would be but had not heard back yet. PV suggested that Trish Burls would be a good speaker and JC suggested Andrew Browne. PV noted that Andrew could be invited to speak at CPD 2026. JR suggested that there could be speakers and stall holders who

might attract young people. PV suggested a speaker from Be Inspired and CA suggested someone involved with running Croydon College's Uniformed Public Services course. PV observed that Zachary Williams of Be Inspired used to work at Croydon College. KC suggested trying again to get Alex Loukas to attend to speak about Crimestoppers.

**Action: PV to get in touch with Zachary Williams, invite Be Inspired to take part in CBNWA activities and ask him to get in touch with CA about contacts for Croydon College's Uniformed Public Services course.**

**Action: KC to approach Alex Loukas about speaking at either Cyber Plus event or CPD 2026 once the dates of the events are known.**

## **10. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)/MOPAC project**

The focus groups to help decide the content and presentation of materials to be sent out to schools had been completed. The materials need to be printed and distributed to the schools by the end of March and the end of project report also needs to be submitted by the end of March. PV has made arrangements with Eve Miller-Biot, of Clear Community Web, to prepare the paperwork for the report. JR should receive an invoice for the printing in the near future. PV noted that £2,000 of the £3,000 is left at present.

## **11. Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) (PV) (Paper attached in email)**

PV's National Neighbourhood Watch update 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and the NWN Our strategy 2026-2030 had been circulated with the meeting papers. PV noted that the NWN strategy had been circulated to all Neighbourhood Watch associations. CBNWA need to agree how it will implement the strategy locally. JR thought that the mission and the vision were brilliantly written.

PV highlighted the free Neighbourhood Safety training for businesses and shops.

**Action: SW to circulate details of the free Neighbourhood Safety training for businesses and shops to all contacts, alerting them to the training and encouraging all Co-ordinators to alert their local shops and businesses to it.**

PV suggested forwarding the information to Croydon Business Improvement District (BID), CA to Your Croydon and JC to Inside Croydon.

JR had included information about the training, indicating that the content could be useful for people at home too, in his latest residents' newsletter. He had also included details of the NWN mission and vision statements.

**Action: PV to publicise the training as widely as possible.**

## **12. Events**

JC commented that one thing fairly frequently raised with her about Neighbourhood Watch is that it is very white and, given the demographics of Croydon, this was why many people did not

join. She noted that there had been a good mix of people at CPD 2025, in terms of ethnicity and age, but that this was not featured in photographs and reports of the day. PV asked if there were any groups that JC thought CBNWA should approach and offer to speak with about Neighbourhood Watch. She recommended the BME Forum, as it has a large WhatsApp list.

**Action: PV to contact Andrew Browne, Chief Executive Officer, BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Forum and offer to speak about Neighbourhood Watch at an online forum to encourage recruitment.**

CA asked if we need to change the way we work to attract different sorts of people to become involved. He has been involved with the Committee on and off over many years and the issue of an imbalance in race, age and gender has been raised before. People who become involved tend to be middle-aged plus and from the south of the borough. PV thought that CBNWA having stands at the Local Community Partnerships Resource Fairs would reach a wider audience. KC noted that Committee meetings being held in the middle of the day suggested that the majority of Committee members were not working. PV observed that there was no reason meetings could not be held in the evenings. JC felt that active recruitment is needed. She noted that only one person had challenged Chris Philp when he was talking about arrests at CPD 2025. PV felt that we should be advertising the CPD as a day for the borough rather than a day for co-ordinators. CA felt that we should select some speakers and themes likely to attract different audiences. Be Inspired was suggested. CA commented that having speakers like this would indicate that CBNWA was part of a network rather than depending on the hierarchy of Police and Council. JR asked how CBNWA could reach out to demonstrate Neighbourhood Watch is not just for white people. JC recommended keeping things simple and state that CBNWA would like more people to become involved: tell people “we want to hear from you.” This would be likely to attract more funding. PV suggested creating a new leaflet to give a clear message that CBNWA is keen to welcome any new members. JC suggested it could be distributed on estate notice boards and to other places likely to be used by people who do not traditionally engage with Neighbourhood Watch. CBNWA needed to consider what traditional non-members would find helpful from NW: she suggested that people living on estates, for example, might be interested in keeping safe. She said how potentially useful CA’s work to try to establish neighbourhood watch in schools had been. The schools had not wanted to be involved but it could be that if it was championed by a senior councillor or Council officer it could be accepted. She suggested that the proposal could be presented afresh, after the local election in May, when the new Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will be in post. CA commented that the proposal would need to be reworked, to address local politicians. JC observed that there were other ways of reaching a young audience through organised groups like Guides and Brownies.

**Action: JR to run a stand at the Local Community Partnerships (LCPs) North West Resource Fair on 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**Action: CA to cover the North East Resource Fair on 29th April.**

### **13. Local Community Partnerships (LCP)**

PV reported that the grant funding available from the LCP should become available from the end of March. The funding is from the National Health Service and the focus this year is on smoking and alcohol. JC noted that vaping is more of a concern amongst young people and hoped that this would be included within smoking. PV observed that none of CBNWA's projects would be likely to fall within the scope of the LCP grants.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

CA suggested asking an organisation, such as Croydon BID, to sponsor the production and distribution of Croydon Eye for a year in return for the opportunity to promote Croydon BID within Croydon Eye. Several years ago he had been working on a similar scheme for CBNWA, aimed at working with the Croydon Chamber of Commerce. PV suggested the Chamber of Commerce as being currently active in supporting community safety issues.

**Action: CA to draft a sponsorship offer and work with PV to direct it to a suitable organisation.**

CA asked if PV had managed to get on the Pride in Place meeting with Sarah Jones, due to take place 27<sup>th</sup> February. The invitation had been addressed to John Heywood-Cripps instead of PV. PV had emailed Sarah Jones, enquiring where the meeting was to be held but had not heard back.

**Action: PV to contact Sarah Jones again about the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February immediately after the CBNWA meeting ended.**

#### **15. Date, time and venue of next meeting: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 14.00. Via Zoom.**

Kate Clark, Hon Secretary