

MINUTES OF CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION (CBNWA)
COMMITTEE MEETING
30th April 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.

Apologies: John Kennedy, Caspar Kennerdale, Janet Campbell, Inspector Andy Smith. Inspector Miriam Chapman-Rosenfeld, Inspector Rodney Kenny

2) Minutes of last meeting, 26th March 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, together with the End of Year Statement for 31st March 2026 and the Grant Funding Expenditure Monitor. In the last month, £77.50 had been received from the Croydon Community Lottery, the Manager's costs had been £139.05 and the Tackling Violence brochure had cost £1799.00. The closing balance on 28th April 2026 was £14,450.72. The closing balance for the End of Year Statement was £16,311.27. PV observed that the balance of the money had come through from the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), in time to be included in the End of Year Statement. JR has updated the Grant Funding Expenditure Monitor, including adding in the costs for the Office Manager's support over the year. It showed that £20,150 had been received and that expenditure, so far, has been £11,764. CA queried the discussion from the previous meeting about payment to CK for cyber security workshops delivered by ClearCommunityWeb. CA had assumed that CK would provide these, as a CBNWA trustee, without charge. PV observed that invoices had not yet been submitted for the workshops, CK had only submitted a query as to whether he was entitled to payment. Any possible payment for the workshops is not reflected in JR's records. JR observed that the last payment we had received from the SNB had been for £750.00. PV noted that this was the balance of the £3,000.

Action: CA to review the original proposal for the MOPAC 2025 bid, to see if it included payments for cyber security workshops.

Action: If the proposal did not indicate any payments to be made for workshops, CK would not receive such payments.

Action: PV to await CA's review, before proceeding with discussions about payment for the workshops with CK.

4) Police Report

No reports had been received from the Police. PV noted the reports to Ward Panels and SNB regards various knife attacks across the borough over the last fortnight.

5) Update from Office Manager

SW had been unable to work much over the past month for personal reasons. She had sent the information relating to Age UK Croydon's Personal Independence Coordinator Service to CBNWA Co-ordinators. She had used the CBNWA database to do this. PV agreed that V4 cannot be used to send messages to CBNWA co-ordinators only. However, he observed that he could see no reason why the information could not usefully be sent to all CBNWA contacts. SW observed that she needed to contact Cheryl Spruce for advice about maximising her use of V4.

Action: SW to send information relating to Age UK Croydon's Personal Independence Coordinator Service to all CBNWA contacts.

She has authorised another 90 Met Engage records to receive CBNWA information and added them to the CBNWA database.

PV reported that Sarah Jones, MP Croydon West and Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, had agreed to speak at CPD 2026. Once the local elections have been completed, the relevant councillors can be approached with a request for their input. Cheryl Spruce, of the Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) has also agreed to speak. PV suggested that Trish Burl, Croydon Trading Standards; Robert Gourley, Station Commander, Croydon Fire Station and Chris Philp, MP Croydon South, Shadow Home Secretary could be invited again. Superintendent Luke Dillon, the Safer Neighbourhood Inspectors and Age UK Croydon should be invited to speak. KC observed that she had asked Alexa Loukas, of Crimestoppers about the date already. She is unable to do it but is looking for a volunteer to be involved. She is able to attend the Cybercrime: types and prevention evening on 11th June: KC has asked CK to contact her as he was concerned that her focus should be on cybercrime.

Action: CA to contact Zachary Williams to invite him to speak about Be Inspired and to arrange for students on Croydon College's Uniformed Public Services course to speak about the course at CPD 2026.

Action: CA to send Zachary Williams contact details to SW.

Action: Committee members to send any further speaker suggestions to SW as soon as possible.

Action: SW to invite speakers in the week beginning 4th July.

Action: KC to add finalisation of the CPD 2026 speakers to the agenda for the next Committee Meeting.

Action: Once speakers have been agreed, an initial promotional flier to be drafted by SW.

SW confirmed that dates for CPD 2026 and for the Cybercrime: types and prevention evening were already advertised on the CBNWA website. She observed that the next edition of the Croydon Eye could carry information about CPD 2026.

PV noted that the summer Croydon Eye is normally prepared for the end of June. Details of the AGE UK Croydon's Personal Independence Co-ordinator Service and how CBNWA co-ordinators can use it could be included. PV reported that when she had met with him and JC, Sarah Jones had agreed to contribute material to every copy of the Croydon Eye and PV had suggested she contact SW to arrange this.

Action: Committee to aim for a print date in the third week of June.

Action: JR to negotiate use of the Scout Hut for distribution day, ideally for Friday 3rd July.

6) AGE UK Croydon/CBNWA project

PV reported that he had heard from Emma Cardoso that they not received any referrals from CBNWA co-ordinators as yet. PV had observed that it was early days. He felt that sending the information to CBNWA's wider contacts group was a good thing to do.

7) Funding

PV had discussed with CA this year's MOPAC funding. CA noted that bids have to be submitted by 15th May. They had discussed extending the work on the violence against women and girls. The costs of producing the leaflet have been met, so the bid will need to focus on building on the work already done. PV observed that the Tackling Virtual Violence leaflet needed to be distributed to schools and as many relevant organisations as possible: he has approximately 50 boxes of them, so there would be a cost involved. CA noted that originally, it had been suggested that the leaflet and topic be promoted in pop-up presentations in schools and other places: banners and posters could be produced to use for this. PV suggested talks in schools and CA suggested use of social media. Copies of the leaflet could be given to Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA), the Libraries and the Police. CA summed up that the bid for funds would focus on the distribution and launch of the leaflet.

Action: PV to give Andy Brown a box of the leaflets for the Wellness Centre within the Whitgift Centre and to distribute via the BME Forum.

Action: Committee members to take copies of the leaflet to Local Community Partnerships (LCP) meetings and hubs.

Action: CA to prepare bid for MOPAC funds and circulate to Committee members for comment.

KC apologised to fellow Committee members that she had not discussed with them the text of the letter she had sent to the eight prospective Croydon Executive Mayors. PV had noted to her that the previous secretary had written to the candidates in the previous election and it had been important to send the letter as soon as possible, owing to the impending polling day. The responses from Jason Perry and Rowena Davis had been forwarded to Committee

members and a response had just been received from Richard Howard. Mr Perry had said “I was so pleased to restore Council funding for CBNWA when I came into office” and “while I am Mayor, I intend to maintain my support for your grant”. KC noted that CBNWA had only received one grant of £14,000 during Mr Perry’s tenure, not one each year. PV would need to negotiate the matter of frequency of the grant with him. PV observed that the £14,000 the Council had supplied came from the Violence Reduction Unit. PV said he would encourage the other candidates to respond at a hustings meeting he would be attending later in the day.

Action: KC to forward Richard Howard’s response to Committee members.

8) Cyber sessions for co-ordinators

PV has booked the Braithwaite Hall for the Cybercrime: types and prevention event on 11th June: he is due to make the payment for this on 1st May, which will secure the reservation. He has asked the catering team for a quote. CK reports that most of the speakers have confirmed they will take part. He is intending to circulate an agenda to Committee members in the week beginning 4th May.

Action: KC to check if Alexa Loukas of Crime Stoppers will be speaking.

9) Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN)

PV’s report National Neighbourhood Watch update 22-April 2026 had been circulated with the meeting papers. PV had joined the leads’ meeting on 27th April and he is expecting the presentations from the meeting to be circulated on 1st May. The presentations will include details of publicity materials being made available for Neighbourhood Watch Week 1st-7th June. CBNWA has been nominated to give a presentation at the July meeting about its activities and how it operates: details

Action: PV to circulate the presentations from the leads’ meeting to Committee members.

Action: PV to give prepare a presentation for the July NWN Leads’ meeting and circulate to Committee members for comment.

Events

KC reported she had promoted Neighbourhood Watch at the LCP Central East Resources Fair 22nd April. The event had been well attended and there had been a good level of interest in Neighbourhood Watch. She noted particularly a conversation with Shalini O’Kane of Croydon Vision, who had observed that, for people with sight impairment, having a telephone contact number is often extremely important. KC queried if CBNWA should buy a mobile telephone and have a new number as the one offered by ClearCommunityWeb had not materialised and it is unclear if CK still has the old CBNWA mobile. SW mentioned that CK had mentioned a way people could call, without CBNWA actually needing a phone but that, failing this, purchasing a phone with a new number would be a solution. A representative of Shirley Neighbourhood Care was keen to promote Neighbourhood Watch.

KC had forwarded a photograph of the CBNWA stand to SW to use for promotional purposes.

Action: KC to pass contact details from the Resources Fair to SW.

Action: SW to see if contacts wanted regular information from CBNWA and check if they wanted further information about Neighbourhood Watch.

CA reported that the LCP North East Resources Fair on 29th April had not been as well attended as the previous one he had attended at the Library. However, this had given him more chance to interact with the other groups at the event. He had spoken with the Resilience Officers for Croydon Council. They link with the Environment Agency and, for the 29th April event they were focussing on encouraging householders to check if their homes are on a floodplain. They were handing out relevant information. They will be getting in touch with SW about providing information to be added to Croydon Eye and to explore how they pass information to and work with Met Engage.

Action: CA to ask the Resilience Officers to send SW the graphics of the card they had been distributing in pdf format.

Stall holders had been asked to promote the Bystander Training sessions as there were 25 vacant places for the session in the week beginning 4th May. CA thought, during the event, about 10 people had expressed an interest and were intending to sign up. PV said he thought this session would be the last of the Bystander Training sessions.

10) Local Community Partnerships (LCP).

PV noted that Steve Reed MP will be involved in The 2026 Croydon Summit, an open event at Croydon College on 26th June. This will look at decentralising government and getting people involved in their local communities. It will showcase the development of the LCP in Croydon, exploring if similar developments could be introduced elsewhere. PV indicated that discussion would raise the problem with the present model for the LCP, with funding coming from NHS sources. This is limiting what the LCPs can achieve. Funding needs to be made available from central government.

11) Update on meeting with Sarah Jones.

PV and JC met Sarah Jones on 24th April. They gave her a pack of information about CBNWA and its activities. She agreed to attend CPD 2026 and to publicise the 11th June Cybercrime: types and prevention event; to work with Cheryl Spruce to promote the new NWN Police Awards; to arrange a contribution to every issue of the Croydon Eye from either herself, Steve Reed or Natasha Irons and to reintroduce and promote CA's proposals for introducing Neighbourhood Watch within schools, trying to influence schools to participate. She would like to attend the SNB May meeting and will promote the continuation of MOPAC supplying funds to SNBs. She had wanted to know the main cause for concern of CBNWA co-ordinators and PV and JC had let her know this was anti-social behaviour and vehicle theft. PV and JC had commented on the lack of

enforcement for Public Space Protection Orders, observing there was little point in having regulations if there were insufficient officers to enforce them. They had noted the impact of continued high levels of abstraction, with increased crime. PV had commented that there should be a central resource to deal with protests and similar events in central London. This resource could be released to support policing in the Boroughs when not needed centrally. She had commented that there is a small central resources and that this is a London wide problem that needs to be resolved.

Action: PV to forward photograph of Sarah Jones, JC and him to SW for the Croydon Eye.

12) Any Other Business

PV reported that CK could not ever attend meetings on a Thursday, as it is one of his static delivery days. KC queried if we needed then to change the day of the meeting. PV agreed that this is probably necessary.

KC reported that she and PV had discussed how many active CBNWA co-ordinators there actually are. PV had suggested reviewing whether each co-ordinators should remain as a co-ordinator or become a member, asking them what they are actually doing. She had reflected on this and felt that it would not be likely to motivate co-ordinators nor that many responses would be received. PV observed that, of the 300 co-ordinators, about 80 collect and distribute the Croydon Eye and asked what the other 200 were doing. JR noted that a smaller number attend the Crime Prevention Day. PV commented that there is no way of knowing what the others are doing. He noted that some would say that they forwarded emails but being a co-ordinator involved interaction with people in the Watch. KC suggested that active co-ordinators speaking or writing about what they do could encourage others. PV suggested that a list of what is expected of co-ordinators could be produced. KC thought this a good idea, as then co-ordinators would be clear about what is expected of them. A session at the Cybercrime: types and prevention for co-ordinators had been proposed, to discuss what they did and would like to do. However, KC observed this would be difficult to do without knowing how many co-ordinators would be attending. CA suggested using the Neighbourhood Watch Week materials to encourage co-ordinator activity. PV suggested that a supplementary Croydon Eye page could be produced in August, featuring co-ordinator activities. This would be placed on the CBNWA website and distributed by email, with a small number of copies being printed to be taken of LCP Resources Fairs and similar events.

Action: KC to attempt to check Co-ordinator attendance at the Cybercrime: types and prevention event by asking participants if they are co-ordinators as they arrive and, if they are, noting their names.

Action: SW to circulate details of neighbourhood Watch Week to co-ordinators.

Action: SW to ask co-ordinators to feedback news about their activities, related to Neighbourhood Watch Week and generally, for the Croydon Eye.

13) Date, time and venue of next meeting: Wednesday 27th May, at 2.00. Via Zoom.

Kate Clark,
Hon Secretary