

MINUTES OF CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION (CBNWA)
COMMITTEE MEETING
25th June 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, Janet Campbell, Acting Inspector James Martin.

Apologies: Christopher Adams, Caspar Kennerdale, Inspector Andy Smith, Inspector Miriam Chapman-Rosenfeld, Inspector Rodney Kenny.

KC emailed the meeting papers to JM as he had not received them.

2) Minutes of last meeting, 27th May 2026. Accuracy and any matters arising not covered below.

The minutes had been circulated with the meeting papers. SW queried the action in Item 11 Any other business: PV to ask SW to forward the message to Croydon Council, enquiring about the Council's position on the matter. PV suggested that the action could probably be more easily undertaken by JC, who agreed to take in on. He said he might also mention it to CA to raise with Ola Kolade, Croydon Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice, as he would see him at the Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting on 15th July.

Action: JC to query the Council's position in relation to empty properties, as raised at the Committee meeting of 27th May.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3) Treasurer's Report

JR had circulated his report before the meeting. £20.00 had been received from an individual donation and £69.00 from the Croydon Community Lottery. Manager's costs had been paid and £181.50 for the Cyber event refreshments. £47.00 had been paid for the IT ICO fee: JR apologised that this appeared on the incorrect line in the statement. He has already corrected the error. £4.25 bank fees had been paid. The closing balance on 22nd June 2026 was £13, 958.52. PV commented that SW had sent JR the Cheap Print Invoice for the Croydon Eye. JR reported that he had not seen this. SW noted that, lately, emails she had sent to JR had bounced back. SW tried emailing JR via Gmail and he received the email.

Action: PV to forward the Cheap Print Invoice to JR.

Action: SW to email JR using Gmail in future.

4) Police Report

JM reported that Operation Porus, a Home Office knife-crime initiative is currently underway and will continue for 2 to 3 years. On selected days, there will be a lot more officers in the town centre and at East Croydon and they will work closely with Croydon Council, working beside youth officers and drug and alcohol workers. A similar initiative last year had been very effective. Live facial recognition operations in the town centre are still proving effective, even with few people in the centre because of the heat. These events are being run 3 or 4 times each month. SNT duties are being arranged so that

there is always one team available to assist other teams when needed. For Neighbourhood Policing Week, the Safer Neighbourhood Police had maintained stands in North End and at Box Park. ITV News had featured the initiative and several members of the public had made contact to let police know the areas of Croydon where they did not feel comfortable. East Croydon appears to be the main area for concern. Police will work with the Council to improve the area, with funding from Operation Porus to undertake things such as increased CCTV coverage, improved lighting and reviewing the street furniture in the area. JR asked about the increase in drivers leaving petrol stations without paying and if there was a problem with asking them to pay before they received their petrol. JM responded that he thought most garages were keen for drivers to come into the office to pay as they frequently bought items in the garage shop. In some garages, there is the option to pay at the pump or to pay in the shop. With automatic number-plate recognition, if a driver has failed to pay previously, the pump will not be automatically unlocked. JM confirmed that he was temporarily covering the town-centre, as MCR is again temporarily acting up as Chief Inspector Safer Neighbourhoods. Abstractions are occurring seasonally. During May there were a lot, with football fixtures and other events. There are less at the moment but several festivals are happening in the summer which will have an impact. JC asked about any new initiatives involving young people and whether there is any way in which Neighbourhood Watch can support police work in this area. JM responded that, with the funding connected with Operation Porus, police are considering how they can work with sports and council officers to engage with younger people. The routine additional patrolling connected with the end and beginning of school terms will be going ahead as usual. PV mentioned Neighbourhood Watch Network's Community Policing Awards, where members of the public are being asked to nominate officers for outstanding community police work. PV noted that the awards included Police Community Support Officers as well as Police Officers and noted that nominations could be submitted until 5th July. Details have been forwarded to CBNWA co-ordinators.

Action: PV to forward details of the Community Policing Awards to JM.

Action: JM to share information about the Community Policing Awards with the Croydon SNTs.

5) Croydon Eye (SW)

SW reported that she had sent Croydon Eye to the printer.

Action: SW to send PV details to enable him to print the ward lists for use on the distribution day.

The printed copies would be delivered to PV who would take them to the Scout Hut for 9.00 a.m. on 2nd July. JR would collect the key to the hall. PV noted that a couple of co-ordinators had volunteered to come and assist. KC would get to the hall as early as possible and JK would come when he was able. Co-ordinators had been advised that they could collect their copies between 9.30 and 2.00. SW observed that preparing the Croydon Eye and the ward lists is very time consuming.

6) Update from Office Manager (SW)

SW had contacted Cheryl Spruce at the Neighbourhood Watch Network, who had clarified how to contact co-ordinators via V4. She has transferred all the remaining records on V4 to the CBNWA database and has authorised them. As new people register with Met Engage or via the Neighbourhood Watch Network and appear on V4 she will continue the process. She has not invited the Met Engage people to become co-ordinators. She said that she could email them and invite them to become co-

ordinators but that they would receive the Croydon Eye, the front page of the July 26 edition is about becoming a co-ordinator.

7) Funding

Of the 7 projects the Safer Neighbourhood Board had put forward to MOPAC two had been turned down including the CBNWA bid. It was turned down on the basis that it did not meet the criteria set and that it was too similar to last year's project. PV had enquired whether CBNWA could modify and resubmit their bid but this was not permitted. PV had let CA know that the bid had been turned down.

8) CBNWA systems, software and communication methods. Update

PV reported that CK, PV, JR, SW and KC had met, via Zoom, to discuss the use of a charity licence for Office 365. They had discussed purchasing the use of Word and Excel. CK was going to investigate the cost involved. PV noted that, until this is sorted out, there is little point in considering how CBNWA can use Office 365. SW is not using the new laptop presently, as it does not have Word or Excel.

9) Events

SW reported that she had not received many responses to the invitations to speak at Crime Prevention Day (CPD) 26 yet: a lot of the invitees appeared to be on annual leave. She confirmed that she had sent an invitation to Jason Perry, the Executive Mayor. PV noted that, when we have received responses, we can then begin to plan the agenda.

Action: JC to chair any Q&A sessions on the day.

JC noted that she would bring her family to the day.

JC reported that she felt the Cyber event on 11th June had gone well. Her family had been engaged throughout the event, there had been a good diverse mix of people in the room, though few young people. The participants had asked questions of speakers. KC observed that there was only one co-ordinator at the event who was not a member of the CBNWA committee. The committee agreed that an opportunity had been missed to encourage people to join Neighbourhood Watch. JC observed that she felt she would be good at encouraging people to become involved and would happily take on this role. PV noted that he had asked Dr Manju Shahul-Hameed, Croydon Council Shadow Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice to open the second part of the Cyber event. He felt that the structure of the event, with a break in the middle to allow participants to visit the stands, had worked well. The event had been well attended, with approximately 55 participants.

10) Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN)

PV's National Neighbourhood Watch update 18th June 2026 had been circulated with the meeting papers. He commented that the main item of note was the Community Police Awards.

11) Local Community Partnerships (LCP)

PV had drafted a form with 3 questions for the LCP North West event that evening 25th June, checking if people knew if they had a street co-ordinator, if Croydon Eye was delivered to their house and what they would like CBNWA to do in their street. He intended to ask attendees to complete the questions.

SW observed that it would be helpful to know which street was being referred to and PV said he would ask people to add their street to the sheet.

Action: PV to forward the form to SW.

Action: SW to add a question asking the name of the respondent's street and to circulate the form to all committee members.

KC reported that she would be attending the LCP Central West event on 1st July.

12) Any Other Business

KC reported that she had been in contact with Niall McNevin, that he was now in a position to consider taking on the role of Honorary Secretary and that they would be arranging to meet in August to discuss the matter.

Action: SW to submit her invoice before going on leave at the beginning of July, to ensure that it will get passed for payment in good time, owing to Committee member leave arrangements.

13) Date, time and venue of next meeting: Thursday 30th July at 2.00p.m., via Zoom.

Kate Clark,
Hon Secretary