

**Highnam Parish Council – Annual General Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

**Report on Highnam Neighbourhood Watch.**

1. The role of NHW is to have in place a structure for neighbours to support each other by keeping an eye on each other's property and belongings, reporting incidents that may upset the ambience of the area and the circulation of information received from the Police or their neighbours.
2. NHW is arranged around NHW Street coordinators who take on responsibility for a small number of properties in the area where they live. This is usually 10 to 15 properties
3. Over the past 18 months, there has been a higher than usual turnover of Street Coordinators. Despite efforts to find replacements with door-to-door mail shots, this has meant that the number of active schemes has been reduced from 40 to 36 and the number of homes in Highnam with a street Coordinator is now down to 711 as compared to 807 in March 2019.
4. The Alert System, which replaced the old Police Watchword System has now settled down and is functioning very well. All Alert messages are now received by email and no longer by telephone. Most of the Street Coordinators in Highnam have set up their own closed user email groups to share information received with those neighbours who are prepared to provide the coordinator with their email details.
5. During the past 18 months, there has been an increase in theft from homes and vehicles in the Parish along with outbreaks of anti-social behaviour. Arrests have been made and cautions given where appropriate. The increase in the number of home security systems around the village has contributed to assisting the Police to identify the miscreants involved.
6. PCSOs regularly carry out patrols in Highnam subject to operational availability and conformance with Covid restrictions. Notwithstanding, reported crime in Highnam is still well below the County average.
7. The NHW Newsletter prepared by the West Gloucestershire NHW Association usually delivered twice yearly has not been possible as door to door deliveries by Street Coordinators has not been permitted under Covid rules.
8. The grants received from Parish Councils, of which Highnam PC was one, to fund the newsletters, has meant that the Association has instead set aside the accrued funds for use when it is possible to return to normal and used for training, newsletters and administration.
9. As I shall reach the age of 80 next year, I have again indicated to both the Parish Council and the Police that it was my wish to step down as the Highnam NHW Key Coordinator. However, as no replacement volunteer has come forward, it has been necessary for me to continue.
10. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the coordinators in Highnam, the Police, Rural Beat Officer and the PCSOs who regularly patrol Highnam and who respond quickly to our problems.

Steve Doyle. OBE.

NHW Key Co-ordinator for Highnam.

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.