



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



The Alresford & District Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM was held at the Alresford Golf Club on Thursday 24th September.

The meeting was chaired by David Pain who explained that Gareth Rees, current Chairman, had suddenly resigned earlier this year and with no Vice Chairman appointed David (as previous Chairman) was chairing this AGM.

David started by welcoming all in attendance to the meeting and commented that 22 Attendees was only one short of the 2014 AGM when the local MP, Steve Brine, had made a presentation. There were 12 apologies received and then Sergeant Andy Fisher gave a presentation on current policing issues and developments.

Due to ongoing budget requirements and the latest reduction in Government funding for Hampshire Constabulary there are a number of changes being made and these included:

- Some North Walls police staff are moving to Winnall Fire Station, on a sharing basis, and the Neighbourhood police are moving to Mottisfont Court, Tower Street in November
- Currently officers who leave are not being replaced and only PCSO's are being recruited
- The current local policing structure will be maintained with the Response Team, Neighbourhood Teams and the Investigation Team
- Andy explained that the Hampshire Constabulary was already among the most efficient, so further cuts will be very difficult to achieve as the number of Police Sgts will be reduced and our area will be policed by one PC (with 1 on assignment to Winchester) four full time PCSO's with one part time PCSO and one Special Constable
- He also gave some tips on crime prevention such as leaving lights on, in homes; but varying rooms and times if possible. An alarm box (even a dummy) on front of houses is effective and leaving the glove box open in a parked car, as potential thieves may see it empty and move onto a vehicle with a closed glove box
- Finally Andy confirmed "Borderless" policing is now being employed i.e. sharing the Response teams, and many incidents have been traced to outsiders, not Hampshire residents, such as the latest A272 ball-bearing missiles damage

Andy then took various questions from the floor and reminded all those present to report every crime, even if we think the police will take no action, as they are all recorded centrally.

David then read out the Annual Report and included the following points:

- Peter Petheram is standing down from the Committee and David thanked Peter for his sterling work over the past few years.
- Committee elections were then ratified with George Clelland and Colin Harris volunteering to stand as new Committee members, whilst the remaining five members were re-elected.
- Finally David confirmed that the new Alresford PCSO was Rhys Griffiths and non-urgent queries could be emailed to: winchester.rural.police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk