

Neighbourhood Watch

an introduction for all residents



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch has been in operation since 1982 and is a recognised and successful crime fighting initiative. The main idea behind Neighbourhood Watch is a simple one – community spirit cuts crime.

Neighbourhood Watch is not about being nosy or gossiping, it is about developing local knowledge, building community spirit and developing links with your local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

Your road does not currently have a registered Neighbourhood Watch, so we are looking for people who want to be members of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme as well as someone to act as a co-ordinator.

What are the benefits of being in a Neighbourhood Watch?

There are many benefits to being involved in Neighbourhood Watch. Research by insurance companies shows that residents in neighbourhood Watch areas are less likely to be victims of burglary - that's why they often offer discounts on policies if you are covered by Neighbourhood Watch. Watches are also in regular contact with the local police so minor problems can be dealt with before they develop further. By being part of an active community you will help deter the criminals. Your Watch will also get street signs installed by the council which helps send out the message that the community is working together to prevent crime.

What would be expected of me as a member?

We would not expect too much from you as a member of a Watch but would expect you to review your home security, property mark all your possessions and keep an eye out, and report any suspicious activity in your area, but you can be more involved if you wish.



What is expected of me if I were a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator?

As a co-ordinator you are the 'link' between your community, the local police teams and the council. Being a co-ordinator will not take up a lot of your time – no more than two hours a month but you can put in more time if you wish. We will send you information on local crime issues as well as crime prevention tips.

You will have the support of your local SNT, Wandsworth Council's Community Safety Division and the Wandsworth Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association.

I would like the road to be involved - what is the next step?

When an individual or group wishes to start a Neighbourhood Watch the Community Safety Division will organise a launch meeting where all residents can attend. This is a good opportunity to meet your local police team, your council officers and of course your neighbours!

At the meeting we will explain how Neighbourhood Watch works, give everybody a members pack as well as discussing local issues.

If you would like to be involved in Neighbourhood Watch or would like to know more please contact us:

Telephone: (020) 8871 7696

Email: dtscommunitysafety@wandsworth.gov.uk



If you have difficulty understanding this in English, please contact:

Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

English

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different format please contact the Community Safety
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email dtscommunitysafety@wandsworth.gov.uk.