

Dear Scheme Members,

I am contacting you as you have subscribed to receiving newsletters from Stockport Neighbourhood Watch Association.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SNWA WEBSITE & DATABASE

As I mentioned in my Chairman's Update to co-ordinators last July, we have reached the conclusion that asking coordinators to register on two separate databases is both confusing and liable to result in errors. Therefore, we are going to phase out the Stockport Neighbourhood Watch database and ask everyone to register on the National, (Our Watch), database.

Some coordinators have already registered their schemes on the National Database but there are quite a few who are still only on the Stockport one. Because of co-ordinator or email address changes some co-ordinators may have missed my previous emails. If you find your scheme has not been re-registered on the national site please let your co-ordinator know.

While the local functions involved in finding and registering a scheme will be removed, there will be a link on the website to take you to the OurWatch site, which has similar functions. Please follow the instructions at the end of this newsletter to re-register on Ourwatch. Unfortunately we can't do the transfer for you, but we are available to provide advice and once registered we can help you administrate your scheme, if needed.

The Stockport Neighbourhood Watch Association and our website will continue to run in all other aspects, providing Crime Stats and Social Media links and Crime Prevention Information. We aim to maintain local links to the Council and Police and other organisations and to provide information relevant to Stockport and Greater Manchester, while the National website concentrates on more country wide topics.

If there anything you would like us, the Stockport Neighbourhood Watch Association to do for you, please let us know. This could be additional information on the website, or provision of stickers and posters, or possibly we could get a supply of litter picking equipment (long reach grabbers etc.) for loaning out?

LOTTERY GRANT

The continuance of the SNWA website and the email facilities that we use, are dependant on our obtaining sufficient funds to pay for their upkeep and annual costs. We recently applied for a lottery grant to pay for upkeep of the website, and also signage and events. Unfortunately our first attempt was unsuccessful but we plan to re-apply.

We need evidence from yourselves to illustrate what SNWA does for the local community and give us a better chance of obtaining a grant. Could you please let me know how what we provide makes, or could make a difference to your lives or your community. Any stories of successes, how it strengthened your community, reasons why you got involved etc. would be appreciated.

Replies to chair@stockportnwa.org

If you have any suggestions as to possible sources of funding, we are always interested to receive them. We have in the past had some very generous grants from the Council and the Police but we are currently urgently in need of donations.

Thank you for your help,
Phil Handscomb
Chairman
Stockport Neighbourhood Watch Association

Instructions for registering your scheme:

- 1 . Access OurWatch on the web by searching for ourwatch or entering www.ourwatch.org.uk
- 2 . You need to be registered as an individual on the OurWatch database before you can set up a scheme, so select a "JOIN US" box and complete the form to register.
- 3 . Once you are registered you can log in and follow the instructions to create your scheme. If you have any problems please let us know.
- 4 . The scheme will need to be approved on the system, which may take a few days, then it will be available for other members to join.
- 5 . You might then like to ask other members of your scheme to join OurWatch and register with your scheme, although this is not in any way essential if they prefer not to do so.

Once your scheme is set up on OurWatch there will be these additional benefits with the OurWatch registration over the Stockport NWA one:

- You can message your members via their emailing system.
(although feel free to continue to use your old method if that suits you)
- Ourwatch can send you and your scheme members information directly.
- You are covered by the national liability insurance.
- Potential new scheme members will be able to find you and join.
- Deputies can be registered on the system.
- You can also add members directly.
- Ourwatch will be able to get more funds if they can show that have more members.