

Neighbourhood Security Report – 2014

On behalf of the Parish Council I have for a second year continued to ensure police security messages are notified to those residents who have requested them. This has occurred through their original placement on the Parish Council's former Homewatch service and those who asked to be included within its Ashby Update Service.

Neighbourhood Security remains an agenda item for discussion and review on every meeting that the Parish Council holds. This provides for the Parish Council to receive reports from the Police service when one of its officers can attend our meetings, which gels well with considering former Homewatch issues, now issued by Norfolk Constabulary under the title of Police Alerts.

When circulating these Police Alerts, residents are also advised when our Parish website had been updated. It is hoped this encourages them to take a quick look to see what headline changes have been made. This Parish Council initiative is known collectively as the Ashby Update Service / Homewatch (Police Alerts) and remains free to all residents to receive.

The service remains as it was this time last year. Parishioners who wish to, receive messages that focus on the Police alerts which I have identified as affecting Ashby and its immediate surrounding parishes. Where this occurs, my messages report a local crime and/or an important police message. Recipients can opt out from our free service at any time. Because our service is expressly for the Ashby community, it does not cater for those who wish for police messages affecting the wider area – they can view the Norfolk Constabulary website to do that.

Update messages are sent so that email addresses remain private and unseen by other recipients. They are circulated approximately once or twice a month so it is not a case of receiving countless unwanted messages. Our messaging service is simply aimed at providing a useful tool for making known neighbourhood security issues as well as awareness of changes affecting our community through the Parish Council website.

I am pleased to report the security and website update service is steadily attracting new recipients, the latest being a new resident in the parish who within a month discovered our Parish Council website. Our total uptake is over a quarter of all the parish's households and the Parish Council would be delighted if this number increased further. It remains a worthy advertisement for the community spirit of the village.

If anyone present is not a recipient of our Parish Council service, please do not hesitate to seek more details. To join will take less than a minute as only your name, address and email details are needed. And for those who already receive this service, please extol its virtues to your friends and neighbours in Ashby, as being part of a homewatch group can assist with insurance premiums. The service is simple, useful, beneficial and best of all, free to receive and be part of.

Chairman that concludes my 2014 Neighbourhood Security report.