

## 2017 ASHBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2016-17 NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY REPORT

The neighbourhood security messages are issued to those who have asked to be included in the council's free Ashby Update Service. On behalf of the Parish Council I remain responsible for ensuring, when I receive any, that police and other security messages are notified to residents as soon as reasonably possible.

Neighbourhood security remains an agenda item at every Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council receives a report from a police officer when one is able to attend our meetings. These are given in tandem with Police Alert / Homewatch issues.

The notable reduction of Police Alert messages in 2015 has continued still further during 2016-17. It is sad to report but it would appear details of crimes within the general Loddon area have effectively ceased. In last year's report I stated I had enquired about this reduced level of service and the PCSO then responsible for our area ascertained the reason for the much reduced service was insufficient funding and staff to continue the level we had come to expect. He assured me notice would be forwarded to the parish clerks of areas in which any crimes were committed but this may not extend to crimes in neighbouring parishes. The most recent information I have received was from our clerk which was a document giving numbers of types of crimes within the area of Loddon, Chedgrave, Brooke and Broome but not (for instance) the area or village where the crime took place or what was stolen or targeted. The reduction in the level of the previous service and its usefulness is greatly regretted as it effectively gives the impression to parishioners of eroding confidence in neighbourhood security policing.

The most helpful alerts of reportable activities have been received by me from one of our own parish councillors to whom I offer my thanks. The most recent involved a couple of instances of suspicious vehicles and their occupants who drove away at speed when challenged. I circulated that information as rapidly as I could to the parishioners that receive the parish council's Ashby Update Service. We should all be grateful for the diligent actions of parish residents who keep a watchful lookout so incidents that warrant it can be circulated amongst our close-knit community. This circulation of security issues is part of a Parish Council initiative known as the Ashby Update Service / Homewatch (Police Alerts) which is free for all residents to receive.

The Ashby Update messaging service is a useful tool for making known not only neighbourhood security issues but also notifying changes affecting our community via the Parish Council website, or that the website has been updated. Existing recipients can opt out from this free service at any time. The neighbourhood security and website update service has increased to 55 recipients (between one third and a half of all the parish's households) and is a worthy advertisement for the community spirit of the village.

To anyone who is not a recipient of our Ashby Update Service incorporating HomeWatch / Police Alerts I would be happy to provide more details via a factsheet. I do commend everyone in Ashby to join, as being part of a homewatch group can result in lower insurance premiums. The Ashby Update service is quick, easy, beneficial and best of all, free to receive and belong to.

That concludes my 2017 Neighbourhood Security report.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor