

2023 ASHBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2022-2023 NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY REPORT

On behalf of the Parish Council, I confirm I am its current representative with the responsibility for providing Neighbourhood security messages. These are issued to those parishioners who have asked to be included in the parish council's free Ashby Update Service.

I remain responsible for ensuring that, when I receive any, 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. Whereas a report would be received from a police officer, if one was in attendance, because of police resources, that is simply no longer possible. Even Police Reports referring to figures of crimes etc within our area - or even a large, virtually regional, area – have sadly long gone.

Since this time last year I have not received any Police messages or reports of issues that have directly affected our parish. Homewatch matters have been received in the form of circulars dealing with national topics. For that reason I remain grateful if parish residents who keep a watchful lookout, and report incidents to me so that they 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 Ashby residents to receive.

The Ashby Update messaging service is also a useful tool for notifying changes affecting our community via the Parish Council website, or that the website has been updated. The neighbourhood security and website update service stands at 52 recipients this year (between one third and a half of all the parish's households) and is a worthy advertisement for the community spirit of the village. The parish council welcomes more Ashby recipients to join it. Being part of a homewatch group can result in lower insurance premiums. More details via a factsheet can and will willingly be provided. The Ashby Update Service is quick, easy, beneficial and best of all, free to receive and belong to.

The Ashby Update Service is the perfect antidote, albeit not as instant, for those who don't use, wish to use, support, or have anything to do with a Facebook group. One viable alternative for circulating important security issues and delivered instantly, would be a dedicated WhatsApp village network which I have tried to gain support for in the past. Unlike Facebook, although owned by the same company (Meta), WhatsApp is encrypted and therefore much safer. It only takes a few parishioners to provide their mobile numbers to commence a village group which could be administered by one or more councillors. It is also worth pointing out the members of the new Ashby Amblers cycling group use a WhatsApp group system for keeping in touch to extremely useful effect.

That concludes my 2022-2023 Neighbourhood Security report.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor