

Neighbourhood Watch Community News

FINAL ISSUE

*

December 2025

For the 2,300 members in the Ferndown South and West Parley Neighbourhood Watch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, DECEMBER 2025

In the current Autumn edition of our Neighbourhood Watch Community News, I wrote of the difficulties we face in maintaining the relevance of an organisation created in 1982 to prevent crime by improving security and vigilance, fostering and maintaining a caring community, and reducing opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.

The need remains but can the method be altered?

We undertook a survey the opinions of our 150 key volunteers who act as Coordinators and Contacts/Distributors. We had 45 responses, about one third of the total. The consensus suggested that:

- The majority of road Contacts found distribution of the Newsletter increasingly difficult to maintain, but there were also many residents who valued the neighbourly contact and wished it to remain.
- A majority of responses showed a strong preference to get more timely and relevant information from the multiple online sources – some are listed on pages 3 and 4.
- It was particularly worrying that by simply undertaking a survey, many Contacts and a number of Coordinators, who have supported the Watch for some time, would now use this opportunity to withdraw their involvement, including those with key roles in the Management Committee.
- The Community News contained much of interest but was no longer an essential vehicle to promote crime prevention and community activity.

What comes out strongly is that while many Residents no longer feel they want to be actively involved in community affairs, there is still a large number who want community related information and feel they want to be a part of a vibrant, welcoming community.

The Management Committee has accepted the results of the survey and proposes the following to maintain the key features of NHW within the community.

- List where relevant and timely information can be found on social media, and review and encourage wider understanding of where further web based information is available.
- Encourage smaller groups to set up to replace the existing Watch, probably based on neighbourhood networks - WhatsApp and Facebook.
- Retain the existing network of yellow NHW signs on lamp posts. To be maintained by the Parley Volunteers.

Our Constitution requires that decisions of the Management Committee should be confirmed at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). This would approve the distribution of surplus funds and any other matters. EGM will be held on 20th January 2026, see details on Page 2.

Many of us have been involved with the Watch for over 20 years and some up to 40. It has been a pleasure to work with so many community-minded Residents from the Watch area who have willingly given up so much of their time to support the Watch.

Particular thanks go to Tom Blyth who has done such a superb job as Editor over the last 10 years.

Take care and stay safe.

John Cullen at johncullen.nhw@hotmail.com; phone 01202 582662

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) 20TH JANUARY 2026.

In accordance with the Watch Constitution, the Chair and Management Committee now call an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Date and Time: Tuesday 20th January 2026, at 7.30pm.

Place: St Mark's Church, 250 New Rd, West Parley, Ferndown BH22 8EW.

Attendance: Members may wish to attend the EGM to confirm the current proposal or to offer alternative ways for the Watch to continue as it is. *This will involve Members taking on the Chair, Editor, Treasurer and other Management Committee positions that need to be in place and effective by Spring 2026.*

Members must email the Chairman by mid December to advise that they will be attending and for agenda details to be sent out.

The Constitution requires a quorum of 25. If no such quorum is established, the recommendations of the Chair and Management Committee will be passed *nem con*, final actions approved (such as the disposal of funds) and the meeting dissolved.

Outline of Business:

- To receive the Chairman's report on the survey of Coordinators and Contacts, and the recommendations of the Management Committee.
- Consideration of the Accounts and to authorise the disposal of funds.
- Any other business (to be notified to the Chairman, John Cullen, before 5 January 2026.)



WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Our residents have spoken – our 'Big Watch' isn't what the majority want. But as individuals we can keep connected on crime prevention and social cohesion, remain watchful, and organise to foster 'neighbourliness'.

We suggest three steps:

Step 1: Establish and Keep Contact with Your Neighbours:

- Set up a *WhatsApp* group to involve your neighbours. It's probably the simplest thing you can do and setting it up provides a means of meeting your neighbours – especially those you haven't yet met.
- Set up a *Facebook Page*. If you use social media, you already know how to use Facebook. Again, sounding out the views of your neighbours gives you an opportunity to knock on local doors and chat to your neighbours about starting a Facebook group.
- Join '*Next Door*'. Some residents may already be members of this free commercial web-based social meeting place. Active in over 11 countries in 340,000 neighbourhoods, and with 'millions of transactions every day'. <https://about.nextdoor.com/en-gb>. The platform claims to foster meaningful interactions around shared concerns like safety, local services, and neighbourhood events.

Step 2: Receive regular updates on crime, crime trends, policing and how to protect yourself

- Go to www.dorset.police.uk for full details and information about every aspect of neighbourhood policing, with links to UK-wide policing matters.
- Consider making anonymous reports to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org (no www is required). The organisation needs us to be alert and to act on our suspicions.
 - They say that criminals like to perpetuate the

XEROCAD PRINT CENTRE

Located in the centre of Ferndown
Xerocad offers High Quality Design,
Print & Copy Services at Competitive Prices
alongside our Stationery Shop

Free Customer Parking
to Rear of the Shop

10% Discount for
Neighbourhood Watch Members*
*Some exceptions apply

t: 01202 897297 e: info@xerocad.co.uk
w: www.xerocad.co.uk
527 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AQ

print

copy

design

scan

Marilyn Waldron Female Decorator

Tel: 07967 881 335
maz2sas@hotmail.co.uk

Freshen up your living space!

also cater for

- Exterior Paintwork
- Outbuildings
- Fences Stained

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555111

100% anonymous. Always.

myth that you shouldn't 'grass'. This allows them to continue inflicting damage to our communities and suffering to many, whilst living off the profits of their crimes.

- Many people have suspicions of those who live a lavish lifestyle, but do not work, or of cash businesses that have few customers yet are still trading.
- Anyone who has information about those orchestrating or carrying out crime can contact our charity anonymously – we guarantee this.
 - We will never ask for your name, or any other personal details.
 - Computer IP addresses are never traced.
 - Telephone calls are never recorded - there is no caller line display and no 1471 facility.
 - Even the police won't know who provided the information. What matters is what you tell Crimestoppers, not who you are. The only person who will know you have contacted us is you. Speak up. Stay safe. Stop crime.

Step 3: Keep in touch and informed.

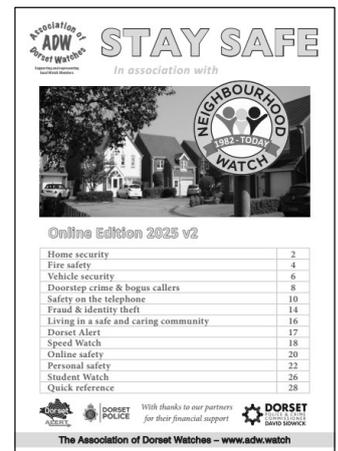
- Sign in to www.dorsetalert.co.uk to register with this excellent two-way community messaging tool operated by Dorset Police. It is a part of the UK-wide Neighbour Alert network. It helps keep people informed and engaged, improving public safety by fostering communication between local authorities, police, and citizens.

• The Association of Dorset Watches (ADW) offers excellent, concise advice on the sort of local, neighbourhood crime and safety measures. Copies of their 'My Safer Dorset' 24-page booklet were distributed to our Watch members in 2024-25 but can be



accessed online as a PDF from the website, eastdorsetcommunities.org.uk/stay-safe.

- The <https://mysaferdorset.com/> website is an information and signposting gateway where the communities of East Dorset, North Dorset, West Dorset, Purbecks and Weymouth and Portland can access information, and practical assistance on responding to issues in their community.
- If you want a single source of wisdom on all the concerns that most affect our communities, this should be your 'GoTo' website. Everything is there, from anti-social behaviour, through graffiti, scams, drugs, bullying, neighbourhood disputes, dangerous dogs and more.



M.Y. HEATING

Installation & Service of gas appliances, boilers, cookers, gas fires, warm air units and plumbing

No call out charges & Free estimates

64, Locksley Drive, Ferndown BH22 8JZ

Tel: 01202 877237

Mob: 07710 409586

Speak to Ray or Kelvin

**Gas Safe Register No. 150213 & Warm Air registered
NIC EIC Unvented registered**



We also repair your existing windows

KEEP YOUR HOME SECURE

Don't take a chance **SELECT** the right company for windows, doors and conservatories

SELECT

PVC-U TRADE SYSTEMS LTD

Opening Hours Monday-Friday 9.00am-5.00pm Saturday 9.00am-12.30pm

01202 877977

114 COBHAM ROAD, FERNDOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, FERNDOWN, DORSET BH217PQ

FENSA

Certified Company 10419

**You'll take comfort
that Worcester
make boilers ...**



**...and they're installed by your
local Worcester Accredited Installer**



*Terms and conditions apply

www.ferngas.co.uk

email: service@ferngas.co.uk

40 Victoria Road, Ferndown, BH22 9HZ



Tel: 01202 876020

OTHER USEFUL SOURCES OF COMMUNITY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Our local town and parish councils publish local information, details of voluntary groups and services.

- Dorset Council offer a huge range of relevant information on volunteering and community support as well as their own services at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
- Ferndown Town Council lists clubs and societies, support and volunteering opportunities, events and local news at www.ferndown.gov.uk.
- West Parley Parish Council has all of the above plus a wealth of information on the local community, its history and a wide range of local walks that reflect the history of the village. All to be found at www.westparley-pc.gov.uk
- Our many local free magazines are all available online and in print at local stores and Ferndown Library, which is a gem!
 - Stouravonmagazine.co.uk
 - Aroundguides.co.uk/ferndownload
 - Dorsetview.co.uk/viewpointmagazine
 - Ferndowndirectory.co.uk



Residents who are unaware of the set of fine local walks, plotted to explain the rich history of their village, may wish to visit the parish website to try any and all of the listed Heritage Walks. The map is included.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ABOLISH PCCs BY 2028

On 13 November 2025, the government announced plans to scrap PCCs and transfer their powers to elected mayors or council leaders by 2028.

Introduced in 2012 to replace the powers of local, elected authorities, PCCs became responsible for oversight of policing in England. The government's announcement will see PCCs replaced by "regional mayors". There are currently none in Dorset, which may need to restructure again, possibly forming a combined authority from the current two unitary authorities – Dorset Council and BCP.

We believe that our PCC, David Sidwick, has done excellent work since he was elected in May 2021. He has called the announcement "beyond disappointing" and criticised the lack of consultation or detailed planning.

He expressed concern over the future of police accountability in Dorset, stating that the move "raises more questions than it answers". He "utterly refuted" the Home Secretary's claim that PCCs were a "failed experiment", arguing that when done properly, PCCs provide strategic oversight, acting on behalf of, and elected by the public.

He emphasised that Dorset's PCC office has been effective in delivering, with the Chief Constable, a Police and Crime Plan shaped by public priorities.

Thus in our view the proposal is nonsense, driven by some false expectation of public spending costs.

And so, as we wind down our NHW Watch, we say...

