

EASTLEIGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ADOPTED ON 18 JULY 2011

1 Name

The Association shall be called the Eastleigh Neighbourhood Watch Association, hereafter referred to as "the Association".

2 Mission

The mission of the Association is to promote the interests of Neighbourhood Watch groups throughout the Eastleigh and Hedge End sectors of Hampshire Constabulary through activities described in the Objectives set out below.

3 Objectives

- 3.1 To promote and facilitate free communication between the Association, its members, and the Police on all matters relevant to Neighbourhood Watch.
- 3.2 To provide an organisational link between the constituent Neighbourhood Watch groups and the Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association.
- 3.3 To support existing Neighbourhood Watch groups and to encourage the formation of new groups where appropriate by advice and examples of good practice.
- 3.4 To develop and provide effective information systems and services which help to improve communications and facilitate the work of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators.
- 3.5 To work in partnership with the Police and in liaison with other agencies having mutual interests, e.g. Victim Support, Age Concern, Local Authorities, etc.
- 3.6 To stimulate awareness of crime and crime patterns within the Association's area.

4 Membership

Membership of the Association is open to the Coordinators of all recognised Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Eastleigh and Hedge End sectors of Hampshire Constabulary.

5 Committee

- 5.1 The Committee shall comprise:

The Officers of the Association (as defined in paragraph 5.3)

Elected ordinary members (as defined in paragraph 5.4)

Co-opted members (as defined in paragraph 5.5)

The Eastleigh Police District Commander or authorised nominee

The Eastleigh District Crime Prevention or Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer

- 5.2 The voting members of the Committee shall be the Officers of the Association and the elected ordinary Committee members.
- 5.3 The Officers of the Association shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be appointed by the committee at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.
- The Committee may at its discretion appoint a President to serve for as long as is agreeable to both parties. The President may act as the Association's representative to other organisations and may carry out other duties as agreed with the Committee, but he or she shall have no voting rights at Committee meetings.

5.4 Election of Committee Members

All members of the Committee shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall serve for two years at a time. In addition to the four Officers one committee member shall be elected for each 50 NW schemes or part thereof at the date of the Annual General Meeting. As far as possible the committee should be representative of all parts of the Association's territory.

Irrespective of the position(s) they may have held no person may serve on the committee in an elected capacity for more than eight years in total, not necessarily consecutively.

5.5 Co-opted Committee Members

The Committee shall have power to co-opt non-voting members. This power may be exercised to fill a vacancy caused by resignation of an elected member pending the next Annual General Meeting, or to provide specialist skills or experience as appropriate. In the latter case co-option shall be for a maximum of one year, but may be renewed on the recommendation of the Officers.

5.6 Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

The Officers and elected Committee members shall be *ex officio* the nominated representatives of the Association to the Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, eligible to attend and vote at all its General Meetings.

The Association Committee shall appoint one of its Officers or elected members to serve on the Committee of the Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association. This appointment shall be made for one year at a time, and will normally take place at the first Committee meeting following the Association's Annual General Meeting.

6 General Meetings

6.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in July. At least 21 days written notice of this meeting, together with the agenda, shall be given to all members.

6.2 The business of the AGM shall include:

- a. A report on the work done during the previous year by or under the auspices of the Committee on behalf of the Association;
- b. Presentation of audited accounts for the previous financial year;
- c. Election of Committee members. Written nominations, duly proposed and seconded by two members of the Association and signed by the nominee, shall be submitted to the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the AGM. If insufficient nominations have been received to fill all vacancies the remaining places may be filled by nominations from the floor during the AGM.
- d. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

6.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Association may be called by the committee or at the written request of not less than 5% of the Association members. Such a meeting must be held within one month of receipt of a valid request, and all members shall be given 21 days written notice of the meeting and the business to be transacted.

6.4 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business at any general meeting, annual or extraordinary, shall be 7.5% of the Association members.

7 Committee Meetings

7.1 The Committee shall meet at least five times per year.

7.2 A minimum of five Committee members, of whom one must be an Officer, shall form a quorum.

8 Finance

8.1 The Association may raise money by donations, grants, sponsorships, subscriptions or through fund-raising activities. Money received by the Association may only be used to further its Objectives as defined in paragraph 3 above or to facilitate the activities of Committee members on the Association's behalf.

8.2 An account in the name of "Eastleigh Neighbourhood Watch Association" shall be maintained in a bank approved by the Committee. All monies received by the Association shall be paid into this account. Three Officers of the Association shall be authorised by the Committee to sign cheques and to make withdrawals; two signatures shall be required in every case.

8.3 The Association's financial year shall run from 1 April to 31 March.

8.4 The Association's annual accounts shall be audited and certified by an independent examiner appointed at the previous AGM.

9 Records of Meetings

9.1 Minutes shall be taken at all meetings of the Association and/or the Committee.

9.2 Minutes of any meeting shall be made available on request to any member at reasonable notice.

10 Constitutional Amendments

10.1 Following the adoption of this Constitution by the Association any amendment shall require a simple majority vote at a General Meeting of the Association. Members shall be given at least 21 days written notice of such a meeting, which shall include the full details of the amendment(s) proposed and the names of the proposers and seconders.

11 Dissolution of the Association

11.1 If the Committee decides by simple majority vote that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association for any reason it shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association. Members shall be given at least 21 days written notice of the meeting, which shall include the reasons for the proposed dissolution. The resolution to dissolve the Association shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present.

11.2 After a valid resolution to dissolve the Association has been made, the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Association. Any assets remaining after settlement of debts and other liabilities shall be given to such other institution(s) having similar objectives to the Association as the Committee may decide.