

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is a countrywide voluntary organisation formed in the UK over 30 years ago to work with the police in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Hambleton South Neighbourhood Watch Association (previously known as ELAPNWA) was founded in May 2002 and now covers the towns of Thirsk and Easingwold and the surrounding areas and villages, an area of some 300 square miles.

Aims of Neighbourhood Watch:

Cut crime and the opportunities for crime.

Help and re-assure those who live in fear of crime.

Encourage neighbourliness and community spirit.

Report, to the police and neighbours, suspicious and criminal activity.

Improve home and personal security and increase vigilance.

Develop an effective working relationship with the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams and other agencies, such as Fire & Rescue.

Survey findings about NHW:

NHW Schemes were found to be effective in 79% of cases when compared with similar areas without schemes.

NHW Schemes are generally highly valued by the public.

Four out of five people not already in a NHW scheme indicated that they would join if there was one in their area.

How to set up a NHW Scheme:

- Consult with your neighbours to see if they want to be involved
- Log on to the Hambleton South website on www.hsnhwa.org.uk for more information
- Contact Hambleton South NHWA on [info@ hsnhwa.org.uk](mailto:info@hsnhwa.org.uk) and/or your local police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who will assist in the setup, explaining what is involved, the benefits to be gained, and help arrange a setup meeting locally
- Schemes can be small or large, usually influenced by geography.
Each scheme is led by a Co-ordinator, who is the communicator between the Police and the residents
- Co-ordinators are registered on the police 'Ringmaster' database, which is used as the communication link between the police, NHW and Co-ordinators. Messages can be received by e-mail (preferred), telephone or text for passing on to neighbours
- Identify the locations for the free NHW lamp-post signs – a deterrent to the potential criminal

Benefits of being a NHW member:

The satisfaction of assisting the police in fighting crime and reducing the fear of crime.

Being the 'eyes and ears' of the police - No one knows the locality better than the residents and they can recognise and report suspicious incidents.

Identify and provide assistance to elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

Statistics suggest that areas with NHW schemes are significantly less likely to suffer from crime than those without.

Discounts are often given by household insurance companies and other companies to members of a NHW scheme.

Hambleton South is among the lowest crime areas in the country, but we must not become complacent. Because we are considered to be living in a relatively wealthy area with major road access, there is growing cross-border crime; therefore the police welcome the reporting of suspicious incidents. In rural areas there is a seasonal increase in poaching, often linked to other criminal activities.

NHW aims to keep residents informed and aware of criminality and risk, and work with the police in finding solutions to minimise problems.

It is recognised that NHW and police colleagues will never totally eliminate crime but NHW can make an effective contribution in deterring it and through vigilance and reporting they can significantly improve detection rates. If you are not a member of a NHW scheme at present or yours has become inactive, now is the time to give serious consideration to forming/refreshing one in your locality.

Remember: to prevent crime is everyone's responsibility