



Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches

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NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3

2010 Quarter 3 - July

This newsletter can also be downloaded from our website

Hello from Lisa

You've probably all seen my name in various places, and I've probably e-mailed you or maybe we've spoken on the phone. So I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself and give you a little bit of insight into the workings of AoSNW.

My background isn't in Neighbourhood Watch or Community Safety. I've always worked in a learning and development environment, in the private, public and charitable sectors. I saw this job as an opportunity to take my experience of developing people and use it to develop the service of Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland.



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I know what it's like to contact an organisation and have very little idea of who we're talking to or where our call is being taken. I've spoken to people who were under the impression that we had a huge call centre for Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland. That really isn't the case with us.

AoSNW has two members of staff – me and Angela. We are based at the Scottish Business Crime Centre which is located on the beautiful campus of Stirling University. (The view from our office window is of the Wallace Monument.) If you call or e-mail, you'll be talking to one of us.

We administer the list of approximately 1500 watches all over Scotland, with well over 75,000 individual households as members. Our aim is to be a point of contact for Watch members and to provide help and assistance where we can.

We recognise that Neighbourhood Watches are different all over the country, as they should be. Neighbourhood Watches reflect the communities they serve. We are not here to tell you how to run your Neighbourhood Watch or to fix your local problems – that's what you and your members are for! AoSNW is here to help you to make your community safer in any way we can.

Lisa Toon

Changing times...



At this year's AGM we'll be looking for some big decisions to be made.

It is crucial that AoSNW is set up in a way that best serves our members. To help this process, our constitution has been examined by our committee and redrafted to reflect the changes in AoSNW and in Neighbourhood Watch as a whole.

Response to our AGM invitation has been incredibly positive and, in the end, we had to create a reserve list because we had so many people wishing to attend!

Thanks to everyone who is coming along to support the organisation or to find out more about us!

The main changes to the constitution are:

- **AoSNW will be set up as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This will allow AoSNW to continue to operate as a charity, but to have the kind of financial protection for Trustees that becoming a company limited by guarantee would allow.**
- **The language of the constitution has been simplified**
- **AoSNW's national role is outlined and clarified**
- **Membership and voting rights are simplified**
- **The functions of the Board and the Committee are delineated and clarified**
- **Trustees can be recruited from outside Neighbourhood Watch so that we can ensure we have the right mix of skills on the board.**

The proposed constitution is available to download from our website, or if you would like a paper copy, please call us to request one.

As the constitution stands, the proposal to change it will be passed by a majority of two thirds of those present at the AGM. If you have any comments on the constitution, please get them to us by 1st September.

Get involved...

Now is a really exciting time to get more involved in AoSNW.

One of our main aims in the coming year is to develop our board of representatives. We're looking for new people to become involved to help us to take forward the aims of the organisation. It really is an exciting time for AoSNW. We have a strong business plan and a clear vision and we would like to invite people to join our board to help deliver these for the people of Scotland. We are still a young, developing charity and we have great potential to expand and improve.

If you'd like to be a part of this, please get in touch. Role profiles for committee members and trustees are available on request.

Please contact us on agm@aosnw.co.uk or **01786 450145** to request a nomination form if you are interested in joining the board.

Partnership Focus: ASH Scotland

We all pay the price for illicit tobacco on our streets
(Contributed by: Sheila Duffy (Chief Executive, ASH Scotland))



The selling of illicit cigarettes, whether smuggled or counterfeit, is an issue for all of us. Illegal sales undermine NHS funded stop smoking services and public health messages encouraging smokers to quit and preventing our children from starting.

Smoking remains Scotland's biggest killer with a quarter of all adult deaths in Scotland caused by smoking. Therefore when efforts are made to prevent young people starting to smoke and help others to quit, and to stay quit, are being weakened by the influx of cheaper cigarettes, we all pay the price.



Many people think of buying illicit goods, whether it be a DVD, CD, alcohol or tobacco as a victimless crime. It is far from that. Tobacco is highly addictive so it is very easy to become hooked on this lethal product. The high visibility and availability of tobacco also means it's easy for children and young people to be attracted to experimenting with tobacco and then become addicted. So cheap sources of illicit tobacco ready available to teenagers with obviously no checks for them to be the legal age of 18, are damaging to both health and social policies.

In addition, people often don't realise that when they buy counterfeit cigarettes, they're supporting organised crime. The criminals getting cheap fake or smuggled cigarettes onto our streets are the same gangs that are using their supply routes to get other illicit goods onto the black market, whether that is cigarettes, drugs, arms, or other illegal or counterfeit goods. They can also be involved in other international crime such as the trafficking of people and terrorism.

These criminal gangs also deliberately target low income communities where smoking prevalence is highest, but equally so is the rate of ill health caused by tobacco. Smuggled cigarettes also costs the UK Treasury around £3 billion every year in taxation – money which should be spent on the public services needed to tackle tobacco and the harm it causes. Our communities are made less safe because of the activities of such gangs and we all have a role to play in preventing unregulated illicit traders selling cigarettes to our children.

In September, the first Scottish National Summit on Illicit Tobacco will take place in Perth. Organised by a variety of organisations including ASH Scotland, the Scottish Government, HMRC, police forces, trading standards, retailers and the University of Edinburgh, the event will present an overview of the current strategy to detect and intercept illicit tobacco and identify good practice in inter-agency cooperation and involvement of civil society in reducing both supply and demand for illicit tobacco at both regional and local level.

The summit will also raise awareness of the impact of smuggled and counterfeit tobacco consumption on the national strategy to reduce levels of smoking, links to organised crime, supply of drugs and other counterfeit goods.

If you are interested in representing your community at this event, find our more at: www.ashscotland.org.uk/ash/8209.1920.html

Member Survey

What are we doing about it?

In our last newsletter, we told you about the results of our survey. But what are we doing about it?

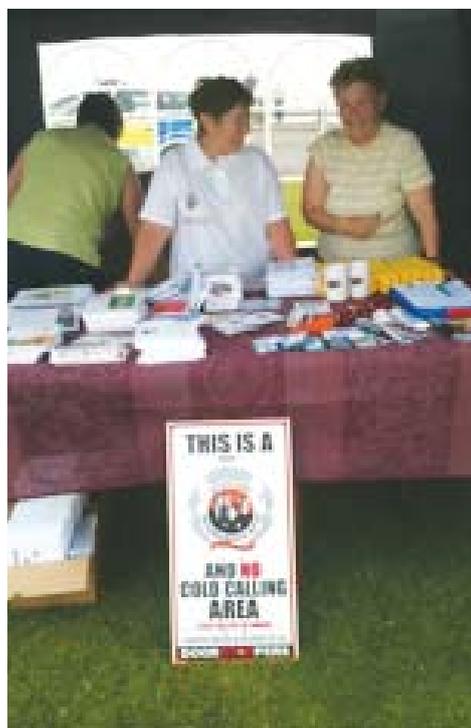
We've drawn up an action plan to address the issues identified, both by the survey and during our business planning process.

Here are some of the things we're going to be doing

- **Clarifying the role of AoSNW**
- **Redrafting the constitution**
- **Increasing the representativeness of the board of AoSNW**
- **Recruiting Trustees from outside the organisation**
- **Running sessions on doorstep safety and maintaining interest in Neighbourhood Watch.**
- **Consulting members on the resources you need**
- **Communicating more regularly, and in different ways.**

We always appreciate feedback on our service. We're a young organisation and we can only hope to improve with your help. So keep letting us know what you think of us.

Seaside Spectacular in Arbroath



Doreen West and Sheila Eggie provide a local flavour to the Neighbourhood Watch advice

Members of Arbroath & District Neighbourhood Watch turned out to provide information, guidance (and a few freebies!) at the recent Seaside Spectacular in the town. Lisa Toon was also on hand to lend a national perspective.

A great deal of interest was shown by visitors to the stand in all aspects of safety. Many people had been involved in Neighbourhood Watch previously and expressed an interest in getting involved again.

There were representatives from all the emergency services at the event, along with a number of other charities.

These types of events are useful for raising the awareness of Neighbourhood Watch in an area. If you have an event like this taking place in your area, you might wish to promote Neighbourhood Watch at it. It's a great way to speak to a wide variety of people.

You will notice that when you renew your house insurance, you will quite often be asked if you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, which may lead to a discount for you. We work with Ansvr and Keegan & Pennykid to provide Public Liability Insurance for all watches registered with us. We thought you might like to know about their 'Neighbourhood Watch Policy'.

Keegan & Pennykid
Insurance Brokers Ltd



Neighbourhood Watch Household Insurance

You helping us help You

The Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches benefits from every Policy taken out. In these days of financial cut backs and budgetary constraint all help is appreciated.

Keegan & Pennykid (Insurance Brokers) Ltd, in conjunction with Ansvr Insurance Co Ltd, operates a Household Insurance Policy specifically designed to meet the needs of Neighbourhood Watch.

- **The cover is wide and the premium competitive.**
- **Cover is obtained on-line by following the link: www.keegan-pennykid.com**
- **The various cover options are simple and easily understood.**
- **The on-line system is user friendly with questions kept to a minimum.**
- **Cover is available immediately.**
- **A UK based help-line is available to answer any queries.**

For a **Quote Today** go to www.keegan-pennykid.com Quality is our watchword



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Communication –

The lifeblood of Neighbourhood Watch

It was identified in our Business Plan and by our survey earlier in the year that communication is regarded as important by everyone. Obviously local lines of communication are vital to the running of your watch. As a national organisation, we try to focus on pieces of information which will be of use to the majority of people. However, we do send out more targeted messages, particularly when asked to do so by partner agencies.

Communication System

We are currently designing a system which will allow us to communicate with you more easily. This will give us the capability of communicating via a recorded telephone message, text message, e-mail or letter. We do not plan to bombard you with text or voice messages, these will be used sparingly and common sense will be applied when using them.

Letter is the most expensive and time consuming method of communication for us, so if at all possible, we would ask you to provide us with an e-mail address, mobile phone number and telephone number, to help us keep our communication both efficient and cost effective.

Some examples of how we may use each method:

E-mail	Newsletters, invitations, bulletins, non-time urgent alerts etc
Text/Voice	Time sensitive alerts from partners (e.g. Police, Local Authority)
Letter	If we have no other way of communicating with you, we will send important communications via post.

NB We are not able to post everything that we send to members via e-mail

Newsletters

This is now our third quarterly newsletter in which we aim to bring you news and articles from Neighbourhood Watch and our partners, to help you run your watch. We would love to have more contributions from Neighbourhood Watches around the country. It's really useful and sometimes inspiring to see what other people do and how they make their watch work. For this purpose, on the back page of this newsletter, there is a form which allows you to share your ideas and successes with others.

E-mail Bulletins

In between newsletters, we try to keep you up-to-date with what's going on in the area of Community Safety via e-mail. Some of the topics we've covered in our bulletins include:

- **Details of the ACPOS Summer Campaign to reduce violence, particularly related to alcohol**
- **Links to potential partnerships for Neighbourhood Watches (e.g. the Drugs & Alcohol Partnership in Fife)**
- **Scam alerts from L&B, Tayside and Central Scotland Police**
- **Advice from Grampian Police on spotting cannabis cultivations**
- **Training opportunities from Living Streets**
- **Notices of upcoming events**

To receive these bulletins, please register an e-mail address with us using the form on page 7.

How do you want to be contacted?

As mentioned on the previous page, we will be launching our new Communication System at our AGM in September. This will give us the capability to communicate with you more easily, and in ways that are convenient to you.

Obviously there are cost and time implications to all forms of communication. We currently have 1500 members, below are approximate costs for communicating with our current membership, and also projections based on potential growth for the future.

It is clear that communicating by letter is by far the most expensive option that we have. Bearing in mind that we have a very tight budget to work with, we want to maximise the volume of communication we can send.

Cost of single communication to all coordinators	text cost	2 minute voice call cost	Large Letter 2nd Class
1	£ 0.07	£ 0.12	£ 0.51
1500	£ 105.00	£ 180.00	£ 765.00
2000	£ 140.00	£ 240.00	£ 1,020.00
3000	£ 210.00	£ 360.00	£ 1,530.00
5000	£ 350.00	£ 600.00	£ 2,550.00

All of the messages we send will be related to safety and we will not share your contact information with any organisation, other than the police. We will not send an excessive amount of messages by text or voice message. You have the right to withdraw from any of the services below at any time.

Name: _____ **Watch:** _____

Please contact me in the following ways:

Method	Tick ✓	If you have not supplied us with the following information, please do so here.
Letter		Postcode:
E-mail		E-mail address:
Text message		Mobile no:
Voice message		Phone/mobile no:

You can also fill this form in online. See our website: www.aosnw.co.uk

Sharing good practice

We would like to hear about what your watch does that makes a difference. It doesn't have to be a huge initiative, involving lots of people. If you have something that works for you, whether it be in making your community safer, or helping your watch to run better, it might help someone else. We want to compile a resource.

Name: _____
Short description of your watch (e.g. 30 households in a small rural village/150 flats)
What did you do?
Who did you work with?
What difference did you make to your watch/community?
Would you do anything differently?

If you would be prepared to give advice or guidance to other watches who would like to use your idea, please provide us with a contact number or e-mail address. This information will not be published alongside the entry, but we will hold it on our records and provide it to interested parties.

Contact number: _____ **Email:** _____

Return to:

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Contact details

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