

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. TOGETHER.



## Dear Neighbour

We are writing to tell you about our new Sway Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Scheme and invite you to be involved. NW is about local people working together to create a safe, attractive, friendly place to live – where crime is less likely to happen.

It's about looking out for your neighbour, and them looking out for you, to make sure no one feels alone or vulnerable in the place where they live. The basis of NW is good communication. We will be creating a network of road/area coordinators, and they will get to know their area and the best way of communicating with their neighbours. The road/area coordinator will liaise with the Sway Area Coordinator Barry Rickman.

Barry is a local Sway person and known to many of us. In more recent times people know Barry for keeping our village post office alive and in it's new location on the corner of Heron Close/Station Road.

Barry has been our New Forest District Councillor for many years serving the community of Sway. He has also been involved with the Sway Parish Council over the years, many of them as chair.

As a champion of our village Barry brings a real sense of community to the village and sees the post office as providing that village focal point as well as providing much needed services to those in the village. We see the Neighbourhood Watch as an extension of this with the village post office providing a hub and place where people can drop in for help and advice.



**Barry  
Rickman**

If there is a crime in the area, whether it's a car/bike theft, vandalism or a burglary – everyone should be told as soon as possible. The NW scheme will help get useful information to the community and reach those members of the community who are perhaps not online or using social media. Its aim is to help people to:

- Protect themselves and their property
- Improve their own security
- Be vigilant and report suspicious incidents to the Police
- Create a community spirit
- Improve their own environment
- Become good neighbours

If someone reports a suspicious person in the area– the sooner the rest of the neighbours are told, the better – then everyone can keep their eyes open and this is a great way to protect our community.

Criminals often strike again in the same area and warning residents about local crimes not only reminds them to be vigilant for their own security – but by keeping alert, it gives us a chance to help the Police.

NW works by developing a close liaison between households and the local Police.

## How to get involved

At this stage we are still building our network of volunteers to help cover Sway. If you would like to volunteer to help look after your road / area please let us know; we will also need volunteers from time to time to help raise awareness and perhaps leaflet drop. If you are willing to help please let us know. You can pop into the Sway Post Office, fill in the [online form](#) on the Sway Parish Council Website [www.sway-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sway-pc.gov.uk) or the Neighbourhood Watch site at [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) and select the Sway scheme.

The scheme is being officially launched at the Sway Parish Assembly on **Wednesday 11 September**. If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved please come along and join us at **7:30pm at the Sway Village Hall**.



**Revd Jane Mitchell**

Vicar of Sway

Jane arrived in Sway nearly 5 years ago in August 2019 or 6 months before successive lockdowns depending how we remember! St Luke's Church is committed to serve everyone in the Parish whether they attend church regularly, or not. This community has a great spirit and kindness between neighbours is the real foundation of village life. Some of our neighbours might be less able than others to access online support, and the kindness of neighbours can help us to identify and support these members of community to keep safe and updated.

St Luke's Church has had a 'waywardens scheme' for years to deliver Christmas and Easter Cards and to look out for neighbours or newcomers. This new scheme is seen as an extension to this and a welcome opportunity to work in partnership with the whole village to look out and support one another.

## Please remember

Call 999 to report a crime in progress (or just happened), if there is danger to life, if you have immediate concerns for safety or if you see something suspicious that needs immediate attention. Call 101 (or on-line) for any crimes or incidents that aren't in progress or haven't just happened. The Police want and need your call. After you've made the call, please let your local road/area coordinator or the Sway coordinator know so we can understand what is happening and use our network to share information.

**Please do get involved with this scheme and help the network develop to cover our community.**

Kind regards from your local coordinator

**Barry Rickman**

**REMINDER: come along to the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11 September**