

Report to the Community Committee – 27th January 2025

Promoting Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Faversham

Background

Neighbourhood Watch schemes aim to reduce crime by directly involving the community in activities that promote safety or assist with the detection of crime. They actively seek the greater involvement of local people in crime prevention activities.

Recent evidence from [Yorkshire](#) demonstrates the effectiveness of well-coordinated Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) schemes in reducing crime and encouraging safer communities. Inspired by these successes, it is recommended that Faversham Town Council seeks to expand NHW coverage across our town, starting with areas currently underserved.

Current Situation in Faversham

A preliminary review shows that Faversham has seven NHW schemes, but large areas remain uncovered. This proposal aims to fill these gaps and establish a NHW for the town centre to address anti-social behaviour and improve community safety. The initiative has the support of Kent Police's Volunteer Watch Liaison Officer, who has expressed interest in collaborating with the council.

Objectives

1. **Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour:** Utilise NHW schemes to deter crime and build a sense of accountability among residents.
2. **Enhance Community Cohesion:** Encourage stronger connections between neighbours through collective safety efforts.
3. **Increase NHW Schemes:** Seek volunteers in areas that are not yet covered by a scheme.

Proposed Actions

1. **Awareness Campaign:**
 - Partner with NHW team and launch an outreach programme highlighting the benefits of NHW.
 - Use local success stories, such as Yorkshire's model, to inspire participation.
 - Collaborate with Kent Police to provide promotional materials, safety flyers, and window stickers.

2. Establish more NHW Schemes:

- Partner with local businesses and residents around the Market Place.
- Identify other priority areas in Faversham lacking NHW schemes.
- Provide training and resources to volunteer coordinators in these areas.

3. Evaluate Impact:

- Measure reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour six months post-implementation.
- Use findings to refine and scale efforts.

Budget and Resources

- Promotional materials, event organisation, and coordinator training will be provided by Kent Police.
- Promotion by Faversham Town Council's existing social media and newsletter at no additional cost.

Recommendations

1. Approve the pilot scheme for town centre NHW.
2. Agree an awareness campaign and coordinator support in partnership with Kent Police Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Louise Bareham
17th January 2025