

What is Neighbourhood watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever. Behind it lies a simple idea, and a central value shared by millions of people around the country, that getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime and that Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing burglary figures – it's about creating communities that care. It brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving their lives. The activity of Watch members can foster a new community spirit and a belief in the community's ability to tackle problems. At the same time, you feel secure, knowing your neighbours are keeping an eye on your property.

The main benefits are -

1. Advice from the police on local burglaries and other crimes.
2. Advice of monthly crime statistics in the area.
3. Advice on scams e.g. letters emails and door to door salesmen..
4. Closer liaison between neighbours.
5. Cheaper Insurance premiums with some companies.
6. General advice on home and garden security, fire safety, vehicle security, doorstep crime and bogus callers over the phone, fraud and identity theft and online and personal safety.
7. There is also a monthly national newsletter.

It has been proved that there is less crime in areas, where NHW schemes operate and signs are provided to advertise that there is a scheme in operation. These are placed on lampposts and smaller ones are available for doors and windows of householders.

If you would like to act as a co-ordinator or simply be a member of one of the existing schemes contact Terry Wilson on **01934 853 347** or Lindsey Stone, Watch Scheme Administrator, Avon and Somerset Police on **01278 644 799**