Etwall Neighbourhood Watch

In 1994 Etwall had two or three small Neighbourhood Watch areas. A group of us then decided that it would be useful for our security if we could extend this to cover more of the village. Bit by bit we have succeeded until now we have more than 900 members representing well over 90% of village homes. This enabled us some years ago to persuade the County Council, not without some difficulty, to change the village approach signs to read “Welcome to Etwall, a Neighbourhood Watch Village”!

To cover expenses we levy a small charge of £1 per year collectable from after our AGM which is in March. For exchange of information and decision making we hold an open meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.0pm in the resident’s lounge of Peartree Court flats in Portland Street.

Our meetings are not long affairs, usually taking little more than half an hour and all members are welcome. Over the years we have established very good relations with our dedicated local police unit of a Constable and one or two PCSOs. They keep us informed and direct particular attention to any matters we are concerned about. We also receive invaluable help and advice from South Derbyshire’s Safer Neighbourhood Partnership via their Neighbourhood Watch Support Group. The Partnership have also given financial assistance on various projects including provision of improve security lighting and towards our latest project, the installation of VAS (vehicle activated speed warning signs) on Egginton Road.

We are organised as 11 areas each under an Area Co-ordinator assisted by Street Co-ordinators who ideally each represent no more than 20 or so houses. We have about 60 Coordinators in total spread fairly evenly throughout Etwall.

We keep in touch with general and crime information, warnings etc, where possible, via email for its speed and convenience. Also by this means every Co-ordinator receives a copy of our monthly meeting minutes, a hard copy if they are not on line. We also have an email communication system for keeping in touch with representatives, including Watches, in about a dozen neighbouring and other villages in South Derbyshire.