

Neighbourhood Watch Secures National Communication System

Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England and Wales) has secured a sponsorship deal for the roll out a national communication system which will launch the movement firmly into the digital age. The communication system Neighbourhood Alert, allows individuals to simply join, register their actual Neighbourhood Watch scheme or set up a 'virtual scheme'. It is envisaged that the use of this technology will attract members who may not have previously perceived themselves as being a traditional Neighbourhood Watch member.

Just by entering your postcode you will be able to search for your nearest registered scheme wherever you are in England and Wales and be able to contact the scheme co-ordinator through the system. This is the first time Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network will have a central database which all co-ordinators can use free of charge to securely manage their scheme members' details, send and receive messages and map their scheme using geo-referencing points on an interactive map.

One of the many benefits of the system is that the end user has control of their own data and can up-date this themselves. The users choose who and when they receive messages from. As the system rolls out there will be opportunities for other likeminded organisations to join the communication system, allowing the end user to pick and choose who they would like to communicate with.

Mike Douglas, Director of VISAV who have developed the Neighbourhood Alert system said '*We are delighted that Neighbourhood Alert has been selected as the database and communication tool for Neighbourhood Watch nationally: we built the original system five years ago to support Neighbourhood Watch as we believe in its principles. We must acknowledge the hard work and cooperation from Nottinghamshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch groups in Nottinghamshire over the years, without this help we could not have developed such an all-encompassing solution.*'

The national communication system will be integrated into the new Neighbourhood Watch website due to launch in November 2010. Both the website and the communication system have been developed using the new 'Our Watch' branding which will ensure that the integration will be a seamless process between the two systems.

Jim Maddan, Vice Chair and Secretary for Neighbourhood and Home Watch said,

'The sponsorship deal with VISAV has really come at the most opportune time for Neighbourhood Watch as it has meant that we can offer a very unique web based communication system for all of our members which links into our new national website. This will ensure that visitors to the website will be able to have a new range of services and co-ordinators will have the free use of a customer management system and a communication system in one.'

'This marks one of the biggest changes to the movement since its inception 29 years ago. All of the work around the website and the branding places Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network as a modern, forward thinking independent organisation which is attractive and relevant to all.'

Note to Editor:

Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England and Wales) is the representative voice for the 7.9 million Neighbourhood Watch members in England and Wales, and is the only national movement who liaises with the Home Office and Association for Chief Police Officers (ACPO) for Watch matters.

The communication system will launch alongside the new website and brand for the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network in November (date to be confirmed).

For press opportunities please contact our enquiry line on 0116 229 3118 or e-mail enquiries@nationalnhw.org. Please visit our website at www.mynhw.co.uk

VISAV is a limited company based in Nottingham who has developed the Neighbourhood Alert system. Neighbourhood Alert can be viewed at www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

The national Neighbourhood Alert system will not have this interface but will be through the new Neighbourhood Watch website for the launch in November 2010.