



Westwood Heath  
Residents Association

# Westwood Heath Residents Association

Ian Stevenson – Chair

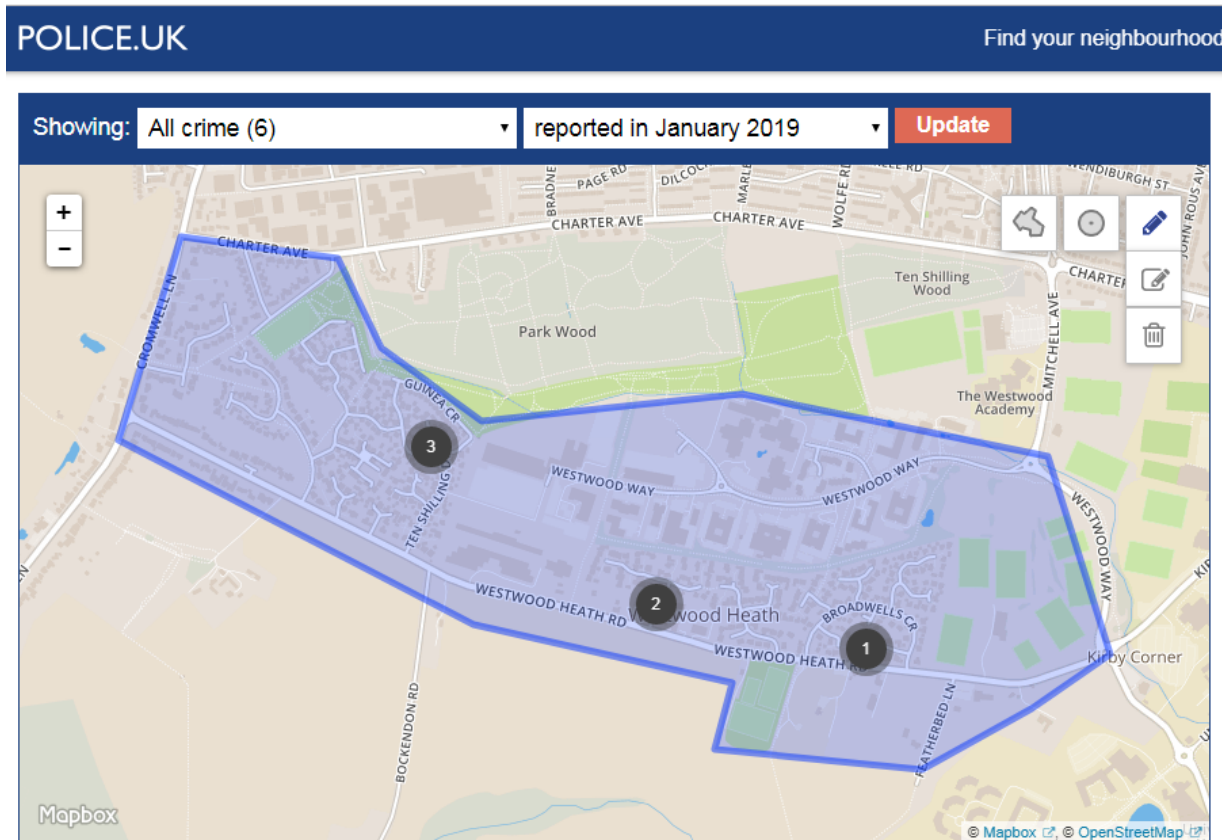
26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Agenda

- Crime and security
  - Streetwatch Scheme
  - Incident Alerting (WhatsApp pilot)
  - Commercial Security Patrols
- AGM
- AOB

# Crime and Security

<https://www.westwoodheath.org.uk/crime>



# Burglary trend

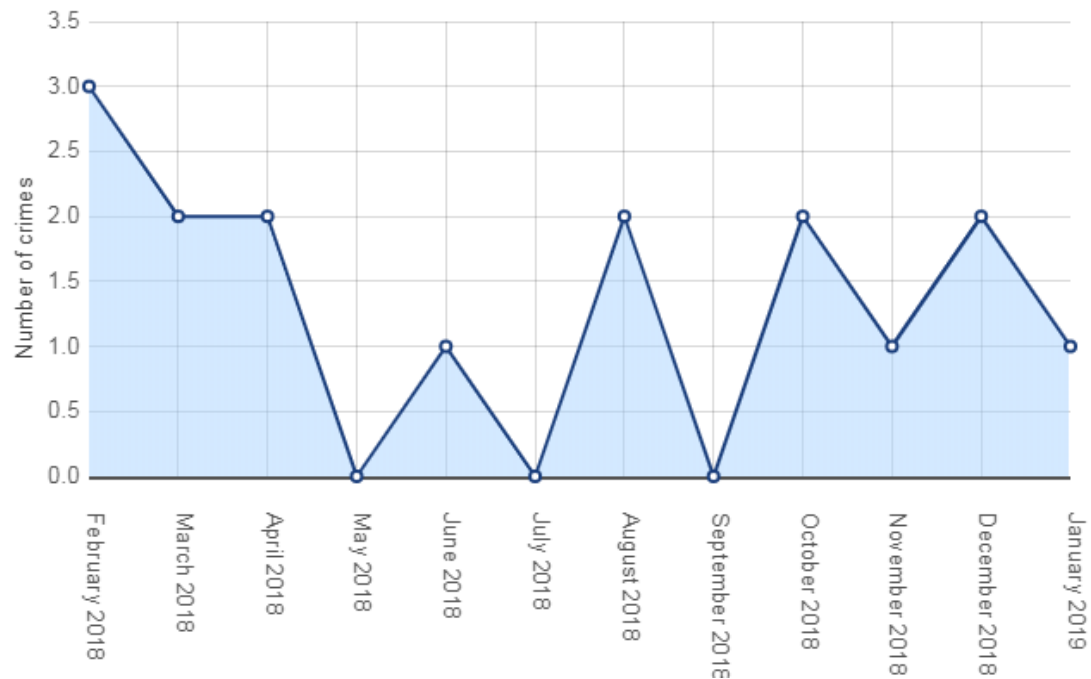
POLICE.UK

Find your neighbour

## Crime levels in this area between February 2018 and January 2019

Showing: Burglary

Update



# Crime and Security

- Police figures show that overall crime is reducing (comparative year to year)
- However, resident perception is an increase, and more brazen in approach
- NB “Burglary” statistics do not include the more serious offence of “Robbery” (1 incident)
- Potential to deter crime in the area:
  - “Streetwatch” – self help
  - Commercial Security patrols



# Streetwatch



- Police sanctioned and trained
- 16 volunteers trained so far
- 8 Patrols completed
- Commitment is 2 hours per month
  - Should equate to approx 4 patrols / week
- Patrols are in pairs (or 3 in the evening)
  - Initially with PCSO support
- You can take non-dangerous dogs
- Louise Hughes acting as co-ordinator
- Book training direct with the Police  
[s.randall@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:s.randall@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

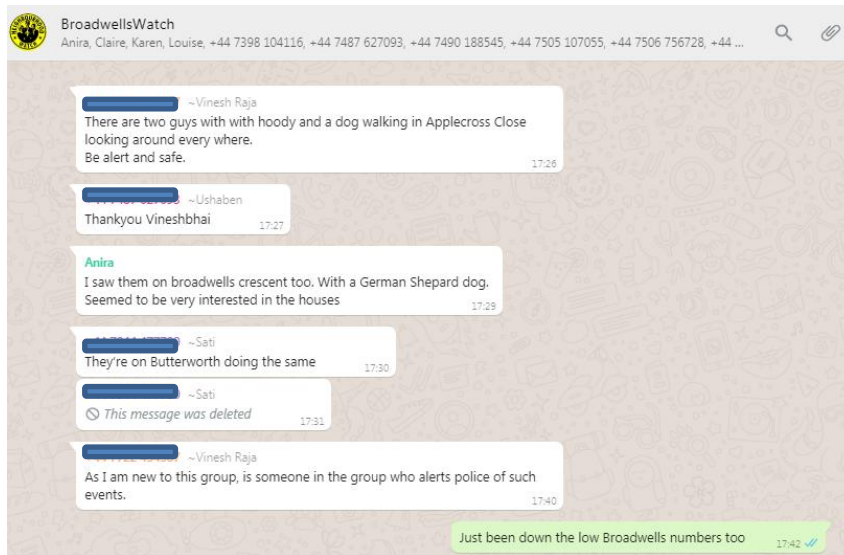


# Streetwatch Initial Feedback



- Very positive reaction from the community
- Very positive volunteer response – very sociable
- Need to find ways to make scheduling easier and keep up momentum
- Further volunteers welcome

# Incident Reporting pilot (WhatsApp)



- Instant messaging group on WhatsApp
- Set up in a small area of Broadwells initially
  - Expanding to cover other tributaries
- Rapid alert of suspicious activity
- One 999 call as a result



# Incident Reporting Pilot feedback

- Works well for relatively small groups
- Exposes mobile numbers of all participants and unwieldy with very large groups
- Proposal:
  - WhatsApp groups set up for each logical grouping of streets
  - 1 or 2 members from each group also invited to all the other groups
  - (Alternative is to use another App e.g. Telegram)

# Commercial Security Patrols

- Based on a successful pilot in Sutton Coldfield
- Their scheme: (*Innovate security*)
  - Patrols on 3 (random) days, 3 patrols / day
  - Approx £25/patrol
  - Area smaller than WW Heath, single entrance
- Visible deterrent with signage, van and possible foot patrols
- No reported burglaries since in operation

# Commercial Security - Survey response

- Approx 12% of households responded
  - Mostly positive
- Much higher response rate at the eastern (lower) end of WWH Road
- Comments
  - Target at daytime rather than overnight
  - “We shouldn’t need to do this”
  - All the community benefit even if they don’t pay
  - High value cars seem to be prime target

# Commercial Security Discussion

- Not viable across all of WW Heath on current response levels
- Question:
  - ***Do we need this if Streetwatch is successful?***
- Proposal:
  - Fixed length pilot over 2-3 months to assess viability
  - Focus on area down from Network Rail (higher uptake from survey)
  - Fix at £5 / week and flex number of patrols to amount of funding
  - Move bias of patrols to daytime
  - Link in with Streetwatch to fill gaps

# Commercial Security – Next Steps

- If we proceed:
- Define scope of service and contractual commitments
- Establish means of contracting – through RA or direct with providers
- Establish firm commitment from households

# Annual General Meeting

- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (AGM)
- Review of activities, accomplishments and accounts
- Officer elections:
  - Chair
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Deputy Chair
  - Other co-opted positions as required
- Nominations open; need to keep a vibrant group going!

Another Other Business?