

Cookstown Community Safety Partnership
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New Neighbourhood Watch Schemes for Cookstown

A launch of four new neighbourhood watch schemes was held in Cookstown District Council Offices on 15th March. The event was organised by the local Community Safety Partnership, District Policing Partnership and PSNI to acknowledge the establishment of a further four schemes in the Cookstown district. This brings the total number of schemes in the Cookstown district to 6:- Drumnacross; Castle Villas/Court; Burn Brae, Cookstown; Coagh Street, Coagh Crescent & Union Place, Cookstown; Dunmore Close, Park & Crescent and Wellbourne Place & Crescent, Coagh.

A number of residents from these areas, including Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, received information on Crime Prevention and how to protect their homes.

Speaking at the launch, Chairman of Cookstown Community Safety Partnership, Cllr Tony Quinn said, *"The Community Safety Partnership are delighted to be able to support the increasing number of neighbourhood watch schemes throughout the district. It is encouraging to see the number of communities contributing to crime prevention and community safety through taking part in these schemes and making their own areas a safer place to live. The Partnership would encourage greater community participation in the fight against crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes help to build community spirit and pride in neighbourhoods while also enhancing the feeling of safety and improving people's quality of life"*

Neighbourhood Watch is a community led initiative which aims to: prevent crime through improved home security and interaction in the community; provide reassurance to people within communities to reduce the fear of crime; and encourage local people to be alert in looking after themselves and others in their community. Being a member of a scheme can also offer other benefits such as a reduction in home insurance.

Speaking on the setting up of the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Chairman of the local District Policing Partnership, Cllr Ian McCrea said, “they were being established as a way of responding to a number of crime and anti-social behaviour related issues being experienced in the areas.

He said, “Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are an important tool for preventing crime and reducing the fear of crime in a way that involves everyone in the local community. Whilst such Schemes play an important part in preventing crime and the fear of crime in local communities their success will be dependent on everyone playing their part by actively supporting their local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.

If you are interested in improving the safety of your locality by setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please contact Sergeant Flo Ferry (PSNI) 028 867 66000, Shauna McCloskey (Community Safety Partnership) 028 867 64714 or Philip Moffett (District Policing Partnership) 028 867 62205.

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