



## **Welcome to Neighbourhood Watch**

### **What is Neighbourhood Watch?**

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever. Behind it lies a simple idea:

*“Getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime”*

Neighbourhood Watch is all about an active partnership with your local police. A scheme is generally led by a volunteer co-ordinator whose job is to get people working together and make sure things get done. A scheme could be large, covering many houses on an estate, with deputies to support the coordinator, or it might just involve half a dozen houses in a small close. It depends on the area and what people living there want. Many home insurance companies offer reductions to homes in a current neighbourhood watch scheme.

### **What can Neighbourhood Watch Schemes Do?**

Most crime is opportunist, committed on the spur of the moment, or when a car or house is left unlocked. This means there is enormous scope for reducing chances for criminals.

Traditionally Neighbourhood Watch activity has focused on the immediate vicinity of homes, with members looking out for anything suspicious, or helping their neighbours as necessary.

Neighbourhood Watch is not run by the police, but to be truly effective they need to work closely with their local police and local authority. In Cambridgeshire the police employ Community Contact Officers, a civilian post whose role is as a first point of contact for both people wishing to start up a scheme or for up and running schemes. Other forces around England may employ someone similar but with a different job title.

### **So, I am interested, what do I do now?**

You should contact the police and advise that you wish more information about starting up a neighbourhood watch scheme and state where you live – you should then get a call from your Community Contact Officer, for more information

Telephone 0845 456 4564 or via web site at [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)

