

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Neighbourhood Watch** is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer. It involves Police, local Councils, other voluntary organisations and, above all, individuals who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious and criminal acts to the Police and by fostering a community spirit.

**Neighbourhood Watch** schemes, referred to as "Watches", are run by their members through a Coordinator, are supported by the Police and in Bromley, a Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association. Watches vary in size; volunteer Coordinators run each scheme, receiving information and news direct from Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association. It should be emphasised Neighbourhood Watch is a community initiative supported by the Police but not run by them so success depends on what members make of it. The Police can't deal with every problem and issue arising from crime and anti-social behaviour alone; they need help from the community. Neighbourhood Watch provides a way for local people to play an important part in addressing this balance and making their communities safer in the process.

## THE COORDINATOR'S ROLE

The role of a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator is to set up and maintain a "Watch" within a specific geographic area. It will help if they make regular contact with their Safer Neighbourhoods Team, perhaps by joining the local Ward Panel. Whilst each may develop their own roles, the following are suggested as main duties:

- Encourage vigilance among Watch members and promote reporting of suspicious incidents to the Police.
- Distribute crime information and news received, primarily, from Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association.
- Encourage members to put into practice crime prevention measures such as property marking.
- Provide advice to members about dealing with cold callers.
- Welcome newcomers to the area and invite them into the Watch.
- Supply members with crime prevention literature and materials, as received.
- Distribute window stickers.

Neighbourhood Watch in Bromley covers large parts of the Borough and has over 600 Coordinators serving their community



## BROMLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION - OBJECTIVES:

- To help prevent crime by improving security and increasing vigilance.
- Create and maintain a caring community.
- Reduce opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
- Assist the Police in detecting crime by promoting effective communication and prompt reporting of suspicious or criminal activity.
- Reduce the fear of crime by providing accurate information about risks and promoting a sense of security through community spirit, particularly among the more vulnerable members of the community.
- Improve Police/community liaison by providing effective communications through Neighbourhood Watch and other messaging systems that warn Coordinators of crime trends they can disseminate to their members.

## JOIN TODAY!

If you wish to become a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, please complete the Application Form on the reverse of this page.