

# Torrige District Neighbourhood Watch



## Members Handbook Torrington Area

See Our Official New Web Site

<http://torridgenhw.ourwatch.org.uk>

or scan here



## **Welcome and Introduction**

Thank you for volunteering to be part of Torridge District Neighbourhood Watch.

Torridge District remains one of the safest areas within Devon and indeed, the whole country, so the chance of crime is remote – but that does not mean that it will not happen. By all of us being aware and alert, and reporting suspicious incidents, we can greatly reduce the risk of becoming victims of crime.

**The fear of crime is generally far greater than the crime itself.**

The police are here to fight crime but they need the help of local communities to be effective and do their job.

*Neighbourhood Watch schemes can do four things:*

1. Greatly assist in reducing crime and the opportunities for crime
2. Help and reassure those who are in fear of crime
3. Help to create a community spirit
4. Helps to prevent crime if would-be thieves know that they will be operating in a NHW area.

### **How can you help your local NHW ?**

Be alert and aware of anything suspicious or unusual relating to possible crime in your neighbourhood.

If you consider the incident to be serious enough always report it direct to the Police yourself – first hand information is always best and will save time in the Police having to confirm or clarify anything.

Do please talk to your Co-ordinator about any concerns – he or she will most likely have more experience in such matters than you. Also, always let him or her know if you have reported something directly to the Police as it may be something that needs to be passed to other members of the Watch, for the wellbeing of the community.

## **ALERT - Community Messaging Service**

The police have set up a Community Messaging Service which sends out pre-recorded messages to members of the public, who choose to receive the service, either by e-mail or phone. The messages are initiated by the Police when there has been an incident either as a warning or when they are asking for assistance with information. All messages are targeted at a specific area or areas, so you should only receive those messages which are significant to your own area.

Because the Police notify us in this way, we may be able to help to report incidents which were perhaps not significant at the time they occurred or we may be able to report a certain vehicle that the Police are trying to locate. This two-way communication can be extremely useful in helping to fight existing crime and prevent other similar incidents.

We recommend all members to join the Messaging Service by completing the application form enclosed in the Member's Pack or, if you have an email address you can register on-line at [Alerts.DC.police.uk](http://Alerts.DC.police.uk).

## **How to Contact the Police**

<b>999</b>	When immediate action is needed because there is an emergency situation such as life threatened, somebody is injured or offenders are nearby.
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<b>101</b>	For non-urgent calls to report a crime, to pass on information or request advice.
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<b>0800 555 111</b>	To report details of crimes or criminals with complete anonymity.
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## Weekly Crime Reports

The Weekly Crime Reports are compiled by NHW from selected reported crime incidents from information provided by the Police. They cover Torridge District and are broken down into the three areas of Bideford, Holsworthy and Torrington, and sub-divided into the Town and Rural areas. The figures only refer to the crimes of theft and damage which are the main areas of concern to NHW. It must be stressed that these are not classed as Official Police Figures; these can be found on the Police web-site and categorised for your specific area and include all types of crime. The reports are continually being developed and improved and from time to time are enhanced with crime prevention tips and short informative articles from the Beat Teams.

These reports are available to all members, free of charge, but only available by email as the costs involving the production of hard copies and postage would be prohibitive. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact Tom Carrick at:

[torridgeareanhw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:torridgeareanhw@hotmail.co.uk)

or speak to your Co-ordinator.

There is a large library of information and advice concerning crime prevention matters on both the Police and Government websites.

*See page 6 for web addresses*

## **Local Police Contacts (Torrington)**

**Torrington Police Station** (via Control Centre) - 101  
email: [torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

**Team Leader – Sgt Dave Monkton**  
email: [David.Monkton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:David.Monkton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

PC James Wood  
PC Adam Williams  
PC Mark Simmons  
PC Simon Smith

PCSO Sandra Brown  
PCSO Lorraine Kenneally  
PCSO Melissa Baker

<p><b>PCSO = Police Community Support Officer</b></p>
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All may be contacted at the Police Station using the 101 number, but please remember that the station is not always manned. All messages left on the answering machine will be responded to. **Crimes should always be reported in the first instance using 101 or 999, as appropriate.**

**CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111**  
Callers to Crimestoppers can be anonymous

# Our Website

This can be found at:

**<http://torridgenhw.ourwatch.org.uk>**

This is a library of information that we have collected together for the benefit of our members and others, all in one convenient place. Topics included are:

- Contacts for Forum Members
- Meeting Dates
- Reports from Neighbourhood Watch Meetings
- Minutes from Forum Meetings
- Crime prevention tips
- Weekly Crime Reports

*and much, much more.*

The site is a living document and we welcome feedback, both good and bad, in order to make improvements. If there is any subject matter that you feel should be included, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## **Police and Crime Commissioner**

From November 2012 governance of the Police Service changed with the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) throughout the country.

This is part of the Government's drive for decentralisation and giving back localities some influence. There is one Police and Crime Commissioner covering Devon(which includes Plymouth and Torbay), Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The PCC will listen to views on community safety by holding regular meetings with the community and then set priorities for the police in a plan which will address these concerns. This will be achieved by focusing the resources to tackle the things that we, the community, say are important. In doing this it is not in his (or her) remit to interfere with the day to day police operations or tactics.

The PCC will be tasked with appointing and if deemed appropriate, dismissing the Chief Constable and also for setting the force budget and precept. There will also be a Police & Crime Panel to assess and check the performance of PCCs and ensure that information is available to the public to enable the consideration and challenging of decisions. These Police and Crime Panels are largely composed of District and County Councillors and should therefore be aware of the mood and desires of the local people. The PCC will be singularly accountable to the electorate and if we do not like the way that he or she is performing then we have the ultimate veto when the term of office, which is for four years, comes up for renewal.

Further information can be found on both the Government and Police websites.

### **Some Useful Websites**

[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

<http://torridgenhw.ourwatch.org.uk>

## **Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

### **Your local NHW Co-ordinator is**

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

e-mail .....

### **Deputy Co-ordinator**

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

e-mail .....

### **Local PCSO Contact**

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### **NHW SUPPORT OFFICE**

Located in Bideford Police Station

Phone: 01237 428 046 (voice mail)

The Support Office is manned on Friday afternoons  
from 2.15pm to 4.00pm