

## Introduction

The purpose of Watch schemes is to assist the police in detecting crime in the rural areas of our community.

Watch schemes are done on a voluntary basis by members of our community who act as the extra eyes and ears for the police by reporting accurate descriptions of people and vehicles acting suspiciously.

Watch schemes encourage everyone in the community to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police.

Every small piece of information contributes to the bigger picture, and in areas where members of the community have a keen Watch group, the police have a better chance of making arrests and solving crimes.

The schemes enhance the relationship between police and the community and help develop a greater sense of responsibility between neighbours, reducing crime and opportunities for crime in the area.

## What is Mobile Watch?

This is a scheme whereby members of the community patrol in pairs in their own vehicles. The patrols usually take place after dark and into the early hours but may occur at other times if the need arises.

The purpose of the patrols are to record any suspicious people or vehicles and then pass this information to the police. If a more urgent response is required them immediate contact with the police can be made using the radio or by phone.

All participants of the scheme must sign a 'Code of Conduct' before going out on patrol and need to undergo a short vetting process.

Some members patrol several times per month, others as little as once a month. Each contribution is valuable and adds to the bigger picture of solving crimes.

## What about communication?

Watch schemes have access to a radio system. These radios are programmed with specific channels for use by the Mobile Watch scheme and also a 'hailing frequency' so that direct contact can be made to the police control room, should this be necessary.

## How are members briefed?

Each watch has a designated police officer as the liaison for that Mobile Watch. They should ensure that members are given relevant information prior to commencing patrols, so they are targeted.

The police also have a system called North Yorkshire Community Messaging which enables them to send voice, text and email messages to specific groups, such as Mobile Watch schemes. Every member of a Mobile Watch scheme can register so that they are able to receive these messages.

### What is a 'Code of Conduct'?

- Patrols will be carried out in pairs
- No weapons of any kind to be carried
- No pursuits of vehicles to take place
- Patrols will not confront suspects
- Patrols to carry some form of communication
- Members should inform the police prior to commencing and on conclusion of a patrol.

# Join a Mobile Watch scheme