

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP GETS VISIT FROM HENLEY MP

Henley MP, John Howell, visited one of the constituency's longest established Neighbourhood Watch groups at Nettlebed on Sunday 14 June to mark the start of Neighbourhood Watch week which runs from 15 – 21 June.

He said:

"I welcome Neighbourhood Watch Week. There is a tremendous amount we can all do in our own communities to help prevent crime. Local Neighbourhood Watch groups such as here in Nettlebed can play a major part in this.

"There is a real fear that the current recession may see an increase in the numbers of burglaries. With police resources stretched, this gives Neighbourhood Watch networks a prime role in giving burglars a hard time by helping spread the word on how to keep them out of our homes and buildings."

One of the main themes of the Week is Action Against Burglary. This is of benefit to us all but will be of particular benefit to older people and the vulnerable as well as young people who are often the target of crime.

It is hoped that Neighbourhood Watch Week will help promote awareness about the scheme and encourage people either to join existing groups or set up new groups.

John Howell added:

"I can't thank Neighbourhood Watch groups enough. They do a great job for their communities and their work often goes unrecognised. This week is an opportunity to say how much we appreciate what they do."

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer. It involves the Police, Community Safety departments of local authorities, other voluntary organisations and, above all, individuals and families 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 home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit

2. Photo attached: Nettlebed Neighbourhood Watch Left to right - Helen Lester, Barbara Lewis, Malcolm Lewis,(NHW sign) John Howell MP, Ted Sedwell, Susan Byers, Jeremy Simon.
3. The Nettlebed Neighbourhood scheme has been operating for about 30 years. There is a team of people each covering a small area of the village. As well as keeping their own eyes and ears open they work with the residents in the streets they cover. The Village Co-ordinator, Malcolm Lewis not only guides the team but also gives regular updates to the Parish Council.