

DROXFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SMARTWATER VILLAGE BRIEFING - 20th JANUARY 2024

Notes recorded at the briefing.

1. ATTENDANCE

An estimated 50 – 60 people attended.

2. BRIEFING BY COLIN RICHARDSON

Colin briefed the attendees with the history and progress to date, highlighting that NW are now approaching the project from a 'bottom up' rather than a 'top down' perspective which has been the approach thus far. Please see the charts '*SW Village Briefing 20Jan24.pdf*' for a fuller summary.

There are 2 key threats NW see for Droxford

- Scams
- Transient Crime
 - Opportunistic in character;
 - Thefts from Vans/Cars; Outbuildings;

The SmartWater Village framework is designed to address transient crime. The objective is to make 'travelling/opportunistic' thieves understand that Droxford is in the 'too hot to handle' category and move on elsewhere. It is as more about addressing the threat of crime as it is to reduce it, given that Droxford is a low crime area.

By taking a 'bottom up' approach this means that DNW will **not** pursue the SmartWater Village initiative at this time, but propose a distinct, two phase approach:

1. DNW would offer to purchase & provide free of charge a SmartWater Kit for all households in the parish who wish to have one; **subject to AT LEAST 50% of households signing up in advance.**
2. If, at some future point, signage around Droxford is due for renewal/upgrade and SmartWater is established to a large degree in the parish, then Droxford Neighbourhood Watch could (re)consider the boundary signage with the PC at that time.

3. THE VIEW OF DROXFORD PC

Janet Melson, chair of Droxford parish Council, addressed the attendees and wished it to be known that the PC do not have objections in principle to the proposal, but emphasised that the PC have a duty to work within the rigorous constraints imposed by the Highways authority, South Downs National Park Authority, as well as the requirements of the designated conservation area within Droxford.

Janet also highlighted to the attendees that the PC have been closely involved from the outset of this initiative and will continue to work with DNW going forward.

4. Q & A

A question was raised concerning "marked" items that are subsequently sold or passed on?

Colin explained that the SmartWater marking provided an 'ownership chain' which probably did not exist before. So even if items have been moved on there is, at least, the first link in the ownership chain available to the Police.

Is there personal "sticker"/ signs included in the proposed kits? – yes, a number of stick on signs are included for affixing to windows, car / van windscreens etc.

What would be the format, size and location of public signage?

Colin amplified earlier comments from his opening brief, explaining that there are no prefixed parameters and all matters relating to signage would need to be agreed with Highways, SDNP, DeterTec (SmartWater) and our PC: it is the complexities in achieving this that is inhibiting the implementation of the SmartWater Village framework at this time, hence the change in approach highlighted at this briefing

What is the time frame from now? Answer, to qualify for a free issue SW kit (Phase 1) a minimum of 51% of the households are required to “sign up”, until / when this is established a definitive time frame can’t be determined. How households register their intent will be communicated shortly.

How do you know if it works? - Once the SmartWater solution is applied, it can be identified by UV light. Police are issued with UV torches.

Can the solution be transferred accidentally to a person or their clothing? – the solution is touch dry in two hours, so in practice up to that time the solution could transfer on touch. Once dry it won’t transfer. The solution can be dried with a hair drier to decrease the drying time if required

Isn’t it important to have the public signage installed for the system to have the maximum deterrent effect? – The answer is ‘yes’, which is the main principle of the SmartWater Village framework. For the reasons outlined at the briefing DNW have revised the approach and should Phase 2 become a reality then perimeter signage could be erected. In the meantime, if enough individual households display the signs/decals included with their kits at their properties, that in itself should provide a good level of deterrence.

Could the existing NW sign posts be utilised to display the SmartWater Village signs?
Need to question what size, probably not A2 and not in suitable locations?

Will the SmartWater system work abroad?

The simplest answer is that the SmartWater system only works within the UK. If items are lost/stolen abroad it is best to inform the local Police as some major Police forces do have UV procedures, but these are inconsistent.