

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STRUCTURES EXCEEDS 600 AND 17 000 MEMBERS IN WESTERN CAPE



▲ Premier of the Western Cape, Alan Winde and Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen.

"I am delighted to learn that in the Western Cape, we have reached 610 accredited Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) structures. We now have 17 546 registered members. Since taking office, I have patrolled with 41 NHWs across the province, and will be embarking on more of these in due course.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to every NHW structure and member across the province. The manner in which they freely offer up their time, energy and resources to create safer communities by patrolling and being visible in their areas, is commendable and deeply appreciated. The NHWs and Community Policing Forum (CPFs), who are closely working with officials in the Western Cape Department of Community Safety (DOCS), are showing what it means to be community champions. I have noticed firsthand, when on patrol with these champions how dedicated and determined they are to ensure everyone in their respective area can live in improved and safer conditions. They continue to be a critical cog in the safekeeping of communities. Officials in DOCS should also be applauded for their continued assistance of the NHWs, particularly from an administrative, training, resourcing and empowerment perspective.

We remain committed to assisting more and more NHWs within this process.

Both Premier Alan Winde and I, would firstly like to challenge all WCG staff to form part of their respective Neighbourhood Watches. In addition to this, we would like to urge residents who are physically able to also join their local NHWs. This will not only boost the number of members we have in this province, but it will also ensure that there is greater visibility and a much bigger presence of citizens who are saying no to crime in our areas. We have adopted the slogan: **Join your Neighbourhood Watch now and make a difference in your community.**" Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen.

Starting an NHW is fairly easy. Depending on the geography of your area and what the support level is from your community, the basics to starting an NHW are as follows:

- Call an expression of interest meeting in your area. It can be as small as 10 people, just to get things started. Explain what you foresee the NHW doing, and the time commitment required;
- Establish your opening office bearers, these would be: Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership (possibly a patrol co-ordinator as well). These remain in these posts until your first formal community meeting where they step down and an election takes place to formally elect everyone into positions for the year ahead;
- Write up your NHW constitution. If you don't have a sample of one, ask your nearest NHW or call the Department of Community Safety in your area and ask for a copy;
- Set a date for your first public meeting;
- Send invites to everyone in the area you intend to cover, send them to schools for the children to give to their parents. Hand them out at traffic lights in the area, go door to door - this is your big push to get people to attend and bring their friends. The more people at your inaugural meeting the better;
- Invite a representative from the local SAPS to attend the meeting to show their support for the project;
- At the meeting, explain what the NHW will do, which area it will cover and what will be expected of people participating. Be open to discussion around ideas and input;
- At the meeting, call for an election to formalise the appointment of office bearers;
- With the minutes of your inaugural meeting and your constitution in hand, you should be able to open a bank account with dual signatories for transparency. There's always signage, printing costs, etc. that has to be paid for.
- Finally, apply for accreditation for your NHW with the Department of Community Safety and local Police Station. (To become eligible for training, funding and support from the Department, you must be accredited).

Additional information about training and support can also be obtained at: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/neighbourhood-watch-nhw>

Media Release by Minister Reagen Allen issued on 8 February 2023

FAQs

This feature aims to address questions you may have about the running and operations of your neighbourhood watch.

Can one apply for NHW accreditation (new or renewal) online?

Yes, you can. The Department of Community Safety (DoCS) has developed an online Neighbourhood watch application system for your convenience. The system can be accessed via: <https://nhw.westerncape.gov.za/>

Who can I contact if I want to access funding or arrange training for my NHW members?

Contact the Neighbourhood Watch Division:

- Fadia Ismail on 021 483 6010 or email Fadia.Ismail@westerncape.gov.za
- Fagrodien Johnson on 021 483 7893 or email Fagrodien.Johnson@westerncape.gov.za
- Ayesha Fortune on 021 483 5010 or email Ayesha.Fortune@westerncape.gov.za

BRIDGTON NHW KEEPING THE OUDTSHOORN COMMUNITY SAFE



On 18 February 2023 the Bridgton NHW based in Oudtshoorn alongside Oudtshoorn SAPS hosted a door to door crime awareness campaign, where on foot they go around to community members and distribute safety information this platform is also used for community members to engage SAPS with complaints. This initiative takes place every 2nd weekend.

Bridgton NHW has 15 members and will often host community events and engagements to ensure the safety of the citizens of Oudtshoorn.

UPDATE FROM KNORTH NHW IN ELSIES RIVER

► On 13 January 2023 the members of Knorth NHW in Elsies River were on patrol when they came across a pregnant motorist who was left stuck after car trouble on the corner of Jakkelsvlei Avenue and Valhalla Drive robots. NHW members remained with the mommy to be until help arrived to ensure her safety.

Knorth NHW has 23 members and are active in ensuring the safety of the Elsies River community.



GEARING UP FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

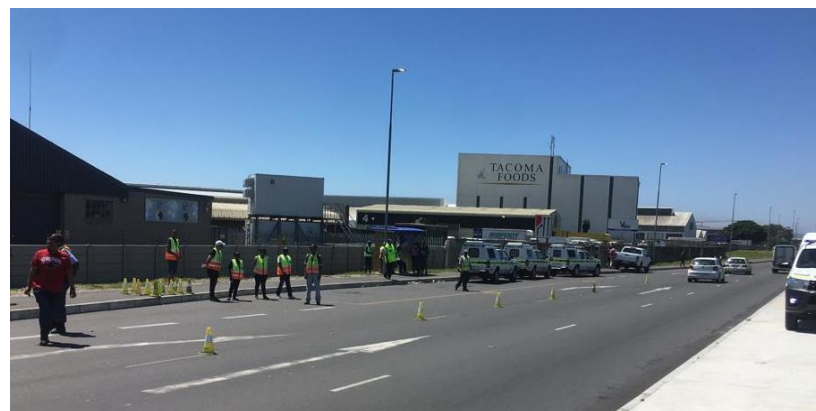
◀ On 22 December 2022 the Knorth NHW supported in a Festive Season Operation alongside the Sector 2 NHW and South African Police Service which included mall patrols, vehicle check point pamphleteering and a stop and search in the Bishop Lavis precinct which was well received by the community.



NEED MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO NHWs?

Department of Community Safety operating hours and contact information:

- Operating office hours: 07:00 – 16:00;
- Members of the public must email Neighbourhood.Watch@westerncape.gov.za to make an appointment;
- Appointments will be scheduled on a first come first served basis; and
- Western Cape Government Contact Centre: 0860 142 142 (8am to 8pm).



Minister Reagen Allen stated, *"There has been a need for greater and more effective oversight over the SAPS as we want to ensure that services received from them are improved. Not only will this restore trust between communities and SAPS, but it will assist in creating safer communities as more and more residents will report criminal activities and help the SAPS in their crime fighting efforts. Let's be clear, we're not doing this to play big brother or to find fault, instead we want to ensure that there is a professional, trustworthy and ethical service in the province regardless of where you live, the experience with SAPS is of the same standard."*

NEWSFLASH: The department name change will come into effect from 1 April 2023 and we will officially be known as the:
Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (POCS).



**Western Cape
Government**
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Police Oversight and
Community Safety

RECOGNISING THE NEWLY ACCREDITED NHWS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

There are currently 610 accredited NHWs in the Western Cape. DoCS would like to congratulate and recognise the following newly accredited NHWs:

Albert Luthuli park NHW, Mossel Bay
Bayview Community Safety Forum NHW, Mossel Bay
Bellville south sector 2 NHW, Bellville South
Beverly Hills NHW, Atlantis
Brandwag sector 2 Farm Watch, Da Gamaskop
Brandwag sector 3 Farm Watch, Da Gamaskop
Brandwag sector 6 Farm Watch, Da Gamaskop
Brenton Owls NHW, Knysna
Buck-inn NHW, Grassy park
Camps bay NHW, Camps bay
Carola NHW, Grassy park
Chrismar NHW, Bellville
Cravenby NHW, Elsies River
Crawford Community NHW, Lansdowne
Da Nova, Mossel Bay
Dellville Park NHW, Pacaltsdorp
Driftsands NHW, Mfuleni
Eagle Eye NHW, Delft
Echo NHW, Delft
Edgemead NHW, Bothasig
Fairways NHW, Grassy park
Ferness Estate, Grassy park
Garden City, NHW, Mfuleni
Gemsbok NHW, Grassy Park
Gordon's Bay NHW, Gordons Bay
Hamelkop 1 Farm Watch, Groot Brakrivier
Happy valley and mountain NHW, Bonnievale
Kasteel Bataleurs NHW, Riebeeck West
Khwezi lomso NHW, Delft
Kleinkrantz NHW, George
Klipkop NHW, Parow

Montrose park NHW (Sector 2), Lentegeur
New horizons Residents NHW, Grassy Park
Night Crawlers NHW, Athlone
Nifa NHW, Grassy park
Old Place NHW, Knysna
Ou uitsig NHW, Wellington
Pacrif NHW, Parow
Penhill Community NHW, Kleinvlei
Phase 1 Bardale NHW, Mfuleni
Primrose Real Active NHW, Athlone
Protea Street NHW, Stellenbosch
PWP NHW, Parow
Raithby NHW, Somerset west
Red Zone NHW, Grassy park
Richwood NHW, Bothasig
Riversdale (WC) NHW, Riversdale
Ruitersbosch Sector 5 Farm Watch, Da Gamaskop
Safe Passage NHW, Delft
Safety Watch initiative Charleston hill, Paarl East
Sevens NHW, Ocean view
Sherlock NHW, Delft
Silersands NHW, Kuilsrivier
Silvertown NHW, Athlone
Tara NHW, Durbanville
Tennantville NHW, Stellenbosch
Tshabalala NHW, Harare
Unity NHW, Delft
Wentworth 1st Angelo, Strand
Wesbank NHW Mfuleni
Wittewater NHW, Piketberg
Worcester Neighbourhood Crime Watch, Worcester



DOCS HOSTS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EVENT IN MITCHELL'S PLAIN

◀ On 22 February 2023 the Department of Community Safety hosted a Mitchell's Plain Safety Partnership engagement with accredited NHWs, City of Cape Town, Neighbourhood Watch Units, Community Police Forums and the South African Police Service. The key focus point stemming from this engagement was to implement a strategic approach to how NHW structures, CPFs, SAPS, and the Sub-Forums work together and objectify consistency and how DoCS can offer better support to both NHWs, CPFs, and Sub-Forums.

This bulletin is brought to you by the Western Cape Department of Community Safety.



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