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Ref: JW300410 NHW Fleeces

## **Specially designed fleeces for Neighbourhood Watch *PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED***

Representatives from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) across the Wyre Forest area will now be easier to identify at events and other functions, thanks to their new branded fleece tops.

The dark blue fleece tops, which have the distinctive yellow NHW logo on them, have been designed to be functional yet give a more professional image for those wearing them when they are on Neighbourhood Watch business.

The fleeces have been issued to the chairs of the District Area Boards, who meet quarterly to discuss NHW strategy and policy along with any other concerns relating specifically to the district.

Neighbourhood Watch is nationally recognised as one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives in the UK and there are thousands of schemes in the West Mercia Force area alone.

Inspector Paul Crowley said: "As a force, we work closely with NHW groups and very much value the contribution they bring.

"They are well placed in the heart of the community to really know what is happening and what's important locally, and to share any information about suspicious or crime related activity with us.

"Their representatives are often the first to know about new initiatives the police are introducing to tackle a particular issue and they actively help to promote crime reduction and prevention.

"There really are many benefits of joining a scheme, not least the deterrent message sent to would-be burglars when they see the distinctive yellow NHW signage in a local street.

"The branding on the new fleeces will reinforce this message as well as helping to distinguish NHW representatives at meetings and other events they attend. "

Mel Clarke, Neighbourhood Watch Administrator for North Worcestershire, added: "Everyone is welcomed to get involved in NHW – and everyone can benefit. If you would like to find out more about the scheme or you would like to join, please email me at [melvyn.clarke@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:melvyn.clarke@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or call me on 0300 333 3000 ext 3253."

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More information on NHW is also available on West Mercia's force website at [www.westmercia.police.uk/watch/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/watch/) with a copy of the Neighbourhood Watch Pledge available for download.