

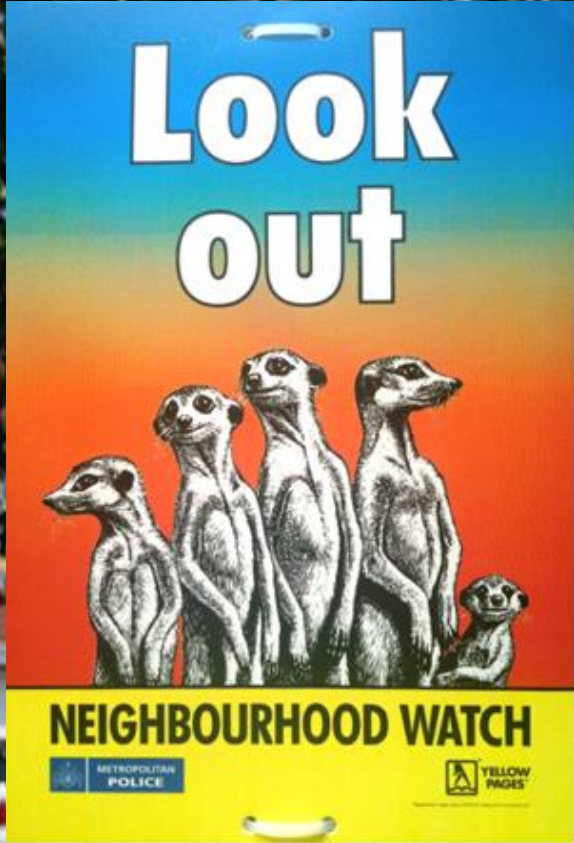
Neighbourhood Watch: Reflecting Back, Looking Forward

Dr Melissa Pepper (with Professor
Karen Bullock)

School of Law and Criminology



Image: Our Watch





BBC News, 6 January 2021



Reflecting back and looking forward

Exploring the evolution of Neighbourhood Watch



Three headline findings so far

- Neighbourhood Watch is dynamic, flexible, and forward looking – but not all about crime
- Technology/social media is essential – but only one of the tools in the box
- Community is at the heart of Neighbourhood Watch – but individuals are in the ‘engine room’

Neighbourhood Watch is dynamic, flexible, and forward looking – and not all about crime



Photo source: Our Watch website



Photo source: Our Watch website

I think it's as much from a community point of view as a crime point of view...if you've got a good strong community, you each are looking out for one another all the time

(Connie, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator interviewee)

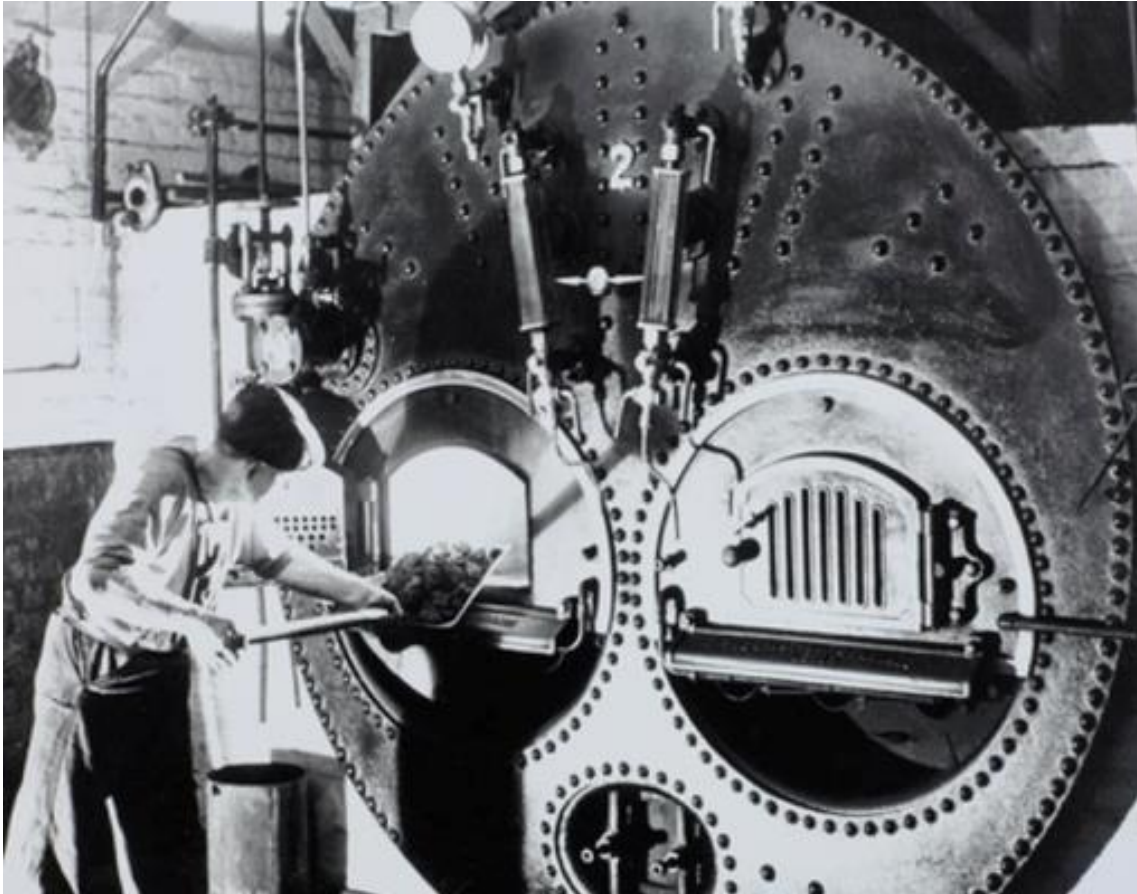
Technology/social media is essential – but only one of the tools in the box



Social media has been a great tool to reach more people. It isn't a Neighbourhood Watch, it's a way of communicating the messages out
(Kate, stakeholder interviewee)

You've got to be very careful about this thing about technology is the answer to all prayers. I don't think it is because we're all human beings
(Peter, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator interviewee)

Community is at the heart of Neighbourhood Watch – but individuals are in the ‘engine room’



I wanted to make things better, simple as that. You know, it's the standard, feeble excuse. I just wanted things to be better

(Chris, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator interviewee)

They're not an outside agent, they're part of the community. You know, they are the community supporting the community. So that's where its strength is

(Kate, stakeholder interviewee)

(A new) Life begins at 40?



- Joint working; shared resources
- Bringing together the local and national
- Moving beyond perceptions of 'curtain twitchers' and 'fading stickers in porch windows'