

UKI NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In November 2007 the Uki Village & District Residents' Association (UKIRA) formed a local branch of Neighbourhood Watch.

Hooning, fuelled by alcohol and drugs, had gotten out of hand and the community had had enough. Locals had given up calling the Police because by the time they arrived – *if* they did – the culprits were long gone. An 'invasion' of hoons from other areas was also common because they knew that the Police rarely came out to Uki.

So it was hoped that by forming a local Neighbourhood Watch the Police would be kept more aware of the local scene.

The Uki Community has the advantage of knowing most of the locals and their cars, so it wasn't long before a list of regular offenders was compiled and handed to the Police.

By the end of 2007 Police presence had increased, a number of offenders were arrested and hefty fines issued. News of this spread like a bushfire, so out-of-town hoons moved on.

Uki now has regular Police patrols and Neighbourhood Watch works closely with the Murwillumbah and Tweed Police. The Highway Patrol Officers have been exceptionally supportive and often call in to catch up on the local news.

Hoons are certainly still out and about, but the situation has improved considerably since the inception of Neighbourhood Watch.

In another attempt to curb speeding through the village, Neighbourhood Watch, together with the school and UKIRA, were recently successful in getting Council approval for a raised pedestrian crossing. Other traffic measures have been promised.