

# The ATM Watch Interest Group



Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) play a crucial role in communities by providing convenient, accessible, and essential banking services. They contribute to financial inclusion, support local businesses, and enhance the overall economic well-being of the community.

- ATM raids often involve criminal activities such as breaking into ATMs, using explosives, or engaging in violent acts.
- These incidents can pose immediate safety risks to community members, including bystanders and law enforcement personnel.
- The presence of criminal activities can create a sense of insecurity within the community.
- Successful ATM raids can result in the destruction or temporary shutdown of ATMs, leading to a disruption in banking services.

## Preventing ATM Raids

Preventing ATM raids involves a combination of community engagement, law enforcement collaboration, and implementing security measures.

Members and supporters of Neighbourhood Watch are in an ideal position to raise levels of community awareness and vigilance by:

- Educating the community about the risks, consequences and signs of suspicious activities in the lead-up to and aftermath of ATM raids
- Reporting to law enforcement information suspicious activities that could relate to ATM raids.
- Encouraging residents to be vigilant and observant when in the vicinity of ATMs, especially during non-business hours.
- Establishing communication channels, such as Neighbourhood Watch schemes and interest groups, to efficiently share information about potential threats and actual raids in a timely manner.
- Fostering strong partnerships with local law enforcement agencies.
- Collaborate on crime prevention initiatives and community policing efforts.

## What is the ATM Watch Interest Group?

If you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch or Ecops you can join an ATM Watch Interest Group which will:

- Allow members to come together to form a collaborative group with the goal of preventing ATM related crime and improving the overall safety and well-being of the neighborhood.
- Provide members with communications specifically about ATM crime including sharing information about local crime trends, suspicious activities, and best practices for ATM crime prevention.

Neighbourhood Watch works closely with local law enforcement agencies. This ensures that we receive support which enhances our effectiveness.

All members and supporters of Neighbourhood Watch, including those who joined through eCops, can join local NW schemes and Interest Groups which provide them with a means of rapid and secure communication via the Alert system. Across England and Wales that is 1,050,497 people with 20,672 of these being residents in Cambridgeshire. At present 6,468 members of Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood

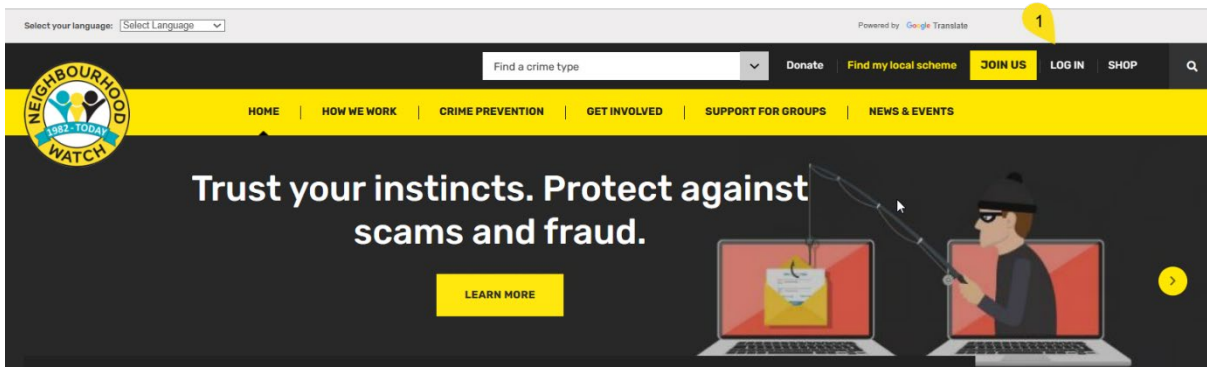
Watch Association have joined a scheme. The remaining 14,204 have opted to be a supporter of Neighbourhood Watch but not to join a scheme. These can opt to join an interest group at any time.

Most ATM raiders are not caught in the act, they are mostly caught when their activities are reported as suspicious before or after the ATM raid when they may be some distance away from the location of the ATM. This is where an Interest Group can become a useful tool. An interest group provides a means to send all members and supporters information about a shared interest. It is possible to define the geographical area the information will sent to which could be the whole of Cambridgeshire or a smaller locality.

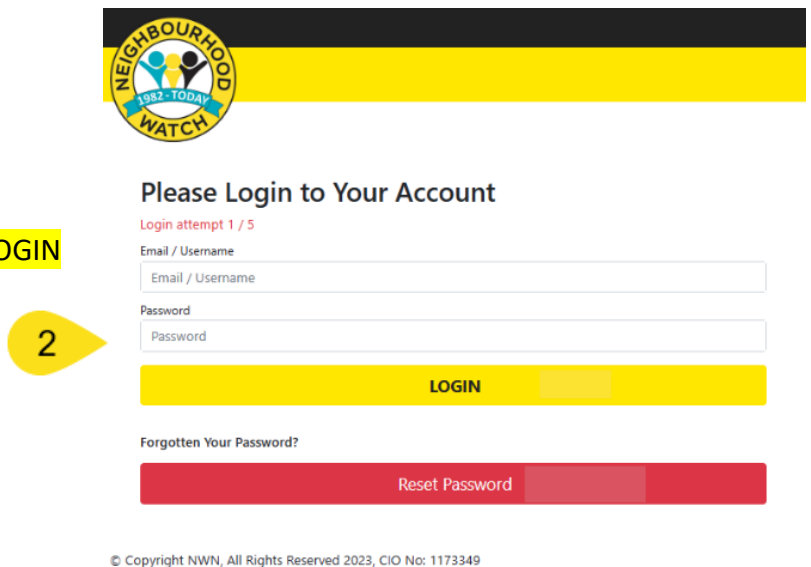
If an ATM raid occurred a message can be sent immediately to alert all or a selection of the ATM interest group members advising them to be extra vigilant and report suspicious activity. This is a different mechanism to using a scheme for messaging which would cover residents in a small scheme area in the locality of the ATM. It should be noted that typically there will be members and supporters of Neighbourhood Watch who decide not become part of a scheme but may well opt to join a group.

## How to Join the ATM Interest Group

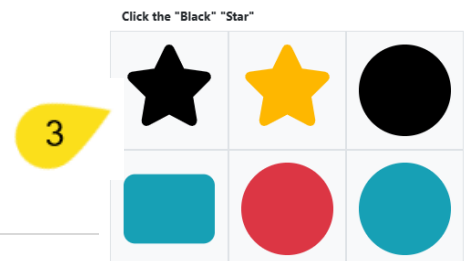
1. If you are already a member or supporter of Neighbourhood Watch you are able to Log in using your username and password. Go to our National website at [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) and click on the **Log In** link at the top of the home page.



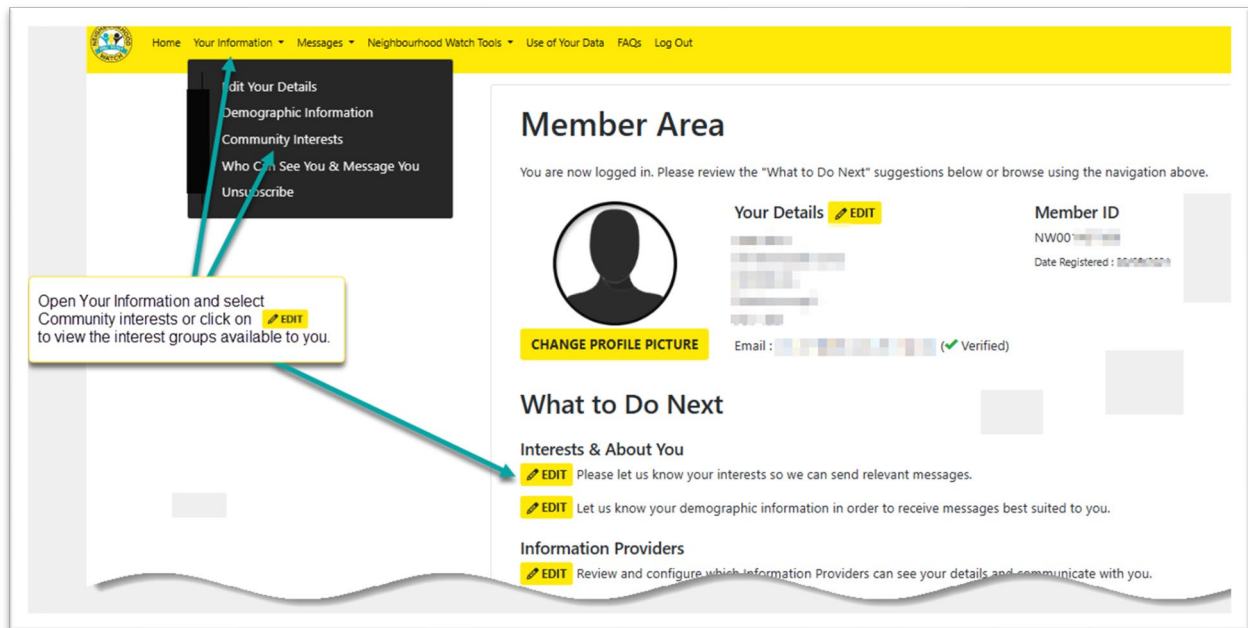
2. Enter your Login details and click on **LOGIN**



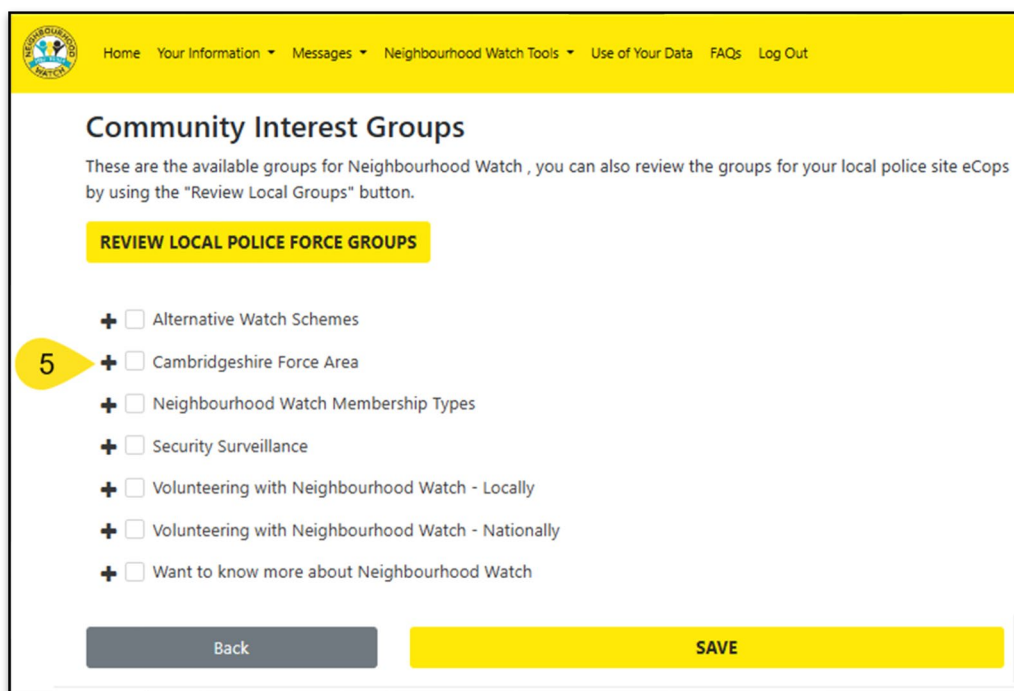
3. Click the correct shape in the user verification window.



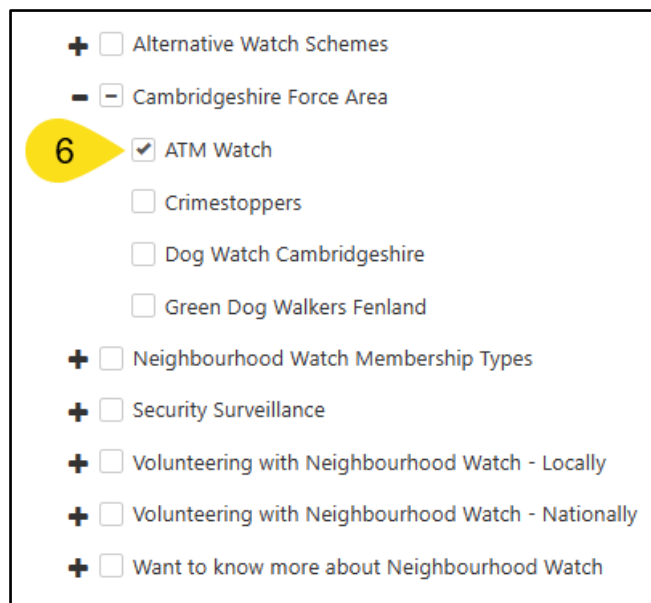
4. The Member Area opens. You can change your personal information so that you can receive information via email when it is sent to the ATM Interest Group.



5. The Community Interest Groups page opens. Click on the + symbol next to Cambridgeshire Force Area to open the Neighbourhood Watch interest groups which are specific to Cambridgeshire.



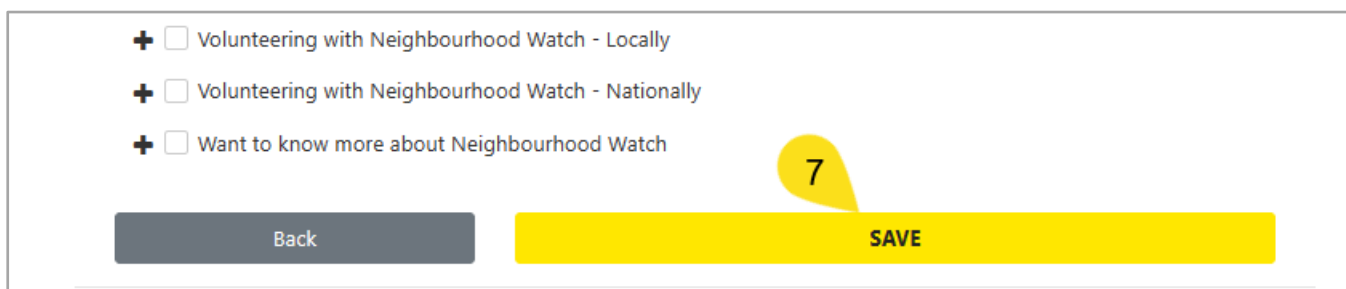
6. Select ATM Watch by clicking on the box as shown.



A screenshot of a form with a list of options. A yellow callout bubble with the number '6' points to the 'ATM Watch' checkbox, which is checked. The other options are unchecked.

- Alternative Watch Schemes
- Cambridgeshire Force Area
- ATM Watch
- Crimestoppers
- Dog Watch Cambridgeshire
- Green Dog Walkers Fenland
- Neighbourhood Watch Membership Types
- Security Surveillance
- Volunteering with Neighbourhood Watch - Locally
- Volunteering with Neighbourhood Watch - Nationally
- Want to know more about Neighbourhood Watch

7. Remember to click on **SAVE** to save the change made to your information.



A screenshot of a form showing the bottom section. A yellow callout bubble with the number '7' points to the 'SAVE' button. The 'Back' button is also visible.

- Volunteering with Neighbourhood Watch - Locally
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- Want to know more about Neighbourhood Watch

Buttons: Back, SAVE

You now be able to receive all email messages sent to the ATM Watch Interest Group and will be able to send a reply to using our secure email system.

If at any time you decide you want to leave the ATM Watch interest group you can repeat steps 1 – 7 but this time untick the box in step 6.