



## Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



### **Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009, Doddinghurst**

#### **Attendance**

The meeting took place in the Parish room. It was attended by 13 people, including the chair Bill Reid and PC Paul Birkin-Steed, the new Brentwood Schools Liaison Officer. We also had a guest speaker, Mark Winchester, from SmartWater. Apologies received from 11 people, including the PCSOs.

Moira Kennedy is moving to take over from Susan Payne who is joining the regular police force. Moira's replacement will be Alex Willmot.

#### **Finance**

Robin reported that the current net balance on our account is £586.

#### **Speed Watch**

There was no Speed Watch activity during July. On the last occasion on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 33 speeders were registered at the junction of Brook Lane and Doddinghurst Road. Of these, 10 were in excess of 40 mph. Jim Smith requested that we ask for our activities to be reinforced by official police speed checks in the village. Speed Watch activities are planned for August and early September.

#### **Crime Update**

We were advised that there has been an increase in burglaries and theft of cars in the area. When calling in an incident to the Essex contact number 0300 333 4444, we were advised to always ask for an incident number. Details of all calls should be recorded and an incident number allocated.

#### **Local Concerns**

There was a long discussion about the activities of groups of youths in the village. Damage has been caused to properties and public areas. Individuals have been intimidated and threatened. The police are now taking action and they are considering a Dispersal of Groups order.

#### **SmartWater**

Mark Winchester gave us a detailed briefing on SmartWater, which is a sophisticated technology to deter criminal activity. Individual batches of water are uniquely encoded with a mix of rare metallic elements. People or items marked with this water can be identified and placed at crime locations. This has a 100% success rate in prosecutions and is now becoming a key deterrent to crime. A key part of the deterrent success is that the criminal fraternity know of SmartWater and know where it is being deployed.

SmartWater can be expensive to deploy and for most commercial applications there is an ongoing annual charge. However, there is an arrangement where SmartWater can be provided to a community through Neighbourhood Watch. There is a one-off charge of £15 + VAT for a kit, with no annual charge. This kit will provide of phial of SmartWater with enough content for about 40 applications and signs for installation in windows. A minimum of 10 kits must be ordered to get this price.

We will be looking at SmartWater and possible alternatives before recommending this promising technology to the community.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Signs**

The majority of signs have now been installed throughout the village. We are looking to install the last few signs.

### **Junior NHW**

There is no activity to report as it is now school holiday.

### **Doddinghurst Fun Day**

The fun day was successful. There were many visitors to the stand and 12 new members were recruited to Neighbourhood Watch.

### **Web Page**

The Doddinghurst web site can be found at  
<http://www.doddinghurst.org.uk/nhw/nhw.html>

### **AOB**

- The suggestion box in the Post Office is regularly checked but to date there have been no postings.
- Ingrid reported that the problems with her front border are continuing. She has installed a surveillance camera.
- Bill advised that the 6 month trial of the new RingMaster has been completed. We are awaiting details of the results and recommendations. We understand that the local NHW group found it very useful.

### **Future events**

- The next NHW meeting will be on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 at 2pm.

Peter Froebel  
NHW Secretary