



Doddinghurst
Neighbourhood
Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd August 2010, Doddinghurst

Attendance

The meeting took place in the Parish room. It was attended by 12 people, including the chair Bill Reid.

Bill reported apologies from PC Wayne Bloomfield, PCSO Dave Creckenden, Colin Freeman, Edna Goody and June and Owen Randall.

Bill had hoped to formally welcome our 200th member, but had not been able to contact her to invite her to attend

Finance

Robin reported that we have £273 in our account. This is after paying for the second batch of SmartWater units. There is still revenue to be collected which will boost the balance. At the executive meeting Bill was told that we would have £500 to hold on behalf of Brentwood, but this has not arrived. Bill is still owed £100 promised to him by Colin Freeman for the banners.

Membership numbers

Bill reported that we now have 200 members, with one or two more to come on to the list once their details have been confirmed. Colin Freeman would like us to increase membership even further. He is still working to get NHW revitalised in Brentwood, but has many pressures on his time. Colin has a target for 100 new Street Coordinators by April 2011.

Bill reminded us of the difficulties that we encountered when attempting to recruit new members outside the mobile police station by the post office. He had reported these to the Essex NHW meeting recently. Emma Clark stated that in future all officers should be aware of the requirement to co-operate with Neighbourhood Watch. Although the Police Pledge has been dropped by the new government, police will still be working to much the same instructions.

There will be no Home Office Not-in-my-Neighbourhood-Week this year, but we could volunteer to help Colin with Brentwood.

Any ideas to carry out further recruitment would be very welcome. Action - all to consider. We were reminded that Mrs Cooper had volunteered to send out letters for us together with a letter to parents. We might consider another leaflet drop.

Bill reported that Colin would welcome any news items for including in his newsletters, as would Diane Rogers-Harrison for inclusion in the Doddinghurst section of the Gazette's Village News.

Street Coordinators

Bill is looking to create a number of street coordinators who would take responsibility for their local, small area, for example a street. The role would be to make themselves known locally, to coordinate local information and to pass on to Bill details of issues and crimes. The street coordinators would initially be recruited from the regular attendees at the monthly meetings.

Note: Bill has now circulated a list of possible coordinators for people to agree to.

Speed Watch

Jim Smith reported that the recalibrated gun has been returned and we have SpeedWatch sessions on the 5th and 25th August. There has been no feedback from previous sessions. Emma will send Jim an email address for a better route for submitting future SpeedWatch readings.

It was noted that the Police had been checking car speeds in Wyatts Green Road the previous week.

Crime Update

Emma reported one theft of index plates from a Ka. The reason for the theft of plates for a lower value car was uncertain, but might be to enable driving off from Petrol Stations without paying.

Emma reminded us of the option to have police check up on properties when people are on holiday. This is the Good Neighbour scheme

SmartWater

Peter Froebel reported that we have now received our second delivery - fifteen units. There have been expressions of interest or actual payment for all but two of these. SmartWater is being more widely used. Peter reported that SmartWater is being actively used to discourage metal thefts of cables from both BT and Network Rail, for example, by marking underground and overhead cables. Tests seem to show that it can still be detected even after burning off insulation from the metal.

Junior NHW

Peter Fisk and Bill Reid reported on the trip to the Police Museum at Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers Police station. Mrs Cooper had told Bill that the children had enjoyed the trip and that news about it spread rapidly through the school. We are extremely grateful to Colin Enderby for driving the second minibus, Becky Wash for her excellent presentation and Paul Birkin-Steed for organising the event at South Woodham Ferrers.

Bill suggests that next term we organise a session on marking the children's cycles and offer a cycle lock as a gesture of thanks for bringing their cycle in.

No Cold Calling Zones

It was agreed that we would not pursue the idea of No cold Calling Zones any further due to the difficulty of getting the compulsory 100% agreement. There was a suggestion that the new No Cold Callers door sticker has some legal weight.

AOB

Emma reported that a Ringmaster style of product will definitely become available again as a result of a partnership with Kent police. It will offer a choice of messages by 'phone, text or email. Bill stated that some work would be needed to get an up-to-date list of NHW members wanting to be contacted by the new system, and what sort of contact they would prefer. (Could this be a job for the street co-ordinators?)

Bill reported that, building on Peter Salmon's work, we would like to create NHW identity badges based on a logo, a photo and a title. Colin may be able to produce these for us.

Emma asked everyone to mark any plant pots or other items worth stealing from front gardens, as thefts from the Hutton area are common and the stolen items turn up at boot sales. Mark items clearly, underneath. Fortunately the thefts have not yet reached Doddinghurst.

[Immediately after the meeting closed, two members asked Emma about a circular about strengthened lock cylinders that had been widely circulated locally. Emma's feeling was that it is a valid product, but there has been no evidence of the type of break-in that it seeks to prevent in this area.]

Web Page

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

Future events

The next NHW meetings will be on:

- **Tuesday 7th September 2010**
- **Tuesday 5th October 2010**

All at 2pm in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary