



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 7th December 2010 Parish Room, Doddinghurst

Introduction

The meeting was attended by 12 people, including the chair Bill Reid. Apologies for absence were received from Colin Freeman and Paul Birkin-Steed. It was also reported that our PCSOs Dave and Ben were on rest days. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Colin Freeman has made up ID badges for a number of members. These were handed out.

Finance

Robin reported that we have £242 in our account plus petty cash and £30 value in unsold SmartWater units. Peter Salmon reported that we are in the process of moving our bank account from Santander to Nat West. With the new account we may be in a position to hold funds on behalf of Brentwood.

Crime Update

Emma Clark reported that in November there were 9 crimes reported in Doddinghurst. These were mostly unsuccessful burglary attempts. Thefts from cars are still high, both from home and car parks. Emma reminded the meeting of the need to secure cars and garages and never to leave valuables exposed in cars.

Bill reported that he had taken in parcels for absent neighbours. He was pleased that the delivery company had been careful in checking that he entered his home with the parcels so collected.

Bill has been promised a supply of 100 'No Cold Calling' stickers from the Home Office. Emma was asked to supply some more if she still has some available. She also has also sent a good 'Home Security' check list to Peter Salmon and has a few more available.

Membership

Emma reported that her burglary awareness event outside Budgens last Friday was cancelled due to adverse weather. Emma will attempt to get exhibition trailer again for some time in January - precise date yet to be agreed. This was to have also been a recruitment drive for us.

As an interim, Emma will attend at the Junior School on Thursday 16^h December at around 14:45-15:30 and attempt to contact as many of the parents and grandparents as possible to emphasise the need to be careful about burglaries. We will also use the occasion to recruit more NHW members. Emma asked for volunteers to help out. Please contact Emma.

Bill reported that at a NHW Executive meeting, it was stated that in future any group wanting to set up a local SpeedWatch would have to pay for the equipment. In our case, as the only NHW in Essex doing SpeedWatch, we would probably have to pay for future maintenance of the equipment. Bill was not happy about this at all. We also do not know the likely on-going costs.

Fund Raising

As an introduction to the discussion about fund raising activities that will be needed for Doddinghurst NHW to continue, Bill reporting on a couple of recent fund-raising events by other organisations. Norma had organised a quiz night which had made a useful profit for the WI. Peter Salmon suggested working with Mrs Cooper to have a family quiz afternoon at the Junior School. Peter Salmon also reported that he has applied to the High Sheriff of Essex for funds, and will also apply to the Dagwood Trust. Peter Fisk is to send him a list of Junior NHW activities to help with his case for this.

Peter Salmon also proposed asking members for unwanted Christmas gifts in preparation for tombola at the annual Fun Day.

Sue Newth-Gibbs reminded the meeting that reasons for requests for funding need to be made clear.

We are looking for volunteers to organise and run fund raising events. It was suggested that if we hold a quiz night, individuals could be responsible for getting a group of people to fill a table. Ray Potter volunteered to help prepare sets of quiz questions, but lacked expertise to help with those for the younger age groups if Peter Salmon organised a family event.

Speed Watch

Bill reported that he wants more people to be trained on SpeedWatch. He will get in touch with Dave Creckendon to get training going. More volunteers are needed to attend SpeedWatch sessions, even if untrained, to help with spotting makes and colours of cars and number plates.

Peter Salmon wondered whether a 'Thank You for not Speeding' sign would be possible. Emma thought that it would be Highways who would decide on this, but it could be tricky.

AOB

Bill had some example leaflets about the digital TV switchover. He thought that they had been widely circulated, but few members present were aware of them. Bill has been told that scam operators can be expected to descend on areas prior to switchover, selling unnecessary equipment and services. We have been asked to do anything we can to protect our elderly and vulnerable villagers from such scams.

Bill had recently received a mailing from BT. It was in an envelope with an attractive 'You are cordially invited' theme written on the envelope. He suggested that we might use this idea for our own literature distribution in the future.

Ingrid has made arrangements to post regular notices about threats and scams in both Budgens and the Wine shop. She suggested that we should have 4 or 5 locations around around Doddinghurst where we can display NHW notices. Peter Fisk will try to format the information on both the Alerts web page and the notice to be similar, so that it can be used for both purposes.

Paul Alden referred to Debbie Dicker's (the Parish Council chairman) letter about youth crime which was circulated as an email recently. Emma reported that there is a lot happening within the police or other organisations to combat this as it is perceived as more important even than burglaries to Doddinghurst residents. The Chief Constable is aware of the problem. The youths are organising themselves to come in to cause trouble in Doddinghurst from a variety of locations, some as far as Ongar or Thurrock, although members reported a core of local trouble-makers. Emma reported that some are aged as much as 16 or 18, and it would seem that they have motor cycles and even cars. The police are hoping that work in schools such as Junior NHW will develop a group of teenagers eventually who are less interested in destructive activities.

Web Page

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

Future events

The next NHW meeting will be on:

- **Tuesday 4th January 2011**

at 2pm in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary