



## Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



### Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 Parish Room, Doddinghurst

#### Introduction

The meeting was attended by 13 people. Bill Reid was in the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Creckendon, Emma Clark, Maggi Cooper, Edna and Ray.

Bill presented Peter Fisk with a certificate following his NHW Brentwood District award.

#### Finance

Peter Salmon reported that our balance is £254.47. We also hold £454 from Digital Switchover to be used for Digital Switchover work. Peter reported that our banking is now functioning correctly using National Westminster.

#### Raising funds.

Regarding his other searches for funds, Peter Salmon reported that he is expecting a response from the High Sheriff in the next 2-3 weeks. The Dagwood Trust is to meet soon and may feel able to offer us some money. Peter has also applied to the Ford Trust of GB. The application has been accepted, but Ford really want to hear about people in the village who work or have worked for Ford (including their name and payroll number if possible) who would benefit from the work of NHW.

Action: All NHW members to inform Peter Salmon or Bill if they are aware of any Ford or retired Ford employees in the village.

Peter also has been given some Tombola prizes ready for the May Day fair. Bill reported that he is hoping for some further items from Debenhams at Lakeside. Even more Tombola prizes are still needed, though - please deliver to or contact Peter Salmon.

At Colin's suggestion, Peter Salmon will write to the manager at Sainsburys, Brentwood, as they will sometimes offer a Sainsburys voucher as a prize.

Colin is working on the Neighbourhood Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. This event offers an opportunity to raise the profile of NHW and also to make money at a stall there. Colin wants an organisation to volunteer to supply teas and coffees on that day - again, this a potential profit-making exercise for us. The venue is yet to be agreed. Do we have volunteers to help with this?

#### Digital Television

The three Peters had attended a presentation at Rochford which explained about the Digital Switchover. This will happen in the Anglia region in July this year. Peter Froebel

explained some of the issues briefly and repeated some of the warnings that there were scams around about persuading people to unnecessarily change aerials. The grant mentioned earlier will be used for us to hold events locally to help make sure that no-one gets left out locally from the available advice and support. It is particularly targeted at people in need, including the elderly. Events should ideally be linked with existing events, but we might need to advertise first. Peter Fisk will again try to get copies of slides from the original presentation.

Note: These slides have now been received.

### **Smart Water**

Peter Froebel has issued two more units. He will talk to Peter Salmon about whether we should order another batch ready for the May Day event.

### **May Day / Other Exhibitions**

We plan to have a stand at the next May Fair. Bill will be hoping for more space than last year, possibly to be linked to a Police stand. We are also looking to have space for the Digital Switchover and possibly even for the Junior NHW.

Bill also suggested that we should be sharing in any event that Emma might hold with the police trailer, and also repeat what we did last year with just our own display outside Budgens. Something similar could be done at the Post Office and even the doctors' surgery on a busy day.

### **Speed Watch**

There were no SpeedWatch sessions in January, mostly due to the weather.

Dave Creckendon is giving us some dates when he can be available to support us. We will also run sessions ourselves if Dave is not available.

### **Poster Display**

Ingrid has circulated our new posters quite widely in the village, including the Post Office and wine shop. Norma and Ingrid want some more copies. Peter Fisk was actioned to prepare another Its Scary Be Wary poster, to include references to Digital Switchover and asking people to report all crimes to the police. Robin thought that he might be able to get envelopes for major leaflet circulations rather cheaper than Bill's usual source.

### **NHW Junior Section**

Paul reported on a recent very successful Junior NHW session dealing with distraction burglary and scams. All the children contributed enthusiastically.

Peter Fisk took an action to ask Mrs Cooper again for possible dates for the next meeting.

### **Doddinghurst NHW and Parish Council, Close working relationship**

Debbie had recently pressed Bill to attend Parish Council meetings again, which he will do this week. Peter Salmon had attended the January Parish Council meeting. Peter reported that there had been some pressure on the Parish Council members to work with other community groups. We would like more NHW members to attend the PC meetings.

### **National Scam Month**

No information is available yet for this campaign. Colin reported that the Home Office currently have no Crime Reduction policy in place and are not issuing significant amounts of resources.

## **AOB**

### **National Crime Map**

This mechanism, to enable householders to see their local crime figures, was announced nationally this morning. It is not without controversy, however. Bill reported that Preston city centre has been reported as having a very large crime rate and due to the way that postcodes are allocated, this has adversely affected a local quiet residential street.

### **Number Plate Fixtures**

Having read of the event at Harlow in which Police offered security bolts to make car number plates harder to steal, Peter has emailed Emma asking whether any might be available for us, as he has seen two cars with missing number plates around the village recently. He has also found that Halfords sell them, possibly at around £4 a set. Peter Froebel commented that in many cases number plates are fixed with glue or tape so are hard to remove without damage, and the bolts are unnecessary.

### **Citizen's Patrols**

National NHW has suggested again that NHW should carry out citizens' neighbourhood patrols as part of the Big Society. Colin has responded emphatically that from his past experience as a police officer, the idea proposed is very unwise.

Following some discussion, it was emphasised that whilst the community should work together, it should not be by taking direct action or going on patrol. However, we should be observing and be sure to report every crime to the police. All householders should keep reporting every crime and being sure to get a crime number - otherwise police will focus their efforts elsewhere.

### **NHW signs**

Bill proposed that we replace the broken and missing signs. Peter Salmon had found a cheaper source - about £10 each for the full size ones. Bill to talk to Peter.

### **Crime figures**

PC Birkin-Steed, in the absence of Emma, reported that there have been a lot of burglaries recently in Brentwood. A major operation is currently under way to address the problem.

### **Ringmaster**

Bill reported that Essex police are adopting a new system with case the capability to send email, telephone and text messages. However, for cost reasons it will only be used for emails for the foreseeable future. Colin pointed out that he already had a effective email distribution system so he sees no benefit in this.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011** at 2pm in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel  
NHW Secretary