



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 10th January 2012 Parish Room, Doddinghurst

Introduction

The meeting was attended by 10 people. Peter Fisk was in the chair, standing in for Bill Reid who was attending the Essex NHW Awards ceremony.

Apologies for absence were received from Bill Reid, Peter Salmon, Colin Freeman, Daryl McAusland and Sue from Peartree Lane.

Note: Bill and Peter joined us before the end of our meeting. Congratulations to Bill for receiving an award of Brentwood Coordinator of the year.

Finance

No change from last month, when the balance stood at £509.54. Peter Salmon has requested gifts which can be used in the tombola at the annual May Day fair or Royal Jubilee event.

Crime update

Emma reported that there had been 3 burglaries at the end of December; 2 in Doddinghurst and 1 in Hook End. There was also a break-in on Church Lane on New Year's Day where a car was stolen from the drive.

Emma was asked about the best type of security. She recommended fitting a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box. She offered to provide further recommendations. Her document is attached at the end of these notes. She also suggested leaving an outside light switched on all evening. Opportunist burglars do not like to risk being seen.

Junior Section

There has been no activity with the children since June last year. Emma is now planning to attend an assembly at the school as an introduction to a series of activities over a 6 week period with 2 groups from Year 5. Members of NHW are welcome to attend and help with the activities.

Note: The initial assembly has been put back and will now be on 21st February.

SpeedWatch

There has been no SpeedWatch activity in the past month because of the weather. Essex Police have reported the following statistics relating to driver checks throughout Essex.

- ✚ Since August 1st a total of 3,391 letters have been sent to drivers detected via CSW activity at 342 CSW checks. 62 drivers received second warning letters and a total of 12 drivers received a direct visit to their home address by Essex Police.

- ✚ A total of 3,893 drivers provided a road side breath test during the month of December, resulting in 115 drivers failing or refusing to provide. This equates to a failure rate of 2.9%.
- ✚ During 2011 a total of 7,592 fixed penalty tickets were issued to drivers for using a mobile phone whilst driving.
- ✚ During 2011 a total of 8,250 fixed penalty tickets were issued to drivers failing to wear their seat belts.

Street Coordinators

Today's meeting took place in the evening in order to encourage our street coordinators to attend. However, the turnout was no different to that of our early afternoon meetings. We welcomed 2 new members, although they are not street coordinators. We discussed the role of the coordinator and what actions we could be taking.

Peter Fisk circulated a letter that he had recently distributed. It includes his personal details so that people can contact him if necessary. The letter was liked but not everyone will want to include their own details. If members wish to use a similar letter, then they can include their own contact details or use those of Bill Reid.

Bill is still in need of a few more coordinators, especially in The Gardens. Pat offered to distribute a letter in The Gardens, asking if anyone was willing to become a coordinator. Bill will distribute lists of NHW members in the areas for each coordinator.

Scary Be Wary Posters

The January issue is now available. Peter Fisk has taken one to the surgery so they are now up to date.

AOB

Publicity for the London Digital Switchover is now being distributed. We should be aware of potential scams associated with this.

Ingrid raised the issue of illicit drug use by local youths. There is often a smell of drugs in and around the children's play area. Others were also concerned that this is the case. We requested that Bill flag this up to senior police officers at his next meeting with them.

Action: Bill to discuss with police how to address the drug activity that is occurring in Doddinghurst.

Peter Salmon asked if incidents such as throwing of fireworks, which are reported to the Police, appear in crime statistics.

Future events

The next NHW meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th February 2012** at the usual time of **1:30pm** in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary