



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 6th July 2010, Doddinghurst

Attendance

The meeting took place in the Parish room. It was attended by 15 people, including the chair Bill Reid and acting Sgt Wayne Bloomfield.

Bill reported one apology from a local member and Emma Clarke, Dave Creckenden and Colin Freeman.

Finance

Robin reported that we have £320 in our account. In his search for funds for us, Robin has still had no response from the Police, but this may be because the person to whom he wrote is no longer available. It is understood that there will be some funds available for NHW groups in Brentwood but it is not clear how we can get access to these.

Robin has submitted a request to Brentwood Council and this is now being considered.

Concerns have previously been raised about the charity Children's Air Ambulance, which is collecting funds in the area. Robin has written to the Charity Commissioners. It appears that that they also have some concerns are they are investigating. Their report will take 6 months to produce. In the meantime, we recommend that people should not contribute to this charity.

Speed Watch

There was one SpeedWatch session last month. 11 cars were identified speeding; 3 over 40mph with the highest at 43mph.

The speed gun has gone back for recalibration. There is no replacement

Wayne advised that Georgie Davies is being trained so that she can train local people in the use of the speed gun for Community SpeedWatch. The police have been encouraging people from other areas to set up community SpeedWatches.

Jim raised a question about insurance cover for members, as it appears that it ceases for people aged over 75. Bill will look at the insurance that we have through NHW for all our activities.

Crime Update

There is no update this month as Emma was not able to attend. However, crime figures from Emma are distributed by Bill, most recently on 29th June.

Wayne Bloomfield reported that in general the most recent crimes have been thefts from garden sheds, and some of the perpetrators had now been arrested. Sadly an emerging crime is the theft of expensive plant pots from the fronts of houses. Members are recommended to secure or move any pots of value.

SmartWater

An initial delivery of 18 units has been received from SmartWater and most of these have been distributed. We have now received further requests and payments so an order for an additional 15 units has been placed, and these have now been received. There are some spares within this quantity, so anyone wishing to purchase SmartWater should contact Bill or myself (Peter Froebel). The price is £20. Note that to purchase a unit directly from SmartWater costs approx £60 plus an ongoing monthly registration fee.

Junior NHW

Peter Fisk reported on the recent meeting. Bill and Peter, with help from Mrs Cooper and Emma had acted out a short play about distraction burglary. The children had then been set the task of creating something. This they had done with great enthusiasm and in a very short time produced some excellent and amusing examples. Peter also reported that on the 15th July he will be taking 20 children to the Police Museum at Chelmsford and to South Woodham Ferrers Police Station.

Other events

Neighbourhood Watch Week. We had a successful day on Friday 18th June with the Police exhibition trailer outside Budgens. 28 new members were recruited and we sold more units of SmartWater. We felt that the new signs were a positive encouragement for people to visit us. We are hoping that Colin will pay the £100 bill for it as promised!

Official Opening of the Priest House. We had a stall at this event. We recruited a further 10 members bringing our total membership to about 200.

Street Coordinators. Bill attended a meeting about kick-starting NHW throughout Essex. When looking at membership numbers, the Home Office guidance is that if there is a street coordinator, then we can claim NHW membership for everyone in the street. Bill will look further at this and see if we can nominate local street coordinators from our regularly attending members.

Not in my Neighbourhood Week

Bill does not have a confirmed date for this yet. It will probably be in late October or early November. Bill, Colin and Emma are considering running the trailer in Brentwood to help with getting NHW going in Brentwood, rather than doing a Doddinghurst-specific exhibition this year. Peter Fisk suggested that if we were to do anything locally, this might be the time to carry out a further leaflet distribution.

There was general agreement that we should have a simple identity badge to show who we are when doing exhibitions. Also to have a simple business card, possibly just with Bill's details.

Bill will discuss the ideas and possible designs at the Essex meeting next Wednesday.

No Cold Calling Zones

Nothing to report this month.

AOB

There was a report of someone photographing a car, perhaps in readiness for stealing it to order. When challenged, the man claimed not to speak English. The incident, which occurred in Kelvedon Hatch, had not been reported to the police, but it would probably have deserved a 999 call.

Doris reported having read of, but not tested, an idea that pressing the # key repeatedly when receiving nuisance 'phone calls might on some systems, get your number deleted from the caller's list.

Peter Froebel reminded people of BT's "Privacy at Home" service which includes registering on the Telephone Preference Service and provides Caller Display if your telephone has a display panel. There is no charge for this service for BT customers.

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 3rd August 2010**
- **Tuesday 7th September 2010**
- **Tuesday 5th October 2010**

All at 2pm in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary