



## Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



### Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, Doddinghurst

#### **Attendance**

The meeting took place in the Parish room. It was attended by 13 people, including the chair Bill Reid and Colin Freeman, Essex NHW liaison officer.

Bill reported five apologies from members. Emma Clarke reported that our PCSO, Dave Creckenden would not be attending as he was not scheduled to be on duty.

#### **Finance**

Robin reported that we still have £369 in our account. He is now processing cash and cheques to enable the purchase of SmartWater, so the reserves will be temporarily higher until the order is placed.

Robin stated that Mrs McKinnley at Brentwood Council is looking at his request for financial support.

#### **Speed Watch**

There was one Speedwatch session last week. It was poorly supported by neighbourhood watch members, particularly since Peter Froebel was away, Peter Fisk forgot and Jim had an urgent last minute appointment. This left just Dave Creckenden and Bill struggling without Jim's voice recorder. Jim will liaise with Dave to book some more sessions.

Jim expressed concern that we had had no feedback from the Police SpeedWatch unit to his last 4 submissions of numbers. Emma stated that people had been away but she would look to get feedback to Jim.

NHW would like to see some electronic speed warning signs in the village and wondered why the parish council do not seem keen on them.

#### **Crime Update**

Bill thanked Emma for the latest crime report. She said that there have been few problems around Doddinghurst, but there was a theft from a shed in Outings Lane. This is an increasing crime at this time of year. There have been many metal thefts nearby - catalytic converters from cars, lead from roofs, copper pipe from schools etc, particularly around Harlow. Cat converters, with their precious platinum content have been targeted around Brentwood. All members are advised to keep cars which have converters (i.e. most modern petrol fuelled cars) garaged or well off road wherever possible.

### **SmartWater**

Robin reported that fifteen members have now committed to buy SmartWater and he will place the order once he has collected the money for one individual. Peter Froebel reported that on that size of order, the actual cost would work out at a little over £18 including vat and a share of the postage. We are collecting £20 per order to enable us to purchase a few spare units.

An order for 18 units has now been placed with SmartWater.

### **Junior NHW**

Peter Fisk reported that a meeting was held last week to plan for events on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> July.

There will be a Junior NHW meeting in the school at 15:20 on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Bill and Peter will read a short playlet related to distraction burglary. If the children respond well to it, we are hoping that they can develop (or even rewrite it) and act it out themselves before the whole school. The original idea had been to let the children create marionettes and develop their own stories that the marionettes could 'act' but this would take too long to be done this year.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July, Maggie Cooper is arranging for up to about 20 children to visit the police museum at Chelmsford and, time permitting, South Woodham Ferrers police station. Exact arrangements for this have yet to be finalised. NHW may well be providing a minibus driver and some adult support.

### **Other events**

Neighbourhood Watch Week. Bill Reid reported that as the Doddinghurst NHW contribution to Neighbourhood Watch Week we will be manning the police exhibition trailer outside Budgens from 8am on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Cooper will bring groups of children over. Emma will also attend from 8a.m. Bill and Peter Fisk have been looking at the possibility of getting a banner to more clearly identify the trailer. Peter Fisk brought along a few possible phrases but asked any members present to suggest others. Wayne is trying to arrange attendance of Mounted Branch to visit the school and come briefly to the trailer, too.

Official Opening of the Priest House. This will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. We will have a table in a marquee in front of the church.

Bill would like to hear from anyone who can attend to help out at either event

Emma will also be running a stall at the Brentwood Strawberry Fair on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, supported by PCSOs. (Colin is unfortunately unable to attend.) She would welcome help there, too.

### **No Cold Calling Zones**

Bill drew the attention of the meeting to a commitment from the police to encourage the creation of No Cold Calling (NCC) Zones, particularly to discourage contacts from criminals promoting scams. It is necessary for anyone trying to set up a NCC Zone to get agreement from every householder in the chosen area. Jim has tried to do this in Middle Green, but sadly two people have vetoed the idea.

Wayne raised the point that as other areas started NCC Zones, there might be more of a concentration on areas without them. He encouraged other members to explore the possibility of creating a NCC Zone in their street. He will be asking Dave Creckenden to do anything that he can, time permitting, to help facilitate this work.

Colin will be attempting to raise awareness of NCC Zones as part of Rogue Traders Week.

Bill will put something in The Link about NCC Zones, but it may be quite a while before it is published.

### **AOB**

Jim reported again on the callers who had been asking householders to buy lottery tickets for the Childrens' Air Ambulance. Jim has investigated the organisation and found that it seems to give big promises but is actually a very small organisation with very little happening. The registered address is a small private house. There are various inconsistencies in the charity's website. The organisation is a registered charity, but this is not a guarantee of legitimacy. They have been talking to the real Essex Ambulance, but they seem to be a very long way from having enough money to own or run an air ambulance. There is no suggestion that what they are doing is illegal, but from Bill's experience, it could be that a large proportion of any money collected goes to the collectors and not to the charity's cause. Jim was concerned that, despite warnings, several people are making regular donations to what appears to be a very dubious cause.

Emma reported that there is no further progress on a Ringmaster replacement.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 2pm** in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel  
NHW Secretary