



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 4th May 2010, Doddinghurst

Attendance

The meeting took place in the Parish room. It was attended by 17 people, including the chair Bill Reid and Colin Freeman.

Apologies were received from Dave Creckendon, our new PCSO was on leave and unable to attend.

Apologies for misspellings of the names of Dave Creckendon and Emma Clark in the notes of the previous meeting.

Acting Sgt Wayne Bloomfield introduced himself. He is currently standing in for the regular sergeant in charge of the PCSOs. He will then have a two year assignment to look after the neighbourhood police officers.

New members from Outings Lane and The Gardens were welcomed.

Doddinghurst May Fair

There was a review of the NHW attendance at the May Fair on 3rd May. The stand was adequately manned, but not well attended, being located in a corner by the window. The stand featured a display of literature particularly featuring SmartWater (disappointedly not supported with an actual sample which we had requested). There were also the usual leaflets and items to give away.

Sadly although there was some interested, no-one else actually committed their £20 to order SmartWater. Several people were wary of seeming to appear to be SmartWater sales staff.

Maggie Cooper suggested that the companies might like to do a bit of sales around the village themselves. One of the members commented that at least one attendee at the stand was unwilling to commit to a purchase without having at least seen a leaflet or brochure from SmartWater themselves.

NHW Local Development

Colin stated that the meeting at Brentwood Council offices aimed at re-starting NHW in Brentwood had been poorly attended despite adverts in the press; slots on Phoenix and BBC Essex; leaflets to all the parish councils and local police units; and notes on the police website.

Bill mentioned that he had encountered two people who were aware of Brentwood NHW, but not of the meeting, as they had not seen any of the publicity.

Colin then had to leave for a PubWatch meeting. Maggi suggested that Colin should take advantage of the way in which most schools regularly send letters out to parents as another way of getting attention for NHW. Certainly Doddinghurst Junior School would be happy to co-operate with this.

Junior NHW

Maggi Cooper wants to offer the police station and museum visits again. She will investigate whether to use a coach for 20 or a minibus for 12. It was agreed to hold a meeting to plan the next Junior NHW on 19th May after school.

Maggi offered to liaise with the new Infants head next year to look at Junior NHW for the Infants. She also stated that the parents do respond positively to the children's activities and she does not know why more parents do not attend our meetings.

Finance

Currently funds are at £349. Robin has written twice to the ACC to see if some money might be available this year. He is extremely disappointed that he has not even received an acknowledgement to his letters.

As we said at the previous meeting, Doddinghurst Parish Council see NHW as a police matter and the only support that they are prepared to offer is free use of the Parish Room. Robin reported that Ann Naylor from Essex Council did seem to think that there might be some possibility of some money and that one of the councillors at Colin's meeting had encouraged Robin to write to the Council asking for money. This he has done.

Speed Watch

Bill reported that he and Jim had done a SpeedWatch with the signs and despite the presence of the Council refuse collection team, the Speedwatchers still found 14 cars speeding, including several over 40 mph. Dave Creckendon is being trained as a trainer of other SpeedWatch team members.

Families on their way to school expressed their approval of SpeedWatch.

Crime Update

Emma has only just returned from sick leave but there seem to have been only 4 crimes of which 2 were burglaries, between 17th April and the date of the meeting. Emma reminded us of the importance of securing sheds and outhouses against the theft of gardening equipment, especially at this time of year.

Dispersal Order

Acting Sgt Bloomfield and Emma Clark agreed to create a document explaining the way in which the Dispersal Order is implemented, as there has been some misunderstanding as to how it can be used. It is not intended to prevent youngsters getting together for "normal" activities. They reported that the dispersal order has had a very good effect at Pilgrims Hatch.

Action: Sgt Bloomfield and Emma Clark to create a document explaining the Dispersal Order.

Neighbourhood Watch Week

This will be between 14-20 June. It was agreed that we would attempt to get the police trailer on Friday 18th June to locate it next to Budgens as usual. Emma and Bill commented that the trailer is quite expensive and that the Police would have to bear the cost.

Action: Emma to organise the Police trailer for 18th June.

Peter Froebel agreed that we could try to get SmartWater representation at that time, too.

Action: Peter to contact Mark Winchester and ask him to attend on 18th June.

Peter Fisk will tidy up the Neighbourhood Watch banner as after some discussion, it looked to be too expensive to buy a newly printed one.

Bill will also be happy to provide a bit of support to any NHW presence at the Strawberry Fair. However, Peter Froebel questioned how valuable this would be in the absence of functional NHW in most of Brentwood.

Action: Bill to talk to Colin about value of NHW stall at Strawberry Fair.

There will be an Operation Rogue Trader Week, too, but Bill doesn't have any details yet.

Mobile Police Station

Bill reported that he had had a valuable meeting with a local PCSO and various members of the public when the PCSO's Smart car was parked outside the Post Office. He felt it was great to have the car parked by the Post Office, rather than on the other side of the road, and that him being there talking to the PCSO naturally encouraged passers by to join in.

He would like to see this repeated, with someone from NHW being regularly present too, supporting the PCSO and encouraging the villagers to join in .

The same approach would be good for the alternative location of the bus near the village hall or supermarket.

Action: Bill to arrange a rota of members wanting to be involved with the PCSO visits.

AOB

There was a report of a lot of trial bikes going round and round the field by Outings Lane. Sadly Sergeant Bloomfield reported that it was hard to catch these kids as they vanish as soon as they detect any police presence.

Ingrid raised a question about the dumping of rubble/rubbish on private land. Is this allowed? She was advised to raise this with the Parish Council.

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 1st June 2010 at 2pm** in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary