



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd May 2011 Parish Room, Doddinghurst

Introduction

The meeting was attended by 11 people. Bill Reid was in the chair. Apologies for absence were received from Edna, Vally, Robin, Ben, Dave, Debbie, Colin and Sue.

Finance

The financial report had already been discussed at the AGM.

Bill invited discussion on the approach to give-away items at meetings and events. Some NHWs are taking the approach that whilst they do not sell these items, they would very much appreciate a donation to NHW funds, particularly when people take the more expensive items. Pat and Peter Salmon both strongly supported the idea. Emma was a little uncomfortable about us suggesting a donation for items that the police had issued to us free of charge. After some discussion, it seemed that the best solution would be to have a donations box with a request to help with the running of NHW. Ingrid also suggested that Bill should regularly ask for funding as part of his monthly article in The Link.

Bill thanked Peter, Norma, Pat and everyone who made such a contribution to the success of the fund-raising at the May Fair. We raised £75 through the lucky dip. We would like to receive prizes for a similar lucky dip at a future event.

May Fair

It was generally agreed that the prominent position we had at the May Fair was ideal, particularly with the banners displayed so well over the stage. Bill reported that 12 new members had been signed up.

Crime Report

Emma reported on a burglary in Lime Grove. There was break-in through UPVC doors. Keys, and hence car, iPod, etc were stolen.

Emma also reported two thefts from cars - number plates, fluorescent sign from taxi. She asked everyone to garage cars if at all possible.

In general the number of calls had reduced over the last month

There was no further report about the stabbing in the village, except that Emma believed it to be the result of two lads competing for the same girl.

Bill reported on difficulties in getting information out of the police. Emma confirmed with regret, that in the absence of any instructions as to what she could say about a crime, she was generally careful to say nothing. Bill had been advised that police would be receiving training on what to disclose and what not.

There were complaints from several attendees about the intimidating nature of the gang collecting in the village, the rubbish that they leave and the smell of cannabis.

SmartWater

Nothing to report this month. We are looking forward to a new campaign this summer.

Speed Watch

Bill reported that Dave Creckendon had emailed to say when he would be available to do SpeedWatch and to do the training. Ben has shown Bill a photo of the new speed gun with the speed display sign. We hope that he will get to us with it some time so that we can see it in use.

There has been some doubt about the availability of insurance for SpeedWatch, but this has now been resolved. Bill is trying to get a copy of insurance documents applicable.

Bill has the equipment in his garage at present. He asked if someone would take on responsibility for organising sessions. Peter Froebel has volunteered to organise some sessions from late May.

NHW Junior Section

Peter Fisk reported that Mrs Cooper had stated that preparations for the Community Cohesion morning on 19th May are well advanced. Emma reported that she will not be available, but will do some of the preparation. There are no other planned activities except possibly the visit to the police museum.

Future Exhibitions and membership

Bill questioned whether we should generally plan to staff the trailer. The next occasion is in June, when Emma has booked it for NHW week. There was some discussion about the lack of active members despite the size of membership. Active membership means attending meetings and being available to carry our activities such as distributing leaflets and helping with SpeedWatch.

AOB

There was a discussion about unhelpful parking. Bill Reid outlined what is planned around the school, but it seems that in the absence of suitable signs, even double yellow lines are not mandatory.

There was a brief discussion about the litter left by the teenage groups, and their unpleasant demeanour but without any obvious way forward. No-one in the meeting knew whether the new CCTV was operational. It was believed that the youths had attempted to damage it.

Scary be Wary Posters. Peter Salmon stated that these are now being sponsored to a small extent by Bits & Bytes in exchange for a printer cartridge needed to print them. The May version is now available for distribution. In reply to a request from Peter Fisk, Emma Clark offered to help with graphics and suggested that Peter should plan for a June/July poster about holidays (Lock up, tidy up and don't let the kids announce on Facebook!) Peter Fisk will be pleased to receive new material and ideas for future posters. Many thanks to Peter for the work that he continues to do on the posters.

It was reported that Brentwood council are coming to collect views about our neighbourhood on 11th May 15:30-18:30. Limited details are available at <http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=1940>

Web Page

The Doddinghurst web site can be found at <http://www.doddinghurst.org.uk/nhw/nhw.html>

Future events

Emma requested help at the Baytree Centre 9th July 09.00-16.00 for a NHW/Community Cohesion day. Many different public service organisations will be represented.

The next NHW meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th June 2011** at **1.30pm** in the Parish Room. Please note the new start time.

Note that we plan to defer meetings when they would immediately follow a bank holiday.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary