



Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch



Notes of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, 1st September 2009, Doddinghurst

Attendance

The meeting took place in the Parish room. It was attended by 14 people, including the chair Bill Reid and Alex Willmot, the new PCSO for the area. Alex has been a PCSO for 7 years and he last served in Pilgrims Hatch. He was warmly welcomed to the group.

Apology received from Colin Freeman.

Colin is currently trying to re-establish NHW meetings in Brentwood. Alex stated that there is a proposal to have a Brentwood Rural North NHW, which would include Ingatestone, Blackmore, Navestock, Hook End, Kelvedon Hatch and Doddinghurst. They might meet every 3 months or so.

Finance

Robin Ekblom reported that the net balance on our account is £520. We are currently earning interest at the rate of 4 pence per month.

Robin suggested that we can afford to send out mailings (such as these notes) by post to those members who do not have email. There is a small number of such people in our group.

Speed Watch

Bill has requested that we have a regular police speed check in the village. They should be prepared to issue tickets in appropriate cases. It was suggested this should occur monthly and it would reinforce our Speed Watch activities.

Crime Update

There has been an attempt recently to steal a digger which is currently located at the school. The vehicle was started and moved but not taken from the school grounds. At the same time, a man has been seen in the village on a number of occasions at 1am in the early morning. He has a white Ford Escort van, registration S 837 BTN, and is registered in Romford. He has been seen approaching some local houses carrying a jerry can. We should look out for the van and report any sightings. Call 0300 333 4444 or ring Bill Reid.

There is a local MOT tester giving out MOT certificates to unsafe vehicles. If we see any cars on the road that look obviously un-road worthy, try to take the registration and pass the details to Alex Willmot.

RingMaster

There is no further information yet on the trial of the new RingMaster system

SmartWater

We are still looking at the options for SmartWater. There are a number of alternatives that will be investigated and information will be presented to the group. We understand that in Essex, SmartWater has been deployed in Harlow and Thurrock. We do not know whether Essex Police are supporting SmartWater. Bill will ask the question at a future police meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch Signs

All the signs are now installed, keeping a couple spare for contingencies.

Junior NHW

There was no activity during the school holidays. Bill and Peter Fisk are to kick off some activities for the new school year with Maggi Cooper, the junior school headmistress.

Web Page

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

AOB

- The first week in October is Brentwood Neighbourhood Watch week. We will support it on Friday 9th October. We propose to have the police mobile bus outside Budgens from 8:30 am to 2 pm.
- The Home Office is organising Not in My Neighbourhood Watch week on 2nd to 6th November. Watch for further information.
- There is a new crime reduction officer for Brentwood. She will be in place later in September.
- There is concern about the potential for distraction burglaries. This is where someone poses as an official or utility employee to gain access to a house and then items are stolen. Alex will get details of where council work is being carried out locally, as this is often used as a cover. We can then be pre-warned if this ploy is used.
- A white kit-type car with a large rear spoiler and square rear number plate has been seen obviously speeding in the village. If this is seen, please try to capture the registration and report to Alex or Bill.
- There is still concern about the ease of entry through UPVC doors. It was suggested that we should write to local double glazing companies and ask them to ensure that appropriate security information is given to all their customers and possibly to repeat this to existing installations. Peter Froebel will draft a letter and discuss with Bill before the next meeting.

Future events

- The next NHW meetings will be on Tuesday 6th October and 3rd November 2009 at 2pm in the Parish Room.

Peter Froebel
NHW Secretary