



Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Committee Meeting Thursday 10th November 2005

Persons present: David Parker, Rita and Steve Coombs, John Mack and Stephen Manger

Apologies for absence: Jim Campe, John Gurden and Fred Angove

Meeting commenced with John Mack producing a map which details the locations of Neighbourhood Watch groups. Majority of Watches are centred around Marks Gate / Whalebone Abbey and Gascoigne wards.

John Mack informed the Committee that the NHW base at Valence House was unfortunately being withdrawn. John stated that the site was not suitable due to Health and Safety issues. Whilst no other accommodation was being offered by the Council John had organised for the following help to be available for NHW:

1. Council Call Centre would take phone calls for NHW
2. A system could be developed where information packs could be sent to new NHWs
3. Suzanne Honeyman would organise the post for NHW
4. John offered for NHW to share what accommodation he had for storage purposes

Rita Coombs stated that she was disappointed that the Council were not offering alternative accommodation. She pointed out that the Valence House room was used by NHW, often as a meeting point for new Watch members to meet existing Watch members. She stated that she was not prepared to run the business of NHW from her personal home.

David Parker stated that there were probably four issues that needed to be addressed in respect of losing the accommodation:

1. Storage
2. Available accommodation for seeing / meeting people
3. Co-ordination between Council / Police
4. Co-ordination of calls.



In respect of co-ordination of calls NHW have their own phone, which can be interrogated without attending a venue (T: 0208 215 3000 / 0208 215 3010)

Contacts with Police and Council takes place at Committee and Co-ordinators meetings and Call Centre have already been offered to send out Information packs

In respect of accommodation for meeting people / storage it was suggested that a better idea may be to have local NHW offices where individuals could meet other people within their area.

As a pilot site Marks Gate Police Station was offered for the Marks Gate / Whalebone ward areas.

In assessing storage required John Mack provided breakdown of what equipment was in the office:

Display Stand and Information packs
Filing Cabinet / Computer and phone
Defunct printer

John stated that Frizlands Lane Depot was also available for storage:

ACTION: David Parker / John Mack - would get together to arrange for Office to be emptied and contents taken to either Marks Gate Police Station or Frizlands Lane Depot.

ACTION: John Mack - to order NHW leaflets that go into the Information packs and also to look at ordering more door / Window stickers. There is no need for the Barking and Dagenham logos on the stickers.

Once the leaflets have been ordered then the Information packs will need to be put together.

David stated that he would like someone responsible for each designated Safer Neighbourhood area. Rita and Steve Coombs accepted an offer to run the Marks Gate area.

David also stated that he would ask a new Committee member to replace him for the Leftley NHW as he was now running the Chair. New Area Co-ordinators could be co-opted onto the Committee

ACTION: Stephen Manger. Would look at updating the website for NHW. Updates to be provided at the Committee meetings.

**Structure of the Committee then discussed:**

Chair – David Parker

Vice Chair – Jim Campe

Minutes – Steve Manger / Suzanne Honeyman

Treasurer – Steve Coombs

Office Manager – Rita Coombs

New Watch Secretary – David Parker

Liaison with Council / Police – David Parker

Watch Co-ordinators – Area Co-ordinators – Awaits

Web site co-ordinator – Steve Manger

Newsletter editor – John Mack

ACTION: Rita / Steve Coombs – To organise questions and answers for Call Direct

Stephen Manger stated that if Committee members incurred costs for NHW on phone calls he would be able to arrange for this to be reimbursed.

David Parker requested that additional members should be invited to Committee. The Committee agreed to invite Paul Bond and Kathy Lane and Rita Summerfield to represent other Watch areas.

Newsletter – Committee members were asked to bring along drafts for the next newsletter at the next Committee meeting. John Mack offered to put together the drafts – hopefully for a newsletter in the New Year. It would be an opportunity to introduce the new Chair and changes as discussed.

John Mack then discussed a current Council initiative to alley gate Whalebone Road North to Wangey Road in Chadwell Heath. There was a Council offer to deliver to the addresses CPO advice and NHW letters.

The brief Summary of ' How to Start a Watch ' was provided to John for delivery.

David stated that all the Watches who are not attending the Co-ordinators meetings should be contacted to ensure that they are still in existence.

ACTION: Stephen Manger to provide a list of the individual NHW officers who represent NHW and clarify who to send the CAD receipt returns to.



ACTION: Stephen Manger will update new NHWs onto the list and forward details of the new list. Details also to be forwarded to Jeff Patterson BIU

Use of Computers – Current usage to be discussed at further meeting

Finance – Agreed for account to be continued. David would need to add his details. Funds available kept by partners for NHW £2000.

In addition Council were providing funding for new NHW signage.

David would look into costs of Insurance cover for NHW.

Steve Manger would organise David Parker to meet the C/Supt at the Police Station.

Next Co-ordinators meeting discussed – Sally Dalton Crime Prevention Officers to be asked to attend to give an input on Distraction burglary.

John Mack said that he was looking at the feasibility of providing cameras for NHW members to photograph their jewellery

Next Meeting – Tues 20th December 2005 at Dagenham Police Station 7pm.