



**MINUTES OF THE BARKING AND DAGENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY CO-ORDINATORS MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2006  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS BARKING TOWN HALL**

<b>Present:</b>	David Parker	Chairperson Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Association
	Suzanne Honeyman	(Secretary) Senior Community Safety Administrator (LBBB) (Minutes)
	John Mack	Community Safety Advisor (Burglary) (LBBB)
	Chief Inspector Nick Hancock	Metropolitan Police
	George McCreight	Abandoned Vehicles Team (LBBB)
	Inspector Steve Manger	Metropolitan Police
	PCSO Steven Smee	Metropolitan Police Marks Gate
	PCSO Ian Taylor	Metropolitan Police
	Hardial Singh Rai	Sunningdale Avenue
	Robert Ornoch	Billet Road Chadwell Heath
	Ron Nicholls	Park Avenue Barking
	Roy Newman	Sunningdale Avenue Barking
	Rita Summerfield	Rose Glen Rush Green
	Donald Everett	Emerald Gardens Dagenham
	Jim Campe	Springpond Road Dagenham
	L Young	Brockdish Avenue Barking
	Colin Constable	Pemberton Gardens Chadwell Heath
	Jan Farrell	Goresbrook Ward
	Len Aldis	Westrow Drive Barking
	Edna Handley	Park Avenue Barking
	Lynne Denison	Upney Lane Barking
	Frances Sammut	Thorntons Farm Avenue Chadwell Heath
	Karen LeSurf	Thorntons Farm Avenue Chadwell Heath
	Marcelle Unel	Lincoln Avenue Dagenham
	Himmet Unel	Lincoln Avenue Dagenham
	Carol Chapple	Westbury Road Barking
	Paul Bond	Sunningdale Avenue Barking
	G Kilduff	Sunningdale Avenue Barking
	Linda Sclater	Westminster Gardens Barking
	Mandeep Mattu	Westminster Gardens Barking
	Resham Mattu	Westminster Gardens Barking
	Cathy Laine	Padnall Road Chadwell Heath
	M Moylan	Third Avenue Dagenham
	S Higgins	Third Avenue Dagenham
	M Eaton	Westrow Drive Barking
	Derrick Baldwin	Aldborough Road Dagenham
	Roger Rouse	Woodbridge Road Barking
	Anthony Richards	Willmington Gardens Barking
	Rosie Stroud	Gorseway Rush Green

1. **Welcome to the meeting**

Chairperson welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Marion Williams, Les Martin, Joan Copsey, June Griffin, Sid DeMain, Morris Phillips, Bernard Street, Rita Venturini, Lisa Bird, PC Graham Mann and David Seeds.

The Secretary explained that she had received a voicemail from Morris Phillips explaining that he had moved out of the Borough and would be resigning as a co-ordinator as a result. Votes of thanks were extended to the Committee on behalf of Mr Phillips.

3. **Minutes of the meeting dated 13 July 2006**

Mr Ornoch challenged the comments made under the Police Report, paragraph 3 relating to a dedicated Police Officer having telephoned all watches to confirm information, as he said he had received no such contact. Inspector Manger gave an undertaking to follow this up with the officer concerned

The minutes were agreed by all to be an accurate record.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The following information was noted from the Chairman's report:-

Votes of thanks were extended to Inspector Manger for his work undertaken at the Town Show and all the volunteers who helped on the stand, John Mack for his work on training and Junior Neighbourhood Watch, Paul Bond for taking the lead on piloting the No Cold Calling Zone and all the area co-ordinators for their work locally.

**Meeting Protocol**

Discussions took place at the recent Committee Meeting, and it was decided to no longer have the item 'questions from the floor' on the Quarterly Co-ordinators Agenda in order to provide a better service to the co-ordinators and to aid the smooth running of this meeting. The 'any other business' item will be retained and this can be either be raised at the meeting if it is of general interest, or will be dealt with on an individual basis outside of the meeting by way of a written response, telephone call or e-mail correspondence.

Questions raised on agenda items will of course be dealt with during the meetings either by the guest speaker or a committee member.

Many of the co-ordinators present indicated that they were happy to adopt this change in format.

**Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter**

Colin Constable reported that he had produced a flyer outlining his contact details for co-ordinators to collect at the end of the meeting if they hadn't already done so, as he was having problems obtaining items for the newsletter. Copy attached to the minutes.

**Junior Neighbourhood Watch**

It was noted that John Mack would be giving a full report later on in the agenda, in particular in terms of the pilot at Robert Clack School. A request was put forward to the co-ordinators asking for anyone who would like to volunteer to assist in forming Junior Neighbourhood Watches with Year 7 pupils in other Senior Schools. If anyone is interested it was noted that they should speak to either Colin Constable or John Mack who will be co-ordinating this going forward after this meeting.

### **Co-ordination with Neighbourhood Watch in other London Boroughs**

As well as continuing to engage with Redbridge contacts have now been established with Havering and it is understood that a meeting will be arranged soon to look at co-operative ventures across London, Barking and Dagenham will be represented at this.

### **No Cold Calling Zone**

It was noted that Paul Bond had given a report to the committee on the success of the pilot in the areas around Sunningdale Road Barking. A discussion was held concerning further areas which might benefit from a No Cold Calling initiative and it was agreed that this could be done via the analysis of crime statistic data. If co-ordinators feel their area would benefit please speak to Paul Bond, Inspector Manger or John Mack.

### **Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations**

It was highlighted that this organisation now has a local office and the intention is to invite their Chairperson to the next committee meeting to discuss the possibility of the Borough's Neighbourhood Watch Association becoming a member.

### **Street Leaders Scheme**

In his capacity as lead committee member for the scheme, Paul Bond has been asked to continue discussions with Jacque Harris and report back on developments.

### **Training for co-ordinators**

The first of the new training sessions has been booked for 8 November 2006. Details to be outlined later by John Mack.

### **Queries raised as a result of the Chairman's Report**

Robert Ornoch highlighted his concerns surrounding the abolition of the Community Forums and stated that he would like to see these reinstated. The Chairman responded that it was not within the remit of the Borough's Neighbourhood Watch to ask for these to be reinstated. John Mack clarified that the Tenants and Residents Association was a more effective platform for voicing concerns.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report consisted of the following information: -

£179.60 was raised from the sale of items at the Dagenham Town Show.

The balance of the account currently stands at £1,956.96. There were no outlays to report.

## **6. Police Report**

The following information was noted as a result of the verbal report undertaken by Inspector Manger: -

### **Residential Burglary**

There are currently 82 more victims of burglary in Barking and Dagenham than at the same time last year. That equates to a 16.2% increase in Burglary.

### **Personal Robbery**

There are currently 33 less victims of robbery in Barking and Dagenham than at the same time last year. That equates to a 9% reduction in robbery offences.

### **Vehicle Crime**

Currently there are only 3 less victims of car crime in Barking and Dagenham than at the same time last year. That equates to a 0.2% decrease in vehicle crime.

A 17% reduction has been achieved concerning the theft of motor vehicles.

An increase of 14.9% has been noted on theft from motor vehicles. Mainly due to the theft of satellite navigation systems and vehicle index plates.

### **Domestic Violence**

At present the Police are dealing with a reduction of 239 cases of domestic violence in Barking and Dagenham when compared to the same period last year. That equates to an 18% reduction.

### **Racial Crime**

A reduction of 11.3% has been achieved in the number of racial crimes. This equates to a reduction in 27 cases when compared to the same period last year.

### **Serious Assault**

A reduction of 10.4% has been achieved. This equates to a reduction of 150 cases being dealt with when compared to the same period last year.

### **Crime**

The following is a précis of the latest figures of some of the serious allegations of crime made in the borough since April 2005

Murder	1 case
Rape	48 cases

### **Stop and Search**

Since April 2006, the latest figures show that Police in the borough carried out around 4,200 stop and searches, 7.6% of which resulted in arrest.

### **Criminal Damage**

Currently there is a 7.3% in Criminal damage to dwellings.

### **Intelligence Reports**

83 intelligence reports have been received from co-ordinators. A number of which were noted as follows:  
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### **Rose Glen**

Information received regarding faulty gates which were subsequently repaired by the Council and are regularly patrolled by the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

### **Padnall Road**

Information received concerning carpet sellers seen visiting the sheltered accommodation. Safer Neighbourhood Team briefed to look out for vehicle involved.

### **Wellington Drive**

Information received concerning three males with knives attempting to break into vehicles. Responded to by the Police.

### **Millbrook Gardens**

Information received concerning two white males conning old age pensioners out of large sums of money for work carried out which was not required. Details circulated to teams of company involved in conning operation.

### **The Vineries, Heathway, Dagenham**

Local information received from residents and shopkeepers resulted in the arrest of three males for supplying cocaine.

Examples of cannabis seized in a subsequent operation that had occurred prior to this meeting were circulated to co-ordinators.

## **7. Council Liaison Officer Report**

The verbal report given by John Mack contained the following information: -

### **Junior Neighbourhood Watch**

Work is currently underway to see how this scheme can be developed. Official launch is yet to be organised. Discussions to occur with Chief Inspector Hancock and Safer Neighbourhood Teams going forward.

### **Don't Be Dim Lighting Campaign**

This is a poster / leaflet publicity campaign directed at residents in the Borough to remind them to make sure they leave a light on in their properties, during the hours of darkness in the winter months whilst no one is at home to avoid becoming a victim of burglary. A limited number of light timers will be distributed.

### **Distraction Burglary Awareness Days**

A series of awareness days targeted at elderly and vulnerable residents have been arranged on 24, 25 and 26 October 2006 and are to be held at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club. Representatives from Trading Standards, Fire Brigade, Road Safety and Police Crime Prevention will be undertaking presentations. Lunch is to be provided and the services of an entertainer.

### **Questions raised as a result of the Council Liaison Officer Report**

Cathy Laine referred to the advertisement for the Awareness Days that had appeared in the Citizen and asked for clarification on whether transport had been arranged as this had not been mentioned. John Mack responded that transport had been arranged for those residents who were unable to attend with out

provision and that it had not been mentioned in the advertisement for fear that it would become oversubscribed.

Cathy Laine also pointed out that it would have been a good idea to contact the sheltered accommodation wardens to advise them of the details. John Mack responded that the warden controlled accommodation centres had already been informed.

**8. New Senior Police Officers for Barking and Dagenham – Chief Superintendent Tony Eastaugh and Chief Inspector Nick Hancock**

Chief Inspector Hancock began his verbal presentation by extending apologies for absence from the new Borough Commander Tony Eastaugh, who had hoped to attend tonight's meeting but had been unable to do so due to his involvement in managing the Police response to a stabbing incident that had occurred the previous evening in the Borough.

Chief Inspector Hancock has served in a variety of roles before joining Barking and Dagenham including Traffic and Public Order most recently in Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

Part of Chief Inspector Hancock's remit is to work closely with Partners to achieve long term solutions to community issues and he is highly motivated to reduce crime and make Barking and Dagenham a safer place for everyone to work, live and raise their families.

Also the figurehead for Safer Neighbourhood Teams on the borough, Chief Inspector Hancock is working in close partnership with the Local Authority to ensure that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams target specific areas of public concern such as burglary, domestic violence, drug dealing and the cultivation of cannabis. It was also noted that he is keen to focus on Priority Crime and public set priorities to address the issues that really do matter to the people of Barking and Dagenham.

Co-ordinators were informed that by December 2006 every single one of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be up to full staffing strength

Chief Inspector Hancock also advised that he was determined with the collaboration of our Partners in the Local Authority, Ward Panels, statutory and voluntary agencies and the local community that the fear of crime could be bought back to those individuals who commit crime so that for instance drug dealers know that we will take their property, their assets and their liberty and that they will go to prison for a long time. Reference was made to a number of recent co-ordinated drug raids which had taken active drug dealers off the streets and into custody.

Reference was made to the crime of domestic violence which Chief Inspector Hancock assured that perpetrators would be dealt with robustly.

Changes are to be made to the current structure of the Operation Cougar which will now deal with not only motor vehicle crime, but burglary and robbery.

Chief Inspector Hancock referred to the continual progress of the Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association and highlighted the involvement of Inspector Manger in these changes.

**Questions raised as a result of Chief Inspector Hancock's presentation.**

Len Aldis asked for clarification on the operational status of Robin Hopes. Chief Inspector Hancock responded that he had retired from the Metropolitan Police Service and gave an overview of the new Management Team that has been put in place.

Ron Newman referred to details which had been in the press recently concerning the Home Secretary's decision to let people out of prison after six weeks and his concerns relating to this. Inspector Hancock informed Mr Newman that he couldn't comment on behalf of this decision by the Home Secretary.

Cathy Laine took the opportunity to appraise Chief Inspector Hancock of the sterling work undertaken by Inspector Manger and asked whether there was any truth in the rumours that Police Community Support Officers were due to be given increased powers. Inspector Hancock confirmed that it was true that additional powers would soon be available to Police Community Support Officers and advised that negotiations were currently underway with Transport for London and British Transport Police. Training will be undertaken. The additional powers are likely to cover Local Authority and Police offences.

## **9. Abandoned Vehicles**

An invitation was extended to George McCreight, Manager for the Abandoned Vehicles Team and Interim Group Manager for Enforcement and Environmental Issues to begin his presentation on the operational responsibilities of the Abandoned Vehicles Team. It was noted that many issues had been raised at the previous co-ordinators meeting concerning the issues associated with abandoned vehicles in the Borough.

The following information was noted: -

George McCreight had originally joined the Borough as an Abandoned Vehicles Officer seven years ago and was now in charge of a small team who had responsibility for the whole Borough.

The team primarily deals with abandoned and untaxed vehicles.

Deals with around 100 vehicles a month.

Has a service in place whereby unwanted vehicles are taken away for free.

The contractor who picks up vehicles on behalf of the Borough has to adhere to strict guidelines.

Like most of the Council run services, the Abandoned Vehicles Team has Performance Indicators and Targets set by the Government and Local Authority. For example a vehicle must be removed within 24 hours once the Abandoned Vehicle Notice has expired. The team must go out and inspect a vehicle within a 24 hour deadline.

In 2002 a 3 year DVLA Untaxed Vehicle Scheme was piloted in the Borough. Over that period the team were responsible for reporting 20,000 vehicles, to the DVLA of which 5,000 owners were fined in excess of £750,000.00 in court fines. It was noted that none of the £750,000.00 of fines were re-directed to the Borough. Currently the team remove in excess of two untaxed vehicles per day.

### **Questions asked as a result of the presentation**

A question was raised as to whether untaxed / abandoned vehicles parked on front gardens could be dealt with by the team. The response given was that the team is governed by DVLA guidelines and can only deal with vehicles stored on the highway.

Anthony Richards asked for clarification on what options were available to the team concerning dealing with vehicles belonging to migrants, many of which were not insured or taxed. Mr Richards was informed that unfortunately the team had a very limited budget and was unable to make checks on this issue; however George was aware that the DVLA were developing a database to tackle this issue and his team were actively assisting them.

On the issue of untaxed vehicles for sale raised by Jim Campe, George explained that the Borough has a Licensing Officer that the team regularly works with and they have the remit to deal with this problem.

On the subject of debris left in the road from vehicles removed by the Council, which was raised as an issue at the last co-ordinators meeting, George highlighted that the Borough's Contractors Protocol had been adjusted to include the removal of debris and that it was also the responsibility of the Local

Authority Cleansing Department to remove. If co-ordinators wish to highlight any situations of where this is not happening George gave an undertaking to follow them up.

Mandeep Mattu highlighted that his father's vehicle tax disc had been stolen recently and asked George to clarify what action he should take. Mandeep was advised that his father must report this stolen to the Police, as it is an offence not to display tax disc and that he must apply to the DVLA for a replacement.

On the subject of tax discs which had been covered over or defaced George highlighted that the team had a direct link to the DVLA and would be notified instantly if there were any irregularities.

**10. Training – John Mack**

The first training session for new and old co-ordinators has been scheduled for Wednesday 8 November 2006 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre Chamber. The duration of the course will be approximately 2 hours and will be split into three parts.

**11. Town Show Report – Inspector Steve Manger**

Inspector Manger extended his thanks to PCSO's Steven Smeed and Mark Dankerwell for setting the Neighbourhood Stall up at the Dagenham Town Show. Votes of thanks were also extended to the volunteers who manned the stall who included Cathy Laine and Hardial Singh Rai.

It was noted that details of 40 Neighbourhood Watches have been acquired as a result of attendance at the Town Show.

**12. Good news**

Len Aldis highlighted an occasion involving the Police being called via 999 to a vacated house in his road because unknown youths had been seen at the property. It came to light that the youths seen were in fact related to the new owners.

**13. Questions from the floor**

Hardial Singh Rai raised his concerns relating to the health and safety issues of the footbridges between Salisbury Avenue and Essex Road and Essex Road to St Awdrys Road. It was agreed that details would be circulated after the meeting for John Mack to follow up.

Mr Unel reported that he hadn't seen any wardens patrolling his area for a few weeks and was still having problems with motorbikes. Mr Unel explained that he had tried to contact his local Safer Neighbourhood Team and alas his telephone calls were not being returned. Inspector Manger gave an undertaking to contact the Eastbrook Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant. Co-ordinators were reminded to let Inspector Manger know of any contact issues they were having concerning their local Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Mrs Rosie Stroud took the opportunity to raise her concerns relating to the alley gating that had been installed in the vicinity of the alley ways connecting Harvey's Lane, Foxglove, Dagenham Road and Gorseway. The main concerns being that padlocks were being cut and keys given out to people who do not live in the area in order it is thought to gain access to garages. At a meeting with residents in July at Rush Green Hall it was noted that a request had been made for CCTV cameras to be installed. Inspector Manger responded that the local Safer Neighbourhood Team had been actively working with residents. George McCreight highlighted that he was aware of the work to be undertaken in this area in his capacity as Interim Group Manager for Environment and Enforcement. On the issue of the installation of cameras, George advised that in order to position these in a viable spot work would have to be undertaken on cutting back overgrown foliage. An invitation was extended to Mrs Stroud to speak to George McCreight after this meeting.

Robert Ornoch advised that his watch were still awaiting the installation of Neighbourhood Watch Signs. Inspector Manger responded that he had a few left in stock and would organise for these to be installed. Cathy Laine highlighted that she had seen signs in Mr Ornoch's watch area and that these were smaller than the previous ones and much higher up the lamppost. It was agreed that Inspector Manger will clarify the situation.

#### **Points of interest**

Robert Ornoch advised that high visibility foot patrols were a regular occurrence on the Marks Gate Estate.

Derek Baldwin highlighted that Village Safer Neighbourhood Team had been very supportive in the preparation of his watch's newsletter.

#### **14. Any other business**

An invitation was extended to PCSO Steven Smee to give a presentation on the changes to the Borough's Neighbourhood Watch Association Website, which was undertaken by way of an internet demonstration. The following information was noted: -

Links have been added for reporting graffiti and a young people's link to the Metropolitan Police web site.

Currently in the process of updating the good news stories section.

A new section has been introduced on reporting crime.

Looking into the possibility of enabling visitors to the site to download application forms.

The introduction of a 'Drugs Screw Up Lives' animated banner.

#### **15. Dates of future meetings**

Suzanne Honeyman advised that she would be circulating proposed dates for 2007/2008 at the next meeting which will be Thursday 11 January 2007 Civic Centre 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Honeyman, Senior Community Safety Administrator