



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

**HELD ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2005**

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS CIVIC CENTRE DAGENHAM**

<b>Present:</b>	Judith Russell	Chair Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Association
	Jim Campe Dagenham	Vice Chair Barking and Neighbourhood Watch
	Association Suzanne Honeyman	Community Safety Administrator (LBBD) (Minutes)
	John Mack	Community Safety Advisor (Burglary)
	Rita and Steve Coombs	Lansbury Avenue Chadwell Heath
	Councillor Terry Justice Keith Jeffrey	Wellgate Ward Newham Neighbourhood Watch
	PC Bob McGookin	Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Village Ward
	PC Graham Mann	Metropolitan Police
	PC Richard Heapy	Metropolitan Police
	Mrs Daphne Geary	Rylands Estate Oval Road North
	Mrs V Carter	Millbrook Gardens Chadwell Heath
	Mrs G Carter	Stamford Road Dagenham
	Kathy Smith	Oval Road North
	Bill Smith	Oval Road North
	Rita Venturini	49 Wellington Drive
	K Gadenne	47 Stanley Avenue Dagenham
	Morris E Phillips	
	Les Martin	81 Geneva Gardens Chadwell Heath
	Jo Copp	Pavet Close Dagenham
	Ronald Nicholls	150 Park Avenue
	D Everett	10 Emerald Gardens Dagenham
	Dave Torr	66 Millard Terrace Dagenham
	Rita Venturini	49 Wellington Drive Dagenham
	Joan Copsey	12 Lee Avenue Chadwell Heath
	Robert Ornoch	Billet Road Chadwell Heath
	Sid Demain	Goresway Rush Green
	Martin Shaw	1 Manor Road Barking
	Michelle Crickmar	10 Cavendish Gardens Barking



Mr D J Parker	117 Upney Lane Barking
Derrick Baldwin	Manor Road and Aldborough
	Watch
Cathy Laine	314 Padnall Road Chadwell
	Heath
Carrol Chapple	Westbury Road Barking
Ron Wood	16 Westrow Drive
Len Aldis	18 Westrow Drive
Dave Russell	2 Manor Road Barking

**1. Welcome to the meeting**

Judith Russell, Chairperson welcomed those present to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to the co-ordinators from Upney Lane.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Bernard Street, Dorothy and Pam Beech, Jean Flavin-Jones, Teresa Munro (Deputy Community Safety Manager), Linda Young, Beryl Selvedge and Inspector Steve Manger.

**3. Minutes of the meeting dated 21 October 2004**

Joan Copsy highlighted that she had not been in attendance at the last meeting and therefore could not have made the comments recorded in paragraph 8 on page 3 of the previous minutes. It was not ascertained as to whom had made the comments.

The minutes from the last meeting were then agreed by all to be an accurate record.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report consisted of the following information: -

The Community Safety Team is looking at undertaking a Geographical Information System exercise to locate where Neighbourhood Watches are and where crime is happening. The Chair explained that a copy of the co-ordinators list would be circulated during the meeting for amendment.

Copies of the new CAD forms are available from Robert McGookin for those requiring them.

Contact details for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams were circulated.

The co-ordinators were informed that copies of the new Crime, Disorder and Drugs Audit were available for those requiring a copy.

The two remaining individuals who had requested one of the three computers purchased with Police funding were informed that they were available for collection along with Broadband connection



The Chair explained that the next quarterly meeting in April would be concentrating on communicating issues with the Police.

Neighbourhood Watch has received an invitation from the Police to join them in their marquee at this year's Town Show.

Apologies were extended to the co-ordinators relating to the delays in the production of a newsletter. The Chair gave an undertaking to arrange this in the next couple of months.

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

The Treasurer was pleased to report that there had been very little expenditure on the association account other than an amount for £367.50 which was for insurance. The balance of the account stands at £1,507.87

The Chair explained that £3,000.00 has been secured from the Local Authority to pay for the advertising stand and £1,000.00 from the Police for the computer project currently being undertaken

It was noted that more funding from the Police is on its way

#### **6. Police Report**

The Police report was given by Robert McGookin officer from the Safer Neighbourhood Team in Village Ward

It was noted that the report did not include the usual summary of crime statistics.

The issue of distraction burglary was highlighted. The roadshows organised by John Mack were referred to as the Police have been involved in working on these.

The Chair enquired as to whether Neighbourhood Watch could assist with targeting distraction burglary in any way. It was noted that there were various things co-ordinators could do to help tackle this issue.

There will be another three or four Safer Neighbourhood Teams introduced in the next few months.

David Parker, Secretary for the Cavendish Gardens Neighbourhood Watch enquired as to when Longbridge Ward would be getting a Safer Neighbourhood Team as they are unable to report crime at the moment because of the communication problems and this is why the area is identified as one that has a low crime rate. The Police response was that this would not be occurring in the next few months.

Police Community Support Officers have been identified as a good resource to service a number of dispersal orders that have been introduced in the



borough. The Five Elms shopping parade was referred to as a good example.

Mrs Selvedge highlighted the issue of Marks Gate Police Station's opening hours. A particular problem had occurred outside Warren School and she had encountered extreme difficulties in contacting the Police. The Police response was that a 999 call was required in this situation.

A detailed discussion ensued concerning the difficulty with communicating with the Police to report incidents / crime. The Chair reported that she would be raising the continuing communication issues and lack of CAD Operator training with Chief Inspector Stark at the earliest opportunity.

The Police hope that the introduction of the C3I Call Centres will go some way to improving the communication issues.

Kathy Laine highlighted that the communication issue was always being raised and asked for clarification on whose decision it was to shut Police Stations and reduce office hours. The response was that David Eaton would cover the issue in his presentation to the co-ordinators later on in the meeting.

Councillor Justice highlighted that the Police communication issue was a universal problem. He had in the past asked for a bleeper system to be considered to which the response had been that this was not possible.

An unidentified individual explained that they would rather 10 Police Constables on the street than 40 Police Community Support Officers because of their lack of powers.

The Chair explained that she would be requesting an updated version of the Ward Beat Officers list from Inspector Manger. It was noted that this information may well be published on the Police website.

## **7. Guest Speakers**

A warm welcome was extended to the following guest speakers: -

### **a) David Eaton London Neighbourhood Watch Chair**

David Eaton gave a very informative verbal presentation which contained the following information: -

There appears to be a lot of confusion relating to 999 calls. The co-ordinators were informed that if an incident had just happened or was causing suspicion that the best action to take was to place a 999 call. If there is no chance of catching anyone do not dial 999.

Last year 240,000 telephone calls out of the 2.5 million received by the 999 system were time wasting enquiries. 346,000 of the total 999 calls were made from mobile telephones of which 90% were what is commonly known as dead calls i.e. no one on the other end of the line. In short the 999 system is receiving 586,000 calls that it doesn't need.



It was noted that Keith Jeffery, Newham Crime Prevention Officer and trustee of London Neighbourhood Watch had been invited onto the Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Association Committee and would be attending any future meetings on behalf of London Neighbourhood Watch.

Reference was made to the crime of Distraction Burglary. The positive impact that the Good Neighbour Scheme could have on reducing this type of crime was highlighted.

A request was put to all co-ordinators to identify who their vulnerable neighbours were.

David Eaton felt that utility companies offered password systems to those people least likely able to use them and this was an area where co-ordinators could assist them.

Reference was made to the Mayor's promise to have a Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team in every ward by 2006 it was noted that this had now been amended to 2007.

Comparison was made between the area of Metropolitan Police responsibility and that of Police Officers in New York.

An update was given relating to the issues that had arisen as a result of the Neighbourhood Watch name having been trademarked by external companies for financial gain. David explained that the website, ISP, mobile phones initiatives that had been delayed whilst the issue was resolved were no back on track.

Pre production copies of the London Neighbourhood Watch Magazine are available for those requiring a copy. These will go into print production from 14 January and co-ordinators and members of the local neighbourhood watches will receive a copy every year. These should be available for collection at the April AGM.

A discussion ensued on the use of Police officers at football grounds as Councillor Justice had raised the issue. David Eaton stated that he agreed with the general consensus that football grounds should have to pay for the resource.

**b) John Mack – Community Safety Advisor (Burglary)**

John Mack gave a very informative and interesting PowerPoint presentation outlining the responsibilities of his post and a number of crime prevention initiatives he had either instigated or been involved with such as the distribution of Memo Minders and Door Mirrors, Distraction Burglary Awareness Day Roadshows, and the Barking and Dagenham Trusted Neighbour Scheme which are all targeted at the reduction of distraction burglaries.



Copies of John's PowerPoint presentation are available upon request.

**8. Questions from the floor**

An issue was raised relating to 7 vehicles parked in Salisbury Avenue that did not have valid tax discs. Two traffic wardens were seen in the area ticketing other vehicles and were approached concerning the out of date tax discs to which the response was that it was nothing to do with them. Councillor Justice responded that this issue should be reported to the Council. Suzanne Honeyman from the Community Safety Team responded that the problem should be reported to the Abandoned Vehicles Section. Reference was made to an issue reported to Suzanne by Mrs Carter that had been very similar.

All other questions were dealt with under previous sections.

**9. Any other business**

Councillor Justice took the opportunity to advertise the positive input Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators could have by attending the quarterly Police Community Consultative Group meetings. He saw the group as a very valuable tool to highlight concerns to senior Police officers. Suzanne Honeyman highlighted that if anyone was interested in joining the membership of the Police Community Consultative Group she was happy to forward their details to the Secretary of this group who was a colleague from the Community Safety Team.

Community Forums were mentioned as another avenue to raise issues with senior Police officers.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting which will be the AGM is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21 April 2005 commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Chambers at Barking Town Hall.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Honeyman, Community Safety Administrator