



**MINUTES OF THE BARKING AND DAGENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH  
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2005**

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS BARKING TOWN HALL**

<b>Present:</b>	Judith Russell	Chair Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Association
	Jim Campe	Vice Chair Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Association
	Suzanne Honeyman	Community Safety Administrator (LBBB) (Minutes)
	John Mack	Community Safety Advisor (Burglary)
	Rita and Steve Coombs	Lansbury Avenue Chadwell Heath
	Keith Jeffrey	Newham Neighbourhood Watch
	David Eaton	London Neighbourhood Watch
	Chief Inspector Graham Stark	Metropolitan Police
	Inspector Steve Manger	Metropolitan Police
	Sergeant F Angove	Metropolitan Police
	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 G Carter	Stamford Road Dagenham
	Kathy Smith	Oval Road North
	Bill Smith	Oval Road North
	PC S Smith	Metropolitan Police
	Rita Venturini	49 Wellington Drive
	Les Martin	81 Geneva Gardens Chadwell Heath
	Jo Copp	Pavet Close Dagenham
	Dave Torr	66 Millard Terrace Dagenham
	Rita Venturini	49 Wellington Drive Dagenham
	Robert Ornoch	Billet Road Chadwell Heath
	Martin Shaw	1 Manor Road Barking
	Mr D J Parker	117 Upney Lane Barking
	Derrick Baldwin	Manor Road and Aldborough Watch
	Cathy Laine	314 Padnall Road Chadwell Heath
	Dave Russell	2 Manor Road Barking
	Pam Beech	Lyndhurst Gardens
	Dorothy Beech	Lyndhurst Gardens
	S Baxter	Lyndhurst Gardens
	L Baxter	Lyndhurst Gardens
	Syrinder Pahl	Regenerasia
	J Horne	22 Gibbfield Close
	S Parker	85 Gibbfield Close
	L Young	Brockdish Avenue Barking
	PC Gary Bat	Metropolitan Police



June Griffin  
Jon Gurden  
Michelle Crickmar  
Paul Holland

30 Alfreds Gardens Barking  
96 Hurstbourne Gardens  
110 Cavendish Gardens  
10 Crabtree Avenue Marks Gate

**1. Workshop Session**

Judith Russell explained that she had invited David Eaton of London Neighbourhood Watch to the meeting to facilitate a workshop session which covered the following topics: -

**When to dial 999**

The presentation included a training film with interactive group session.

**Bogus Callers**

A short film on the subject of tackling Bogus Caller Crime was shown to those present which included advice on how to reduce the incidents of this sort of crime occurring.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**2. Welcome to the meeting**

Judith Russell welcomed those present to the meeting.

**3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Bernard Street, Sidney DeMain, Morris Phillips and Joan Copsey

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

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

**5. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Report**

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

It has been an extremely successful year concerning increasing the number of watches. The total number of watches has been uplifted to 75.

The three computers purchased with external funding are now installed at the individual's homes with a fourth computer on order for Marks Gate.

Votes of thanks were extended to the Local Authority and the Police for their continued support throughout the year.



Special votes of thanks were extended to Teresa Munro who it was noted had been seconded into the post of Community Safety Manager. John Mack, Community Safety Advisor (Burglary) has taken over the responsibility for Neighbourhood Watch from Teresa.

Special votes of thanks were extended to Chief Inspector for his generosity with Police funding towards Neighbourhood Watch.

It was noted that the Barking and Dagenham Neighbourhood Watch Website will be upgraded to include the tool to download forms.

A presentation will take place at this meeting concerning the new Police Website.

Neighbourhood Watch are to have a stand in the Police Marquee at this year's Dagenham Town Show due to take place on 16 and 17 July 2005.

Reference was made to the National Neighbourhood Watch Conference attended by the Chair and Inspector Manger in Nottingham.

The Chair informed those present that the next Newsletter and Neighbourhood Watch Booklets would be delivered at the same time in the next couple of weeks.

## **6. Financial Report**

The Treasurer was pleased to report that there had been very little expenditure on the association account, outlined as follows: -

Opening balance	£1,912.86
Telephone / Answering Machine	£ 37.49
Insurance	£367.50
3 Broadband Packs at £17.99	£53.97
NTL Broadband Subscription For Rita Venturini	£239.88
Cathy Laine (reimbursement of Wanadoo Broadband	£180.00
Closing balance	£1,043.02

## **7. Election of Committee Officials**

Votes of thanks were extended by Teresa Munro on behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch Association to Judith Russell in recognition of her work over the past year.

A request was put to the co-ordinators to elect a Chair for the coming year. Rita Venturini proposed that Judith Russell should be re-elected as Chair. This proposal was seconded and unanimously agreed by those present.



Judith Russell as re-elected Chair then asked the Co-ordinators to elect members for the Committee. The Chair proposed the following people for the membership: -

Rita Coombs  
Stephen Coombs  
Rita Venturini  
Keith Jeffrey  
Jim Campe – Vice Chair  
Inspector Steve Manger  
PC Bob McGookin  
John Mack to replace Teresa Munro  
John Gurden

10 hands were counted in agreement to re-appointing / replacing members of the Committee

8. **Questions from the floor**

There were no questions raised.

9. **Any Other Business**

Teresa Munro reported that she had helped set up a major awareness campaign on vehicle theft. Funding had been secured to purchase steering wheel locks worth £80.00 targeted at vehicles registered up to 1997. There are currently 90 steering wheel locks left in stock. A request was put to the co-ordinators to supply details of those people who would be interested in receiving a lock. It is proposed to distribute the locks at the Town Show if there are any left by then.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

1. **Chairman's Welcome**

Judith Russell, newly elected Chairperson welcomed those present to the meeting. A warm welcome was extended to the guest speakers undertaking presentations. Prior to the guest speakers beginning their presentations Inspector Manger was asked to give an update from the Police. The following information was noted: -

This year has been an extremely good year for working in partnership with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch. Increases have occurred in the numbers of Police Officers in the borough and the number of Neighbourhood Watches.

To date there are now 8 Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the Borough. The co-ordinators were reminded that these dedicated ward based teams consisted of one Police Sergeant, Two Police Constables and three Police Community Support Officers.

Wards currently covered are: -



Marks Gate  
Village  
Thames and River  
Abbey  
Gascoigne  
Goresbrook  
Mayesbrook  
Whalebone – which is going live 25 April 2005

The proposal is to roll out Safer Neighbourhood Teams to all wards by the end of 2007.

Each Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant Present was then asked to introduce themselves and their teams.

It was noted that details of all the Safer Neighbourhood Teams were available for those requiring them.

The results achieved within the Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been startling. Not only an overall decline in crime within these wards but a new sense of community spirit with Police, agencies and residents willing to work together to improve the community for everyone.

The biggest increase in Neighbourhood Watches has been noted on the Marks Gate Estate where seven new watches have been started.

A brief summary was given of the intelligence received via the CAD Forms submitted by the Co-ordinators over the last three months. It was noted that during this period only 20 of the 75 watches had supplied information. The Co-ordinators were reminded of the importance of circulating information to the Police.

Currently the Police are looking at ways to improve the flow of up to date information. As very often the data received is a week or two old. The Chair advised that three of the Co-ordinators had been given computers with e-mail access. The Police are keen to progress this avenue of receiving information.

Inspector Manger demonstrated a set of priority boards which he had drafted.

Votes of thanks were extended to the Co-ordinators present for their continued support to the Police and work undertaken over the past year.

## **2. Guest Speakers**

### **a) Chief Inspector Graham Stark – Metropolitan Police**

Chief Inspector Stark explained that overall crime in Barking and Dagenham had reduced by 3.2% which is above the London average. This equates to a reduction of 700 crimes.



11.3% reduction has been achieved relating to burglary which equates to a reduction of 147 homes not being burgled. The burglary figures cover residential and distraction burglary crime but not commercial buildings.

Robbery figures are reduced by 7.9%

Motor Vehicle crime figures have achieved a 4.8% reduction which equates to 255 cars not being broken into.

Violent crime figures have gone up across the Country and London wide. This is thought to be due to the way in which the Home Office has changed the way the figures are recorded.

The Borough detection rate currently stands at 1 in 5 crimes.

**b) PC Steve Woodroff – Metropolitan Police – New Technology and how it is being used to improve communication and reporting of crime**

PC's Steve Woodroff and Andy Brown gave a live demonstration of crime prevention pages from the Barking and Dagenham Police web site which is designed for residents, visitors to the Borough and those that have business interests.

The web page address was noted as [www.met.police.uk/barking&dagenham](http://www.met.police.uk/barking&dagenham)

The Police web site was implemented due to the lack of funding available to produce literature.

Links are available to other useful web sites including information on bullying, secure by design and vehicle crime. A link will be available from the Police web site between the Neighbourhood Watch and Council sites.

Details of where non emergency minor crime can be notified was shown.

Over the next two months the site will double in size.

**c) Keith Jeffrey – London Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer for the Metropolitan Police – New developments in London Neighbourhood Watch**

Keith Jeffrey began his verbal presentation by explaining that his presentation would be covering three main areas. These were: -

**London Neighbourhood Watch Magazine**

A pre-production version of the magazine was held up for the benefit of the co-ordinators. Keith highlighted that he had the responsibility for improving the issues identified with delivery. A request was put to the Chair to identify the number of magazines required. It was noted that Barking and Dagenham was the first Borough to be offered the magazine.

**No Cold Caller Zone**



Keith explained that he would be looking at bringing in the scheme from Cambridge where it has been a success.

The Co-ordinators were informed that the scheme involved putting signs up in a residential area to identify it as a no cold caller zone. The signs include a telephone number to ring if cold callers are identified in the designated zone in order for the individuals to be challenged for entering the area.

### **Utility Company Identification Number**

This scheme involves the various utility companies issuing their customers with a unique meter or account identification number which is recorded onto a label and then placed on the inside of the front door. Any door step callers pertaining to be from the utility company will have to give the unique identification number to the householder before they are allowed access to their property. It is hoped that this scheme will reduce the numbers of bogus official / distraction burglaries.

#### **d) Teresa Munro Community Safety Team – The new Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy**

Teresa Munro's presentation included the following information: -

The Local Authority is in the final stages of publishing the Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy for the next 3 years to 2008. There is a statutory obligation for every Borough to write a 3 year strategy in order to look at how to tackle and reduce crime.

The Co-ordinators were informed that if the strategy has been published prior to the next meeting taking place copies will be available for collection.

An outline of the process involved in producing the strategy was given.

It was noted that part of the process involved consulting with the community by first producing an Audit of the last three year period and then completing a questionnaire to identify what the community sees as issues.

4,000 randomly selected addresses in the Borough were sent audit documents and questionnaires to complete. 641 completed questionnaires were returned.

As a result of the questionnaire consultation six community priorities were identified as follows: -

- Reducing the harm of drugs and alcohol misuse
- Building stronger, tolerant and confident communities
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Engaging young people
- Violent crime
- Property crime



The above priorities have been adopted as the strategic priority implementation groups of the Community Safety Strategic Partnership for the next three year Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy to 2008. All of these groups will have action plans which outline timescales, milestones and accountability.

**3) Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 14 July 2005 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Chambers at Dagenham Civic Centre.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Honeyman, Senior Community Safety Administrator