



BARKING & DAGENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In partnership with B&D Community Safety Team and Metropolitan Police
Spring Newsletter 2004

Newsletter No 2

Welcome to our second newsletter. It has several sections to it. The first about ourselves, one for items from the Community Safety Team and the final section from the Police. The newsletter is very much a piece of work in progress so if you have any ideas how it can be improved or ideas for articles you would like to see here please contact the editor, Judith Russell, 07973 670825.

B&D NHW Association

Neighbourhood Watch Disrupts Deception Scam

Due to the diligence of the NHW in Lansbury Avenue, in particular, that of **Mrs Rita Coombes**, a successful police operation was recently launched to arrest a female 'con artist' who was operating in the Marks Gate and Chadwell Heath areas.

In May 2003 reports were being received from residents of **Lansbury Avenue Neighbourhood Watch** to a woman acting suspiciously in the Chadwell Heath and Whalebone Lane areas. This woman appeared to be targeting elderly residents in the evening. Those who opened their doors to her would be told a tale of woe. Tricking the residents into believing she needed to borrow £20 in order to charge her electricity key and making them believe, she had two young children at home in the dark. Those who kindly gave money never saw her again.

The information provided by the NHW in conjunction with police intelligence, allowed the suspicious woman to be identified. Further research conducted revealed that the same woman was responsible for over twenty similar cases of deception. A police surveillance team were assigned to the case, and one evening in November 2003 Police followed the identified woman from her home address. As police watched the woman committed a further twelve offences of attempted deceptions, knocking on the doors of local residents and attempting to gain cash by reciting her tale of misfortune. Sufficient evidence was gained and the woman was arrested.

The culmination of everybody's hard work has meant that this woman was charged and remanded in custody, in order to be brought to court. Should this have gone un-noticed the elderly residents of your

borough would still be falling victim to a drug addict determined to feed her addiction.

This is a shining example of the positive effect having a watch can have on a neighbourhood. As well as keeping an eye out for those involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour, members of watches should also be encouraged to look out for the most vulnerable in our areas. Children and the elderly are sometimes neglected and abused. If anyone has any suspicions that this is happening then don't hesitate to contact the Social Services or the Child Protection Unit of the police.

Report of the Coordinators meeting held on January 15th, Dagenham Civic Centre

Despite it being a terrible night weather-wise a number of coordinators attended the quarterly meeting. After the preliminaries from the Chair and the Treasurer, Inspector Manger gave a brief police report of the latest crime statistics which on the whole were very encouraging.

We had three guest speakers who all had something to bring to the meeting. First was Keith Jeffrey from the police in the Borough of Newham. He is a trustee for the London neighbourhood Watch and is the Link Member for Redbridge, Havering, Barking and Dagenham and Newham, so he certainly has a feel for what is happening in the East of London!

He spoke about the latest developments from London Neighbourhood Watch including the distribution in the next few weeks from the publication of this newsletter of a new Annual Neighbourhood Watch magazine. This is specifically for Neighbourhood Watch members only and will contain



crime prevention material and useful contact numbers. This will be updated yearly and redistributed annually.

T-mobile has agreed to supply mobile phones for £14.99 a month to every member who wants one. This contract is in the final stages of negotiation. Hopefully we can announce something at the AGM on April 22nd 2004.

London NHW has also negotiated with Dell to supply watch members with a computer for under £300 with a printer thrown in free of charge. Again hopefully more details at the AGM.

Volunteer Mentoring

Our second speaker was Chris Golbourn, from the Volunteer Mentoring Scheme for Barking & Dagenham. The scheme is there to offer young people a positive role model. So much of police, council and neighbourhood watch time is taken up with anti-social behaviour that this could be one way to combat behaviour in the long term.

The scheme is specifically targeted at:

- Harder to reach groups of young people aged 11-17
- Young people in public care, unaccompanied asylum seekers
- Young people who have been excluded from education, employment and training, or do not already receive support from other sources

A leaflet explaining the scheme in greater detail was circulated to all co-ordinators present. For those who might be interested in becoming a mentor the following points might be of interest:

- Any person is considered from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences
- You need to be an adult who has enthusiasm and an interest in helping young people from the local community
- Someone who is able to spare at least 2 hours a week, for a year

If you want to know more contact Claire Wiseman, DEAL Volunteer Mentor Scheme Co-ordinator:

Tel: 020 8227 5576

or email: claire.wiseman@lbbd.gov.uk

Truancy Patrols

The final speaker was Paul Kelly an Access and Attendance Officer. Paul had been invited to speak following the very successful Anti-Social Behaviour Forum last October. One of the points to come out of the Forum was that a lot of young people who should have been in school were out on the streets during the day and people wanted to know why.

He gave an interesting presentation during which he made the point that the pupils were not committing

an offence by not being in school but their parents were.

Truancy patrols, carried out with the Police, only happen once a month due to lack of resources. Figures quoted included:

During 2001/2

- 116 individuals were stopped
- 54 were returned to school
- 22 pupils showed improved attendance after patrol
- 27 pupils were out with parents when stopped.

The parents were clearly shocked when challenged and had a range of excuses ranging from birthdays to shopping!

Paul also spoke about reception and Re-integration units, the Pupil referral unit, Tuition centre the Flexi learning panels.

Co-ordinators left the meeting with a lot more knowledge of the issues facing young people and those in authority who have to work with them and their parents.

AGM 2004

The past year has flown by and it is time once again for the AGM. This year due to the re-furbishment of Barking Town Hall it is being held at Dagenham Town Centre at 7 pm April 22nd 2004.

Please contact the Chair, Judith, if you need transport to this. There will be light refreshments provided.

The speakers this year include David Eaton from the London Neighbourhood Watch who is an excellent speaker and will be able to inform you of all the changes happening in the coming months – there are quite a few exciting developments. Chief Inspector Graham Stark will be present and there will be a presentation about Step Change, which is the new initiative in community policing (see paragraph in police section). There will also be a presentation from the Community Safety Team. So all members of the partnership will be contributing to the evening.

Our new presentation stand will also be having its first airing so do come and support the evening.

Newsletter

The Neighbourhood Watch newsletter has been very well received throughout the borough. All members of the PCCG have been sent a copy and extra copies of this edition will be printed so that they can be left in places like libraries for the public to pick up. If you



can think of anywhere please contact Judith (07973 670825) and we will get some delivered.

Community Safety Team

Anti-Social Behaviour Act

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 has now become legislation. Various sections of the act will come into force over the current year.

The following sections went live on 20th January 2004:

- Part 1 – Closure of premises where drugs are used unlawfully
- Part 4 – Dispersal of groups
- Part 5 – Firearms
- Part 7 – Public Order and Trespass (public assemblies and aggravated trespass element)
- Part 9 – Sanctions (sections 85(1), (3), (4), (7),86(3)to (6),87, 89, relating to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, reporting restrictions, Housing Action Trusts and access to the youth court).

The following sections will commence on 27th February 2004:

- Part 3 – Parental Responsibilities
- Part 7 – Public Order and Trespass (unauthorised camping)

Further information on the Act can be obtained through the Community Safety Team on 0208 227 2861.

With the introduction of this new legislation and with central Government funding, the Community Safety Team is currently recruiting for a full time dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Co-ordinator. This post will be on a 2.5 year contract.

With funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Budget the team are also recruiting for a full time Community Safety Officer (youth Disorder) to work along side the ASB co-ordinator. This will also be a 2.5 year contract.

Hopefully both posts will be in place by April 2004.

The two posts will be dedicated to co-ordinating work between agencies to reduce ASB in the Borough, developing new initiatives and co-ordinating individual action on specific cases of ASB.

Many departments of the Local Authority already deal with various types of ASB and these new posts will pull all these resources together making a joined up approach to the issues.

The two posts will be based with the Community Safety Team at the Civic Centre. A dedicated Police Officer dealing with ASB and problem solving will also join the team in the spring and will be working at the Civic Centre.

Personal Alarms

The Community Safety Team has a limited number of personal alarms available. These are on a first come, first served basis.

There are also some 'ViewCom' door fixtures available for £8 each. These were demonstrated at the October 2003 Co-ordinators' meeting.

Please contact the team on 0208 227 2861.

Police Update

Coffee Morning Report

PC Graham Mann

On Saturday 21st February, I attended a coffee morning successfully arranged by Joan Copley at her home address. Joan is one of my hard working Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and it was thought that this morning, advertised as an open house to her neighbours and those involved in this Neighbourhood Watch, would meet to discuss the worries or thoughts they had with each other and to my value, to meet their new Permanent Beat Officer.

Approximately 12 people were assembled of differing ages and many different everyday problems were discussed as a group. All persons gave valuable input and I believe that their minds were put to rest on a number of queries that were raised. I was also able to give them a few pointers on what to look out for too.

Another positive to this meeting was the seeing of a uniform with a face, someone they could relate to if they needed to discuss a policing problem. Joan has collected any such problems brought up and passed them onto me and so far all been resolved. This meeting brought the personal touch to the residents and after being furnished with my own details, hopefully they will feel better about reporting matters to the police.

Matters arising included youth disorder, vandalism and parking problems, these being the general problems faced by most of the residents of the Borough. To sit in the relaxed conditions as we did and to talk honestly and frankly certainly seemed to me to get the best out of problem and solution. The extremely welcome currant buns and buckets of tea helped too. I am busy instructing other Coordinators to do the same and also increasing my attendance at the gym!

Neighbourhood Policing Launch

The Commissioner's vision is to deliver a new and additional level of local policing in London that will make a tangible difference to people's lives; a local Neighbourhood policing presence based on visibility,



familiarity and accessibility. The goal of this new style of policing is to identify and tackle those 'signal' crimes and events that disproportionately impact on the quality of life and the feeling of insecurity. Police resources dedicated to these new Teams will deliver what the public want and significantly impact upon the public feeling of safety.

Dagenham Borough has identified its first three geographical Neighbourhood areas where the new policing teams will be established. These are Chadwell Heath, Village and Thames / River Neighbourhoods. Policing teams are being launched in April, July and August 2004 respectively. It is anticipated all of Dagenham Borough will be incorporated into Neighbourhood Policing by the end of March 2008.

Each new Neighbourhood will have its own policing team comprising of one Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and three Police Community Support Officers. Their role will be to respond to those policing issues that the Community recognizes as a priority for residents.

The first Neighbourhood Team at Chadwell Heath was launched on 5th April 2004. Heading the Team at Marks Gate Police Station is Sergeant Fred Angove, supported by PC Graham Mann and PC Steve Hancock. Working in partnership with the Community, plans have already been agreed with Warren School to extend a police base at the school to facilitate police officers patrolling the Neighbourhood South of A12.

For further information a policing presentation is planned at the NHW AGM on 22/04/2004.

Useful Contact Numbers

Police

Emergencies

Only in an emergency you should phone 999. You should use this service to contact police in situations where a crime is happening now or if anyone is in immediate danger.

Non Emergency Situations

Crimestoppers Freephone 0800 555 111

Dagenham Police Station 0208 984 1212 and ask for the Control Room.

Your call will be logged and an appropriate police response deployed. The Front Office at Dagenham Police Station is open 24 Hours.

Marks Gate Community Office

0208 217 5506

Marks Gate Police Station is open Monday to Thursday 10am – 3pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.

Dagenham and Barking Front Office are open 24 hours.

Dagenham Community Office

0208 217 5510

Here you can leave a message for your local Beat Officer to contact you about any non emergency community issues.

Online Reporting

Certain categories of minor crime committed in England, Wales or Northern Ireland can now be reported over the Internet as long as an urgent response is not required. The system is designed to automatically forward information to the relevant police force. You can access this at www.online.police.uk.

Neighbourhood Watch

Judith Russell (Chair)

020 8592 3533 (ansaphone if not there)

bdwatch@btconnect.com

Council Contacts

Community Safety Team

Teresa Munro

020 8227 2861

teresa.munro@lbbd.gov.uk

Noise and Nuisance

Emergencies

020 8594 8356

By minicom

020 8227 5755

Health&consumer@lbbd.gov.uk

Street Warden Service

0800 0855880/ 020 8227 5640

By minicom

020 8227 5755

Social Services

Initial contact service

020 8227 2489

Out-of-hours duty social worker

020 8594 8356

Housing

Local Authority Housing Department (Dagenham)

020 8227 2738

Advice Services

Citizen Advice Bureau

Barking

020 8594 6715

Dagenham

020 8595 1084

Refuge 24 hour Domestic Violence help line

0870 599 5443

Samaritans

020 8553 9900/

01708 740000

Victim Support

020 8595 4455