



BARKING & DAGENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In partnership with B&D Community Safety Team and Metropolitan Police
Summer Newsletter 2005

Newsletter No 3

Welcome to our third 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

London Neighbourhood Watch Association

As I am sure many of you are aware, there have been some problems with the running of the National Neighbourhood Watch Association which resulted in some very negative publicity for Neighbourhood Watch in general. Happily, things seem to be sorting themselves out and the government has made it very clear that it is right behind Neighbourhood Watch nationally (see the article below on the National Conference) and its problems were merely with the National Association.

Due to these problems London Neighbourhood Watch decided to reconstitute itself to avoid any similar problems occurring to them. As a result each borough now has to physically sign up to membership of LNWA. At a committee meeting a few weeks ago it was agreed that Barking and Dagenham would do this and the form has been duly signed and returned.

The new annual members guide for which we have been waiting for the past has finally arrived and you should have received a copy with this. Every borough needed to establish its own distribution system and in Barking & Dagenham the police have kindly offered to get the magazines out to all watch members. For every person who takes up one of the offers in the magazine, money will come back to the LNWA and this would be distributed amongst the boroughs.

There will also be a quarterly magazine which will be distributed by the Post Office. Every coordinator will get 5 copies to distribute around their watches. Each borough would also get the chance to send in copy to each issue.

National Neighbourhood Watch Conference East Midland Centre University of Nottingham Saturday 12th March 2005

Following 5.30 am start and somewhat protracted journey – taking the scenic route into Nottingham town centre – the Dagenham and Barking NHW delegation (Judith Russell and Inspector Steve Manger) arrived in time for the start of the first National Neighbourhood Watch Conference.

The Conference was to have been opened by the government minister Hazel Blears but she cancelled at the last moment and a replacement spokesman from the Home office made what they assured were the points she would have liked to have said had she been there. The spokesman started with a broad overview of National Neighbourhood Watch issues. Neighbourhood Watch is now the largest voluntary organisation in the UK and provides valuable links within the community. NHW is encouraging Citizenship and it is envisaged that in the future applicants for roles such as Special Constables, Police Community Support Officers and even Magistrates may well come from within NHW members.

The Government is looking at setting up a National Forum for Neighbourhood Watch, the benefits of which would be to give NHW a national voice into Government. Such a National forum would include NHW, Pub Watch, Business Watch and some 45 other associated voluntary groups.

Useful internet sites currently in existence include:
www.neighbourhoodwatch.uk.com – this website provides all kinds of useful information for NW members including instructions on how to set up a NHW scheme; advice to householders and links to local NHW schemes



www.crimestatistics.org.uk – this website provides crime statistics since March 2003 and publishes local statistics on a quarterly basis comparing to the National average.

The conference was informed that public liability insurance is now available for all NHW members. Barking & Dagenham NWA has accessed this and signed up for it.

It was acknowledged that training should be provided to established NHW schemes, and the Government was looking at ways how to provide more information to local authorities on issues such as crime

Before breaking to attend specific workshops the benefits of NHW were summarised as:

1. Reducing Crime
2. Reducing the Fear of Crime
3. Reducing Anti Social Behaviour.

Distraction Burglary Seminar

An informative talk on the type of burglaries were a trick or 'con' is used to gain access to a property in order to steal.

It was acknowledged from the onset that not all Distraction Burglaries are reported to Police. This in itself presents a problem in identifying the extent of the problem.

Those most likely to be at risk from this type of crime are usually the elderly. 74% of victims are aged 78 years and over. 77% of victims are female and live alone. The risk of crime increases whereby:

1. There are mobility problems (handrails outside the address can be identified)
2. Where people are isolated
3. Where the house is run down or garden un-kept
4. Poor security at the front door (no chain)

It is important to treat any victims according to their needs. There are Victim Support Groups to offer immediate help. NHW can provide important longer term needs. Members can support victims. There are garden schemes to improve un-kept gardens. There is a need to educate the elderly within the community against this crime, including additional security measures at homes. There are also 'Trusted Trader Schemes' that operate.

Information can be found on the Home Office website WWW.crimereduction.gov.uk/bogus

The message is ' Keep your door locked until you know who it is'.

Various schemes are in operation across the country and much Partnership work already being

undertaken – of which NHW plays a prominent role. Work includes Nominated Neighbour Scheme, Handy Van Security and the Berkshire Bobby Scheme - whereby passwords are always used by those utility Services that need to call at peoples homes. There is also a Third Party reporting scheme operating at Age Concern, where elderly victims can report any crimes occurring.

Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop

This was a very lively session led by Bill Pitt, Head of Nuisance Strategy Group, Manchester City Council. He felt very strongly that too much time had been given over to the perpetrators in the past and now it was time to think about the victims.

He made a number of practical points:

- Witnesses often felt fear, isolation, humiliation, anger and hurt
- If agencies got their approach right and put the witnesses and victims first, witnesses would be much more likely to engage with the system if they could see that the focus of the agencies was to protect them, stop the anti-social behaviour fast and help the witnesses through the process
- Judgement of Lord Justice Kennedy about the naming of perpetrators means that they can be named and shamed. Leaflets can be produced and distributed so that the local community knows who they are.
- It is NOT necessary for there to be persistent anti-social behaviour in order to get an ASBO.

Too many authorities/agencies gave reasons of protocols and procedures that had to be followed in order to obtain ASBOs – **these were just excuses for people not doing their jobs properly**. He urged everyone to give them a hard time and make them act in the way that the new laws allow them to do so.

In the afternoon there were two plenary sessions, one given by an Professor of Sociology on the crime statistics dating back into the 19th century and a very entertaining one by the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire (who looked far too young to have such responsibility!). His speech included footage of how cameras are helping the police identify wanted vehicles and drivers in towns such as Northampton where no car enters the town without being filmed.



AGM 2005

A well-attended AGM was held on 21st April at Barking Town Hall and the committee was re-elected from last year with a couple of changes. Teresa

Munro has now been promoted within the Community Safety Team and as a result, John Mack has become the Community Safety team's representative on the NHW committee. PC Graham Kyte has also moved

on and we now have PC Bob McGookin as the police liaison officer. CAD forms should be addressed to him.

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

Helping to Stop Doorstep menace

Most of the people that call at your home will be people you know, or recognise.

Most other people who call will be genuine but occasionally people call that may be dishonest. They will try to trick you, into inviting them in by pretending to be an official needing access to your home. Once inside they engage you in conversation, or distract you with a task. They then steal your money and valuables.

These people are called Distraction Burglars, or Bogus callers

Here in Barking and Dagenham wide-ranging education and publicity campaigns are raising awareness of Distraction Burglary and how people can deal with it. Crime Reduction Officers from the Essex police supported by Neighbourhood Watch groups and more recently the Met police in Havering have introduced and are now using the Nominated Neighbour Scheme.

What is the Nominated Neighbour Scheme I hear you say and what will it involve? Specially produced cards would be given to an elderly resident by their nominated neighbour for them to show to any unexpected caller. The cards can be shown through a window or pushed through the letterbox, asking the caller to go to a nominated address to have their identities checked - a genuine caller would never object to this action, this scheme effectively scares off bogus callers.

We need to find volunteers prepared to check the identification of callers for their neighbours. With a little training and the support from Neighbourhood Watch this scheme can offer the opportunity to make a real difference by not only making people safer but by making them feel safer.

Police Update

Update on Safer Neighbourhoods for the Borough.

As I am sure you know the Safer Neighbourhoods programme is a London wide initiative designed to provide local dedicated policing teams for all neighbourhoods across London. These neighbourhoods will be the existing council wards. This means that every council ward in London should have it's own team of officers by 2008.

This involves the deployment of thousands of officers on to Safer Neighbourhoods over the next three years and this all takes time. As far as our borough is concerned we continue to make progress. Since the end of February another team is up and running at Goresbrook Ward. This means that six wards now have full teams in place over Barking and Dagenham. There are three teams operating in Barking, two in Dagenham and one up at Marks Gate at the north end of the borough. Another team comes on line in March and another in April.

This means that nearly half of all the wards will have their own dedicated teams by the beginning of May this year.

'Dedicated' means they will not be taken off their neighbourhoods to cover other duties or areas. The only time they might be taken off would be in the event of incidents so serious they are a threat to London as a whole and we're talking major terrorist attack here.

So the good news is that local policing is a priority with the Met at the moment and this means that the Safer Neighbourhood teams in partnership with the community and other agencies can attempt to solve those problems people feel are affecting them directly.

Please find below details of contact numbers for our current operational Safer Neighbourhood Teams:

Chadwell Heath Safer Neighbourhood Team

External: 020 8217 5506

Internal : 55506

Mobile: 07748 492955

E Mail: ChadwellHeathPoliceTeam@met.police.uk

**Thames River Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 020 8649 3529

Internal : 33529

Mobile: 07843 065875

E Mail: ThamesRiverPoliceTeam@met.police.uk**Village Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 020 8649 3530

Internal : 33530

Mobile: 07843 065876

E Mail: VillagePoliceTeam@met.police.uk**Goresbrook Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 020 8649 3528

Internal : 33528

Mobile: 07843 065874

E Mail: GoresbrookPoliceTeam@met.police.uk**Abbey Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 020 8721 2786

Internal : 832786

Mobile: 07747 790012

E Mail: AbbeyPoliceTeam@met.police.uk**Gascoigne Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 020 8721 2787

Internal : 832787

Mobile: 07747 790065

E Mail: GascoignePoliceTeam@met.police.uk**Mayesbrook Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 020 8721 2787

Internal : 832787

Mobile: 07747 790065

E Mail: MayesbrookPoliceTeam@met.police.uk**Whalebone Safer Neighbourhood Team**

External: 0208 721 2834

Internal : 832834

Mobile: 07884 117273

E Mail: whalebonepoliceteam@met.police.uk**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 020 8984 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.

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)

07973 670825 (mobile)

020 8592 3533 (NHW office - ansaphone if not there)

bdwatch@btconnect.com**Council Contacts****Community Safety Team**

John Mack

020 8227 2861

John.mack@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
Dagenham

020 8594 6715

020 8595 1084

Refuge 24 hour Domestic Violence help line

0870 599 5443

Samaritans020 8553 9900/
01708 740000**Victim Support**

020 8595 4455