



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Number 2
Spring 2008

Questionnaire: "Have Your Say"

The government is looking at how local communities, the police, local criminal justice agencies and other partners can best work together to reduce crime, raise community confidence, improve information and lower the fear of crime. The review also is looking at what makes local people get involved in tackling the problems in their own community.

A key part of the review is to gather together evidence, and the voices, experiences and opinions of the public are key to this. The review team has put together a "Have Your Say" questionnaire which covers some of the key questions of the review. If you'd like to give us your views you can fill it in on line and we'd be really interested in what you have to say: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/crime

If you would like a hard copy of the questionnaire please email:

haveyoursay@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

giving your full postal address, or you can write to us to request a copy at Freepost, PO Box 1748, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 4XR, again stating your full postal address.

NHW can really play a huge role in distributing this survey and proving that with the largest voluntary memberships in the UK, Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch membership network is very much alive and kicking and should be consulted at all levels.

Marion Lewis

Chair : Neighbourhood & Home
Watch Network (England & Wales)

Chairman's Report

The lighter evenings seem to encourage more bogus callers to appear. Dr Barnados and glazing salesmen amongst them. Do be careful please and insist on seeing their ID, and do not leave any strangers alone in any part of your property.

Following recent burglaries the police carried out a leaflet drop inviting those residents nearby in Zebon Copse to a meeting to raise awareness of criminal activities. Just four people turned up. This is quite appalling. If we want the police to take action on our behalf, the least we can do is support them when they go out of their way to help us to help ourselves.

We are anxious to have a replacement Senior Co-ordinator for area I (Courtmoor, Longmead, Greenways and the Longdown area). This would mostly involve distribution of our quarterly NHW newsletter to the local co-ordinators, a task that takes only an hour or so. Could one of our co-ordinators in this area take this role on please.

We will continue to refurbish NHW signs when required, but we need to be advised otherwise one of us has to travel around Fleet looking for those signs which require refurbishment.

I am happy to report that we have secured the services of both a new secretary and treasurer whose details will be advised in due course. On behalf of the committee I thank them for offering to give up their time to assist us.

David Bunclark - Chairman

Telephone calls to the Police:

Emergency: 999 **Crime-stoppers (free): 0800 555 111**
Police Routine: 101 or 0845 045 4545

FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES
HART DISTRICT COUNCIL
HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET GU51 4AE**

on

Thursday 18 September 2008 at 7.30 pm

All members of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend the AGM. Any member who wishes to put forward an item for inclusion in the agenda or propose an amendment to the Constitution is requested to contact the Secretary in writing by: **Friday 29 August.**

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

Fleet Safer Neighbourhoods Team

In the past few months PC Martin Cole has joined PC Franks and PCSO Eaves on Beat 1 (Town Centre and Pondtail) with the aim of providing more resilience on the beat. Martin has been tasked with targeting the known criminals responsible for anti-social behaviour and crime. This will allow PC Franks to deal with more of the community issues and long term solutions than previously possible.

The introduction of the newsletter, which Janet Parker now prepares in addition to her normal duties, should be getting through to you on a regular basis. If you are a senior co-ordinator with access to the web you should be receiving a copy by email. If not please contact your Chair or Janet Parker and give her your email address. If you do not have email access can you nominate a co-ordinator to assist? All we ask is that the senior co-ordinators cascade the information down to co-ordinators as they deem appropriate. This is seen by me as a valuable tool to help make members of NHW aware of crimes occurring in the area, allowing members to take precautions against becoming victims of crime, and ensuring members can be on the lookout for any suspicious behaviour. This should work both ways and I hope to see an increase in information from crime-stoppers.

A local youth has recently been sentenced to three months custody, followed by a three month training order. Also to take effect when he leaves custody is a two year ASBO with the following prohibitions:

1. Using foul/obscene language anywhere in Fleet and Church Crookham
2. Gathering in a group of three or more persons (excluding family members) anywhere in Fleet and Church Crookham
3. Possessing or drinking alcohol anywhere in Fleet or Church Crookham
4. Entering the area bounded by CROOKHAM ROAD, LEAWOOD ROAD and THE LEA (basically THE LEA estate - includes all of THE LEA, NEW BARN CLOSE, MEADOW WALK, LARMER CLOSE and FRERE AVENUE).

It has taken a huge amount of work by PC John Nelson and several court attendances to achieve this excellent result against a young man who pursued a life of crime and ASB.

PC Caroline Webster organised with the support of members of the local community a litter pick by a group of youths who had been causing ASB on Zebon Copse. This hopefully instilled some sense of responsibility for the community they live in and some healthy competition as to how many bags could be filled.

New Barn Close is the scene of our most recent crack-house closure. Working with the Hart Tasking Team and the Safer Streets Team a warrant was executed and evidence of drug use found. This evidence, supported by statements from the local community, allowed police to apply for a closure order which will be in place for three months. The Housing Association can now seek the eviction of the residents and utilise the premises for those who need a home.

Burglaries in the Fleet area were recently detected through the identification of property seized by police as a result of some recent searches. Please record the detailed descriptions and serial numbers of your property. Photograph your jewellery, works of art or anything of value. Without these details it is very difficult to trace the losers of property that we recover. However, I would much rather we prevent crime by securing our property, removing valuables from sight and ensuring that you make life as hard as possible for the opportunistic criminal.

Hampshire Constabulary have recently updated the Safer Neighbourhoods website, it is:

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/hart/fleet/>

(Police & Crime Report continued on page 3)

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(Police & Crime Report continued from page 2)

Please visit the website to find out what your beat officer is doing and the current priorities for the beat. We would welcome anyone, but in particular we wish to encourage co-ordinators and senior co-ordinators to contact their respective beat managers to arrange meetings for their local areas on a regular basis. The aim of such meetings would be to help build community spirit and increase the flow of information so that beat priorities can be kept current.

The two main components of the Police Force's budget come from the Government grants (£202.2 million in FY2008/09) and the Council Tax precept (£91.6 million in FY2008/09). The Hampshire Police Authority increased the policing part of the Council Tax by 8.1%, exceeding the 5% maximum increase advised by Central Government. This year a band D household in the two counties will pay £135.54 for policing. This represents an increase of £10.17 a year or 20p a week. The budget for this year incorporates both investment and efficiency savings. These include:

- The recruitment of 24 more frontline police officers in 2008/09
- Investment in the custody estate - this will include approximately six additional police officers and 30 additional police staff posts
- A reduction of 33 police staff posts across all portfolios. The intention is that this reduction will be managed by not filling vacancies as they arise rather than through redundancies
- Not recruiting 14 Safer Neighbourhood sergeants as planned
- A reduction in the overtime budget through more effective deployments
- A reduction in the major incident reserve
- A reduction in the operational equipment reserve.

I do not anticipate any change in resources for Fleet and I will continue to battle to protect and, where possible, increase the establishment. However, Hart as a district is the lowest crime area in the whole of Hampshire and other areas have far greater issues to deal with.

Sgt Dave Hill 2979 - Hart Safer Neighbourhood Team

A plea for email addresses - Thanks to those of you have passed on your details. For the remainder who have yet to take action, would Co-ordinators please let your local Senior Co-ordinators have your email addresses to help facilitate quicker communications.

Volunteers wanted to become NHW Co-ordinators

We are always on the look out for more NHW Co-ordinators. If you are interested in supporting your local NHW community and would like to volunteer to be either a Senior Co-ordinator or a Co-ordinator, please give our Secretary a call (contact details are on the back page of this newsletter).

PhoneJoan

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Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch

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Elvetham Heath:

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Police:

Police Sergeant

David Hill

Tel: 0845-045-4545

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch

Website:

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

The deadline for inputs to
the next Newsletter is:

30 June 2008

Please send any inputs to the
Editor (contact details above).

Editorial

The Council Tax bills have arrived and yet again we are faced with an above inflation increase in our rates. It includes extra costs for policing, but it only amounts to 20p more per week for a Band D household in our NHW district. This seems good value for money when you consider that we live in one of the lowest crime areas in the UK. Let's try and get better value for money from this increase by helping our Police Safer Neighbourhood Team; e.g. liaise and meet with your Beat Officer, particularly if a beat surgery is being held in your local community, and call the Police if you see anything suspicious.

You will see that we are advertising the AGM earlier than usual. This is in response to a request from some members for more advanced notice. Please make a note in your diaries and we hope to see you at the 2008 AGM on Thursday 18 September.

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