



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 2
Spring 2010

Calls to the Police:

999

Emergencies and crimes in progress

0800 555 111

Crimestoppers - free, anonymous
crime-related calls

101

Non-emergency and anti-social
behaviour issues: vandalism and
graffiti, noise nuisance, threatening
and abusive behaviour, abandoned
vehicles, dumping and fly-tipping,
drunk and rowdy groups,
drug related anti-social behaviour

0845 045 4545

Routine Police matters and for crime
related issues that have
already occurred

Chairman's Report

Spring is about to treat us to longer days, new life and flowers in our gardens, with the promise of Summer to come. Don't let the time be spoilt by our criminal fraternity. There have been several burglaries of late, way above the average for Fleet and the surrounding villages; but what a surprise, some were almost self-inflicted through easy access to keys, house door and sheds unlocked, and valuables left in a vehicle.

As a security organisation we continue to pursue greater cover in the area in the hope of defeating the criminal and reducing crime to an even lower level. But I sometimes think we are working in vain. Upmarket cars, laptop computers and sat-navs are the current favourites that are likely to disappear. Don't let them be yours. Act NOW to secure your property.

Finally, we are now regularly warned of SCAM operatives in our area. Don't fall for them. If the promised cost of work seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If you are unsure of any of the offers of work, either refuse immediately, take a second opinion, and call the Police if you feel pressed, and DON'T give money in advance.

Let's hope it is a safe, happy (and warm) Summer for us all.

David Bunclark - Chairman

Volunteers for NHW If you are interested in supporting your local NHW and would like to volunteer to be either a Co-ordinator or perhaps help in some other way, please give our Secretary a call (her contact details are on the back page of this newsletter).

Notice-board

Potholes

Many of the local roads suffered during the severe winter and as a result there are numerous potholes and damaged road surfaces throughout our district. Hampshire County Council has dedicated teams out repairing the damage; however, meanwhile, if you wish you can report potholes online at: www.hants.gov.uk/roads or call: 0845 603 5633.

Useful contacts

The County Council has produced a free small pocket-sized card which is full of useful telephone numbers; e.g. safety, household emergencies, health and transport. To obtain a copy please call 0845 603 5638. The card is also available in libraries and local information centres.

Fleet & District Police crime figures as at 16 March 2010

Crimes	Previous Year	Current Year	Local Change	Constabulary Reductions
Total Reported Crimes	1668	1395	Down by 16.4%	10.3%
Public Disorder & Assaults	335	306	Down by 8.7%	0%
Criminal Damage	324	273	Down by 15.7%	18.6%
Vehicle Crime	123	84	Down by 32.0%	20.1%
House Burglary	60	49	Down by 18.3%	8.6%
Rowdy & Inconsiderate	760	607	Down by 20.1%	18.2%

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

Below are the current issues that you, the community, have raised with your Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team and the details of the actions taken by the Team.

Cycling offences, in particular cycling on pavements in the town centre. Action taken:

We began a cycle safety campaign aimed at checking cyclists who were not obeying the regulations. Dedicated patrols have been conducted in the Beat area and cyclists have been stopped and spoken to. The Beat Teams have collated data in relation to this problem and, where necessary and proportionate, offenders have been dealt with. To date we have seen over 700 cyclists and, of those, about 10% had committed offences. On most occasions words of advice and an educational approach was deemed to be the best course of action. Those who chose to ignore or disregard the advice have been issued tickets when caught a second time.

Anti-social behaviour in Fleet Town Centre, particularly in the area around McDonalds, Sainsburys and Subway. Action taken:

The Teams have started by patrolling the area to identify those causing problems and to build up a list of people of particular interest. Premises and businesses have been sent anti-social behaviour letters explaining our strategy plus posters with the Team's details to encourage reporting. By engaging with the local community, Hart CCTV and the Hart Community Safety Team we identified the young people involved. Several arrests were made and numerous stop checks conducted. We then invited the protagonists and their parents to a meeting with those who were suffering the effects of their behaviour for a restorative justice meeting. This has had a positive effect on the majority and those who fail to learn will be targeted robustly. Patrols continue.

Monitor issues involved in parking around All Saints School and Heatherside School with the intention of making this area safer to road users, residents and children. Action taken:

The Team met with Hart District Council and representatives from the Schools to discuss how best to resolve the problems and, as a result, a plan was agreed. Parents received a letter reminding them of the safety issues involved when using vehicles in the area. With the Christmas holidays and disruptions caused by the snow the problems did quieten down, but recently there have been more complaints about parking and the behaviour of drivers using the roads around the Schools. May we remind all parents and residents to consider the safety of other road users and to park in a manner which does not cause an obstruction. Also, those using the area are reminded that reports of verbal abuse will be dealt with robustly. Meanwhile, we will plan to carry out patrols in the area and continue to liaise with the Council to find a workable solution.

(Police & Crime Report continued on page 3)

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 16 September 2010 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 27 August.**

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(Police & Crime Report continued from page 2)

To resolve the issue of people cycling on the footpaths including Reading Road South. Action taken:

With the longer days and improved weather we will be conducting proactive patrols to combat this issue. During the quarterly Neighbourhood Watch meeting it was agreed that pupils from nearby schools who use the pavement in Reading Road South would not be targeted as there is no requirement in either school for pupils to undertake a cycling proficiency test. Adults are firstly being warned and have their details taken and, if caught again, they will be issued with a £30 fixed penalty notice. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all cyclists that it is an offence to cycle on the footpath and that failure to comply with this law may lead to prosecution.

Monitor incidents of damage to vehicles and anti-social behaviour in the areas of Johnson Way and Parsons Close. Action taken:

We are working closely with residents and the Council to combat these problems and we are continuing our high visibility patrols. Two reports of fly tipping have been received and, as a result, the priority for this area has been altered slightly.

Prevent burglaries and shed breaks. Action taken:

Recently there have been several reported burglaries and shed breaks in the local area, with Rounton Road, Kingfisher Close and Beaufort Road residents suffering the most. We have increased our patrols on these roads and the surrounding areas, deploying the CCTV van on a regular basis. We have also worked hard to ensure that all properties receive a crime prevention pack. However, despite our best efforts we cannot be everywhere at once. Therefore, we urge you to report anything that you think is suspicious and may require police attention. Please make certain that your property is locked and secure. Check that any outbuildings, such as sheds, are secure and locked, and ensure that any garden tools are locked away and not available for offenders to use to gain access to your property. When going to bed take your handbag/wallet, car keys and mobile phone with you. Lastly, please get in touch with your Beat officer if you feel that you would benefit from a home crime prevention visit.

Prevent anti-social behaviour and juvenile nuisance. Action taken:

Incidents of juvenile nuisance have increased recently in the area behind Azalea Gardens, known locally as Charlie Park. Residents have reported anti-social behaviour such as egg throwing, littering and noise nuisance. I am pleased to advise that two new Community Support Officers from Hart District Council have begun patrolling the area and they will be paying particular attention to Charlie Park. If you have information that you think might help prevent anti-social behaviour in this area please get in touch at www.hants.gov.uk/communitysafety or Tel: 08456001747.

Control traffic congestion and parking around the local schools at pick-up and drop-off times. Action taken:

(Police & Crime Report continued on page 4)

PhoneJoan

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New teams to support older people

Sixteen Community Innovations Teams are to be in place by April 2010. They will be offering support to older people across Hampshire. This will enable the elderly to maintain their independence and improve their health and wellbeing. People are already benefiting from the teams' work. This includes advice on benefits and pensions, provision of home adaptations, assistance with general tasks, and help for the elderly to get out and about. If you need some support or know of someone who would like some extra help, call 01962 892324 or visit www.hants.gov.uk/community-innovations

(Police & Crime Report continued from page 3)

We have joined forces with the schools and sent letters to parents. The letters remind parents of the legislation concerning parking near schools. Using a multi-agency approach with the Traffic Enforcement Officers at Hart District Council, Hampshire's Roads Policing Unit and the Community Wardens we intend to reduce illegal or inconsiderate parking that puts children at risk, and we are also seeking a long-term solution.

Tackle anti-social behaviour in Ancells Farm Business Estate. Action taken:

Because of the nuisance caused by individuals driving and acting in an anti-social manner on the Estate we have provided extra visibility in the area. Also, where appropriate, we have been issuing warnings and seizing vehicles. Individual businesses are also planning to install barriers to block illegal access to their car parks.

Prevent speeding along Elvetham Heath Way. Action taken:

Working with Hampshire's Roads Policing Unit we plan to tackle this problem by conducting targeted patrols on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings which are the periods when most of this illegal driving occurs.

Sgt. Dave Hill 2979, Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team, Fleet Police Station

Tel: 08450454545 Website: www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/hart/fleet/3HLSNT1.htm

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

Chairman: David Bunclark Tel: 01252-621684 email: chairman@fleetnhw.co.uk

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Hart DC Reps: Caroline Ryan Tel: 01252-774476 email: caroline.ryan@hart.gov.uk

Coordinators' Representative: Vacant

Ewshot: Sue Freeman Tel: 01252-851534 (Not on Committee)

Police: Sergeant David Hill Tel: 0845-045-4545

Councillor Jenny Radley email: jenny.radley@hart.gov.uk

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Website: www.fleetnhw.co.uk

Please send inputs to the Editor. Deadline for the next edition: **30 June 2010**

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