



HAVANT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF HAVANT NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION WATCH A.G.M

23rd February 2010
At Havant Civic Centre

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION: The meeting, attended by the Mayor, four senior police officers, members of the Community Safety Team, Havant Neighbourhood Watch Association Committee and 112 Co-ordinators, was chaired by Mr Tim Pointer, Community Safety Team Leader, Havant Borough Council, who opened proceedings at 7.30pm by welcoming all present. He reported 97 apologies.

2. ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor Jackie Branson, said how good it was to see so many NHW Co-ordinators at the meeting who work with Tim's team and the police. All being volunteers, it is worthy to recognise the work done so well and congratulations were given to all.

3. HAVANT POLICE

Chief Inspector Will Schofield, District Commander, Havant & Waterlooville

Chief Insp Schofield gave his thanks for the work undertaken by NHW and went on to say that 'we' must be doing something right as crime is down again for the 4th year.

Problem solving and working together continues and, although anti-social behaviour incidents are falling, it is probably under reported. Burglary had been expected to rise because of the recession but hasn't increased; changes may be seen later. Despite violence levels remaining stable, domestic abuse is still a worry for the police. The 25% sanction detection rate has resulted in individuals having to make some form of 'payment' for their crime(s) in a number of ways.

The priority remains the anti-social behaviour as a result of alcohol abuse. The police, local authority and partnerships will be targeted to improve confidence in this area through engaging with younger people. Safer Schools officers have been appointed and motivation groups and diversion projects are underway to improve the actions of some. Hot Spots, where no drinking in public is not allowed in certain areas, are aimed at addressing the problems associated with alcohol. A lot is going on to identify some violent 'key repeating individuals' through Shop Watch and security guards in various establishments.

The serious end of violence (assaults with injuries) is relatively small in this area and analysis shows the age group is younger.

Joined up partnership work is needed, and the audience were asked for their ideas on how to improve confidence; please forward ideas by e-mail or through the SNTs. The police want to ensure they call when they say they will, engage with the community and let people know what they are doing.

Chief Inspector Schofield said how very proud he was of the police service and the good work done, but when they don't they need to improve. All in all, officers do go the extra mile and two specific cases were mentioned:

An award will be made to an officer who undoubtedly saved a woman's life, and a drugs 'factory' was shut down.

He finished by saying the support from NHW volunteers has been, and is, valuable.

Inspector Ian Ogilvy, Leigh Park

Insp Ogilvy reported the teams in Leigh Park were doing a superb job and a lot of information is given through NHW. The highlights were the reduction in the motor cycle problem through much hard work and improved confidence, and the West Leigh SNT continued the reduction in crime; significantly the four schools in the area are all engaged, and through the ACE project in Leigh Park a DVD has been created, acted and produced by young people.



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Inspector Rob Mitchell, Havant, Emsworth, Bedhampton and Hayling Island

Insp Mitchell said crime had reduced overall again in the last year and the new Sergeant and officers are extremely keen and enthusiastic and improvements have already been seen. Anti-social behaviour on Hayling is still an issue and it is hoped another officer can be appointed. NHW schemes continue to increase.

In the district there are now 28 Special PCs, all volunteers. They are valuable officers and one Special is to be awarded the 'Special Constable of the Year' by Hampshire Constabulary.

The perception is that most anti-social behaviour is from younger people. That is not actually true; there are a lot of adults and neighbour disputes causing problems, from people who should know better.

The priority is asking the community what they want from the police. PACT (**P**olice **A**nd **C**ommunity **T**ogether) panels will be set up, asking all aspects of society to participate and to agree targets for the future.

Acting Inspector Mike Haines, South of Butser (Rowlands Castle)

Acting Insp Haines said that although Rowlands Castle was a safe and quiet area to live there was still a high fear of crime. In the last year there were 15 reported burglaries; however, there were 7 in one night recently. A number of "no cold calling" zones have been set up and newsletters from the police are sent to NHW Co-ordinators. Police/PCSO patrols have been shaped to ensure the community see them.

With the help of Steve Protheroe and Christine Taylor the beat surgeries have changed and are now on the 4th Saturday of the month, outside the shops. These have proved to be a great success.

4 THE COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM:

Tim Pointer, Community Safety Team Leader, said a dramatic change had been seen over the last 3 years with the police, reduced anti-social behaviour and even less litter, making their job much easier along with the links with NHW.

Katherine Vasey, Community Safety Projects Officer, thanked the NHW Co-ordinators for the help given last year by folding and then delivering leaflets. A reminder about the Safer Havant website was given and requests for information or suggestions for articles was made.

Ryan Gulliver, Community Safety Analyst, reported about how Park Community School had worked with the Safer Havant team and gave thanks to the young people who had produced the DVD we were about to see. They clearly understood the consequences of their own behaviour. An excellent film was then viewed.

Dennis Ansell, Community Board member, NHW sector Co-ordinator, Leigh Park Pink, who was very involved in the production of the film, offered his thanks to the young people involved and mentioned other areas throughout the area, or maybe even further afield, where the film could be shown.

5. ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

Jayne Emery thanked all for attending.

a. Development of the Association.

Good progress had been made in meeting the aims and objectives of the Association. The Committee met monthly in 2009 and had tackled a number of local problems. Many have reported an expansion in the liaison with your 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' officers and significant changes to communities have been seen.



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b. Current State of the Association Membership.

The main aim remains to expand membership, and as a result of excellent work carried out by the Association and beat officers, our membership is now 9898 homes.

Co-ordinators are reminded if they wish to give up, to let the Sector Co-ordinator know and try to find your own replacement, and to let the Association know too. Having a deputy is worthwhile. Without an approved Co-ordinator a scheme will become defunct and Neighbourhood Watch road and house signs will be removed and your insurance may be affected. Ring Round needs a phone number for each scheme; if it changes we need to know immediately.

New schemes in 2009 were 37, with 6 in High-Crime areas and 9 revamped, and a warm welcome was given to new Co-ordinators.

Sandy Alford was sincerely thanked for her hard work on new schemes and for being so successful, along with her helpers Pene Salter and Steve Protheroe.

It was announced that Sandy Alford had resigned from the Committee and further thanks were extended to Sandy for the many years she had dedicated to the growth and success of the Association.

c. Quarterly Newsletter.

In 2009 a Newsletter was promised; unfortunately, it was not achieved. However, an editor has now come forward (not Committee member) with both ideas and experience.

d. Ring Round

Don Scott and Jenny Vince continued to run this system for the benefit of all members and thanks go to them. It is important Ring Round information is passed on promptly to your schemes. Thanks were also given to the volunteers who made the system possible. A request was made for volunteers to come forward to assist the Ring Rounders.

e. Data Link Emergency Information Scheme

This is currently in abeyance.

f. Successes and Liaison

In August 2009 an entirely new database was adopted. It took a lot of time and effort and it is important that it is kept up to date with Co-ordinator phone numbers and houses in schemes, not only for Ring Round but for SNTs. Please ensure the Association is made aware of changes. Thanks were given to Jane Jarvis and Pene Salter who put in many days of work to get it up and running.

Community events attended: Bedhampton and Leigh Park shows, National Neighbourhood Watch week at Asda, a Safer Havant day (again at Asda), and various community days with the Safer Havant Partners.

g. Association Finances

As required an audit was conducted. Several grants have been received for specific purposes to enable us to continue our work and are ring-fenced. Thanks were given to Havant Borough Council, Hampshire Police and local County Councillors for financial help. Attendees had the audit statement and a mistake was reported in the 2009 wording of expenditure for Signs and Alarms which should read Signs and Grass Roots. Acceptance of the accounts was Proposed by Sally Nuth and Seconded by Roger Carpenter.

West Leigh Neighbourhood Watch continued to make contributions; again our thanks go to them. Havant Football Club helps us by providing the room for the West Leigh meeting free of charge and thanks go to them too.



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Grass Roots Grant

We applied for, and were successful in securing, funding from the Grass Roots' initiative to enable us to buy promotional handouts and later in the year to replace the old and tatty display boards. (Half funding received October 2009; balance should be received in the next 2 months.)

h. Safer Neighbourhood Teams

There is good contact with the police, and Beat Surgeries continue to run; details should be obtained directly from your local SNTs.

i. Main Aims for the Coming Year

- Ensuring the new database is accurate and up to date relies on Co-ordinators. If changes are known, the Association must be informed as it is used by both Ring Round and local SNT to make contact.
- Re-generate defunct schemes and encourage new schemes in all areas.
- Work with the Police and other agencies in the Borough.
- Encourage a greater awareness of what goes on in our neighbourhoods through Ring Round.
- Neighbourhood Watch role of reducing crime and the fear of crime is also about getting to know neighbours.
- Training clinic on 29th March in the Civic Centre from 6-8 pm

j. Pre-AGM questions

- **How could we use I.T. better in NHW?**

We now have a customised database for our records created by a professional software engineer for free – it would have cost hundreds of pounds. We now have 72 e-mail addresses logged and we may take the opportunity to let them know about initiatives. We would not send information about crimes from our Ring Round service via e-mail anyway as Neighbourhood Watch is all about talking to each other and maintaining human contact. Sometimes the call prompts more information.

- **How do we promote NHW?**

We attend many community events and would welcome help – any volunteers? (2 offers made). The HBC, Safer Havant and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams promote us extensively in the work they undertake, as do we with them.

- **Is there a network in NHW about 'unsavoury individuals' moving from one area to another?**

No, this is not appropriate nor part of our activities.

k. Conclusions

Sector and Scheme Co-ordinator duties were on chairs with contact numbers. Sector Co-ordinators were asked to collect their current running sheets for review and to advise the Database Co-ordinator of any changes needed. A reminder was made to tell 101 or 0845 call takers about membership of Neighbourhood Watch – a pilot will assess who rings in.

'Strong helpers' needed to put up/dismantle gazebo and display material – volunteers sought.



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Finally, thanks were passed to The Mayor, to Tim Pointer for chairing this meeting, and to the Community Safety Team who continue to support us and, of course, to all Co-ordinators.

6. COMMITTEE ELECTION:

Cllr David Gillett asked if a vote should be taken to adopt the committee as it stood. Jayne confirmed it was unnecessary as there were not any applications to consider and Tim Pointer duly advised the following applicants were all re-appointed without the need for election:

Christine Taylor, Pene Salter, Peter Turnbull. Committee resignations were Don Scott, Sandy Alford and Jenny Vince.

7. Q&A

1. Graham Lowe, scheme Co-ordinator, Hayling Island Orange
Where are 101 located and are they trained to know Neighbourhood Watch?

Response by Chief Insp Schofield. 101 was devised to reduce the burden on 999 but it hasn't achieved its aim. Hampshire Constabulary believes it is worthwhile as it is now linked to send information to the Fire Service, Police and Borough. Call takers are trained, but the high call volume may mean they don't fully understand NHW involvement. Please ensure post codes are stated in order for them to accurately locate you. Depending on your location at the time of a call, or if using a mobile on the county 'border' your call might be routed outside the area.

2. Jim Hall, sector Co-ordinator, Hayling Island Orange
Why can't you use e-mails for Ring Round?

Response by Jayne Emery. We do not have a facility in the station to do this. We only have 72 e-mail addresses out of 482 Co-ordinators, including deputies. Both the Scheme and Sector Co-ordinator is advised.

Response by Safer Havant Team. It is hoped that by the end of the summer up to date crime statistics will be available on the new Crime Reports website, which is currently being developed by Hampshire County Council. When the new website is launched a link will be put on the Safer Havant website.

3. Hillary Deadman, sector Co-ordinator, Havant Purple North
Is the increase in cold calling in Havant a result of the successes of "No Cold Calling" zones in other areas, and could they be extended?

Response by Acting Insp Haines. There isn't necessarily a link to the successes elsewhere; it could be the result of the recession. If there are problems in your area(s) please discuss this with Trading Standards who can advise you further.

8. CLOSING REMARKS:

Tim Pointer thanked all the speakers and the Co-ordinators for a successful meeting and the AGM closed at 9.00pm.

On behalf of Havant Neighbourhood Watch Association

Electronically signed 1st March 2010

Jayne Emery
Chairman

Electronically signed 1st March 2010

Pene Salter
Secretary on 23 Feb 2010



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