



WDNWA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th May 2011 at St. Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain.

Norma Sterling opened the meeting at 7.30pm. and welcomed those present, stating that she was pleased with the turn out.

She welcomed Philip Mills from Trading Standards and Chief Inspector Steve Baxter and Inspector Sally Terry.

Apologies for absence:

There were 16 apologies for absence from scheme co-ordinators.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Copies of the Minutes of the 2010 AGM were available for reading prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising

When asked if there were any matters arising from the last AGM, there were none.

The Chairman's Report

We now have 246 schemes, covering 5292 households out of the catchment area of Waterlooville, Horndean and Clanfield.

There have been four changes to the Association's Committee.

Helen le May has joined the Committee as Wecock Area Coordinator.

Rodney Pereira resigned last November and so far has not been replaced. (Waterlooville North, Cowplain West)

Keith Buckley resigns as from today and will need a successor. (Waterlooville North, Cowplain East)

Geoff Maidment has resigned very recently and will need replacement. (Waterlooville Central)

Volunteers are urged to come forward if they feel they can fill the posts of Area Coordinator for Waterlooville Central, Waterlooville North (Cowplain East) and Waterlooville North (Cowplain West).

It is hoped that all coordinators have noticed the improved dissemination of information from the police SNTs down to the individual schemes. This is due to some hard work in setting up a new Communications Protocol and regular meetings since, between me, Ken Legg and Inspector Sally Terry and I would like to personally thank Ken and Sally for their efforts.

The Association continues to be represented on the Community Tasking Coordinating Group of the Safer Havant Partnership, and at the CTCG for South of Butser which is run under the auspices of East Hampshire District Council.

We have been involved in the Wecock "It's a Knockout" Fun Day.

I would like to offer my thanks to:

All members of the committee for their sterling work and support during the last year,

All the Scheme Coordinators,

Havant Borough Council for continuing to provide funding,

The police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and particularly the PCSOs, for their support and information,

Stuart York, Crime Prevention Officer, for providing the committee with regular updates on crime trends and also seasonal tips on crime prevention which we are able to pass on to our members through you – the coordinators.

Margaret Selby, for providing the refreshments tonight.

The Treasurer's Report

Ken Legg gave a detailed account of the Association's finances from the financial statement that had been issued prior to the meeting. He itemised the income and expenses for the past year and financial statements were available to those present. A copy of the financial statement will be sent out with the minutes.

Changes to the Constitution

Andrew Cork briefed those present on the proposed changes to the Constitution. Many changes were cosmetic in that they tidied up minor details of the Constitution. The major changes were to cover the removal of reference to the police (brought about by the new Communications Protocol) and the introduction of a new Committee position, that of Vice Chairman.

No one was against the changes and these will be incorporated into the new Constitution. Bob Davis asked for Horndean parishes to be reviewed and mention of Street watch to be considered before final printing.

Election of Officers

The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were all willing to stand for a further term. All three had provided written evidence of proposers and seconders within the required notice period. As there were no other nominees all three proposals were accepted.

Andrew Cork has volunteered to stand for the new post of Vice Chairman. He was proposed and seconded within the allotted time scales and as there were no other contenders, was elected to the post.

Guest Speaker 1 - Philip Mills, Trading Standards

Philip introduced himself as the Trading Standards Officer for Hampshire County Council. He said he was going to talk about No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZ) and hoped to see more schemes set up in the future. He hoped to show what to do to set up a scheme, how to deal with door step callers and what not to do.

Phil asked the audience for a show of hands for examples of who had been cold called and for what reason. There were many examples including: utility supplies, tree surgery, conservatories, mattresses, loft insulation grants, cleaning gear, driveways, window cleaners and rehabilitating ex-cons.

Next Philip defined door step crime.

Two types of door step crime are the remit of the police. These are Distraction Burglaries and Bogus Callers. The third type, Cold Calling, is the remit of Trading Standards.

He then gave two examples of shoddy workmanship carried out by cold callers that had ended in huge amounts of money being spent by vulnerable householders, and briefly cited even worse situations.

A typical situation was that of a small quote for work escalating to a large final amount.

Another was a friendly approach gradually becoming more threatening.

A good policy is to remind yourselves (and others who may benefit) to not keep large sums of money in the house and to always say no to a cold caller.

Sometimes householders are driven to banks etc. to withdraw money if there is not enough in the house.

However Trading Standards have been working with financial institutions to help prevent this from happening.

Philip stated that most door step crime goes unreported. The main reasons were embarrassment and fear of losing independence in the case of elderly people. Out of 4% reported door step crime only 25% is detected, or put another way, only 1% of the total is detected.

Trading Standards want to spread the word regarding door step crime and do so via the "safe and sound" pack which he had on display and said was available to all Hampshire residents.

Philip then introduced No Cold Calling Zones. He discussed the difficulties of banning outright and policing cold calling. He said there were 300 NCCZ in Hampshire but not many in this area. Phil displayed the street signage and door stickers and went through the procedure for setting up a scheme, mentioning access to the Trading Standards website. Although 66% of residents need to be in favour of the scheme, Phil stated that in most cases 90% of residents were in favour. Long winded procedures in the past have deterred some schemes from completing the process. However it is hoped the current procedure will speed things up.

There was then a question and answer session where Philip answered many questions.

Guest Speaker 2 – Inspector Sally Terry, Sector Inspector

Before Inspector Terry spoke, Chief Inspector Baxter introduced himself, said he was a local man and had asked to be considered for his current post. He said he fully supports the idea of both Neighbourhood Watch and No Cold Calling Zones.

Inspector Terry started by reassuring those present that there would be no immediate change to police numbers with reference to the recent announcement of government cuts. Although some stories seen in the media were scary, she promised to try to maintain the best possible service.

Cuts or not, she feels that working in partnership is the way ahead. To this end she welcomed the new Communications Protocol, done in partnership with the Association. It is hoped that the weekly updates from the SNTs regarding crimes, local trends and hints and tips are well received.

Sally stated that communication must not only be one way and therefore she welcomes ideas from the Association upward through the SNTs.

Regarding calls to the police it was stated that too many calls is better than no calls. She reiterated that Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are the eyes and ears of the police and all information will be treated seriously and confidentially.

If sufficient information is gathered, teams will target individuals to encourage them to stop offending and in the worst cases use the courts to sentence them.

Recent initiatives have been used to reduce Criminal Damage and Anti-Social Behaviour. For example, groups sitting on walls, who have not yet caused damage, will have it explained to them, often in front of parents, that their action could lead to a damaged wall and to reconsider their actions. Similar talks have also been given in Schools. Sometimes names are given at these sessions.

Regarding ASB known problem areas have been targeted. Often, alcohol is confiscated and by working with public houses, offences can be reduced/prevented.

Another initiative involving fully trained, plain clothes surveillance teams has resulted in a group of car thieves awaiting sentence for over 30 offences.

Sally gave some facts and figures regarding Vehicle Crime and Criminal Damage. Although the numbers of crimes appear high, they have actually reduced, in both cases, each year for the last three years.

Sally then offered an open invitation to Scheme Members to go out on patrol with the police. If interested talk to your SNT contacts.

Finally Sally offered a big thank you to Ken and Norma for their work on the Communications Protocol.

Any Other Business

There was one item of Other Business.

Mr Ken Snow wished to bring to the attention of those present the difficulties he has with communications to his members, many of whom were elderly. The two main points were the lack of interest or lack of facilities to communicate by electronic methods. The other point was, because of the last point, there has to be a large amount of photocopying and subsequent distribution.

Mr Snow asked the audience for their ideas to improve the situation.

There were many ideas, some more easily achieved than others. The result was an exchange of ideas but nothing much was achieved as it was felt the only way ahead was to choose the best of all the methods that will work for a specific area. The discussion became heated at times.

It was felt that the best way ahead for areas that felt they had real problems was to hold a meeting with all relevant parties. (Chairman, Area Coord, Group Coords and Scheme Coords)

POST MEETING NOTE: Since the meeting Ken Snow and other coordinators without email have discussed the above. Norma wants this message to be seen and heard.

“All Coordinators are valued and their efforts are appreciated no matter what methods are used to achieve the end result. Any Coordinator, at any level, who feels they have a problem with any aspect of their schemes should in the first instance contact Norma to see if she can offer any help or advice.”

Further Questions

Q - Will the police be monitoring NCCZ?

A - Yes, in conjunction with calls to the police, feedback, etc.

Q – Does Trading Standards still have a Quick Response Team?

A – Yes

Q – Why don't I see the PCSOs?

A – PCSOs are out of the office for 80% of their time. If you don't see them it is possible they are targeting areas where they are needed.

Finally Norma mentioned the new Recruitment Leaflet, the Data Link system and Purse Lanyards.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00p.m.

Malcolm Jordan
Secretary.
May 28th 2011

ATTENDEES:

GUEST SPEAKERS: Philip Mills and Inspector Sally Terry.

Police

Chief Inspector Steve Baxter, Inspector Sally Terry, Stuart York (Crime Prevention Officer)

Area/Scheme Coordinators

40 (according to the signing in sheets)

Guests

8 (according to the signing in sheets)