



Winter 2019 – No 37

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Andrew Munro

As daylight hours gradually reduce, it is time to prepare for the cold of winter. If you drive a vehicle such preparation may include ensuring that you have an ample supply of de-icer, a working torch and a shovel to clear the ground about your residence. In making such preparations give a thought to neighbours who may need assistance, but may be too embarrassed to ask, to de-ice a car or path, help with stocking up with provisions for a hot meal or clearing the snow so that they do not become a prisoner in their own homes over the winter period. Such acts of kindness can be more beneficial than any Christmas card.

AGM & Special Event – Report

The AGM was well attended and such was the level of interest shown by the members that the meeting overran its allotted time. The main points of the AGM are noted below;

Financial Report 2018-19; The annual accounts were approved. It was noted that subscriptions were still being received after the accounts had been submitted for audit which created an issue with confirmation of paid up members in the year. The meeting gave a warm thank you to Hilary Leal for her volunteered time and effort to audit the CENW accounts.

Police Scotland - 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

Chair Report; As CENW is in a sound financial position suggestions were welcomed on how to invest the funds for the benefit of members including the following;

Lampost Signs; It was noted that discussions with Edinburgh City Council are to be resurrected in regard to refreshing lamppost signs with new logo. Should agreement be reached with the Council the new signs would take up a significant amount of funds.

Wheelie Bin Stickers; The replacement of wheelie bin stickers with the new blue and white logo, as against the current orange and black logo, could be met from current funds.

Above matters to be considered at a second Distributor Thank You session this year, to be held on Sunday 27th October 2019.

Election of Office Bearers; Claire Noble, Secretary, and Gordon Laing stepped down at the meeting and were warmly thanked for their many years of service. The remaining members of the Committee offered to continue in office which was approved at the meeting. Following on from the AGM, Moira Dickson volunteered to take up the role of Secretary which was subsequently accepted by the Committee.

Membership Level; membership continues to be strong against the backdrop of a number of properties in the area being put on the housing market.

Annual Membership Subscription; proposal to retain subscription at current level of £1.00 for 2019-2020 was approved.

Special Event Presentation; “Friends Against Scams” by Samantha Mooney and John Blair, Royal Bank of Scotland

Friends Against Scams is an initiative by National Trading Standards which aims at protection and preventing people from becoming victims of scams.

Useful Tips and information;

53% of the population aged over 65 have been targeted.

Only **5%** of victims will actually report that they have been a victim.

Scams can happen to anyone however and the people behind scams and attempted scams are criminals. Scams seldom happen in isolation. They are not random approaches by someone trying to get lucky. Criminals target their victims relentlessly and unfortunately if you respond innocently to one scam approach you will be targeted again and again and again. Meaning your information could be actively shared and you will see a rise in scam attempts, therefore the cycle of victimisation continues on and on. Victims may not only lose money but suffer a significant impact on their self confidence.

The criminals behind these scams are professional and sophisticated. They will sound like your best friend. They will be charming and friendly. In some case they make you think you are speaking with the Police, your bank or a trusted company. Or alternatively they will become aggressive and threatening.

These techniques are used to either to gain your trust and exploit you for whatever information or money they require. Or scare you into giving them the required information or money.

Youngsters often share far more personal information online than older persons and are not as conscious around private information. Sometimes they can be more trusting and not understand or think about the consequences.

If you need help?

Talk – If you are worried or you know a suspected victim remember you are not alone and you shouldn't feel embarrassed. If you are concerned about someone then spend time listening to the individual.

Report – Contact Action Fraud 0300 123 2040

Contact Your Bank – make the bank aware of the situation as they may be able to stop any direct debits which may have been set up. They may also open a new bank account for you if appropriate.

Seek further help – the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 03454 040 506 it provides impartial advice, information on the law relating to your concern and may also be able to arrange for a visit from a local Trading Standards Officer.

The most important thing is to talk and seek help. Don't worry alone.



Police Report period to November 2019

Housebreaking Attempted housebreaking, door handle tried and caught on remote CCTV, Currievale Drive; housebreaking at Hermiston, jewellery stolen; housebreaking with intent to a bike shed at Thomson Crescent; housebreaking Thomson Road, vehicle stolen.

Thefts Mobile phone left in taxi and subsequently reported as stolen; unlocked vehicle ransacked whilst parked at Hermiston; theft of multi-tool bike kit and also theft of pedal cycle, both from Heriot Watt University; opening of a Lockfast place, fuel stolen,

East Hermiston; theft of mobile phone, Marriott Hotel, Heriot Watt University; shoplifting of meat, Sainsburys; attempted theft of a dog between Muirwood Road and Bloomiehall Park.

Anti-Social Behaviour Screw found in vehicle tyre, Currievale Park, also in a separate incident screw found in vehicle tyre, Muirwood Road; vehicle scratched, Easter Currie Court.

Assaults Youth assaulted by male outside Sainsburys after argument over football in a garden.

Incidents of Note A male was cautioned and charged with threatening and abusive behaviour after displaying an offensive weapon and confronting two youths at Curriehill Station.

Road Traffic Matters A driver collided with a lamppost on Riccarton Mains Road after swerving to avoid a deer. An organised “boy racer” event was disrupted from occurring at Hermiston Park & Ride due to tip off from the public and being advertised on Facebook.

Police advice - please ensure all items of value are taken out of vehicles or are not left on display. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious persons or vehicles to police.

Contact Details email EdinburghPentlandHillsCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland/> or Crimestoppers call 0800 555 111

Police Surgery Community Officers hold a ‘Coffee with a Cop’ on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Corner Café, Lanark Road West, at 10.30am. When resources allow, Community Officers also attend Currie Community Council meetings.

Currie Community Council Please note that there will be no meeting in December 2019. Therefore, the next meeting will be on Monday 13th January 2020.

<http://www.curriecommunitycouncil.org.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Currie-Community-Council-162003307167929/>



<https://www.facebook.com/currieeastneighbourhoodwatch/>
<http://www.cenw.org.uk/>

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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the Committee or the membership of Currie East Neighbourhood Watch.

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Please send contributions via email to either lookout@cenw.org.uk or chair@cenw.org.uk