

LOOK-OUT

**Muirwood Neighbourhood Watch
Incorporating Thomson & Easter Currie Watches**

Annual General Meeting

to be held on

Monday, 29th October, 2007

in

Nether Currie Primary School at 7.30 pm

Please note change of date

Items on the Agenda will include changes to the Constitution:

Change of name to “Currie East Neighbourhood Watch”

Election of Committee and Office Bearers instead of appointment

Changes to banking arrangements

Please put this date in your diary and try to be present to show support for your hard-working Committee.

POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Balerno Police Station 449-5991

Vandalism:

- 05/04 Forthview Avenue - Vehicle wing mirror damaged.
- 03/05 Dolphin Road - 13 year old male charged with setting fire to rubbish.
- 04/05 **Muir Wood Road** - House window smashed.
- 17/05 Pentland View - Vehicle wing mirror damaged.
- 20/05 Garden chair in front garden smashed with large stone.
- 22/05 Pentland View Court - Window smashed.
- 26/05 15 y o male charged with vandalism.
- 27/05 Vehicle paintwork scratched.
- 28/05 Pentland View - Window smashed - repeated a few days later.
- 01/06 Pentland Place - Car damaged.
- 01/06 **Corslet Place** - Car damaged.
- 01-02/06 Palmer Road - Car damaged.
- 01-10/06 Dolphin Gardens - Window smashed.
- 13/06 **Weavers Knowe Crescent** - Window smashed.
- 20-21/06 Dolphin Avenue - Window smashed.
- 22/06 **Lanark Road West** - Windows smashed.
- 07/07 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Canoe damaged.
- 20/07 Forthview Road - Vehicle damaged.
- ??/07 Dolphin Road - Numerous vehicles damaged.
- 03/08 **Riccarton Grove** - Window damaged.
- 05/08 23 year old charged with smashing a window and resisting arrest.
- 07/08 **Curriehill Road** - Light smashed.
- 12/08 Forthview Crescent - Graffiti.
- 14/08 Pentland View Court - Graffiti on wall.
- 14/08 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Vehicle damaged.
- 17/08 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Window smashed.
- 17/08 Waulkmill Loan - Window smashed.
- 20/08 Pentland View - Windows smashed.
- 25/08 **Riccarton Avenue** - Windows smashed.

Assault:

- 07/04 Lanark Road - Minor assault, Police looking for a named male.
- 11/05 14 year old male arrested - Police assault and racial conduct.
- 21/05 Hermiston - Taxi driver assaulted and robbed by fare from Livingston.
 - /05 53 year old male charged with assault in a bar.
 - /05 Forthview Crescent - 16 y o male charged with a minor assault.
- 13/06 **Curriehill Road** - Male assaulted by a group of three males.

- 24/06 Forthview Crescent - Male (42) charged with numerous offences including breach of the peace, Police assault and resisting arrest.
- ??/06 Forthview Crescent - Male (16) charged with assault.
- 27/07 Male out jogging assaulted by a group of youths.
- 07/07 Forthview Cresc. - Male (16) breach of the peace and serious assault.
- 08/08 Palmer Place - Male punched in face by male wearing Hearts top.

Miscellaneous:

- 07/04 Male charged - driving without MOT or insurance.
- 10/04 Lanark Road - 22 year old male arrested - breach of the peace.
- 20/04 **Riccarton** - male found within grounds - intention to commit crime.
- 20/04 20 year old male arrested - driving without a licence or insurance.
- 24/04 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Personal items stolen from premises.
- 04/05 36 y o male charged with drink driving.
- 11/05 14 year old male arrested for breach of the peace.
- 19/05 **Riccarton Mns Rd** - 42 y o arrested - drink driving and no insurance.
- ??/05 53 y o male charged with racially abusing a Polish male.
- 12/06 Lanark Road West - 2males (20 & 21) charged - cannabis possession.
- 13/06 Currie train station - Car in car park entered.
- 25/06 Curriehill Road - Male (42) charged with driving offence.
- 28/06 Lanark Road West - Car in car park broken into.
- ??/06 Male (49) - motoring offences, breach of the peace and resisting arrest
- 11/07 Male (20) charged with driving offences following an accident.
- 12/07 Male (30) - numerous motoring offences and breach of the peace.
- 21/07 Male (17) - Threats, breach of the peace and carrying a 12" knife.
- 28/07 Male (15) - Shoplifting, vandalism and breach of the peace.
- 01/08 Forthview Cresc. - 2 Males (16 & 17) charged - break-in to van.
- 25/08 Pentland View - Newspapers set on fire at the rear of Scotmid.

Theft:

- 03/05 **Corslet Place** - 2 males stole £20 phone card from shop.
- 04/05 Palmer Road - 39 y. o. male arrested - trying to steal a motor vehicle.
- 16/05 Dolphin Avenue - Bag and contents stolen from premises.
- 18/05 Dolphin Avenue - Bag and contents stolen from premises.
- 21/05 **Riccarton Mains Rd** - Solar powered garden lights from rear garden.
- 24/05 **Muir Wood Road** - Pedal cycle stolen.
- 05/06 Lanark Road - Pedal cycle stolen from house - later recovered during a drugs search near-by.
- 06/06 **Nether Currie Crescent** - Pedal cycle stolen from premises.
- 11/06 **Muir Wood Road** - Handbag stolen.

Police News (Contd)

- Prior to 18/06 Motorcycle stolen while owner abroad - since recovered.
15/07 Car parked near Heriot Watt had its number plate stolen.
21/07 Currie Pub - Mobile phone stolen from handbag.
22/07 Palmer Road - 2 pedal cycles stolen from side of house.
22/07 Curriehill Castle Drive - child's pedal cycle stolen from driveway.
23/07 Heriot Watt University - Pedal cycle stolen.
02/08 **Muir Wood Road** - Padlocked "Appolo" mountain bike (blue with black mudguards and speedo on handlebars) stolen from garden.
06/08 Riccarton Campus - Laptop stolen from office.
16/08 Cable stolen from pallet in insecure car park.
17/08 **Muir Wood Road** - Attempt to steal a car by "hot-wiring".
22/08 **Curriehill Road** - Unattended motor generator stolen.
25/08 Insecure garden shed entered - bottle of weedkiller stolen.

Housebreaking:

- 10/05 Afternoon - Garden shed entered - tools removed - rear conservatory doors forced. Much jewellery and electrical equipment stolen.
24/05 **Riccarton Grove** - Garden premises entered - equipment stolen.
14/06 **Easter Currie Terrace** - Attempt to enter premises.
28/06 **Kirkgate** - Attempt to enter garage and shed - locks held - no entry.
30/06 **Kirkgate** - Same premises entered - Photographic equipment stolen.
??/06 **Riccarton Mains Road** - House-breaking - 14 & 15 yo males arrested.
03/07 **Lanark Road West** - Attempt to enter garage - 2 males (13-15) seen.
17/07 **Nether Currie Crescent** - "Marin" make bicycle stolen from shed.
03/08 Garage entered - Mountain bike and cycle clothing stolen.
04/08 Male (17) charged with shoplifting.
05-12/08 **Kirkgate** - Garden shed entered - tools stolen.
06/08 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Attempt to break in using an axe or similar.
12-18/08 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Attempt to break in.
12-15/08 **Riccarton Mains Road** - Attempt to enter garage.

Fire Safety: Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue are committed to reducing fires in the home. One of the many services they offer is the supply and fitting of a free fire alarm to all properties. The alarm will be fitted by local fire fighters and has a 10 year battery fitted. The fire fighters will also give your house a free home safety check. Anyone interested should contact me and I shall pass your details on to the local Community Fire Officer.

Website: The following website has masses of information on country-wide initiatives and is definitely worth a look: www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Forgeries: There are fake £20 notes in circulation in our area. The notes are of very poor quality and easily identified as photocopies but have been accepted by a local business. Take care when accepting any notes.

Junior Cycling: During the five weeks up to 1st June, I was working in Nether Currie Primary School assisting in the Scottish Cycle Training Scheme. The cycle scheme aims to provide basic skills and knowledge necessary for competent and safer cycling on the road and is delivered through classroom input covering theory and knowledge together with playground and road work delivering practical cycling skills. This year's course consisted of 27 students.

The final cycle took place around local roads on Friday, 1st June and the standard of cycling displayed was of an extremely high level. Congratulations to all the children who took part. I look forward to seeing you cycling around the area safely, considerately and with more confidence. Well done everyone!

Off-road Cycling: The topic of cycling on off-road footpaths was raised at a Currie Community Council meeting. All the laws I could find relating to cycling were concerned with cycling on roads. It would appear that there is very little the Police can do, other than advise, when it comes to persons cycling off-road. When inconsiderate cyclists fail to make their presence known and then shoot past pedestrians at high speeds it can be very frightening. If the pedestrian has a dog it can cause even greater danger.

There is a code of conduct that has been written by Scottish Natural Heritage which can be found on-line at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/default.asp More specifically, there is an Off Road Cycling: Good Practice Guide which gives common sense practical advice. I have a number of these leaflets so, if you would like one, let me know and I shall get it to you.

Vandalism: The Pentland Medical Centre, Currie Primary School and local businesses have originated a large number of complaints regarding vandalism and youth disturbance. I urge anyone who sees trouble in the area to call us at once. Also, please call if you see youths in possession of alcohol.

Housebreaking: I keep repeating this, but by taking a few simple steps we can make it more difficult for the thief and reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime. Most often, the housebreaker will attack the most vulnerable point of entry so, before leaving your house, even for a short time:

- Lock all doors and windows and use all the locks fitted to them
 - If you have an alarm system, use it every time you leave the house
 - During the hours of darkness, consider using timer switches for lights etc.
- Ensure that your home is secure at all times, even when you are at home.

Summary of Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 1st May, 2007

Welcome: David Eatock (Chairman) welcomed 15 Committee members to the meeting along with Mike Smith, the new Police Constable at Balerno.

Secretary for the night: Andrew Craigie took the minutes for this meeting.

Minutes of last meeting: Were approved.

Matters Arising:

- a) Agreed that Look-out distribution network is working adequately.
- b) Look-out printing costs - Cheaper alternatives being sought.
- c) Cala Planning application - Nothing much to report but apparently the Council has received around 460 objections.
- d) Road signs and street names - David continuing to progress this.
- e) Street Co-ordinators' Meeting - Agreed to wait until next Spring.
- f) Riccarton Mains Road - Fatal accident and speed limit - Discussed at length the speed limit delay and the road problems. Agreed to await the outcome of the investigation.
- g) Chairmanship of the Committee - A sub-committee (David Eatock, Gordon Laing, Ian Proudfoot, Bob Kerr and Tim Shepherd) was set up to resolve the issue of the lack of volunteers to take over from David.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance at 01/05/2007 was £847. After discussion, agreed to retain the subscription rate at £1.

Muir Wood Park: More youth disturbances and general mess reported. Mike Smith said that the Police had to be notified at the time (by phone, email etc) by the public or they would not be aware that there was a problem.

"Charity" Collectors: Apparently it is legal for non-charity companies to ask for money for charity so long as some does go to charity. Reported that one such organisation collected £400,000 but gave only £50,000 to the charity.
(*Note: See Spring Look-out for Police advice re collectors.*)

DONM: Monday, 3rd September at 7.30 pm - Currie Kirk Meeting Room.

Summary of Minutes of Committee Meeting on 3rd September, 2007

Welcome: David (Chair) welcomed 13 Committee members to the meeting.

Secretary: Secretary - Gordon Laing for Bill Gordon (unable to attend).

Minutes of last meeting (1st May, 2007). All agreed.

Treasurer: Balance at 31/08/07 = £1726. Subs of £148 outstanding. After discussion, agreed that David (E) prepare article for next Look-out asking defaulters to pay their £1 fee to their Collectors. Suggested that a small box be put in Look-out for collectors to insert name and address for payment.

AGM: Arranged for Monday, 29th October at 7.30. See page 1.

Matters Arising:

- (a) Look-out: It was agreed to review distribution system. (See Review Grp).
- (b) Cala Planning Application. See page 8.
- (c) Neighbourhood Watch and Street Name signs. Still no reply from Council. Members should advise Elizabeth Wightman of any missing signs.
- (d) Speed Limit - Riccarton Mains Road. David has had a note from George Kennedy, Area Roads Manager. The speed limit change has been approved but some of the signs need an electricity supply and this is in hand.)
- (e) Office Bearers - Chairmanship Sub-committee Proposals:
 - Treasurer - Brian Latto willing to continue.
 - Secretary - Ian Proudfoot volunteered.
 - Vice-chair - Bob Kerr for 2 years before becoming Chair.
 - Chairman - Tim Shepherd to succeed David for 2 years.

The above would be proposed at the AGM. David thanked all those who had volunteered and also the sub-committee for their good work.

Review Group: Andrew Craigie proposed a Watch website (very little cost) with links to Police sites. Look-out and Minutes could be sent out by email with paper copies as required. Members could be asked for email addresses if they wished this style of communication. A Review Group was set up to examine this and all aspects of the Watch. Members: Andrew Craigie, Tim Shepherd, Ian Proudfoot, David (O), David (E) and Duncan Law.

AOCB:

1. Wheelie bin stickers. Gordon to follow up.
2. NHW window stickers. To be issued with next Look-out.
3. Constitution. Discussed in full. Gordon McFadzean to draw up a revised draft to circulate to Committee for comment. Final version at AGM.
4. Planning developments. No new information about the Jet Garage site. The developers of the Kinleith site have lodged road construction details - no emergency traffic would need to use the Water of Leith walkway.
5. Collection sheets. David (O) suggested that subscription collection sheets, at present given to Easter Currie collectors, should be used by all. The Review Committee to investigate.
6. AGM. David (E) to Chair. New office bearers to introduce themselves before election. After the election - all being well - Tim to take the Chair and close the meeting.

Dates of Next Meetings:

AGM - 29th October, 2007 at 7.30 pm - Nether Currie School.

Committee - 3rd December, 2007 at 7.30 pm - Currie Kirk Meeting Rooms

Subscriptions

These, officially, come due for payment at the start of the new financial year which is 1st October but, in accordance with the constitution, collectors have until 30th April next to finalise their collections. This is so that the collectors do not need to collect during the dark nights. It is, however, disappointing to note that 10% of the membership have not paid their subscriptions for the year 2006/07. Hopefully they will make good when asked for the 2007/08 Subscriptions. If your subscription for last year is still unpaid, please offer it to your collector to save the collector the embarrassment of having to ask for it. It should be noted that anyone who has not paid their subscription and continues to claim discount from their insurance company as being a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is technically committing an offence.

Cala Planning Application - Riccarton Mains Road

The Council has refused planning permission for this project which your Committee felt would have had serious repercussions on life in our neighbourhood. It would appear that Council decisions are greatly affected by the number of individual objections raised and your Committee is grateful to the many members who responded to their appeal either by using the pro-forma letter or by sending in their own letters. Thank you.

Look-out

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Copy for the next issue should be sent, as soon as possible, to the Editor at 31 Nether Currie Road, EH14 5HX (449-5566) or by e-mail to:
jimherbert@blueyonder.co.uk

Look-out is published quarterly by Muirwood Neighbourhood Watch.

Printed by St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Colinton.

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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the Editor or the Muirwood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Your Collector is:
