

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Chairman's Corner

Bob Kerr

Welcome to my first attempt at writing Chairman's Corner. I have a hard act to follow as Tim was an accomplished wordsmith.

As we enter a new year we should take some time from our busy schedules and reflect on what we should expect as a resident of Currie East. A lot has changed since the village of Currie had a distinct *considerate neighbourhood* ethos - so together let's grasp the opportunity in 2010 to re-establish being a *considerate neighbour*. Let's make a personal commitment to keep an eye on the elderly and infirm, particularly those living alone. As a *considerate neighbour* let's clear snow and ice from the pavements and paths leading to doorsteps and let's lay down grit from the roadside bins to help needy drivers get round the various hills in the estate. Why spend so many hundreds of pounds each year on gym membership when doing the *considerate neighbour* thing would keep you fitter and wealthier and earn the satisfaction of being a *considerate neighbour*? We could also have our very own *Good Neighbour Day* - well that would be a challenging thought!!

CALA Application - Rejected

The Cala Application to build on the Garden Centre site has been rejected by the Council. There were 451 objections submitted, we believe as a result of the flyer produced by CENW.

Cold Calling – Potential for Doorstep Crime?

Neil Dickson

A number of CENW members have raised the issue of cold callers - when there is an unexpected knock on the door or telephone call offering a price too good to miss - be it for security alarms, gas/electric supply, garden and driveway improvements or the ubiquitous double glazing. This would be in contrast to the regular door to door activities undertaken by the likes of bonafide charities and other organisations which are warmly supported by Currie East residents.

To most CENW members, unwelcome cold callers may be little more than a nuisance and are quickly dealt with accordingly. To our more vulnerable members, being the target of a well honed, persuasive and sometimes persistent or aggressive sales pitch or enquiry could cause anxiety, culminating in low resistance to parting with your hard earned income or a sense that the caller wanted to get into your property with mischief in mind.

One option to address the problem of cold callers is to set up an official No Cold Caller Zone (NCCZ). The aim of a NCCZ is to reduce bogus callers and doorstep crime by making it clear to potential callers that the residents within these zones do not welcome uninvited doorstep traders.

In November 2006, Trading Standards and Lothian and Borders Police established pilot 'No Cold Calling Zones' in Cramond and Portobello. The results from the pilot showed the level of cold calling within each zone had fallen significantly, both within the zones and in surrounding areas. When consulted on the pilot, 91% of households rated it a success, and nearly 100% said that they wished their area to continue as a NCCZ.

Proposals for rolling NCCZs out across the city are currently being considered but as yet there is no timescale for this action.

A downside of a NCCZ could be that charities and other legitimate activities would not be allowed to operate in the zone. A possible alternative solution would be to supply a window sticker that would deter cold callers at the door but allow good causes to still go about their business.

CENW would welcome the views of members regarding a NCCZ. If you have an opinion on NCCZs or alternatives then please email us at chair@cenw.org.uk with your views.

Annual General Meeting, 27th October 2009***Iain Proudfoot***

The AGM in the Gibson Craig Hall was attended by 39 members of CENW with apologies being received from 18 members. The meeting was chaired by Tim Shepherd who after welcoming those present then conducted a Minute of Remembrance for Muriel Baillie. As a Distributor and a great supporter of CENW and other local organisations, Muriel will be sorely missed by her family and all who knew her.

There then followed a presentation by two officers of Special Branch. This enlightening and informative presentation highlighted the proximity of Edinburgh Airport, which may be a possible attack target. Everyone should be aware of unusual activity and this should be reported to the Police. This in-gathering of information can only assist in making all our lives safer.

The Chairman's report covered Street Signs, Information Packs, Planning Applications, Grant Monies received, Lookout newsletter and Wheelie-Bin Stickers. It has been a busy year for CENW.

There were 5 resignations from the Committee and 1 new Committee member. The remainder of the Committee agreed to continue in office.

The election of the Office Bearers took place without any challenge. Tim Shepherd then demitted office in favour of Bob Kerr, who thanked Tim for all the work undertaken during his term of office.

Dog Fouling in Currie

While the vast majority of dog owners ensure that they clean up after their dog, unfortunately there are a few who do not. This is not a major problem but can be a nuisance. It can affect everyone from the very young to the elderly. Please be considerate as Currie is a great place to live in.

Bill Heggie

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch wishes to put on record the gratitude it owes Bill Heggie as one of the founders of Neighbourhood Watch in Currie, who died recently. The seeds that Bill planted have now flourished into the Watch we have today. We can only hope that Bill would be proud of what we undertake as a Watch. Our thoughts are with his family.

New Street Distributors

Tim Shepherd

As some of you will be aware your committee are distributing information packs and taking the opportunity to ask you whether you would be willing to become involved in CENW by becoming street distributors for Look-Out or to be involved in the committee. This has proved to be a successful exercise and a number of you have volunteered to help us. We are currently revising our distribution schedules and those of you who have volunteered will be allocated a distribution list for the April Look-Out. Prior to this you will also be invited to attend a distributors' meeting where we will explain your role more fully and the work of CENW. This will also be an opportunity to meet other distributors and members of the committee.

For those of you who have not yet received an Information Pack these will be distributed over the next few weeks, which gives you time to consider whether you would be willing to help your Neighbourhood Watch.

Look-out

The CENW committee would like to express their gratitude to ***Jim Herbert***, who has stepped down as editor of Look-Out after many years of service. Jim's work on Look-Out has been very much appreciated.

The role of editor has not yet been filled, but Look-Out will continue to be produced by volunteers from the Committee until a new editor steps up.

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Please send contributions via email to ***lookout@cenw.org.uk*** or contact the chairman (details below).

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Chairman – Bob Kerr

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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the Editor or the Currie East Neighbourhood Watch scheme.