

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Margaret Michie

Welcome to the autumn edition of Lookout. We've been busy over the past few months with a number of initiatives.

In May we attended Muir Wood Park's open evening where we met many of our members and distributed Watch information. Approximately 25 "We don't buy at the door" stickers were distributed to members who requested them. More are available upon request.

In June two committee members visited the P7 class at Nether Currie Primary School and informed the pupils about the work of the Watch.

A leaflet and letter was distributed regarding the Muir Wood Field planning application.

AGM

Monday 29th October 2012

Entry from 7:15pm for 7:30pm start

Gibson Craig Halls

Guest speakers

Refreshments will be provided

House break-ins in Currie

Lothian & Borders Police

There has been a rise in the number of housebreakings in Currie recently, with at least 12 being reported in the last few months. This is certainly above what would be considered the seasonal average.

As a result of this, police officers have been conducting both uniformed and plain clothes patrols in the area to both detect and deter the culprits. A crime prevention officer has also visited the areas where break-ins have occurred and observed that a contributory factor was the lack of natural surveillance to the front of some of the properties, e.g. overgrown hedges and trees. Another factor could be obvious signs that nobody is home. The use of light timers/dimmers and radios is a proven way to put doubt in a thief's mind that somebody might be at home.

If you are aware of people in your area who appear suspicious, please observe them, taking note of their description, vehicle details if appropriate and the date & time, and if necessary contact the Police.

We would like to urge householders to review the following basic tips from our local crime prevention officer that could help prevent their house becoming a statistic:

- Ensure doors and windows are kept locked at all times.
- Do not leave keys in locked doors – this makes access and egress a lot easier for a perpetrator.
- Ensure your locks conform to British Standard
- Window locks should be fitted where appropriate and used all the time. Do not leave the key in the lock.
- Mark all the electrical equipment with an ultraviolet marker pen.
- Hedges or trees should be trimmed or cropped so as not to provide cover for thieves.
- Laptop computers, mobile phones, cash and jewellery are favourite housebreaking targets. These should be locked away or removed from view.

- Consider investing in a safe or strong box for storage of cash and valuables. A safe should be securely fixed to the fabric of the building and should only be used for short-term storage of cash.
- Consider installing an intruder alarm system. More information can be found on alarm systems and monitoring at www.nsi.org.uk

Crime prevention advice can be obtained from Balerno Police Station or staff there can arrange a visit by the Crime Prevention Officer.

Burglar Alarms

Do you have an alarm on your property and have you tested it recently to check it still works properly? If you are on holiday, do you have a neighbour who knows what to do in case of activation?

If you hear a neighbour's alarm, do you know what to do? Call the Police and let them deal with the matter. DO NOT put yourself at risk.

Your opinion

Your opinion and input is valuable to us.

Are we doing a good job?

Is the information we provide useful and informative?

Do you have any ideas for other initiatives we could be implementing?

Would you like to help the Watch by joining the committee?

Please contact us at any time using the contact details on the last page.

You are welcome to join us at the AGM on the 29th October, where you can ask questions or share your views with us. Residents are always welcome at any of our committee meetings (next dates are 10th September and 10th December). Committee meetings are held in Currie Kirk Meeting House at 7:30pm.

Planning Applications

The largest planning application the Watch has dealt with is the Taylor Wimpey application for the Muir Wood Field. 1300 leaflets and 1300 letters were prepared, printed and distributed in 7 days. This was to give the opportunity to Watch members to air their views to the council. Thanks to all who assisted in this task.

At time of printing the planning decision was still awaited.

Considerate Parking

Whilst the majority of vehicle owners in Currie park responsibly, one can usually observe a few cases of inconsiderate parking that cause a hazard to other motorists and pedestrians. One Highway Code rule often ignored in Currie is “do not park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction” (see rule 243). Another hazardous practice is parking on or near the brow of a hill.

Please think of others when parking your car in the street, not just how close you want to get to your house.

Look-Out is produced by a group of volunteers from the CENW Committee.

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

Look-out is published three times a year by Currie East 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 Editors or the Currie East Neighbourhood Watch scheme.