

1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GIBSON CRAIG HALL

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2008 7.30PM

1. WELCOME

Tim Shepherd, Chairman, welcomed 35 attendees to the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Marion Brown, Bob Cockburn, Margaret Davidson, Jim Herbert, May Jenkins, Duncan Law, Sheila Law, David Oxenham, Ann Proudfoot, Irene Reid, Gwynneth Ross, Douglas Scrimger and Anne Sherlaw.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST AGM

No matters arising and Minutes accepted by the meeting.

Proposed David Eatock

Seconded Bob Kerr

4. POLICE REPORT

The report was presented by P.C. Mike Smith.

The area is subject to low level crimes with the main items being Car Crime and crime by children.

- a. **BOGUS WORKMEN** This is happening within the area and everyone should be aware and if there is anything suspicious this should be reported to the Police.
- b. **CHRISTMAS CRIME** As it is coming up to the Christmas period there will be presents kept under Christmas Trees and in cars from shopping trips. These items should be kept out of view in order not to tempt providence. Additional crime may be due to the present financial situation and Credit Crunch
- c. **ELDERLY PEOPLE** There has been some targeting of elderly people by children. Those subjected to this crime are not now so able to defend themselves and the modus operandi is to throw potatoes, eggs and abuse at the victim. The Police are writing to local shops to request that items such as eggs are not sold to young people.

Tim Shepherd then asked the meeting if there were any questions for P.C. Mike Smith.

1. **The age of the children participating in crime?** This appears to be from 10 into the teenage years. Schools will be visited by the Police. Not every incident is reported and it is very difficult for covert surveillance to be agreed for what is considered low level crime. It is also difficult to police due to the random nature of the crime.

2. **Anti-social behaviour in EH14.** A newspaper report suggested that EH14 was considered a hot-spot for crime. P.C. Mike Smith had not read the report but the information requires to be broken down into the constituent parts of EH14 to provide a truer picture as some parts of EH14 are worse than others.
3. **Bogus Workman.** Customer will be pressed to pay in cash and the workman will go to the Bank with customer to collect the cash. Cheques will not be accepted. There will be no Office Address or Telephone Number, only a mobile number. Work will be of a sub-standard quality. These are some of the things to look out for and if in any way suspicious then the Police should be called.

P.C. Mike Smith concluded by saying that if suspicious of anything, call the Police. Only by calling the Police will this result in action by the Police.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tim advised that there was no Power Point presentation similar to the presentation undertaken for the Distributors' meeting in April.

- a) **Crime Stats** 29 cases of vandalism, 16 theft, 2 assault, 2 Breach of the Peace and 3 house break-ins in the Watch area. Everyone should be aware of the Break-ins but a person has now been detained by the Police. The main break-in method appears to be a 'slip-in' and everyone should ensure that doors are locked at all times. There is a low crime rate in the Watch area but people should be vigilant at all times.
- b) There are 4 **Committee Meetings** in a year, along with the Annual General Meeting, to which all subscribing members are welcome to attend.
- c) **Distribution Lists for Lookout.** The whole of the distribution for 'Lookout' was reviewed and Tim thanked everyone who was involved and also thanked those who are now dealing with the distribution of 'Lookout'.
Replacing Coordinators and Distributors. This matter will require to be dealt with by Committee and is now minuted as an action point. Thomson Grove require a distributor and Lanark Road West along with Easter Currie Court require 5 distributors. If there is anyone willing to undertake this task then advise the Chairman or Committee and the matter will be progressed. All that is required is issue of 3/4 'Lookout' per year and the collection of the annual subscription in April.
- d) **Re-establishment of links to Primary Schools** A link has been made with Currie Primary School and two members of the Committee will be visiting Nether Currie Primary School before the end of October 2008. The School-Watch enhances the Neighbourhood Watch. This can be further enforced by a competition for the School with prizes being provided by the Neighbourhood Watch.
- e) **Signs** There is an adequate supply of window stickers and these can be provided by Gordon Laing, on request. The watch purchased 500 Wheelie Bin Stickers and these were distributed in the old Watch areas of Thomson and Easter Currie. Another 400 are to be purchased for distribution throughout the remainder of the Watch area.
Tim then provided a map of the watch area showing the existing Street Sign location and there are gaps. This is due to Street Light Replacement and the Contractors, Lightways, not replacing the signs. The Council will ensure that this is undertaken. Replacement of signs at every entrance is too costly. Council can supply and fit at a cost of £23 per sign. Tim then provided an example of a plastic sign, with ties, which would cost £5 each. The council would fit these signs at a cost of £6.

A proposal to the AGM that consideration be given to purchasing 50 signs with a cost of £500. An order of 50 signs will have free postage and packing. The minimum order is 20 signs, but this will require payment for Postage and Packing. The meeting then questioned the durability as High Wind may destroy the plastic sign. A metal sign would be more expensive but more durable. No experience is available to ascertain the durability of the plastic signs. The existing metal signs have been in place for 16+ years.

A question regarding funding of the signs was raised by Brian Latto and Tim replied that this matter was under investigation.

An investigation will be undertaken to see if a Metal Backed Sign with Sticker can be purchased.

The meeting agreed that the Signs require to be replaced but deferred the decision on the purchase of signs until an investigation of products available is complete.

- f) **Street Distributors Meeting.** A meeting took place in April 2008 and is to be repeated in 2009. The date to be decided at the next committee meeting.
- g) **Lookout.** This has been revised to and A4 sheet in order to save cost. This does contain the same information as the previously larger format. Tim took the opportunity to thank Jim Herbert and Andrew Craigie for the work they undertake.

Tim then said that he had enjoyed his first year as Chairman but that it was hard work. He then thanked everyone involved with the Watch and looked forward to the next year. Items which he envisaged for completion in the future were the Street Signs, Development of a Residence Pack for new people in the area, future Office Bearers and Communications. The latter would be Website Alerts and a look at how we communicate to the area.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The report was presented to the meeting by Brian Latto, Treasurer. Brian detailed the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th September 2008. The year end balance being £1859.56

Comments regarding the account from Brian:-

- a) Subscriptions took a while to collect with some monies not being collected at all. This amounted to approx £100 and equates to previous years.
- b) Work has been undertaken to control costs especially regarding copying/printing of the Lookout. Expenses were down £207 from the previous year.
- c) New expenditure for Wheelie Bin Stickers and Road Signs will have to be allowed for within expenditure.
- d) Retain subscriptions at £1 for next year then an increase may have to be considered. The decision of the committee at the Committee Meeting on 1st September was that subscription should remain at £1. The Annual General Meeting was asked whether or not that the level of subscription should remain at £1. The Meeting agreed unanimously that the subscription should remain at £1.

A suggestion, by Gordon Laing, that the accounts presented to the A.G.M should show the comparative figures for the previous year. Brian Latto agreed that this will be undertaken for future presentation of accounts.

David Eatock questioned whether a minimum balance should be maintained in the Bank Account. Previously a figure of £1,000 had been maintained and David wished to

know if this was still the case or whether a higher sum should be considered. Tim replied that as a Not for Profit organisation the Watch should merely 'wash its face' and not retain large sums in the Bank Account. The Watch did have to live within its means and this did require the retention of sufficient funds to meet current expenditure.

Tim thanked Brian for his work as Treasurer.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

There is a Committee of 24 members but 1 member, Hamish Sutherland, has resigned. Tim thanked Hamish for all of the work that he had undertaken for the Watch.

The names of all the Committee were read out by Tim and no further resignations had been received. Tim then asked if there were any nominations to fill the vacant position. No reply. It was then approved by the Meeting that the existing committee members continue in office.

Question was received from the floor. Were Committee Members also Street Coordinators/Distributors? Answer. Yes there are some members who fulfil both functions.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Tim Shepherd read out the part of the Constitution which related to Office Bearers. It was ascertained that there was no need to elect the Chairman, however there was a need to elect the other Office Bearers.

No new nominations had been received and as no Office Bearer had intimated their resignation the following was agreed by the A.G.M. and were re-elected

Vice Chairman	Bob Kerr
Secretary	Iain Proudfoot
Treasurer	Brian Latto

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS.

- a) A stock of Personal Alarms is held by Brian Latto and is for sale. Price £4.00
- b) A suggestion from Gordon Laing that the Minutes of all meetings have page numbers inserted to each page to assist anyone should there be a requirement to print the Minutes. Also whoever took the Minutes should have their name added to the Minutes as a matter of record. Iain Proudfoot agreed to carry out this suggestion.

10 CLOSE

With no further questions Tim Shepherd thanked everyone who attended the meeting

Gordon Laing then thanked the Chairman and Office Bearers for the work that they had undertaken over the past year.

With no further business, the meeting closed and all attendees were invited to partake in light refreshments which had been provided by Elizabeth Wightman.

These Minutes were compiled by Iain Proudfoot, Secretary, 1st November 2008