



# **Currie East Neighbourhood Watch**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Gibson Craig Hall  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 7.30–9pm

## **MINUTES**

1. Welcome and thanks for attendance by Chair, with introduction of current Office Bearers.
2. Apologies registered from Douglas Scrimger, Anne Proudfoot, Duncan Law and Sheila Boon.
3. AGM 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Minutes  
One matter arising from last year's AGM was Elizabeth Wightman's investigation of 2013 subs shortfall still underway, including 2014.  
True record proposed by George Ballantyne and Seconded by Bob Kerr.
4. Treasurer Elizabeth Wightman presented CENW 2013-1 Financial Report (copy included).  
Subs around £50 down on 2013; £60 un-cashed cheques for room hire by Gibson Craig and Currie Kirk. Large amount of people in the CENW area were very appreciative of biggest annual spend on Dynamo Torches, especially in the recent power outage.
5. Proposal to widen area covered by Neighborhood Watch amendment to Constitution presented to AGM. Proposed by David Eatock, Seconded by Gordon Laing and Passed by unanimous vote.  
Thanks and appreciation to Hamish Leal in taking responsibility for the additional area and including them in the CENW.  
Updated Constitution will be uploaded to the CENW website.
6. 2013-4 Chair's Report by Iain Sutherland (copy included).
7. Guest Speaker Laura Jameson, COSLA Policy and Improvement Manager

### **Postal Scams**

Examples – lottery winnings can be claimed with admin fee / clairvoyant can tell your future and knows personal details. Crimes often go unreported with victims not letting family or friends know.

Replying to these can put you on Sucker's List, making you vulnerable to further contact.

Trials in Scotland to train Royal Mail staff to notice suspect mail or volumes of mail are now being rolled out to Edinburgh.

### **Telephone Scams**

Examples - trying to have you reveal bank account details / pension details for "early release".

If you can see telephone number then you can check it out online.

AGM attendees recommended True Call (although around £100).

If you know anyone who would benefit from call blocking assistance, there are trials underway at the moment.

Watch out for fake call blocking devices!

### E-Crime

Examples – copycat websites for passports/ driving license renewal which are not official, instead your money goes elsewhere, or is an admin fee for connecting you to official processes. Counterfeit goods for sale. Emails requesting bank account details.

### Doorstep Crime

Often across Police borders and mobile, perpetrators are often already known to Police, but their techniques keep improving to avoid being caught.

As with postal crime, underreporting is an issue as victims are embarrassed or unaware.

- Contact Trading Standards / Police / Consumer Helplines – they want to hear from you and will investigate.

Nominate a neighbour to help you get rid of doorsteppers if you feel you cannot.

- Please forward any questions or requests for assistance to Ian Proudfoot (CENW Chair) who can pass these on to Laura, or provide Laura's contact details. Further information will be shared on the CENW website.

8. Election of Committee Proposed by David Eatock, Seconded by Gordon McFadzean and Passed by unanimous vote. All current Committee members re-elected for another year.
9. Election of Office Bearers Proposed by George Ballantyne, Seconded by Gill Burnside and Pass by unanimous vote. Treasurer remained Elizabeth Wightman, Secretary remained Dee Johns, Vice Chair remained Neil Dickson and Chair remained Iain Proudfoot.
10. CENW annual membership subscription cost to be confirmed for 2014-5 as per Constitution. To remain at £1 Proposed by David Eatock, Seconded by Gordon Laing, and Passed by unanimous vote.
11. Archie Clark provided information and illustrations for current development plans in the CENW area.  
The Currie Community Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Gibson Craig will include a presentation from CALA on their pre-application for developments at both Riccarton Mains Road and the Kinleith site.  
The Heriot Watt University site is also to undergo major developments that will increase traffic in the CENW area over the next couple of years.
12. Close and Refreshments, with thanks to all those who attended and participated in the AGM.

## Chairman's report for CENW AGM 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Thank you and this is my first report as Chair of Currie East Neighbourhood Watch.

I have to thank the Committee members for their support during the last year and it is greatly appreciated. Thanks to the Office Bearers for the work that they undertake.

There is a lot of work done behind the scenes and specific mention should be made to Tim Shepherd who is Distribution Secretary for the Lookout, Andrew Craigie the Webmaster, Gordon Laing the Auditor and Archivist. There is also the Editorial team for Lookout of Neil Dickson and Andrew Craigie. We as a Watch would be stuck if it was not for all the people who distribute the Lookout, our newsletter. A big thank you to all these people.

It has been a busy year with incidents happening around the Watch area. Vandalism in Muir Wood Park , break-ins at the shops at the top of Bryce Road and houses being broken into in parts of the Watch. One member of the Watch contacted us about a break-in in Thomson Road and the Watch was then able to issue an Alert to Watch members. Items stolen include jewellery, computer, valuables, car key and car. Also a person was acting suspiciously at 4.30am and the Police were contacted. I have to thank that person for contacting us. Hopefully the Police will be able to catch the culprits. All we can do is be vigilant and if anything suspicious is seen, report it to the Police as quickly as possible. Let the Watch know and we will issue an Alert.

Another member of the Watch contacted us regarding a Cold Caller who appeared to have appropriate identification. Some of the callers are genuine and some are not. The member contacted the Police, who then patrolled the area and advised that if you are suspicious of anyone, do not let them in to your property and contact the Police.

As an organisation we now attend the Currie Community Council monthly meetings. A committee member attends the meeting and then submits a report to the Watch Committee. The Community Council has welcomed our attendance at their meeting.

Neil Dickson, vice-chair, attended the AGM of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland which is the umbrella organisation for all Neighbourhood Watches and allows a forum for ideas and concerns to be voiced.

We have had a positive response from the new editor of the C&B News and we will have to pursue this avenue of communication.

Our Constitution allows us to deal with environmental issues and to this end we have contacted Edinburgh Council regarding the new Local Development Plan. We can now only await developments.

The Lookout editorial team will accept contributions for inclusion in the newsletter. The Lookout is distributed 3 times a year in March/April, September and December. Distributors for the Lookout are always required and if you are not a distributor, and would like to help, please let us know.

People who move into the Watch area are provided with our Information Pack which is distributed by Committee members. This information is advised at each Committee Meeting and from the meetings in December 2013, March and June 2014 27 packs were distributed.

Our Wheelie-bin stickers are a visible sign of our presence as are the lamppost signs. The fridge magnets and key-rings are a closer reminder of the Watch. There have been a lot of favourable comments regarding our provision of the wind-up torches. They have proved to be useful, especially after the recent power cut and black-out which hit Currie.

Those who have access to the World Wide Web I have to ask have you viewed our website? I have mentioned several times about Alerts you can receive and hopefully more people will now take the opportunity to receive this information regarding incidents that have taken place locally. You register on the website.

I conclude my first report by saying that our Committee meetings are open to all members of the Watch. The next meeting is on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm in Currie Kirk Meeting House. If you wish to join the Committee, and there are spaces available, we will be happy to welcome you.

Thank you.