

CHORLEYWOOD – CRIME REDUCTION MEETING

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2009

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT:

Chairman: Yvonne Merritt	Clerk, Chorleywood Parish Council
Cllr. Mrs Marilyn Hampton	Chairman, CWPC
Cllr. Max Green	CWPC
Cllr Mrs Susan Stibbs	CWPC
Cllr Rodney Kipps	CWPC
Cllr Alex Hayward	CWPC
Cllr Martin Trevett	Three Rivers District Council
Cllr Chris Hayward	Three Rivers District Council
Ms Phillipa Scott	TRDC Community Safety Co-ordinator
Mrs Jackie Hale	Chorleywood House Estate
Mrs Barbara Christie	WRVS
Mr R.C. Khiroya	Chorleywood Residents Association
Mr David Harrison	Grovewood
Mrs Carol Ewen	Neighbourhood Watch (Valley)
Mrs Rosemary Vickery	Neighbourhood Watch (Solesbridge)
Mr John Sheldon	Neighbourhood Watch (West Chorleywood)
PCSO Steve Jacob	West Herts Police

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Geoff Liley	CWPC
Cllr Jackie Worrall,	CWPC
Cllr Leonard Spencer	HCC
Steve Jones	Neighbourhood Watch (West Chorleywood)
PCSO Tania Stabler	West Herts Police

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th OCTOBER 2008

These were accepted as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

John Sheldon reported that he had discussed the timing of the visits of the Mobile Police Station with the Community Safety Police Sergeant, who had said that it was not possible to change the times as they were part of a detailed programme for Three Rivers.

Neighbourhood Watch members had been reminded about the importance of reporting crime and suspicious activity to the police in the December NHW newsletter. Yvonne Merritt had also spoken to Mike Mansbridge.

A new NHW scheme is now operating in Hubbards Road and a new NHW Co-ordinator has taken over in Ryman Court.

4. CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

Before presenting the crime statistics, Steve Jacob confirmed that the new PCSO, Gareth Williams, has joined the Chorleywood Police team and would be spending time with Steve Jacob and Tania Stabler to be introduced to the area.

The crime statistics for the April 2008 – January 2009 period are shown in Appendix I.

In West Chorleywood total crime was down by 5% but thefts of and from vehicles continued to be a problem. Anti social behaviour showed an improvement but there had been recent problems around the library and outside Budgens. The drug offences and drink problems occurred mainly on the Common and Steve Jacob stated that the situation would continue to be closely monitored during the summer months.

In answer to a question from Chris Hayward, Steve Jacob stated that criminal damage to vehicles was usually committed by persons living in the area. Burglaries however usually involved persons from outside Chorleywood.

In East Chorleywood total crime showed an increase of 24% with the worst problems involving thefts from builders' vehicles and damage to other vehicles

A success story was quoted involving criminals being arrested following prompt action by NHW members and the PCSOs in Bullsland Gardens.

Steve Jacob advised the meeting that crime incidents involving members of the Rural Watch were reported on OWL.

Action: The NHW Area Co-ordinators to feature the problem of vehicle crime again in their newsletters. NHW members in particularly vulnerable roads should be advised by a special note with suggested crime prevention action. The possibility of including information about crimes on the Parish Council web site would be investigated by Yvonne Merritt.

5. PRESENTATION FROM PHILLIPA SCOTT TRDC COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR

Phillipa Scott outlined the structure of the Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership.

- **The Community Safety Board** meets four times per year and is responsible for strategic decisions and setting the priorities for the coming year. The Board includes senior personnel from the Police, Police

Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Herts County Council and Three Rivers District Council.

- **The Community Co-ordinating Group** meets monthly and is responsible for developing action plans into specific projects. The Group includes representatives from the Council and the different agencies in Three Rivers.
- **The Community Delivery Groups** are time limited groups created as necessary to target special areas involving geographical/locality, subject/theme, or specific initiative needs.

The Community Safety Strategy sets out the focus of work which will include tackling and reducing the fear of crime, improving safety in public places and working with young people as well as other priorities.

Recent projects have included West Herts against Crime (WHAC), Watford Football Club with young people, youth projects, an exercise on car number plates with special screws and NHW signs.

The Partnership is funded by the Home Office, through the County Council, to the District Council.

In answer to a question from Carol Ewen about the possibility of having a CCTV in Valley Road, Phillipa Scott explained that owing to limited funding it was only possible for these cameras to be sited in 'hot spots' in town or village centres..

John Sheldon asked if a special A5 leaflet/card could be produced with details of relevant telephone numbers and the type of intelligence information which would be helpful to the Police. This could be distributed to the 3000 NHW members in Chorleywood with the suggestion that it is kept by the telephone or in another prominent place. Phillipa Scott stated that money might be available to fund this if a case was put forward to her.

Action Since the meeting Phillipa Scott has confirmed that it has been decided to go ahead with the request for the special leaflet/card.

6, MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The opening hours for the Rickmansworth Police Station are:-

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays	12.00 noon to 3.00pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays	4.15pm to 7.30pm
Saturdays	9.00am to 12.00 noon

Carol Ewen reported on the plans to set up new schemes in the Valley area.

Rosemary Vickery stated that a special newsletter would be distributed to her existing NHW members and potential members in the Solesbridge area this month.

John Sheldon reported that there are now 72 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in West Chorleywood covering a total of 1920 houses. The main problem he had was in getting a new Co-ordinator for Chenies Road.

Action If anybody knows anybody in the Chenies Road area who could be approached about taking on the role of Road Co-ordinator it would be appreciated if they would let John Sheldon know. (Tel. 283182)

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 19th October at 7.30pm. It is proposed to ask somebody from the Fire Service to be a guest speaker.

8. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the attendees and the meeting closed at 9.00pm