

# **Dumbreck Community Council Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

## **Minute of Meeting of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006**

### **1. Sederunt and Apologies**

Apologies: James Armstrong, Mair Crouch, Alastair Gilchrist, Fiona McCreath, John Stewart, John Thomson.

Present: George Boyes, Charlotte Cavanagh, Bruce Fraser, Jacqueline Geddes, Carol Jacobsen, Kathleen Lanigan, Robert Mitchell, James Sewell, Lynda Smith, Sheila Smith, Constable Tom Wilson.

In the absence of Alastair Gilchrist, Kathleen Lanigan chaired the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting were adopted**

Proposed by Robert Mitchell and seconded by George Boyes.

### **3. Matters arising not on the agenda**

Land Services have trimmed the trees and shrubbery on the walkway by the Bowling Club on Dumbreck Road. It has improved the situation. A proper lifting of the crowns of the trees would need to be carried out by a Tree Surgeon. As there have been no further incidents it was decided not to ask for further work.

### **4. Financial Situation**

The only expenditure has been £10 for the hire of the session room.

### **5. Police Report**

Tom Wilson reported the crime figures for the period from the last meeting to date; they are still a vast improvement compared to some earlier years:

1 Housebreaking

2 Attempted housebreakings

7 Cars broken into (4 were football related, 2 were in Bellahouston School and likely to have been malicious; only one involved a Dumbreck resident.)

There have been a few acts of vandalism. In August and September gang slogans had been scrawled in First and Third Gardens. Tom suspected they were the work of a gang, which usually meets in Kinning Park, and hopes it will not continue.

Kathleen mentioned that the Bungalow café walls and shutters had been targeted recently. Tom will call in and speak to them.

### **6. Incident Report**

John Thomson had reported a housebreaking in Rowan Road. The owner was disturbed and realised someone was in his conservatory. He phoned the Police but was called back to check it was not a hoax call, this disturbed the burglar. Police came and caught him and the resident identified the burglar. However no further evidence could be found and there is to be no prosecution.

Bill Robertson had reported a housebreaking in Dumbreck Road on the afternoon of 16<sup>th</sup> June. The burglar smashed the front door glass but was disturbed by the owner returning. The burglar fled with such haste that he left his jacket with identification in a pocket. He was well known to the Police.

Sheila Smith reported a taxi set on fire in the cul de sac of Dalkeith Avenue on 14<sup>th</sup> June at about 10pm. The offender was seen running from the scene by a cyclist, who phoned the fire brigade, and a local resident. The Fire Brigade had trouble with the hydrant closest to the fire and, it was subsequently found that the Water Board had locked the hydrant. The Fire Brigade have reported the matter and are trying to get the hydrant in use again. Mr Smith has written to Gordon Jackson MSP.

Sheila also reported two incidents of stone throwing, one resulting in a broken pane of glass; and a number of incidents of harassment and intimidation of an elderly resident.

George Boyes reported a garage broken into with tools stolen in Maple Road; two incidents of fly tipping in Urrdale Road; an attempted housebreaking in Urrdale Road and a Tom Tom satellite navigation system stolen from a van at Bellahouston Academy. Tom Wilson said that these systems were a favourite for young thieves

in the area. If they are fitted as an extra they are fairly easy to remove. George also reported an apple tree removed together with harsh trimming of other trees by the walkway over the motorway at Beech Avenue. George complained to both Land Services and Amey (who did the work) but neither can explain why it was done. They have both promised to replace the trees with new Hawthorn and Hornbeam. George has asked DCC to follow up.

A young man, dressed totally in green, was found in the garage of a resident. He ran off when spoken to.

### **7. Publicity**

Tom had brought in some crime prevention leaflets, which were passed around for co-ordinators to take. Carol also passed around some copies of leaflets on ASBO's and Mediation, further copies can be obtained by phoning 0800 027 3901.

Robert referred to the picture (milk bottles on a door step) on one of the crime prevention leaflets and suggested that we all be neighbourly and watchful of things like advertising flyers left sticking out of letterboxes or dropped on doormats of residents away from home.

### **8. Bellahouston Academy**

George said that some of his neighbours had complained of the lack of Police presence in Maple Lane. Tom said he was usually in Maple Lane at 11am but, as there are more incidents on the far side of the school, he would be in Gower Terrace at lunchtime and 3.30pm. Also he was in court for two days last week. All the schools keep to a similar timetable, there are a lot of trouble spots and the Community Police do not have sufficient numbers to be at every location. Sheila Smith complained about the lack of presence in the wee cul de sac of Fleurs Avenue. At about 3.40pm boys regularly walked through gates or jumped over the walls into gardens next to the railway line and then over the wall to the station. She has telephoned the school but the secretaries she has spoken to have not been helpful. There are three boys in particular who have become very intimidating and provocative. Tom Wilson said that he would spend more time on that side of the school and Sheila was advised to speak directly to Ian Anderson, the Head Teacher. Mr Anderson has monitored the pupils in Gower Terrace and is likely to do the same in Fleurs Avenue.

### **9. Roads**

Tom Wilson has used his speed camera in Mossspark Boulevard and Nithsdale Road. He has been surprised by the lack of offenders. There are plenty who exceed the limit by up to 5mph some drive between 35 and 40mph but he had not found any driving excessively. Tom said that the camera could not be used in side streets, as it needed a straight stretch of road with no parked cars or other obstructions.

Kathleen asked about the use of tiny motorbikes she had seen going up and down Fleurs Avenue over the summer. George had also seen them in Urrdale Road, some with very small children on them. Tom said that children could use them on waste ground but the rider had to have a licence and the bike insured to ride on the road. Otherwise they could be prosecuted.

James Armstrong had complained of a motorcyclist racing down Torridon Avenue at about 8.15 each evening. Kathleen thought it would be someone rat running to avoid the lights at Nithsdale/Dumbreck Road. Motorbikes cannot get onto Dumbreck Road from Fleurs Avenue but can from Torridon Avenue. Tom will investigate.

The opening of the Clyde Arc Bridge does not, as yet seem to have caused any significant difference in traffic on Dumbreck Road.

### **10. A.O.C.B.**

The National Neighbourhood Watch has had to close its offices and assistance is now only available on line. They are no longer able to distribute leaflets etc: this means we no longer have any tamperproof Vehicle Licence holders.

George, in representing the views of 17 Urrdale Road residents had complained to Rail Track officials about the sounding of a klaxon when going under the M8. He was told that it was a Health and Safety issue but he said there were other, less noisy, means of alerting workmen and trains and had quoted a section of their rules saying klaxons should be avoided in residential areas. He also said the new surface laid on the East bound side of the M8 helped to deaden the sound of traffic.

### **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting for Dumbreck Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will be on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007** at 7.30pm in Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.