

Dumbreck Community Council Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Minute of Meeting of Thursday 18th January 2007

1. Sederunt and Apologies

Apologies: George Boyes, Charlotte Cavanagh, Mair Crouch, Fiona McCreath, Kathleen Lanigan, John Thomson.

Present: James Armstrong, Bruce Fraser, Jacqueline Geddes, Alastair Gilchrist, Carol Jacobsen, Robert Mitchell, F H Qureshi, James Sewell, Sheila Smith, John Stewart, Sergeant Allan Kirk, Constable Tom Wilson.

2. Minutes of last meeting were adopted

Proposed by Sheila Smith and seconded by James Sewell.

3. There were no matters arising not on the agenda

4. Financial Situation

The only expenditure has been £10 for the hire of the session room. There is about £144 in the bank account but £50 or £60 is owed to Alastair for cash payments made by him. We still have enough funds to carry on for a couple of years.

5. Police Report

Tom Wilson reported the crime figures for the three-month period to the end of 2006:

5 Theft by housebreaking (2 in Rowan Road and 2 in Dalkeith Avenue. One house was broken into twice.)

1 Housebreaking with intent

4 Attempted housebreakings

(8 of the above incidents occurred during the first weeks of November. No-one has been apprehended but the Police have DNA on file should he be caught in the future.)

Bellahouston Academy was broken into twice and computer equipment stolen.

6 Cars broken into (3 were football related, 5 involved a Satellite Navigation System stolen. Tom Tom satellite navigation systems are a favourite for young thieves in the area. If they are fitted as an extra they are fairly easy to remove. If the cradle is attached to the windscreen they take a chance that the system is in the glove compartment. To avoid a smashed window and theft, owners are advised to remove the system AND the cradle.)

5 Acts of Vandalism (Most were broken windows. One occurred at the school and two in Dalkeith Avenue.)

2 Bogus Callers (Men in an unmarked van cold call saying they have seen repairs needed to roof or gutters. They ask for cash up front to pay for materials but don't return.)

An unmarked van was also seen near the serviceman's club when their burglar alarm sounded. This may have been an attempted break-in. Tom recommends that you do not deal with trades men who cold call at your door and take registration numbers of any unmarked vans.

The area is still very quiet compared to other areas in the Division and compared to the same period in previous years.

6. Incident Report

Charlotte Cavanagh reported, in writing a housebreaking in Rowan Gardens on Sunday 14th January.

John Thomson reported, in writing the loss of satellite navigation equipment from a van in Rowan Road; being informed of a housebreaking in Maple Road; and concern regarding youngsters purporting to be pupils of Bellahouston Academy coming to the door for sponsorship. The police confirmed these were 2nd year students who had become over enthusiastic. Their teacher had been informed and they had been advised to approach only family and friends for sponsorship.

Carol had been informed of a housebreaking at Brisbane Court in Rowan Road.

Ralph Willins reported an attempted housebreaking in Urrdale Road. A blowtorch was used to melt the panel of a UPVC door. It damaged the first layer but could not penetrate the second. This was a unique experience;

the Police have not come across it before. There have been two cars broken into in Urrdale Road. They were on different match days but had been parked in the same position next to Maple Lane. Sergeant Kirk said that, although Council staff dealt with parking problems, there were plain clothed Police officers who patrolled the area.

Sheila Smith reported that, following the last meeting when she had complained of intimidation of a neighbour by school pupils; Constable Wilson had lain in wait and caught two boys in the garden. This has resolved the problem. During school hours, four pupils were seen trying to ignite something in the Dalkeith Avenue cul de sac. Mr Anderson, the Head Teacher was informed and took immediate action. He later reported that the boys had received a warning. Two boys were seen trying to climb over a garden wall and fencing to get to the railway station. They ran off after being shouted at.

7. Publicity

The Dumbreck Community Council Newsletter had been delivered to all residents. It included part of the minutes of the last meeting informing residents of crime figures and some useful information. It also mentioned the theft of satellite navigation systems and the advice from Constable Wilson. This advice and minutes of the last three meetings had also been put on the community council website at www.dumbreckcc.org.uk

8. Bellahouston Academy

Ralph Willins said that the problems with pupils had reduced to a minor nuisance. There was an increase during the study leave period in December but pupils are not using Maple Lane as much. Mr Anderson and the presence of Police Officers had made a difference. There are more parents collecting children at the end of the school day and this seems to have deterred bad behaviour in Urrdale Road at 3.30pm.

Sheila Smith said that there had also been an improvement at Fleurs Avenue but pupils still tried to take short cuts to the railway station. Litter is still a big problem.

Ralph Willins complained about delivery lorries and school buses using Urrdale Road and parking at the school entrance. On one occasion he complained about a bus parked over a weekend in Maple Road. He was told that vehicles were being vandalised at the School of Sport car park. He thought that the bus should have been parked in the school grounds rather than the street. James Armstrong suggested that Dumbreck Community Council take it up. It could be mentioned at the same time as we thanked Mr Anderson for the improvement in pupil behaviour.

9. Roads

Sheila Smith complained about the cars parked on both sides of wee Fleurs Avenue on match days. Often cars blocked the gateways and, even when they didn't, it is impossible for residents to get cars in and out of their driveways. Cars also parked on the corners of Dalkeith and Fleurs Avenue making it a dangerously tight corner. She has asked for lines on the road and cones but nothing has been done. James Armstrong said that the Police could be called to remove a car causing an obstruction and Mr Gillespie of Land Services was responsible for cones. He suggested Dumbreck Community Council take up the issue of cones and lines on corners.

The water Hydrant in Dalkeith Avenue had been reinstated but had not been labelled. It was thought that the Fire Brigade hold maps showing where all the hydrants are positioned and could identify it. We don't want it advertised as we may have it vandalised again.

There are to be 90 concrete cushions laid on the streets throughout Dumbreck as part of the prevention of speeding and rat running. Work has already started in Fleurs and Erskine Avenues. Robert Mitchell felt that the 20's plenty signs had made little difference to the speed of vehicles.

10. A.O.C.B.

George Boyes had reported that Amey motorway maintenance employees had cut down trees on the ground around the motorway pedestrian bridge at the bottom of Beech Avenue. He had written letters of complaint to Glasgow City Council and Amey and had received assurance that it was a mistake and a number of mature trees would be planted to replace them. Dumbreck Community Council has taken it up to ensure that the work is done satisfactorily.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting for Dumbreck Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will be on **Thursday 17th May 2007** at 7.30pm in Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.