

## Dumbreck Community Council Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

### Minute of Meeting of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009

**Present:** George Boyes, Jacqueline Geddes, Carol Jacobsen, Ann-Marie Mansbridge, Robert Mitchell, James Sewell, Sheila Smith, John Stewart, John Thomson, Constable Tracy McDonald, Constable Kevin Taylor.

**Apologies:** James Armstrong, Bruce Fraser, Kathleen Lanigan.

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

Proposed by Jacqueline Geddes and seconded by James Sewell.

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

The Romanian girls have not been seen in Dumbreck Road for some time. Constable McDonald hadn't been able to speak to them. They appear to have relocated to the West End.

#### **3. Financial Situation**

There is £146.06 in our bank account. The only expenditure has been the hire of the meeting room. Carol is still to be reimbursed £40 for four evenings hire of the meeting room.

#### **4. Police Report**

Constable McDonald gave the crime figures for the Dumbreck and Bellahouston area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. In total there were 544 "incidents" to which the Police attended and 84 "crimes", 38 of which were detected.

The crimes reported included:

- 9 Attempted housebreakings (mainly overnight between 1 and 3am)
- 3 Housebreakings (1 flat, 1 garage and 1 commercial property within Bellahouston Park)
- 1 Attempted break-in to a motor vehicle
- 3 Vehicles broken into (items left within view)
- 4 General theft (1 through unlocked door)
- 1 Theft of a motor vehicle (overnight on 8/9 April, an Audi Convertible A4, SM05BWY)
- 19 Incidents of disorder (minor assault and breach of the peace – mainly football related including "trading without a licence")
- 9 Incidents involving Bellahouston Academy (all minor crimes)

There are now 43 Community Police Officers working within G Division – 22 for Govan and 21 for Craigton. They are a team. Officers are not allocated a specific area and an officer can be sent anywhere in the ward. To reach the Govan Community Policing Team telephone 532 5566. Someone should be on duty from 7am to 11pm daily and until midnight on Friday and Saturday. If you witness a crime or see a suspicious person phone 999. Operation Diadem is still on going but the diesel engines usually alert burglars. Security lighting, which reacts to movement, can indicate a burglar's movement. Stone chips on driveways are a good deterrent.

Two cars had been uplifted recently for parking on corners during a football match. There is a need for all corners to have lines repainted. There needs to be a box grid or something similar to prevent parking on the entire road at Fleurs Avenue cul de sac at Daisy Lane. Double yellow lines are needed in Mosspark Boulevard to allow cars room to turn left into Dumbreck Road at the traffic lights.

There have been a number of bogus callers operating in Mosspark. As yet there have been no incidents reported in Dumbreck. If you are not expecting a visit ask to see identification cards and phone the "employer" to check that they work for them. A number of incidents have involved people asked to turn off or run water. Close the door. Don't deal with tradesmen who cold call. They target the elderly and vulnerable, some asking for money up front and not returning. Others give an

estimate of the cost of a job of work and then raise costs substantially. Always get a written quote and don't pay in advance. A Blue Transit van has been linked to bogus callers. (Not to be confused with the old blue van used by a local decorator).

## **5. Incident Report**

John Thomson reported attempted break-ins to a garage and house in Rowan Road and theft by someone entering a house by an unlocked door.

Jacqueline Geddes reported attempted break-ins in Dalkeith Avenue and Erskine Avenue. Storm doors had been closed to hide the burglar working on the front door. The police advise that storm doors are locked at night. Jacqueline also reported two men seen acting suspiciously in Fleurs/Dalkeith Avenue. They had gone before Police arrived.

Carol Jacobsen reported, on the night of 4/5<sup>th</sup> May, an attempted break-in via the conservatory of a house in Torridon Avenue.

George Boyes reported incidents of attempted break-in and break-in to cars in Urrdale Road and Beech Avenue. These incidents were not reported to the Police. Some residents reported no confidence in the Police or complained of being kept waiting by Police and seeing no outcome. All crimes should be reported to the Police so that patterns can be identified and appropriate action taken.

Insurance companies are becoming stricter regarding claims and may not pay out if a car is damaged in a driveway if your policy states that the car is normally kept in a garage.

Sheila Smith reported damage, resulting in water damage, to a house in Fleurs Avenue by a rocket falling on bonfire night. Three acts of vandalism were carried out to cars in Fleurs/Dalkeith Avenue. A car being driven through Daisy Lane damaged a bollard at Fleurs Avenue. Complaints were made to Scotrail regarding the loud railway announcements at Dumbreck Station. Sheila has also been trying to get the ground at Daisy Lane cleared.

## **6. Bellahouston Academy**

Sheila Smith suspected that pupils carried out the three acts of vandalism to cars. Recently there have been incidents of stone throwing in Fleurs Avenue. On 18<sup>th</sup> May lunchtime six pupils were shouting and fighting from a garage roof in Fleurs Avenue. Mr Anderson was able to catch four of these pupils. He is now keeping an eye on pupils leaving school via this route.

Constable McDonald has been spending time at Gower Street where there have been problems with gangs from Ibrox. CPOs are now cycle trained and can cover more ground, particularly Gower Street to Fleurs Avenue, on bicycles. Pupils now leave school at 3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and at 4pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

George Boyes said it was still quiet in Urrdale Road but there are still incidents occurring in Maple Lane. At the Prize-giving ceremony George had spoken to judges of a school eco prize and they had been impressed by the presentation made by Bellahouston Academy pupils. The school had been short-listed but the prize won by Shawlands Academy. The pupils had worked hard but had been let down by the Cleansing Department not emptying litterbins.

## **7. Publicity**

Members welcomed Ann-Marie Mansbridge as a co-ordinator for Erskine Avenue. It was agreed that we be more proactive in recruiting replacement co-ordinators. Carol Jacobsen has printed a new list that also lists roads not covered. We should all try and identify possible interested people and speak to them and encourage more participation.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting for Dumbreck Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will be on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009** at 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room at Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.