

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2014 at 7.30pm - 9pm

Geddes Place United Reformed Church, Geddes Place, Bexleyheath, DA6 7DJ

Attendance: Members of the Committee

Chairman - Dana Wiffen	Office Manager - Ray Hudson
Treasurer - Sophie Kingston	Secretary - Claire Tack
Committee members	
Ray Darsey	Grant Murrell
Stewart Bartle	John Rayner
Tony Alcorn	Comfort Omoko
Peter Dent	June Dent

Invited guests:

Sgt. Bill Connor - Territorial Policing for London

Chief Inspector Ian Broadbridge

Alf Kennedy - Director of the London NHW Association & Chairman of Bromley NHW

Ben Coles - Director of Communities & Local Partnerships Groundwork London.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and Deputies

Apologies:

Lyn Barnes, Helen Laycock, Jan Nash, Kevin Robins, Diane Coleman, Peter Smith, Mick Feagan, Sandra Corbett, Dave Dawson, Bob Wilkin, Ian Cousins, Margaret Sharp, Lydia Song, Chris Bedford, Lori Poulton, Brian Copleston, Graham Willett, Connie Tolmie, Violaine Therond, Denise Baldwin, Rita Ratcliffe, Clive Johns, Mr Powell, Graham Eggleston, Patricia Birmingham, Valerie Smith, Chris Ford, Elizabeth Newcombe, Louise Montague, Hugh Neal, Jenny Bennett, Neil Hart, Robin Kelly, Sue Hussey, Alison Gonzales, Keith Stibbards, Diana Nugent, Constance Harrington, Catherine Kurton, Mrs Wheeler, Keith Morse, Ranjit Deogun, Alan Dunmall, Sheila Pearce, Deborah Stickland, Sue Nye, Patricia Batten, Tim Delee, Mrs Andrews, Rob Soar, Vicky Cox, Anna Jahn, Ray Paddington, Ann Vicarage, Jean Bourne, Yvonne Jerome, Moira Garrod, Howard Marriner Alan Tate.

Minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 10th June 2014:

The Minutes were taken as read and the Chairman asked if they were a true record. These were seconded by John Rayner. All agreed that the Minutes were correct.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the last AGM, so the Minutes were signed off to be correct.

The Chairman's Report

The Chairman was disappointed to report that allotment crime had increased in the past year, however that Plot Watch had highlighted the problems and the police had increased patrols in the affected areas resulting in arrests. Throughout the year BBNWA had been very pro-active attending community events such as the Danson Show, Erith Riverside Festival and Bexleyheath Police Station open day to name but a few, as well as a weekly crime prevention stand in the Mall Shopping Centre, Bexleyheath and Morrisons in Welling. BBNWA had also worked with the police to target burglary hotspots with the objection of recruiting more co-ordinators. He reported that HoundWatch was launched in December and already had over 250 members. BBNWA had produced a 'Scam Special' newsletter which had proved very popular and that another was planned in the near future.

The Chairman introduced the new Shop Watch initiative which was being trialled in Bexley village with plans to expand into the Blackfen area in July. The scheme works via an email loop to keep businesses informed of scams, counterfeit notes and shop lifters. Its introduction had been well received. BBNWA had also been working with Kent NHW to help recruitment new members in the Dartford area; liaison with Greenwich NHW is also planned. The Chairman ended his report by thanking all the committee members for their efforts, co-ordinators and the Borough Commander Peter Ayling.

Treasurer's Report:

The Chairman explained the Treasurer's Report. The difficulties with the MOPAC funding had improved as the year had progressed and was now a three year package via the Council. More criteria had been introduced which needed to be met but the funding had remained the same as that of the previous year. The Chairman reported that outgoings had been more than incoming and that was due to increased promotion costs such as purse bells and other publicity materials. He sought approval from the members. Ray Hudson moved that the accounts be accepted and they were then seconded by Peter Dent. Approval was granted and the accounts were signed off. It was also confirmed that the current auditor Mr Mike Buck was happy to audit the 2014/15 accounts.

Election of Officers

Prior to the AGM candidate nomination papers had been sent to all Co-ordinators and deputies requesting candidate nominations. Those listed below responded.

Nominated candidates:

Name of candidate	Executive Officer position
Dana Wiffen	Chairman
Grant Murrell	Vice Chair
Sophie Kingston	Treasurer
Claire Tack	Secretary
Ray Hudson	Office Manager

All Executive officer positions were unopposed. Therefore the names were seconded and duly elected for the next 12 month period.

The candidate names listed below were proposed, seconded and elected as Committee members for the next 12 month period.

Name of candidate	Committee member
Tony Alcorn	"
Ray Darsey	"
Stewart Bartle	"

Comfort Omoko	"
Peter Dent	"
June Dent	"
John Rayner	"

The Chief Inspector's Report

Chief Inspector Broadbridge thanked all the NHW members for their efforts. He reported that burglaries had doubled in November/December 2013. In order to combat this trend police patrols had been increased and a stronger crime reduction partnership had been formed with NHW. He stated that as a rule burglaries did not tend to happen in NHW areas but instead where Neighbourhood Watches were lacking such as Welling and Sidcup. He promised that the police would be more prepared in autumn/winter 2014. He revealed that in Bexley 6 homes in every 1,000 are burgled compared to Greenwich where the number is 8.5 and in Bromley 9.5. He went onto say that over the quieter summer months the focus would be on allotments and working with the site representatives. Questions were then taken from the floor.

Q. Guy Moore stated that he was worried about park security since the council would not be locking the parks at night and what would the police do? He added that he was particularly worried about the Bowls Club in Danson Park. **A.** The Chief Inspector revealed that he was concerned about the security of the parks and that the police would monitor and assess the situation from September onwards and that he would get the Danson Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team to speak to the Club about security measures.

Q. A member asked if CCTV cameras could be used in the parks? **A.** The Chief Inspector said that he would ask the Chief Executive at the council.

Q. Jean Gee asked if the wire fence around the Warwick Road allotments was effective? **A.** The Chief Inspector replied that any tall barrier was and that 35 allotment packs would be distributed to all allotments soon.

Q. Bill Lord stated that he has reported drug deals taking place in his road many times and asked for a CCTV camera to be installed. **A.** The Chief Inspector asked for his contact details.

Q. Frank Fantoni (Rochester Drive) reported that drug dealing is happening near to the allotments. He expressed concerns that some neighbours want to deal with the problem themselves. He asked if street lighting could be improved and the shrubbery pruned to deter the incidents. **A.** The Chief Inspector asked for his contact details and promised to speak to the Christchurch Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team. He added that drug dealing was bad across London as a whole not helped by the increased use of Nitrous Oxide canisters. He explained that the police are working with schools and parents to tackle the problem.

Chief Inspector Broadbridge thanked everyone and left at 20.20 hrs.

Guest Speakers

The Chairman introduced Sgt. Bill Connor from the London Territorial Policing Team. Sgt. Connor explained that he was the single point of contact for Neighbourhood Watch. His role was to improve communications between members and highlight good practice. The objective being that all Neighbourhood Watches across London should operate as effectively as BBNWA. He stated that he would be sharing ideas from Bexley with other groups across the capital.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Connor for speaking and he left at 20.30 hrs. He then introduced Alf Kennedy - Director of London Neighbourhood Watch Association and the Chairman of Bromley. Alf announced that there were 750 Watches in Bromley borough. He explained that NWH was first established in Cheshire 50 years ago. National Neighbourhood Watch is based in Leicester has only two

trustees; himself and Chairman Jim Madden. They employ 3 members of staff and the rest are volunteers. Currently there are 3.8 million homes in the UK covered by NHW.

The Chairman thanked Alf for his insight into national NHW and introduced Ben Coles Director of Communities & Local Partnerships from Groundwork who were working in conjunction with Thames Water to install Smart Meters throughout Bexley. Ben explained that it was a pilot scheme with the aim of reducing water usage. He announced that water usage has doubled in the last 25 years and that as a rule households tend to use 12% less water if they are on a meter. Water meters will also help identify leaks. Groundworks & Thames Water has undertaken a community engagement programme with NHW members to try to prevent bogus callers riding on the back of the installations. He explained the process of door knocking to inform homeowners and to get their assistance. Of the 4,000 meters already installed only 0.5% of customers refused to engage.

Q. Ray Arnold Co-ordinator for Fendyke Road explained that he already had a meter but he was worried about bogus callers asking residents to turn on their taps to test the flow of water. He asked Thames Water to advise their customers to close their front doors when they go to turn on their taps. **A.** Ben replied that they had already taken precautions to help combat bogus callers one of which was by advertising the uniform which their contractors Vennsys would be wearing. Ray Arnold also asked what was 'smart' about Smart meters? Ben replied that homeowners could check their water usage on the internet and that the meter was fitted with an alarm if usage was in doubt i.e. a leak.

Q. Saby Ghosh of Willow Close asked if existing meters would need to be replaced with the new Smart meters? **A.** Yes they would be but only if they were broken.

The Chairman thanked Ben for his presentation and all the other guest speakers.

Any other business

The Chairman introduced Ray Hudson (Office Manager). Ray praised the big turn out and thanked co-ordinators and those from other Neighbourhood Watch initiatives from attending. He went onto encourage all co-ordinators to keep the office informed if they change their email addresses or get email for the first time. He explained that the office is trying to cut postage costs and communicating via email is the best way.

The Chairman thanked all the co-ordinators for their continued efforts on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch which was indeed helping to make Bexley a safer and nicer place to live and closed the meeting at 21.00hrs.