

Dumbreck Community Council Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Minute of Meeting of Thursday 17th May 2007

1. Sederunt and Apologies

Present: James Armstrong, George Boyes, Bruce Fraser, Jacqueline Geddes, Naida Higgins, Carol Jacobsen, Kathleen Lanigan, James Sewell, John Stewart, John Thomson, Sergeant Joseph Conway.

Apologies: Charlotte Cavanagh, Mair Crouch, Fiona McCreath, Sheila Smith.

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

2. Minutes of last meeting were adopted

Proposed by James Armstrong 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.

5. Police Report

Constable Tom Wilson is still on sick leave but hopes to return to work next week. Sergeant Joe Conway is Tom's line Manager and reported the crime figures for the four-month period to the 30th April 2007:

There had been a total of 80 incidents during this period in an area that includes Dumbreck, Bellahouston and Bellahouston Park.

1 Theft by housebreaking

1 Housebreaking with intent

1 Attempted housebreaking

1 Serious assault (this occurred in the park and was a dispute between two youths).

17 thefts from motor vehicles. (These were mainly football related or at the car park for the House for an Art Lover. A team of five youths from Ibrox have been on a crime spree. They are after satellite navigation systems. If they see an empty cradle or the marks of the suction caps they will smash a window in the hope it is in the glove compartment. They have been caught on a number of occasions).

A significant number of the 80 incidents related to drinking and other disorder issues within the park. The Police had focused on a group of young people who regularly congregate during the early evening near to the Palace of Art.

When asked why the five youths were still on the streets, Sergeant Conway explained that, when charged, offenders tend to plead "not guilty" and are released on bail. The vast majority go to court but it takes time. If a youth, under 18 years old, has been dealt with by the Children's Panel for offences whilst under the age of 16, the court will ask for a report from the Children's Panel; this further delays proceedings by a minimum of three weeks. James Armstrong asked for warning leaflets or photos of the offenders so that residents can warn fans when parking. Sergeant Conway said that warning posters had already been posted at Ibrox Stadium, House for an Art Lover and Bellahouston Sports Centre. The youths are easily identified as other than local youths and usually wore Lacoste tracksuits. Sergeant Conway asked for residents to telephone Helen Street Police Office (532-5400) if they see anyone acting suspiciously. The Police collect all information onto a community intelligence database. When phoning Helen Street the call is answered at a call centre. This enables your call to be answered more quickly but the staff are not Police Officers and don't necessarily know the area you are calling from. They will ask for your name and address but you are not obliged to give it. They have been trained to ask specific questions, one of which is "What are they doing?" This has caused problems as the staff have not acted if the reply has been vague, like "I can't see". The call centre staff will get better with ongoing training. Their involvement means that more Police Officers are free to attend police work in the community.

Sergeant Conway said residents can also use the CRIMESTOPPERS number 0800 555 111 to give an anonymous report of suspected crime in the community, including details of a suspicious vehicle or neighbours.

6. Incident Report

Bruce Fraser reported, in February or March, a garage broken into in Fleurs Avenue. The offender smashed through the concrete wall and stole a bike.

Mair Crouch had reported on 27th March finding two machetes partially hidden in a hedge in Dalkeith Avenue. She called the Police and an even more vicious knife was also found.

On a few occasions burglar alarms in the area had been allowed to sound for a long time. Residents should be reminded that alarms should only be allowed to sound for a maximum of 20 minutes. If you are going to be away you are advised to leave a set of keys and alarm instructions with a trusted neighbour, or give details of who has your keys with a neighbour. If you hear a burglar alarm please phone 999.

7. Publicity

Minutes of meetings are put on the community council website at www.dumbreckcc.org.uk On reaching the home page you should click on "N' Watch" to reach the Neighbourhood Watch page and the minutes can be downloaded by clicking on the appropriate date from the list near the bottom of the page. If you have an incident to report you can email the community council by clicking the "email us" on the pale green line at the bottom of the page. A "new message" box, with our email address already incorporated, will come up on screen. If you would like to receive the minutes by email please use the "email" on the website to request this and your email address will be added to the distribution list.

If you want to contact our Community Police Officers with non-urgent information their email addresses are Thomas.Wilson@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk and Joseph.Conway@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk

8. Bellahouston Academy

George Boyes said that behaviour had continued to be better. The only complaint was the continued use of Maple Lane. A flare had been set off in the lane by a group of four boys. At 1.30pm on 21st March a group of about 40 pupils had gathered in Urrdale Road. Some had broken the legs off a discarded table and were spoiling for a fight. George was about to take a photo when a teacher arrived and the crowd dispersed.

Sheila Smith had reported a few problems at wee Fleurs. A pupil had viciously kicked over a wheelie bin. Litter is an on-going problem. Before Easter two boys had been seen, almost daily, sitting on the bollards from about 3pm. She had phoned the school wondering if they were truanting but no one seemed to take any action.

Sergeant Conway advised us to phone the Police if we had a real concern. However, at lunchtime and at the end of the school day the Police are overstretched, and there are far more problems with pupils occurring on the Gower Street side of the school.

9. Roads

Due to the Safe Routes to School Initiative concrete cushions have been put in to slow traffic down and reduce rat running. DCC had received some complaints about the cushions damaging cars. One set was identified as too high and had been lowered. If vehicles travel slowly they should not cause damage. Others complained that they were a curse to those suffering back problems. Before the initiative 1727 cars used Beech Avenue every day. The number of cars rat running has been reduced considerably and the speed of cars substantially reduced.

Work has begun on the Seaward Street diversion. Without signage and traffic calming on Dumbreck Road we may not see a significant difference in traffic numbers.

Football parking is getting worse with cars parking on corners and anywhere there are no restriction lines. Wee Fleurs regularly has cars parked on both sides of the road plus cars on the corners. We will ask DCC to press for double yellow lines on corners and a restriction to parking on one side of Wee Fleurs.

10. A.O.C.B.

James Armstrong asked that a vote of thanks be given, to the Police for cutting down the number of housebreakings in Dumbreck, to the staff at Bellahouston Academy for the improvement in pupil behaviour, and to our secretary for her comprehensive minutes.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting for Dumbreck Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will be on **Thursday 20th September 2007** at 7.30pm in Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.