

Dumbreck Community Council Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Minute of Meeting of Thursday 15th May 2008

Present: George Boyes, Bruce Fraser, Naida Higgins, Carol Jacobsen, Kathleen Lanigan, Carole McCahill, James Sewell, Sheila Smith, John Stewart, Sergeant Joseph Conway.

Apologies: Mair Crouch, Jacqueline Geddes, Fiona McCreath, John Thomson.

1. Minutes of last meeting were adopted

Proposed by John Stewart and seconded by George Boyes.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

Carol Jacobsen collected £71 for Alastair Gilchrist's leaving gift. Dumbreck Community Council presented him with an engraved decanter and whisky glasses. The Neighbourhood Watch's gift was three bottles of malt whisky – Talisker, Glen Livit and Glen Morangie. A couple of photographs of the presentation were passed around.

3. Financial Situation

The only expenditure has been £10 for the hire of the meeting room. There is still £145.29 in our bank account. Alastair Gilchrist used his own money to pay for the hire of the hall. He reimbursed himself in blocks; the last was made in 2005. Carol invited him to claim the amount owed but Alastair declined, saying it should be treated as a donation. Carol believes he has not claimed £70 or £80 so it has been a very generous donation.

With the departure of Alastair the Bank requires new signatories. At present they hold only Alastair and Carol. It was agreed that the new signatories should be Sheila Smith, Carol Jacobsen and Kathleen Lanigan.

4. Police Report

Sergeant Conway has two sets of crime figures for the Dumbreck and Bellahouston area for the period 1st January to 30th April 2008. In total there were 501 "incidents": to which the Police attend and 91 "crimes": when someone is charged.

The crimes reported included:

- 4 Housebreakings (2 of which were in Dumbreck - 1 in Fleurs Avenue by forcing a rear door and 1 in Rowan Road via a balcony.) They were months apart and not considered to be linked.
- 2 Cars broken into (Most car crime is football related and this is a big drop compared to the last period. The gang of youths is still active but now in the Ibrox area.)
- 9 Acts of vandalism (Mainly school related, throwing stones, graffiti etc)
- 1 Attempted Robbery (A dog walker was approached by two youths at 7.30pm in Bellahouston Park. They demanded money but the man refused and chased them away.)
- 2 Drug offences (1 in Fleurs Avenue – in possession – not a resident)
- 4 Assaults (There were 12 incidents of assault, most involved school children – some as young as 8 or 10. Four arrests were made)

About half the crime for the area actually takes place in Bellahouston, the park or Bellahouston Academy. There were 3 thefts from lockers in Bellahouston Sports Centre; 3 arrests for street drinking; (drinking mainly takes place in the park or by football supporters. There may be more incidents as the weather improves. The Police have been able to make more arrests as the law has changed – instead of having to witness an offender actually drinking, an arrest can be made for possession of an opened bottle or can.) There were also 35 road traffic offences; this is a high number as it includes a stretch of the M8 motorway.

John Stewart asked about "bogus callers". Sergeant Conway said there had been no incidents reported in Dumbreck but two people had been arrested in Cardonald and Hillington. However we should still be on our guard.

Stephen Deeley has retired and our new Community Police Officer is Constable Fiona Stewart. She is on a training course today and unable to attend our meeting. She prefers to work on foot so we should see her walking about the district. Sergeant Conway told the meeting that Strathclyde Police should be recruiting 400 extra officers in line with the Scottish Governments commitment. Glasgow City Council has agreed to fund

180 new Community Police Officers. This group will only serve as Community Police and will not be transferred to other duties, as other police officers are as needs arise. They will work in teams to provide constant cover and our area will, hopefully have 3 or 4 officers. Recruitment has started and, after training, we should see extra officers at work in August. With the introduction of "on the spot fines" for minor offences, Police can ticket those over 16 years. This could include older school pupils who commit acts of vandalism, malicious mischief, or breach of the peace; or football supporters who drink alcohol in public, persist in making too much noise or urinate in public.

5. Incident Report

Sheila Smith reported one broken window and two incidents of egg throwing at windows in Dalkeith Avenue. On reporting the incidents to the Head Teacher at Bellahouston Academy she was told that eggs had been thrown at the school office window. Constable Stewart had attended regarding these incidents and had tried to get a mobile camera on site from Glasgow Camera Safety Services. Sergeant Conway explained that these could be erected for six weeks or so and then moved to a different location. They were in great demand and cost approximately £30,000 a year, each. (The courts can now convict on CCTV evidence.) Residents could install their own CCTV cameras but should ensure that they observe only their own property. The problems in Fleurs and Dalkeith Avenues are by pupils picking up loose stones from the road and throwing at windows from the pavement. Residents CCTV would not catch their actions. George confirmed that the bigger stones from road damage broke windows when driveway chippings didn't. Broken windows ceased in Urrdale Road after the road was repaired.

In March Mr Smith had telephoned Glasgow City Council to complain about the mess around Daisy Lane. This resulted in a two day clean up and the area looks a lot tidier. Unfortunately rubbish is still being dropped and it would benefit from a regular clean.

Sheila also reported an incident on 24th April after football fans from Workington disembarked two mini buses in Dalkeith Avenue. They were shouting, swearing and urinating in the street and garden and left a pile of bottles, cans and food packaging. George had experienced a similar incident from Irish supporters in Urrdale Road. Sergeant Conway said that European games attracted different supporters from usual. Parking in the area is usually by season ticket holders but they rarely attend any extra fixtures. The Police are aware of extra problems involving parking, litter and urinating. On season matches there are 2 pick up trucks and for other games there are 4 and they find it difficult to cope with all the obstructions. If any residents experience any problems during football matches, particularly obstruction of driveways they should phone 532-5400. If the problem is with a mini bus, report the name and telephone number of the operator and the Police can trace the organiser. Carole suggested that litter wardens patrol on match days and the council arrange for bins to be emptied. We should have more litterbins in Dumbreck.

Bruce complained about the piles of bottles left around the base of the bottle bank at Dumbreck Station. These could provide missiles to be thrown at trains or vehicles on the M77.

6. Bellahouston Academy

Although there had been problems at the Fleurs Avenue exit George Boyes said it continued to be quiet at Urrdale Road. There was some activity around Maple Lane but there had been no complaints from residents. He had sent his usual donation for an annual Eco Prize and in his covering letter had thanked Mr Anderson, his staff and pupils for the improvement in behaviour in the area.

7. Publicity

Despite the Newsletter including a request for volunteers, no one has been in contact or come to the meeting. Although we want their support, most young residents are not interested in Neighbourhood Watch. It was felt that people only became interested when problems occurred. Carole suggested that the minutes be given to all residents. This would be an expensive exercise and abridged versions are put into the Newsletter and all minutes are available on the Dumbreck Community Council website www.dumbreckcc.org.uk

8. A.O.C.B.

Kathleen mentioned the Romanian girls selling candles at the traffic lights at the corner of Nithsdale Road and Dumbreck Road. They now seem to have moved elsewhere.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting for Dumbreck Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will be on **Thursday 18th September 2008** at 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room at Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.