

# Dumbreck Community Council Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

## Minute of Meeting of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Present:** James Armstrong, George Boyes, Bruce Fraser, Jacqueline Geddes, Carol Jacobsen, Kathleen Lanigan, Robert Mitchell, James Sewell, Sheila Smith, John Stewart, Sergeant Joseph Conway.

**Apologies:** Mair Crouch, Fiona McCreath, John Thomson.

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

Proposed by George Boyes and seconded by Bruce Fraser.

### **2. There were no matters arising not on the agenda**

### **3. Financial Situation**

New signatories have now been registered with the bank. There is £145.88 in our bank account. Carol is still to be reimbursed £20 for two evenings hire of the meeting room.

### **4. Police Report**

Sergeant Conway has two sets of crime figures for the Dumbreck and Bellahouston area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008. In total there were 566 “incidents”: to which the Police attend and 115 “crimes”: when someone is charged or evidence found of a crime committed. There were 75 complaints but no one was charged with an offence. Complaints included minor disputes with neighbours. Giving advice or just speaking to the parties dealt with most complaints.

The crimes reported included:

- 9 Housebreakings or attempted housebreakings (all at a similar time of the night and by similar methods. 2 were by open or insecure windows; one attempted gave up after trying to jimmy open a number of windows; metal bars were removed at another; a rear door window was broken and door opened by keys left in lock)
- 3 Cars broken into (these crimes may increase as the football season is now here)
- 9 Acts of vandalism (bus, car and house windows)
- 7 Assaults (a number of these had occurred at Bellahouston Academy. Fights between pupils used to be dealt with by staff but now the Police are called)
- 2 Drug offences (small amounts found after Police stop and search of people passing through the area).
- 32 Road traffic accidents (this number includes incidents on the motorways as well as Dumbreck Road and part of Paisley Road West)
- 1 Wilful Fire-raising

With the upsurge in housebreakings Sergeant Conway advises that we take more care. Ensure all windows are secure; do not leave keys in door locks; do not leave valuables, purses, wallets or car keys in view; and turn burglar alarms on at night. Extra Police patrols have been in the area at night and the number of burglaries has dropped. However there are still incidents occurring and there may be more than one burglar working in Dumbreck.

Sergeant Conway advised us of a reorganisation of community policing in GA Division. The Community Safety/Crime Prevention team is to disband and those officers would join the Community Policing Team. The division is to be divided into two sections and Sgt Joe Conway is to head the Craigton Team and PC Fiona Stewart will join him. Dumbreck falls into the Govan Team and will be headed by Sergeants Allan Kirk and Crawford Weir. Our Community Police Officer will be PC Stewart Croll. All members now work in a team; there are 12 officers covering Govan and if PC Croll is away another officer in the team will replace him. Eight brand new officers started this week and, after further recruitment there will be 20 officers in the Govan Team and 15 in Craigton.

Copies of “Your Practical Guide to Crime Prevention” were handed out together with “Have Your Say” a 2008 public consultation questionnaire. If you would like a copy of either of these documents please call Carol or email [dumbreckcommunitycouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dumbreckcommunitycouncil@hotmail.co.uk) and she will ask for more.

## **5. Incident Report**

John Stewart reported a car broken into in Larch Road overnight 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> July.

George Boyes reported speakers found in Urrdale Road 24<sup>th</sup> August. The following Tuesday a garage, next to where the speakers were found, was set on fire destroying it and the car inside. On 29<sup>th</sup> August a car broken into in Larch Road. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September some girls and boys were using Maple Lane to take soft drugs from "boosters". There has been some graffiti scrawled at the entrance of Bellahouston Academy and Police were called when 2 youths were seen hanging around at 10pm on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Police came and spoke to them at 10.15pm. Later a car with more youths joined them and the Police passed again and spoke to them. There was no evidence that they were offending but the Police will keep checking the area. On 18<sup>th</sup> September a youth was seen acting suspiciously in Urrdale Road.

Sheila Smith reported 3 broken windows in Dalkeith Avenue, one on 27<sup>th</sup> May and two on 12<sup>th</sup> August. In the early hours of 5<sup>th</sup> July there was a housebreaking in Dalkeith Avenue.

Jacqueline Geddes reported that she had ascertained that a debit card stolen in a burglary was used 3 or 4 times in 15 minutes at a cash machine. She had reported the details of times and location to the Police but had not heard any more. James said that fraud resulting in a loss of less than £1000 was not usually pursued. As this was incidental to a greater loss Sergeant Conway said he would look into what was being done.

## **6. Bellahouston Academy**

School pupils were throwing stones from the street on 27<sup>th</sup> May and broke a window in Dalkeith Avenue. The following day Mr Anderson, PC Fiona Stewart and two residents met together and it was promised that a police officer or member of staff would monitor pupils at 3.30pm in Dalkeith / Fleurs Avenue.

George had witnessed pupils throwing small cartons of milk at each other at lunchtime in Maple Lane. There has been no stone throwing by pupils leaving school by Urrdale Road. There are more parents collecting pupils from school in cars and this seems to have helped stop bad behaviour. George had taken photographs of pupils dealing drugs in Maple Lane but the Head Teacher at Bellahouston Academy had refused to look at them. His fear is that pupils will accuse him and the photographer of invasion of privacy. It was felt that photographs could be used if there was a very good reason for them. There is obviously a need for more direction regarding the law. James thought Police should have cameras on them at all times. Police cars are already fitted with cameras.

## **7. Publicity**

With an upsurge in housebreakings we need to inform all residents. It was agreed that listing crimes in the local newspapers might give prospective house purchasers the wrong impression. The October Dumbreck Community Council Newsletter should have the website address prominently on the front page, and an abridged minute printed inside. We should also ask residents to contribute a small sum to cover the expense of running the Neighbourhood Watch. We could then provide a copy of the minutes of meetings for every household. It was thought that not many residents visited the website and few residents of Fleurs Avenue owned a computer. At the first sign of an increase in crime we should have a phone round to inform all co-ordinators who would then inform their neighbours with a visit, phone call or note through the door.

## **8. A.O.C.B.**

Jacqueline had phoned the Police regarding the Romanian girls pestering drivers as they waited for lights to change at the junction between Dumbreck Road and Nithsdale Road. She had been told that it was not a Police matter and to speak to Glasgow City Council. She had not done so as they appeared to have stopped. They had been seen again today.

The council informed Sheila that the tidying of Daisy Lane earlier this year was a one off clean up by Clean Glasgow and would not be repeated. She is still trying to find who owns the unmade part of Dalkeith Avenue. James said that minor incidents taken separately would not be considered a problem but when they occur time and time again it would be. He advised everyone to keep a note of dates and times of all incidents and when a pattern formed pass the information to Dumbreck Community Council and they would take up the issue.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue staff will give residents a free "home fire safety visit" and tell you where and how many smoke alarms you should have, discuss problem areas, and advise on escape routes. If you would like a visit contact the local Fire Station on 445 2223 or FREEPHONE 0800 0731 999.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting for Dumbreck Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will be on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009** at 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room at Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.