

**EAST BRIDGFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
CO-ORDINATORS MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 26th MAY 2011
AT 7.30 PM IN THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Present: Mr P Bancroft (Chairman); Mr D Barnsdale (Treasurer)
Mr D Atkinson, Ms E Bateman, Mr G Haran, Mr J Hunter, Mr D Linnington,
Mr G Stobbs, Mrs V Walster

Also present: PC Steve Mathias; Mrs P Norman

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Blackwood, Mrs M Wheeler, Mr G Powell,
Mr F Reeveley and Mrs C Lewis.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Neighbourhood Watch Accounts for the period April 2008 to January 2011 showing total assets of £174.10 being £135.04 cash in bank and £39.06 stock (7 shed alarms).

Mr Atkinson said it was disappointing that the effort of having a stand at the Village Show had shown such a small return of £3.48.

3. Discussion with Police

3.1 The Chairman said that he was pleased to see PC Steve Mathias at the meeting. PC Mathias reported that although the police stations in Radcliffe on Trent and Bingham are being closed, he did not think that this would affect East Bridgford greatly as the response unit works mainly from Cotgrave and West Bridgford. The frontline policing team who support East Bridgford, PC Mathias and CPSO Sally Charles, remains the same.

3.2 PC Mathias said that there had been 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported in the village. The Chairman said that he does all he can to try and encourage people to report any incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour because if things aren't reported then the police are not aware that there is a problem. Mr Stobbs said that he was concerned about the increase in car number plate thefts and asked if anything can be done to prevent this. PC Mathias said that it is very hard to predict when and where crime of this sort will be carried out. Mr Hunter asked whether there was anything to report about the theft of lead in the village and PC Mathias said that somebody had been charged with lead thefts in Radcliffe.

3.3 The Chairman asked PC Mathias what could be done about the vandalism to the Tennis Club pavilion. He explained that the vandals had been caught on CCTV and the footage had been submitted to the Police who had responded that the images were not sufficiently good to identify those concerned. The Chairman disputed this as the images are quite clear and he believed that the people could be identified if the images were looked at by somebody who knew them. He asked if the footage could be taken to Toothill School and if the teachers could identify them then the parents could be contacted. He does not think that they are children from the village, as otherwise they would have been recognised by people who have already looked at the CCTV images. PC Mathias asked the Chairman to email him with all the information and he would look into it on his return from holiday.

- 3.4 PC Mathias suggested that East Bridgford might be interested in joining the Local Area Group meetings which are held every 3 to 4 months with representatives from Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent. He will email details to the Chairman so that these can be circulated.
- 3.5 The Chairman expressed disappointment that there has been no police presence recently at the monthly Coffee Morning and Beat Surgery and said that residents are very frustrated and think that the Police are not interested in any problems in the village any more. PC Mathias said that he had previously asked that the advert for the Coffee Morning should not state that a member of the Police will be present as it is not always possible, although either he or Sally Charles will attend if they can. He explained that there has been a change to shift patterns which has made it difficult for somebody to be available to come out to East Bridgford on a Saturday morning. The Chairman said that the advert has now been changed.

4. Co-ordinators vacancies / clarification of areas

4.1 The following vacancies exist:

- (a) College St (Orchard Close to Cherryholt Lane).
- (b) Haycroft Way - Elaine Bateman said that she covers this in her area.
- (c) Kneeton Road (Hackers Close to Old Police House). John Hunter said that he is covering this but it is too much.
- (d) Kirk Hill & Trent Lane.
- (e) Straws Lane (Magdalen Drive to Closes Side Lane and Stable Close)

In addition, the Chairman reported that Mrs Lewis wishes to resign.

Mr Barnsdale asked whether it is necessary to have two co-ordinators covering Croft Rise but it was agreed that this would be too large an area for one person.

4.2 Mr Haran said that since Ringmaster went down he is not sure what his role is now. The Chairman said that there is now the Rushcliffe Community Watch, which is published two or three times a week and which includes crime figures. It was suggested that there should be a uniform system amongst the co-ordinators to ensure that everyone is getting the same information. PC Mathias suggested that the co-ordinators should receive the alerts and could then forward any relevant information. Mr Hunter said that it would be useful if somebody could compile a village directory of email addresses but it was agreed that this would be very difficult as people often change email addresses and also some people would not be happy if their email address was freely available.

5. Plans for the Village Show

5.1 Mr Barnsdale said that the Neighbourhood Watch has had a stand each year at the show and that although the Police are made aware of this they have never visited the stand. PC Mathias said that he had been at the show last year with CPSO Sally Charles and they had spent the whole day there and he thought it was important for the village to see a police presence.

5.2 Mr Haran asked what the aim of the Neighbourhood Watch stand was and Mr Atkinson said that he normally is involved with the stand and previously they had tried to sell some shed alarms but this had not been very successful. Mr Hunter said that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is village orientated and that the show now attracts a wider audience who would have no interest in the stand. It was discussed that whilst there is no charge for having the stand, it requires a lot of volunteers to man it throughout the day and a lot of people who would otherwise volunteer are busy with their families on that day. It was agreed that this year the Neighbourhood Watch will not have a stand and the situation will be reconsidered next year if there is any feedback from residents asking why the Neighbourhood Watch was not represented at the show.

6. Rushcliffe Community Watch (messages)

The Chairman said that this had been discussed previously. It was suggested that an article could be put into the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter saying that residents can sign up to this if they want to. It was suggested that all the co-ordinators should register with Rushcliffe Community Watch. The Chairman said that in the meantime he will forward the email alerts to co-ordinators but asked that when somebody signs up they let him know so he can remove them from the circulation list.

7. Crime figures

- 7.1 Concern was expressed about doorstep vendors cold calling, selling tea towels etc. Elaine Bateman said that she had tried to make Mill Gate a "no cold calling zone" but as it is private road there are no lampposts to attach signs to. PC Mathias said that anybody selling on the doorstep should have a current Peddlers Licence and said that he will try and get a sample copy of a Peddlers Licence and let the Chairman have this so that people can be made aware of what one looks like.
- 7.2 Concern was also expressed that some of the charity collection bags that are put through the door are scams and that some people do not realise that their donation is not going to a charity.
- 7.3 It was discussed that whilst there is evidence of drugs activity in the village, the dealing of drugs in the village seems to have diminished.

8. Any other business and date of next meeting

There was no further business. The date of the next meeting will be Thursday, 27th October at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.