

MINUTES OF MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AGM

10th. Nov.2011 at Kent Police College

Attended by Sue Chambers & Peter Pilfold

Meeting started at 7.30pm

As Chief Superintendent M. Nix was unable to attend, Lorraine Hemphrey spoke on his behalf. On 16th. November this year the Kent Police will undergo a “reconstruction” with an emphasis on community and neighbourhoods. From that date anybody ringing their local police station to report a crime will have contact details taken and in some cases be given a crime number at that point. It is hoped that they will then receive a visit from an office or PCSO who will take all details and issue a crime number, if not already issued. That officer or PCSO will then “own” that crime number until it is resolved. This gives the victim a more personal contact with the police. It is hoped that there will, therefore, be a greater police presence at the same time making £50,000,000 saving.

Lorraine then gave a brief roundup of the N.H.W in the past year saying, there were 32 new watches with only 2 old ones closing. She found that the “County Eye” email newsletter was proving very successful. So much so that she was thinking of expanding it. With thefts of metals and heating oil, especially in rural areas, it was becoming even more important to get involved with the N.H.W.

The cold calling areas were also drawing attention from parish councils. It had been a success in areas such as Kingswood but because there is a financial cost involved councils were waiting for funding. She pointed out that often the condition of an older person’s house, neglected exterior or hand rails etc., did make them a target for bogus callers. There are bi-monthly meetings running which cover a variety of topics. The next one is about home, car & personal security.

Also this month will be the introduction of the new NON EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER.....101. This will be nationwide by the end of the year. When calling, 101, you will get through to a LOCAL contact number. If you live on a boundary of 2 police forces you will then be connected to the force of your choice. It will not be national call centre and there will be a charge of 15p for each call no matter the duration or time. It is hoped that this will deter time wasting calls and the cost is a competitive price.

The public will still dial 999 for emergency calls and if there is a crime in progress.

As with all the items mentioned Lorraine said that she would like feed back to see if these initiatives were working.

The Chairman, Ken Stevens, then gave his report. He said that they had invested in a printer which could now make identification badges for coordinators. They are laminated and cost £3 per badge. The purchaser would need a passport photograph. They could be arranged through the secretary.

The treasurer gave her report and then there was a very interesting and informative presentation by Kent Police Dog Section.

There was then a presentation to coordinator of the year. This was made to retiring Secretary Geoff Ivory and his daughter, Mandy Humphrey, who is the retiring treasurer.

There were elections for the coming year and it was stated that new members or interested parties would always be welcome.

The new secretary is now, Linda Sinclair and the new treasure is Margaret Milner.

Ken Sevens stays as Chairman and the committee stays the same.

The meeting closed at 9pm