



# FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 Number 3  
Summer 2007

will be held at

**CIVIC OFFICES, HART DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
HARLINGTON WAY, FLEET**

on

**Thursday 20 September 2007 at 7.30 pm**

**In addition to the normal agenda items, this year the  
AGM will feature a presentation by a representative of  
Police Special Branch**

### Editorial

Typically at this time of the year we would be thinking of Summer holidays, wondering if gardens would cope with the hose-pipe ban, wishing we had bought that extra fan when it was on special offer, etc. However, this year, at least to date, we have seen more early Summer rain than at any other time in our lives, debated on the odd evening about whether to put the heating back on, and dared water companies to suggest a hose-pipe ban ever again! A touch tongue-in-cheek and, yes, it has been an unusual start to the Summer but, sadly, some things remain unchanged. This edition's extended and most comprehensive Police & Crime Report yet again highlights the wisdom of removing valuable items from our cars. It advises us that many burglaries occur in homes that have been accessed via insecure doors and windows. So in fact the weather has made little difference and the message is the same as always: lock your doors and windows at home and in your outbuildings. Don't leave your valuables on display and unattended. Be a good and friendly neighbour. This means taking care and being vigilant and, if you see anything which looks suspicious, report it to the Police.

The Committee looks forward to welcoming members at the Civic Offices for the AGM on Thursday 20 September. A presentation by a representative of Special Branch should be of interest to us all and we plan to make time for a Q & A session at the end of that item on the agenda.

All members of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend the AGM. Any member who wishes to put forward an item for inclusion in the agenda or propose an amendment to the Constitution is requested to contact the Secretary, Debbie Steadman, in writing by:

Monday 3 September

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### Chairman's Report

As we drift through the year I am happy to report a continued increase in Neighbourhood Watch membership. As families arrive in the new developments, or simply as the result of moving house, many residents are quick to realise the benefits of our organisation and the need to look out for each other. In other words, ensuring that the community spirit is maintained.

Whilst confirming that Fleet remains a low crime area, we can all help to ensure that this situation remains intact. For example, over the May Bank Holiday weekend four cars in my road were vandalised at a cost of well over £1000, and although I am not suggesting that my area is worthy of any special attention, it does serve to highlight that we all have a responsibility to watch out for each other. Who knows, perhaps a little more neighbourly attention might have prevented this mindless damage to property, and the additional assault in nearby Frere Avenue a week later, not to mention the ongoing concerns of excessive litter.

The two main thrusts of Neighbourhood Watch are to be the eyes and ears of the Police, and to look out for each other. Without this focus there is little point in our being there.

Let us strive to be proactive in ensuring that the decent and well-disciplined society in which we live is not spoilt by the actions of a few.

*David Bunclark - Chairman*

## POLICE & CRIME REPORT

The Spring and Summer period has been a busy time for the Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team. The Police Community Support Officers are now established on each beat and we have seen significant benefits. Local community relations are improving and continue to move forward. As a result, a large amount of information has been obtained and it has been used to resolve community problems in a number of ways. Crime patterns would suggest that there has been less crime between March 2007 and July 2007 compared to the same period during 2006. This is good news for all and the Safer Neighbourhood Team is working hard to continue to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the Fleet area.

### Fleet Town Centre and Pondtail (Beat 1)

During the early part of the year we had increased reports of anti-social behaviour taking place around the town centre. As a result a Section 30 Dispersal Order was put in place for the town centre. This gives police officers and PCSOs the power to disperse three or more persons from the area if they are acting in an anti-social manner. Further probing showed that the problems often occurred near to one of the restaurants which had recently installed benches outside the premises. PC Franks carried out a partnership approach to the problem and the restaurant management agreed to remove the benches. After various initiatives, including increased patrols, the problems have improved significantly.

Some members of the public have raised concerns about the smoking ban; for example, how are public houses going to deal with customers smoking off premises and the problems that this may cause (disorder, noise and litter)? This is being examined and the potential problem has been addressed by the Council. Currently we are not aware of any problems locally because of the ban, however we will continue to monitor any developments.

PCs Franks and Pearce continue to hold monthly meetings with the local partnership agencies and any concerns or problems should be brought to their attention.

### Fleet West (Beat 2)

PC Nelson and PCSO Greenwood are currently working hard to address problems of youth nuisance in The Lea area. Patrols have been increased and evidence is being collected which will be used to obtain Anti-Social Behaviour Orders if the problems persist. Several search warrants were carried out recently around The Lea area and Wickham Close following information from the community about illegal activity. Subsequently, arrests were made after various illicit items were recovered. An excellent outcome as a result of information received by the PCSOs from the community.

A number of incidents involving vehicles being driven erratically in the area of Basingbourne Road were reported to the police during April and May. Enquiries were conducted and a number of drivers were identified as repeat offenders who had been driving in an anti-social manner. As a result, the vehicle of one of the offending drivers was seized and it was placed in a secure compound with a release fee attached. As a result of these incidents a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme was also introduced to Basingbourne Road. PCSO Greenwood has identified that Merivale, which is located between The Lea and Tavistock Road, does not have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. A letter drop will take place soon as we are keen to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Merivale if there is sufficient support.

PC Nelson and PCSO Greenwood have started to hold monthly beat surgeries outside The Hart Leisure Centre. The dates and times of these outdoor surgeries can be obtained from PC Nelson. This is an excellent opportunity to speak to the Safer Neighbourhood Team about any concerns you may have, and I would encourage you to call in for a chat.

### Church Crookham (Beat 3)

PC Webster and PCSO Eaves have devoted a large amount of their time to address nuisance youth problems around The Verne and Ridgeway Parade. Targeted patrols were carried out and the offending youths were quickly identified. These youths have now been placed on Anti-Social Behaviour Agreements and their behaviour has improved.

Recently a scheme "Clear Up Quetta Park" was run to help tidy up the Quetta Park Estate. Several agencies attended the event and assisted with a general tidying up of the estate. This has greatly improved the residents' quality of life.

*(Police & Crime Report continued on Page 3)*


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(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 2)

PCSO Eaves has been improving relations at the local youth club located at Quetta Park and he attends the centre on a regular basis to take part in a number of youth activities. This has received plenty of positive feedback and the relationship between the youths and PCSO Eaves is getting much better.

During May the police attended the Zebon Copse area following a report that two males carrying out a dwelling burglary had been disturbed by a member of the public. The two males were detained by the Safer Neighbourhood Team which resulted in their arrest and charge for a number of offences.

### Elvetham Heath, Ancells Farm and Fleet Services (Beat 4)

We have seen an increase in juvenile nuisance in the area with the arrival of the lighter evenings. Frequent patrols are being carried out by PC Prescott and PCSOs East and Evans to address the problem. Extra patrols resourced by Special Constables are also taking place over the weekend evenings.

PCSO Evans has been working to reduce problems on the Elvetham Heath Estate, particularly vehicle nuisance and mini motor bikes driven by youths. Several youths were visited at home following information that they were the cause of the complaints. This action appears to have improved the problem.

PCSOs East and Evans have started holding a monthly beat surgery outside Morrisons Supermarket on Elvetham Heath. The date and time of the next surgery can be obtained from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and details will be published soon on the internet.

### Current Issues and Advice

We continue to receive reports of theft from motor vehicles. The reports mainly relate to theft of satellite navigation devices, laptops, MP3 players and car stereos. Please remove all high value items from your vehicles and wipe off any suction pad marks from your windscreens. Also burglaries still occur and many premises are accessed via insecure doors and windows. I urge everyone to ensure that their property is secured, especially during the warmer months when doors and windows tend to be left open. If you go on holiday please tell your neighbours. I would also advise installing light switch timers and asking a friend to regularly check your property.

If residents witness any unusual or suspicious behaviour please contact the police as soon as possible, and do not be afraid to use 0845 045 45 45 or the 999 number if the situation is urgent.

Contact details and photographs of the Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team will soon be available on the internet. So please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Team with any questions or concerns that you may have.

As mentioned above, a large amount of our recent success is a result of local community intelligence where members of the public have passed information to the police about unusual and suspicious activity. I encourage everyone to report such incidents. This can be done by telephone, email, face-to-face with the local beat managers and PCSOs or via Crimestoppers. The information is always recorded and used and it can often prove to be extremely valuable.

A/PS 23624 Steve Reilly

Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team

## PhoneJoan

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## Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch

### Committee Members (with their contact details)

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**Eileen Adby**

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#### Police:

**Acting Police Sergeant**

**Steve Reilly**

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#### Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch

#### Website:

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

The deadline for inputs to the next Newsletter is:

**30 September 2007**

Please send any inputs to the Editor (contact details above).

## NHW Committee - Vacancies

Our current Secretary, Debbie Steadman, and our Treasurer, Anne Lowe, have both given notice that they wish to resign from the NHW Committee in the near future. These are important appointments on the Committee and their successors will need a short handover period.

Consequently, we are asking for volunteers to come forward as soon as possible so that those chosen can understudy the posts before taking over their roles.

Interested in either appointment? Please give Debbie or Anne a call as appropriate.  
(Contact details are on this page).

**Ancells Farm** Thanks to the financial backing from the Ancells Farm Residents Association Committee, refurbishing materials for the NHW road signs should soon be available. I would like help in doing the work and I would be grateful if volunteers would please contact me on:  
Tel: 01252 626996 (Answer-phone available). *Harry Fraser-Mitchell*  
Senior Co-ordinator, Ancells Farm

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