

COMPASS

Resume of Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

Monday 10th September 2007.

Chairman– David French, Secretary – Debs Hale, 26 guests

Guest speaker Henry Whatley – Community Initiatives co-ordinator

Apologies; Marion Lewis, Henry's Crime Protection colleague

David welcomed everyone to the meeting and publically thanked Natalie Thomson and her partner David for all the hard work in setting up the Compass web site www.greatbowden.org, and congratulating its early response.

He then introduced Henry Whately, who had been invited to talk to us about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Henry informed us he was not a PC, but worked in liaison with them with his three main areas being the C.C.C.'s Community, Crime prevention and Communication. He observed that one of the best things about neighbourhood watch was that it was a vehicle for getting people talking! Some communities had actually been known to take it further and go on holiday together, or at least organise street parties..... No pressure!

Neighbourhood Watch exists independently of the police, but their support is, however simple.

The key to the NW scheme is really just report what you see – If you feel it is of an immediate/high level crime in progress, then you should call the

999 or 0116 222222 Leicester police call centre. If however it is just a suspicion or low level information, you may use the 101 number, or the above Leicester number, calls should be made directly by the person seeing the circumstance, unless you really felt it necessary to go via your designated co-ordinator, but definitely necessary to report, with as much detail i.e. .number plate, clothing etc. as possible.

Secondly it is important to be vigilant about your own possessions; many burglars do not take equipment with them, but use household items such as garden spades for breaking in. This also means that the burglar may not always look suspicious either.

It is 350% less likely to be burgled in a NW area. Burglars like an easy target.

Criteria for the village to fulfil in order to take on the scheme

- 1. Each cluster of houses must be managed by a co-ordinator, who will be Henry's liaison contact.***
- 2. They will receive weekly communication from Henry on activity in the local area, or a nil return if there is nothing to report. Or in some instances ad hoc reports if there is an urgent bulletin.***
- 3. The co-ordinator must then disseminate the information to their group, in whichever manner has been agreed.***
- 4. The village must be sectioned into manageable chunks as not to become onerous on any one particular co-ordinator. (David French will co-ordinate the village volunteers)***

Marion Lewis's committee operate;-

- Harborough Be Safe Scheme – objective to improve security of homes
- Countryside Watch Scheme

- Neighbourhood Watch and
- School Liaison

Street signs can be purchased and personalised for the village to denote that the NW scheme is in operation (£5.29each), then each participating household will receive a home pack with window stickers and information free of charge.

A question from the floor queried the addition of a 'No Cold Call Zone' to improve safety and effectiveness of NW, but Henry noted that this was a different scheme and had to be monitored by Trading Standards, also that it was not easy to get 100% support for its implementation as it would affect companies like, 'Kleeneazy', and 'Betterbuy's' etc., also very difficult unless in a warden controlled zone.

David French then called for any more volunteer co-ordinators to sign up with him, the collective group agreed on going for a village wide scheme, and that we would like to have the personalised notices, probably 8 would be required. This would only incur about a 20p cost per household. Alf Herbert to provide village map for dividing between co-ordinators to ensure all areas covered. Next meeting to be held soon to progress all action points.

He formally thanked Henry for his time and information, invited all present to stop for free refreshments, and officially closed the meeting with his thanks for the village's support in implementing the scheme.

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