

## **Blacksnape Residents' Group Meeting Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> Jan '10**

**Present:** Joan Taylor, Alan Clucas, June Clucas, Alisha Rayson, Martin Wilshaw, Andrew Mead, David West, Jackie Livesey, Christine & David Robinson, G Booth, Sylvia Berry, David & Christine Neville, Susan Holden, Martyn Skipper (Chair), Sue Skipper (Minutes)

**Introductions:** Carol Hendey (Community Safety Officer), PCSO Leigh-Anne McCool, PC Dean Briggs

**Apologies:** Paul & Liz Greene, Jane Cook, Dawn Robinson-Walsh

**Appointment of next Rolling Chair:** Martyn reemphasised desire for more community involvement and encouraged volunteers to take the chair on a rotating basis. Susan Holden agreed to chair the next meeting.

**Appointment of Minutes Secretary:** Sue Skipper

**Neighbourhood Watch (NW):** Carol Hendey gave a concise, informative overview of the scheme.

Police- backed, Home Office sanctioned scheme

Launched 1982

Martyn Skipper is Blacksnape's coordinator (no other candidates came forward)

UK's largest group of volunteers

Access to other funding etc may be possible via NW

NW members are statistically less likely to be victims of burglary

Home security is an objective

Advice to enclose property, but keep front of property clear

Signs act as a deterrent: £23 each, not mandatory. BwD Council will erect and accept liability, but local NW group own and are responsible for maintenance

Home insurance premiums usually reduced for NW members, Residents need to inform their insurers.

Ms Hendey left window stickers, literature, and a number of UV pens for marking property. These can be used on indoor or outdoor property, but recommended that outdoor items' markings be sealed with a coat of varnish. About 12-15 such pens have been distributed around the village. To borrow one ask a neighbour, or see Martyn

CH urged all property to be either marked, or photographed for easy identification in the event of theft or burglary

Other marking schemes include Smartwater and Selectomark DNA. If property is so marked it is advisable to put up signs indicating this

Most burglaries are through unlocked doors or windows. Ground floor windows, or accessible windows (e.g. by flat roofs) should have separate window locks at either end (weak points)

Door chains recommended especially for older residents

Doors should be of substantial material and have minimum 5 lever mortice locks

Two mains timer devices (to turn lights on and off in the owner's absence) were distributed. A small number more may be available for residents who can demonstrate a need. Again contact Martyn or Carol

Alan & Alisha each offered to buy a NW sign. MS to approach Carol Hendey & organise

MS to press release to Lancs Telegraph announcing formation of NW group

### **Traffic Update / Q&A's for PCSO team:**

Local officers need to be updated on any unusual / suspicious activity and any other activities of concern.

Residents raised issue of motorcycles on the playing fields and vandalism of the bowling green

PC Briggs has access to a mobile hand-held speed camera. Can be sited anywhere, without notice (not published in newspaper) but East Rural is a wide area so PC Briggs needs plenty of notice. Potentially could patrol Blacksnape at peak risk times

PCSO team can be contacted directly, via Martyn, or through any PACT Meetings (Martyn to get future PACT dates from PC Hambley & publish on website)

Report offenders' reg numbers e.g. via Martyn

### **Gritting, Potholes:**

Residents agreed gritting was not unduly unacceptable given the exceptional weather. Will not pursue any further other than Martyn to request grit bins for village

Potholes appear to be getting worse as a result of the snow & ice. Campaign led by Lancashire Telegraph. Martyn has an outstanding claim for pothole damage to a wheel and tyre with Capita / BwD. Will update village on progress of claim

**Maintenance of the village (walls, plantings etc):**

Awaiting outcome of "Bovril" scheme from Julie Slater

Most walls likely to be responsibility of the owners

Installation / maintenance of hanging baskets / planters by all residents suggested. Residents recognised that hanging baskets not ideal in such a wind-exposed location

Suggestion for some sort of communal fund e.g. £5 per month per property for such projects. To be debated at next meeting

**Events:**

- "Winter Warmer" Red Lion, Fireworks, curry, bonfire, Red Lion Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. Details from Shaun at the Red Lion or see Shaun Buck's Facebook page
- ERN Family Fun night: (same date as "Winter Warmer") Hoddlesden Con Club 7pm. Stand-up bingo, quiz, supper. Tickets £5 & £3 from Martyn (#21) or Julie Slater 703069
- Next walk: "The Greenfield", Garden Village 31<sup>st</sup> Jan '10 - Meet at the Red Lion 11am
- Scarecrow Festival: Jul 4th 2010 Scarecrow Festival and Competition, Hoddlesden and surrounding villages. Organised by ERN. Nominal entry fee for each scarecrow. Scarecrows could be arranged along the length of Blacksnape Road. More details soon.

**AOB**

No other business was raised

**Date of next meeting: Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Feb '10 7.30PM**

**Close**