

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY NEWS

SPRING
ISSUE

MARCH
2016



A quarterly Journal produced by and for Ferndown S. and West Parley Neighbourhood Watch in close association with the Dorset Police.

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comments, letters and
suggestions to:

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01202 989975

tomblyth@escritor.co.uk

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Chairman's Report

I wish to start this Community News report with an invitation to all members to attend the Ferndown South and West Parley Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting to be held at St. Mark's Church Hall, New Road, West Parley at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th April 2016.

In the December newsletter I made a request for people to come forward to volunteer for two vital roles to assist in keeping our Neighbourhood Watch going. Happily, a number of people offered their services and I am pleased to welcome Mrs Nikki Hamp and Mr Tom Blyth to the team as Membership Secretary and Editor respectively.

We still require Contacts in a number of areas. Usually when a Contact or Co-ordinator has to stand down they ask their local members if anyone would be willing to take over the role. In some areas the Co-ordinator fulfils the role of Contact whilst seeking other volunteers, often for some time. Eventually, and usually reluctantly, the Co-ordinator withdraws from the role and your particular area is then no longer fully covered by our Watch.

So please, if you receive a note through your door requesting someone to become the Contact or Co-ordinator please volunteer. These roles do not take up a huge amount of time. A Contact may give an hour every three months and a Co-ordinator might give two to three hours every quarter, which includes attending a Watch meeting. Not too much to help keep Ferndown South and West Parley a safer and secure place to be.

Dorset Police have completed a comprehensive review of neighbourhood policing over the last three years. The recommendations being implemented include revising the roles of all officers and police staff who work in Neighbourhood Policing Teams. *Continued overleaf...*



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Chairman's Report (from Page 1)

The revised roles are defined as:

- Police Officers will focus on protecting high-risk or vulnerable victims, dealing with persistent and repeat offenders, and taking responsibility for the reduction and detection of crime.
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will focus on engaging with local people, coordinating problem-solving by working with partner agencies and empowering the public to resolve issues themselves, for example, neighbourhood disputes.
- Sergeants will manage and supervise the neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) and assist in prioritising the demands on their resources. They will be accountable for balancing limited resources against threat, risk and harm; ensuring the prevention, reduction and detection of crime within their community is a priority, whilst also ensuring that high levels of community engagement and collaboration with partners is sustained.
- Special Constables will be attached to NPTs; carrying out the same responsibilities as their full-time police office colleagues and utilising their full warranted powers, as they always have done.
- Civilian volunteers will be used to support the teams by undertaking administrative duties including updating databases, contacting local people to
- arrange events and updating people on the outcomes of issues dealt with by the team.

Assistant Chief Constable David Lewis oversaw the review and its implementation. He said, "The review was not commissioned to make savings and does not, in itself, recommend or require any staff losses. However, we have purposely introduced a model that is scalable and that should be robust enough to continue providing neighbourhood policing, if budget cuts are required in the future."

It is important for our community to maintain a strong and well supported neighbourhood watch to support our local police, our local parish, and town and district councils who work in partnership to maintain a safe and secure community for us all. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his autumn statement that there would be no further central government cuts to the policing budget for the rest of this parliament. Therefore I hope Dorset Police will not feel the need to further

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reduce the current scale of the neighbourhood policing teams; not just in Ferndown and West Parley but across the whole of Dorset.

Two of the latest scams doing the rounds include people purporting to be from your energy supplier, requesting information so they can arrange a refund to your account. With many of us paying energy and other bills by direct debit there is no need for the supplier to contact you for your bank details. Energy suppliers already have this information and will either adjust your monthly payment or make a refund direct to your account, informing you when they do so.

With many of us shopping on line and goods being dispatched from various parts of the world, scammers have started sending emails stating that your parcel has been intercepted. To add authenticity they use the Royal Mail as a cover and request you to click on an attachment. Please do not. The Royal Mail will never ask you to complete any form unless it is on their website, if in doubt independently contact the Royal Mail.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online at:
http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud
or by telephone: 0300 123 2040

Finally, many of us have been issued with a 'Contactless' debit or credit card by our bank or building society. They usually allow you to pay for goods up to a value of £25. However, it may also make it very easy for others to scan your card as they pass by or bump into you. To safeguard your cards you can purchase a security wallet or card holder that prevents your cards from being scanned. Amazon sell them for as little as £5.

Please stay safe and take care.

Chairman David Ayres

Contact email: david.ayres5@btopenworld.com
or mobile: 07796 546 904

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FREE ADVANCED DRIVING LECTURES

(Posted by Neighbourhood Alert on January 28, 2016)

The Institute of Advanced Motorists is offering FREE lectures on Wednesdays 13, 20 and 27 April at 6.45 to 8.45 pm, at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ.

Entry to Committee Room 1 is through the glass doors at Colliton Corner and parking is free.

The lectures, given by a class one civilian ex-police instructor with many years' experience and a sense of humour, contain information and advice that could save your life.

As we strive to better ourselves at most things in life, why not driving? No need to book, just come along and bring your friends.

For further information visit the IAM at www.dorsetiam.org.uk, or contact Jane Percy on 01305 820963, Email: secretary@dorsetiam.org.uk.

DORSET ALERT

**Join Dorset Alert,
a free messaging system**

Would you like to be kept up-to-date with all the latest information including crimes, suspicious incidents and good news stories in your local area?

It used to be called Ringmaster, but our community messaging system has now changed to a new system called Dorset Alert.

It is a free service which provides access to messaging and information reporting facilities. By signing up, you can also join the various Watch schemes that are run in the county.

If you are involved with Neighbourhood or Home Watch, you can also access free scheme management tools.

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- Information about crime trends, incidents and requests for info by email.
- Start, manage or request to join a Neighbourhood/Home Watch scheme.
- Configure how, when and what priority messages you would like to receive.
- Unsubscribe at any time, there are no contracts or costs.
- Remain unseen on the system, or make your scheme visible so that others can join.

What do you need to do?

To join go to www.dorsetalert.co.uk and click on 'Register'.

If you don't have internet access, please ask the Police Community Office located in the Barrington Centre for a registration form.



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Police Reports

Communications

The Community Office

e: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Telephone: 01202 876219

South Ferndown and West Parley Neighbourhood Policing Team

Current Priorities:

You are telling us that the following issues are a priority in your area:

- Breaks to sheds and garages.
- Shop lifting.
- Acquisitive crime.

Previous Priorities: You said... We did...

Cybercrime

Cybercrime is a fast-growing area of crime. More criminals are exploiting the speed, convenience and anonymity of the Internet to commit a diverse range of criminal activities targeting the senior and vulnerable of our community.

We have attempted to educate and protect our vulnerable residents through local surgeries and home visits, offering advice on how to protect you against cybercrime. We have also used multiple social media and Dorset Alert to reach other residents.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Victoria Road and Cherry Grove are hot spots that were being closely monitored to prevent re-offending of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

We carried out Hi-Visibility patrols in key areas and worked closely with Ferndown Schools to educate and highlight the impacts of ASB on the community. We also returned youths committing offences home to parents and made several arrests for ASB within the West Parley area. We continue to explore ways in which to engage with all ages and groups in the community, including the local youths, educating on what is and is not acceptable behaviour, and we generally find little evidence of ASB or intent to cause annoyance.

Rogue Traders

There are increased reports of rogue door-to-door salesman and tradesmen. We have worked with Trading Standards and other partner agencies to tackle doorstep traders who target vulnerable members of our community. During patrols, we identified and spoke to trades people and members of the community with a view to detect offences and gathering intelligence.

Upcoming events in your area

2nd Tuesday of the month, 10.30am – 11.00am: Surgery at the Orange Teapot, Ferndown

3rd Tuesday of the month, 10.30am – 11.00am: Surgery at Haskins, Ham Lane, Longham

News In Our Area

Christmas in Ferndown came and went with just a few minor incidents and New Year followed in the same festive footsteps. The majority of incidents over the holidays came in the form of a wide spread increase in shop lifting, with Haskins, Savers and Tesco all being repeat victims.

A resident of Ferndown, who caused a disturbance in Penny's Walk and assaulted a police officer along with several other offences in Weymouth including assaulting multiple police officers, was charged with two counts of assault by battering, two counts of criminal damage and three counts of assaulting a police constable. She was sentenced to eight weeks at HMP and several hundred pounds of fines.

There has been an increase recently in the number of burglaries, with the majority targeting garages and outbuildings for power tools. Several building sites around the West Parley area have seen breaks into storage containers overnight, again targeting mainly high value power tools. It is with this in mind that we would like to remind you to remain vigilant, especially with the dark evenings and weather rolling in over winter it is important to review your home security.

Safer Neighbourhoods

Safer Neighbourhoods is a commitment by Dorset Police to improving the quality of life within our communities by working together with partners to target the issues identified by you - local people - as those that matter most. There are a number of opportunities that the Neighbourhood Policing Team in your area will provide, on an ongoing basis, for you to voice your concerns. Get in touch with your team today to find out how you can raise your issues. This is your chance to influence the service that we, the police, and our partners, provide. Your opinions are important to us and this process will not work without you.

How to contact your team

- Telephone: 101
- Email: ferndowncentralSNT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk
- Find us on Facebook: Ferndown Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Go to: www.dorset.police.uk

This report was kindly supplied by PCSO 6389 Philip King

Heatherlands Police Report

In the first week of January a householder on Barns Road was disturbed by a knock at the door at about 3pm on a week day. From an upstairs window she saw a man she did not recognise and decided not to answer the front door.

A few minutes later she was horrified to hear the crash of broken glass and fled the property to get help from a neighbour.

When the neighbour entered the property a few minutes later she confronted three men who had entered the kitchen via a rear door, the upper glazed panel of which was scattered on the floor.

The men, described as being in their early twenties, were probably as shocked as she was and fled the scene over a rear garden fence, escaping in a small silver hatchback car. Although shocked, the family were relieved to find that nothing had been stolen.

The lessons here often come as a surprise to most people. The majority of dwelling burglaries take place in the daytime when it is reasonable to expect the property to be empty; an exploratory knock on the door will confirm this.

Next, the burglar will gain access to the rear garden and attack the weakest point, which is often a patio door. Unintentionally, householders often assist the burglar by leaving garden tools out or in an insecure shed. It's amazing the amount of force a garden spade can exert on a door. Once inside the thief will make a rapid hunt for cash and jewellery, and then get out.

A good burglar alarm is an excellent deterrent, giving a high level of protection against break-ins. The burglar does not want to risk being disturbed so will always look for soft targets.

Other measures to protect your property include securing access to the rear garden and locking away tools in a secure shed or garage where ever possible.

If you would like further advice please visit the Police Community office located in the Barrington Centre on Penny's Walk opposite Tesco's between 10 and 12 am every day except Sunday.

This report was kindly supplied by PC 1496 Julian Humphries.

FROM WEST PARLEY PARISH WEBSITE

Help and Care Workshops (Posted December 2, 2015)

Are you a Carer? Do you care for a family member or friend? Caring for a family member or friend can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. However, it can also present challenges especially when faced with new situations. Most carers need help and advice at some point so that the best of care can continue to be given.

Help and Care, in partnership with Dorset HealthCare, are running free, informal information workshops. You can attend any of the workshops listed on the timetable at www.helpandcare.org.uk. *For more advice and information on workshops, call 0300 111 3303 or email carerstraining@helpandcare.org.uk*



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- Always ask for identification before letting anyone you don't know into your house.
- Check credentials, including a permanent business address and landline telephone number. The mobile phone numbers given on business cards are often pay-as-you-go numbers which are virtually impossible to trace.
- Take control by asking the questions. Ask for references from previous customers or to see examples of their work.
- Don't sign on the spot – shop around. Get at least three written quotes to make sure you're not being ripped off.

If in any doubt, ask the person to leave or call the Citizens' Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

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MATCHAMS KARTING TO MOVE TO BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS CLUB?

(From Bournemouth Daily Echo, January 21, 2016)

A planning application has been submitted by Matchams Karting Ltd to relocate their operation to Bournemouth Sports Club. The application can be viewed at:

www.dorsetforyou.com/planning/christchurch

Planning Reference Number 8/15/0508

The proposed site is in Green Belt, but a development of this nature is reported to comply with planning regulations requiring developments to be for "sports activities" and not to restrict "the openness of the area". However, things like the repetitive noise and an increase in traffic could be causes for concern.

The application was registered on 11 January 2016 and the deadline for public comment was 8 February. However, most councils will accept late submissions.

If you were unaware of this proposal and wish to lodge your views, contact the Case Officer, Kim Bowditch, on 01202 795242 or via the Contact Link at: www.dorsetforyou.com/planning/contact-christchurch-planning

TRADING STANDARDS

Tell us about Illegal Tobacco

Anyone selling illegal tobacco commits a criminal offence. The seller can face up to 10 years in prison and an unlimited fine.

Sold at pocket money prices, cheap tobacco makes it all too easy for our children to start smoking. The sale helps fund organised crime and those selling illegal tobacco may also be selling other illegal goods and introducing

more crime into your local community.

So what is the law on this? It is not illegal for you to go abroad and buy cheap cigarettes for your own use but bringing them back and selling them is.

If tobacco doesn't come through legal supply chains it could very easily be a counterfeit product. The manufacture of counterfeit tobacco isn't regulated so you can't tell where it comes from or what it is made out of.

Where counterfeit tobacco has been tested and has failed those safety tests it has been found to contain asbestos, animal faeces and glass. Since 2011 cigarettes must also be able to self-extinguish themselves too, but illegal tobacco is more likely to cause fatal blazes as they may not self-extinguish.

How to spot illegal tobacco:

- Often tastes different;
- Can be sold in boxes with poor print quality and have spelling mistakes;
- Might be sold in packets without required safety warnings;
- Sold in packaging with a handmade look and feel.

Trading standards are committed to disrupting the sale of illegal tobacco and you can help us. If you have information about someone selling illegal tobacco, or know a place where it is sold, then please help us. Any information no matter how small may be the piece we need.

You can tell us anonymously online at www.stop-illegal-tobacco.co.uk or by phoning the Illegal Tobacco Hotline number on 0300 999 0000.

COUNCIL TAX RISE for DORSET POLICE

(Posted by Dorset PCC on February 4, 2016)

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, Martyn Underhill has consulted with the Police and Crime Panel, who have unanimously supported his decision to



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raise the policing element of the Council Tax by 1.97%.

The PCC has a statutory duty to consult with both residents in Dorset and the Police and Crime Panel, a group of 15 Councillors and two Independent members who scrutinise the Commissioner's decisions on behalf of the people of Dorset.

A three-week public consultation showed overwhelming support for extra funding to police the County. Over 4,000 residents shared their views, a response rate which is thought to be the highest in the Country, with four out of five people voting in favour of a rise of 1.99%, which will bring in an extra £1,031,374 a year to Dorset Police.

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, Martyn Underhill said:

"This year is quite unusual for two reasons. Firstly, the Chancellor announced that to retain police funding on a level footing, he expected PCCs to raise the precept, and the Chief Constable formally requested an increase



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in funding to meet emerging threats. Neither of these things has happened before.

Dorset is a high performing force with positive independent reviews by HMIC. This additional revenue will support the Force in continuing this strong position whilst dealing with the emerging issues such as cybercrime and crimes against vulnerable people.

Criminals are always adopting new techniques and it is vital that policing is properly funded to meet these demands. However, it is also important we balance the needs of the police service with the financial demands faced by families in Dorset. A rise of £3.74 per year for a Band D household achieves that.

I would like to thank the 4,135 people who took part in my consultation."

Dorset Police Chief Constable, Debbie Simpson, said:

"Police forces have faced significant budget cuts over the last five years. Some of the changes required to meet this challenge are still being put into place.

This small rise will help ensure that Dorset Police can deal effectively with complex and important areas of policing over the next five years, such as cybercrime and child sexual exploitation. It will also ensure we can retain our accessibility to the public, and improve how people can contact us, as these are always priority areas when we ask the public for their views.

"This gives a real boost to officers and staff that their hard work is valued. I can assure you we will use the money wisely to help keep you safe."

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AGM

The Ferndown South & West Parley Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting

will be held on

**Tuesday 19th April 2016
at 7.30pm**

at

**St Mark's Church, Main Hall,
West Parley**

Refreshments will be available

***We hope that members will attend
this important meeting.***