

**Birchington Neighbourhood Watch**  
**Record of Street Co-ordinators Meeting held on**  
**Thursday, 12 February, 2009 at the Birchington Village Centre**

Present : Roger Walford, Dennis Cooper, Eileen Hills, Rosemary Harte, Ron Raybould, Alex Thorne, Val Thorne, Jane Jackson, George Weston, John Renton, John Garland, Ann Harding, Janet Sayer, George Teasdale

Apologies : PC Rolfe, PCSO Burnett, Liam Doogan

1. Dennis Cooper welcomed co-ordinators and by way of introduction explained that PC Simon Rolfe, PCSO Phil Burnett and Liam Doogan were unable to attend. They had now been provided with advance dates for our future meetings so that their diaries could be noted. In fact he had just heard that Simon Rolf had been moved away to other duties and that PC Tim Weston was returning to take over neighbourhood PC duties in Birchington and Westgate. It was obviously a pity that our neighbourhood PCs were moved about in this way, but we were, in Tim Weston, welcoming back someone with extensive previous local knowledge and experience. He had suggested to the police that advance information about PC moves passed to the NW Liaison Office would ensure that advance warning could be passed on to co-ordinators via KCM. Apart from a couple of smashed shop windows in Station Road and a burglary at the domestic stores in Minnis Bay it had remained generally quiet in recent weeks and months. It was of course likely that the incidence of local crime would rise as economic difficulties hit home harder in coming months.
2. The last co-ordinators meeting held in August had, of course, been overtaken by the subsequent AGM in October, but the minutes were nevertheless reviewed and approved. There were no matters which would not arise under later items on the agenda.
3. Referring to PACT meetings, copies of the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to those in attendance. Dennis Cooper reviewed these in order to underline the amount of interesting and topical business which had been undertaken both in conveying progress on previous priorities and in setting three new priorities for the ensuing three months. He again emphasised the importance which he attached to these meetings, which guaranteed exposure to our policing team and the opportunity to ask questions and contribute to future action. He encouraged co-ordinators to attend future meetings whenever possible.
4. The Treasurer's report showed expenditure since last August amounting to £162.00, including £99 for the newsletter against income of £75.29 (including supporters contributions of £65.00). Current balance at the bank stood at £1569.51.
5. There was no progress in regard to the establishment of the Kent NW website. The January issue of the Thanet NW watchword newsletter had recently been distributed. The Liaison office was now staffed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings by volunteers, with a further volunteer working from home in following up burglaries involving the elderly. KCM Ringmaster continued to provide reliable service, but a complete revision of the Ringmaster software was to be undertaken soon to provide enhanced flexibility throughout the police operations. We are assured that this will cause us no problems.

6. There was little to report from the Thanet and Kent NW scenes. A large media event would be held at Ashford International Hotel on Saturday, 13 June 2009 (0900 -1500 hrs) to celebrate 25 years of NW in Kent and Thanet NW among other Kent NW areas would have an information stand. A similar media/information opportunity for Birchington NW would arise later in the year on 19 September 2009 at a Village Centre Open Day and Dennis Cooper hoped that co-ordinators would be able to drop in during the day to help support the effort.
7. Under any other business, there was some discussion surrounding the proposal to establish an amusement arcade on Station Road in the shop formerly occupied by Mad Max. There was a vast amount of opposition to this proposal, including unanimous criticism by the Parish Council, and although there could be no guarantees it was fervently hoped that this idea would not get off the ground. Otherwise there were at present no outstanding contentious planning issues. The problem of scam telephone calls or other approaches was raised - clearly the only possible advice was to ignore these or simply hand up.

DHC 13/2/09