

**Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
3 December 2013, 7.30pm, Committee Room 4, Bromley Civic Centre**

1. Welcome, Attendance & Apologies:

Present: Alf Kennedy (AK) Chairman
Terry Belcher (TB)
Harry Bowman (HB)
John Bruce (JB)
Clifford Longley (CL)
Graham Pyefinch (GP)
Brian Rowland (BR)
Chief Insp. Carron Schusler (CS)
Gordon Snashall (GS)
Chris Taylor (CT)

Apologies: Aidan McCulloch (AM) Secretary
Cllr. Tim Stevens (TS)
Rob Vale (RV)

AK welcomed Harry Bowman to his first Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association (BNWA) Executive meeting.

2. Previous Minutes: Agreed as true record, subject to amended date of next meeting.

3. Matters Arising:

a) Changes to Constitution: AK to send CL & GP a copy of the Lambeth proposal and a meeting to be arranged before the year-end. - **ACTION: AK/CL/GP**

b) Bulk mail, resignations and bounced e-mails: BR has taken on mail distribution from James and proposes still to use gmail even though this does cause a few irritations. BR/JP will inform each other of new Coordinators/resignations so BR can keep the distribution up-to-date and JP likewise the BNWA database. AK to compose a letter and mail to Coordinators whose e-mails 'bounce' after 3 attempts to deliver. BR/JP to provide details as they arise - **ACTION: JB/BR/AK**

4. Updates:

- **Chairman:** AK confirmed BNWA has a place on the Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board, as does TB on behalf of Bromley Community Engagement Forum (BCEF) such that the community, as a whole, will be represented at Borough level. TB will represent BNWA at BCEF. AK and TB will make this clear to their respective membership but it will be up to individual residents to join either organisation – **Action AK/TB**

AK confirmed he met with Commander Chishti at New Scotland Yard to discuss a London-wide communications system operated by the Met. to provide two-way communication with (primarily) Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. The exact system has not yet been chosen but a number have been reviewed – **Action: AK**

- **Treasurer:** Accounts reviewed. Some funding required for stationery/postage to follow up on bounced e-mails from the sum set aside for communication – **Action: GP/AK**

AK proposed utilising frames he has in store to provide banner posters for BNWA use at future events. AK to bring frame to next meeting so design can be agreed – **Action: AK**

- **Bromley Police:** CS outlined the current initiative, Winter Nights, to target Thefts against the Person and Sexually based and violent offences, aiming for 20% reduction proposed

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by MOPAC. As a result, there will be a greater Police presence in areas where these crimes occur, e.g. High Streets. There will also be a larger number of “pub visits” by officers in the coming weeks, especially at weekends.

CS asked us to warn the public to be on guard against Burglary at this time; to keep Christmas gifts out of sight and recommended leaving one or more lights on when going out for the evening.

There has been a rise in theft of Catalytic Converters from below accessible vehicles. If they can, Residents are advised to park facing the road, ideally backed up against a wall to make access difficult. This applies equally to petrol and more modern diesel vehicles.

On a positive note, Bromley Police now have access to Predictive Mapping that reflects areas most likely to be targeted for specific crimes such as burglary. The signs are that this is an excellent tool that is achieving good results.

- **Bromley Council:** TS and RV unable to attend on this occasion.

5. AOB

CL suggested an alternative to manual delivery of information; each Watch could install a Noticeboard. It was agreed this was a matter for each Coordinator to consider but we would first have to establish whether Bromley Council would allow such boards to be sited in residential streets. There also appears to have been some localised removal of Neighbourhood Watch Street Signs from lampposts and it was suggested this was Council policy. Both matters to be raised at the next meeting with TS – **Action: ALL**

GS stated he is of the view that Police and Politicians are not recognising people want to see greater police visibility and that his Ward residents still didn't feel there was enough visible Police presence. People want to be reassured and be confident the Police are present and available in the event of needing assistance. CS assured the Committee this was a misconception and that there were actually more Police on the street but they were focused on higher crime areas. AK agreed this was his perception but confirmed he raised the issue with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) in a different forum. Neighbourhood Watch policy is to work with the Police to ensure the Local Policing Model is a success – **Action: AK**

Agreed BNWA website needs a pruning for out-of-date material and a freshening-up of the Home Page, perhaps by including a graphic of the current issue of the Borough Commander's Newsletter as each is published – **Action: CL**

6. Date + Time of Next Meeting: propose 28 Jan (7.30pm, Bromley Civic Centre) – **Action: AM**