



Distribution: NHW Forum members, Area Co-ordinators, Sup. Toby Davies, C/I Ryan Doyle, Insp. Shaun Kenneally, Sgts. Charlie Morris & Dave Monkton, Neighbourhood PCs, PCSOs & PCMO Donna Woolway.

Torrige District Neighbourhood Watch

Notes of the Neighbourhood Watch Open Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7.15pm at Bridgerule Village Hall

The meeting was opened by Tom Carrick (Torrige District NHW Chair) who welcomed everybody and thanked the local co-ordinators for their assistance in setting up the hall and organising the refreshments. The two guest speakers, Sgt. Dave Monkton and PCSO Emma Tomkies were introduced to the meeting and they then moved on to their presentations.

Sgt. Dave Monkton. Dave explained that he started in the Holsworthy area in January this year and that he is the Neighbourhood Beat Team Manager for both the Holsworthy and Torrington areas. He gave an overview of his extensive experience to date and said that with only three years until his retirement date, this would be his last posting. Dave explained the current police staffing situation in our area and that due to the cutbacks and financial constraints no new recruits were planned or expected for the foreseeable future.

Many of the questions coming from the audience were in respect of police numbers which Dave was able to deal with. The Police budget is set by the Police and Crime Commissioner who is able to raise areas of public concern but the actual deployment of staff is down to the Chief Constable.

PCSO Emma Tomkies. Emma started by giving her background and explaining the PCSO role which she has been involved with since the introduction of PCSOs. She originally covered the Holsworthy Town area but more recently moved over to cover a number of rural parishes of which Bridgerule was one. Because of the low number of officers in the Holsworthy area, they have to be flexible in their working routines and this adds interest to the job. Emma went on to talk about one of the current initiatives which is Horse Watch. This is very similar to NHW but is primarily aimed at the equine sector. Across the country animal theft or rustling is big business. Whilst animals do not seem to be a major target in this area the associated equipment, or "tack" as it is known in the industry can be expensive and is targeted by thieves. Marking of all equipment and property is recommended both as a deterrent and also to assist in its return should it be located at a later date. Emma mentioned that they are holding a property marketing initiative aimed at the farming and horse sectors on Saturday 6 May at the New Holsworthy Cattle Market. It is being organised by her colleague PCSO Raquel Rowe and will run from 9.00 hrs to mid-day. One of the products being highlighted will be "SelectaDNA" a forensic marking substance which is suitable for use on many products, equipment and surfaces. A couple of people expressed an interest in setting up a Horse Watch scheme in the area and Emma took their contact details to take matters forward.

Q & A Session.

- Speeding vehicles through Bridgerule were raised by several people and Dave and Emma explained how the Speed Watch initiative worked. This was thought to be an avenue for the community to explore and a couple of people left their contact details with Emma to take matters further.
- NHW communications were raised and David Braziel explained that the Ring Around is no longer carried out and has been superseded by the weekly Crime Reports. These have developed into more than just detailing the previous weeks crimes and now regularly include updates from the Police on crime prevention etc. The Crime Reports are available to anybody but are only distributed by email due to the cost implications. David to be contacted if anyone wishes their name to be added to the distribution list.
- Tom explained that David was also our DaCCWA representative and that he was also the local administrator for the ALERT messaging system, so that if anybody had problems they should contact David.
- Tom asked the audience what they thought could be done to make the meetings more attractive and better attended. This was the first time that we had held a meeting in Bridgerule and the co-ordinators said that the meeting had been widely publicised locally apart from our own central advertising. No new ideas were put forward, with low traditional crimes creating complacency and crime prevention being a low priority.
- Tom also mentioned that he had attended a PSV (Police Support Volunteer) Meeting at Barnstaple Police Station and other PSVs were unhappy with not being used enough. It also appeared that we had a far better relationship with our Police than they do in other areas.

With no further questions or comments Tom thanked Dave and Emma for their excellent presentations, the audience for coming and importantly, enthusiastically participating. The meeting closed at 8.30 pm with Tom wishing everyone a safe journey home.

Our next Neighbourhood Watch Open Meeting will be on:

Wednesday 14 June 2017 at Winkleigh Community Centre, starting at 7.15 pm

Note 1: *The format of these Notes differs from previously, following feedback and suggestions made in the recent co-ordinator questionnaire. The request was for more informality at the meetings and we have not published the "apologies for absence" which we received, nor have we published the details of the attendees. We will still ask for attendees details as these may be needed should a venue need to be evacuated due to an emergency and it will also give the Forum an indication of who is actually going to meetings.*

Note 2: *These notes are a little less detailed than usual due to our recording machine not functioning on the evening. Please accept our apologies for this and if anybody requires any further details on a specific item(s) please do not hesitate to contact us and we will pass the enquiry to the relevant person.*