

Old Windsor Neighbourhood Action Group

Annual report 2009/10

The NAG is a multi disciplinary group comprising representatives of local residents, neighbourhood watch, Parish Council, Housing Association, The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, local businesses and Police. Sadly during the year we lost the representative of the local schools when the funding for her post was withdrawn by the Education department.

Although we normally hold meetings in the parish meeting room, during the year meetings were also held at St Peters and Kings Court schools when the youngsters were given the opportunity to see a Police car and meet some local Police officers.

Priorities for 2009/10 were

1. Anti Social Driving (vehicle nuisance)
2. Anti Social behaviour
3. Burglary

1. Anti social driving has been addressed by a number of Police special operations, particularly on the recreation ground and in Robin Willis Way, and some vehicles were seized.

The temptation is to think of this as a problem associated with young people on mopeds. It is not confined to this age group or type of vehicle. Older people are just as guilty if they drive at excessive speed through the village, or whilst using their mobile phone or with unrestrained children in their cars. So please set an example to the younger people by driving safely.

The Parish Council received a complaint recently about someone using Crimp Hill cemetery as a turning area whilst an interment was in progress. According to the complainant the vehicle came close to

mowing down the minister conducting the ceremony and when stopped the driver claimed they were exercising their rights to use public property to turn round. One wonders what their attitude would have been if it had been their loved ones internment.

As a result of the Police special operations the problem has been reduced but not eliminated. Nevertheless significant progress has been made.

2. Inspector Dalton will give comparative figures for anti social behaviour during the year. One of the problems the village has faced in the past is a reluctance to report anti social behaviour and minor crimes. This results in a perception at Borough Council level of a village where nothing happens and we don't have any problems. There has been an increased willingness to report such incidents during the year but this makes it difficult to assess the real impact of the various Police initiatives which have taken place to combat the problem. Are the figures disguising an increased willingness to report problems or have the Police initiatives made little difference? Sometimes the temptation is to blame the problems on visiting youngsters but some of the problems are due to local youngsters. The underlying message is that if you don't want a visit from the Police about the behaviour of your own children then please emphasise the need for them to behave in an acceptable manner. Finally Inspector Dalton informed the meeting that the village has been allocated an additional PCSO who will join us on November 15th.
3. Burglary has reduced by 27% during recent months but statistics can be misleading as the starting point was very few burglaries. In a recent month the reduction was 50%, which in reality meant a reduction from two to one! This is a good example of greater awareness resulting in people taking greater care of their property as a result of neighbourhood watch initiatives. There are still frustrating examples of people suffering loss and damage as a result of leaving valuable items on display in cars. So if you want to keep your lap top or sat nav please don't leave them in your vehicle.

4. Other interesting developments during the year have been a marked reduction in criminal damage and, following much effort by a variety of people, an improved relationship with the Probation Service and the Manor Lodge approved premises staff.
5. Nicol Sandhu was introduced to the meeting. She has recently taken up the post of village Community Warden and will work closely with the Police.

Tony Troughton
NAG Chairman
20/10/2010