

## **Old Windsor Neighbourhood Action Group annual report 2010-2011.**

### **Police visibility.**

The Neighbourhood Police team has lost a Police Constable since its inception but has gained another Police Community Support Officer. So most of the village Policing is now in the hands of our very own PCSOs - Rikki and Jessica, supported by Neighbourhood Sergeant Rachel Jinks, Neighbourhood Specialist Officer, Steve Baggeley, shared with Eton and Eton Wick

The Neighbourhood team works well and we thank them for their efforts. Inevitably with such a capable team there are occasional abstractions to deal with problems elsewhere – the London riots and events at Dale Farm being two examples. The people you will see most frequently are our dedicated PCSOs. In every circumstance the PCSOs have served us well and I would like to thank them for their invaluable support.

One of the advantages of the Neighbourhood Police team is the ability to work with members of the community as a team and this is the purpose of the Neighbourhood Action Group. As a multi-disciplinary group the NAG can analyse and find solutions to local problems that may not be available to the Police alone. Not everything is a Police responsibility and we have a duty to protect our own homes and belongings rather than dumping every local problem in the lap of the Police. So education via the local Neighbourhood Watch team is an essential part of that strategy.

Of course we all want more policing but so does every other community. Having said this if no further Police funding is available we must try to make best use of the available Police effort and the Parish Council plan to facilitate this by opening a combined village Police post and Parish Council office in the New Year. This will be located in St Lukes Road using the structure of the old Toilet block for a combined Police post, Parish Council Office and public toilets. It will be known as the Old Windsor Community Hub. Access to the Police computer system will mean the Police Officers will have to spend less time travelling back and forth to Windsor Police Station and they will therefore be able to spend more time in the village.

## **Inconsiderate parking**

Parking on yellow lines is now controlled by Borough parking attendants. This Borough revenue earner does not yield great financial rewards in Old Windsor so local enforcement is, at best, sporadic despite representations from the NAG. Obstruction is a Police responsibility and obstruction of dropped kerbs and parking with all four wheels on the pavement is a major problem for people with limited mobility or parents with young children. Similarly parking on roads with limited visibility has also been the subject of NAG concerns. Requests to address the problem have produced limited results as the problems simply recur in other locations.

## **Anti- social behaviour**

Anti-social behaviour has been mainly confined to two areas – The Memorial Hall car park and the village recreation ground. The Memorial Hall car park is vulnerable because it is poorly lit and has no apparent restriction on its use. So when youngsters in cars and on mopeds congregate in the car park and cause disturbance to users of the hall Police have difficulty in ejecting them. Similarly the recreation ground, although protected by a barrier, now locked every evening by agreement with the Parish Council, access to mopeds is almost impossible to restrict. Given the impossibility of policing the area 24/7 the NAG made a written request to Councillor Phil Bicknell for remotely monitored CCTV. The letter was sent on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 and no reply or acknowledgment has yet been received. Borough Councillors have been asked to investigate the lack of response.

The only response has been a letter in the local press on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 from “name and address supplied” who claimed that CCTV is not appropriate for Old Windsor. Quite what prompted this claim is unclear as many other local communities benefit from remotely monitored CCTV, even in their car parks. One can only assume the letter was written by someone who had previously been a victim of CCTV and for that reason has an inbuilt opposition to the concept.

The NAG, with the support of the Parish Council and our Borough Councillors will continue to make the case for CCTV to be extended to Old Windsor. The

local community can support the application by reporting anti-social behaviour when it occurs. Failure to report it results in the village being considered a no problem area.

### **Anti-social driving**

This was a close fourth in last year's survey so it is appropriate to mention it here. The 30mph speed limit on Straight Road has helped reduce the hazards of this very busy highway but problems remain on other village roads. A number of volunteers have been trained in the use of a speed gun in an attempt to control speeding. Many thanks to those volunteers.

Use of mobile phones whilst driving and carriage of unsecured children is at certain times of day is still a problem. The NAG has asked the Neighbourhood Police team to monitor the problem and take appropriate action.

Finally the NAG relies on having input from all sections of the local community, including businesses and different age groups. None of the Parish schools are currently represented since the funding for their representatives post was withdrawn last year. Perhaps a school governor would like to join the NAG?

If you would like to join us get in touch with our Parish Clerk, John Lee. The only requirement is to represent the interests of all sections of the local community. However you may be turned down if you are a practising criminal!

Tony Troughton

Chairman Old Windsor NAG

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