

**Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch  
Co-ordinators Minutes March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009**

**Acting Chair:** Emily Mayne                      **Attendance:** 18 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

**Apologies:** Katie Wardle (Chair); John Price; Garry Turland; Martin Linford; Fran Brannan; Val Blunn; Mike Powell; Hazel & Anthony Atwell; Phil Reeves; Mavis & Barry Drew.

The meeting welcomed Mr Duggan and guest, from Rubery Neighbourhood Watch.

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<b>February 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting was cancelled</b> at short notice due to the extreme snow conditions – we hope that everyone received the urgent email & telephone notification.	
2.	<p><b>February Police Update provided by Sgt Mark Wilkes:</b> Since 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 - no recorded burglaries.</p> <p>The main issue was a spree of graffiti from Cofton Church Lane, along Barnt Green Road up to the Lickey Road, at this time we are working with the local schools to try and identify the "Taggers". The Council have cleaned up the majority of graffiti which occurred on their signs and other property; trying to find out if they will be prepared to clean up graffiti which has appeared on private property.</p> <p>In addition, there have been several thefts from cars from the Lickey Hills and one from the Oak Tree Public House car park.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting (January 6<sup>th</sup> 2009).</b> These had been received and seen as being a true record.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Matters arising:</b> - Need contact updates from lead coordinators urgently as requested – in order to work on Alert Packs – now a further month delayed due to cancellation of Feb meeting!</p> <p>- Sub committee also working on updating the alert procedure/ alert cycle to feature in the Alert Pack.</p> <p>- Subs are still outstanding; please collect as soon as possible. Some were delivered to the meeting.</p>	<p><b>Lead Coordinators to send to Carol Barrett.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinators</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Incidents /Alerts: 1.</b> As appeared in the press – "Trio remanded over drugs raid" (The Standard Jan 30<sup>th</sup>) involved a Cofton Hackett residence.</p> <p><b>It seems our "Smartwater break" from burglaries has now ended.....</b></p> <p><b>2.</b> Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February <b>Attempted burglary</b> in Ten Ashes Lane by four white men / youths @ 4.20pm. Garden tools which they took from the homes garage were used to force an exterior door at the back. They were seen leaving the property and when approached made off in a navy saloon, probable car reg.MF06 TFZ. Police informed.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The police have asked us to put out the following alert - for <b>parents to be aware</b> that their children ( residents of Cofton Hackett) have been moved off the Old Rover Site (25/2/) - by police officers, as they have been on site playing football. Security tells us that the site is not safe and so no one should be on there.</p>	<p>This matter is being dealt with by Serious and Organised Crime Agency.</p> <p>Sgt Wilkes to explore a strategy that was recently employed in Rubery, which</p>

	<p>We have also had another incident reported by a resident that on Friday, local youths were seen playing football on the corner of Parsonage Drive and Oakfield; two were seen scaling the wall by an <b>electricity sub-station</b>. When warned of the dangers they apparently took no notice. Parents have been contacted, but there remains concern by the police and locals.</p>	<p>involved local schools. Our aim is to keep kids safe!</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Police Update: Provided by Sgt Mark Wilkes.</b> - Up until 25<sup>th</sup> Feb there had been no other burglaries / attempted burglaries in Cofton Hackett (Although Barnt Green , Hagley and Wythall continue to be affected).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two incidents of Car crime in The Oaktree Pub car park as well as The Lickey Hills car parks regularly targeted with people leaving belongings in full view. Of the 58 incidents of car thefts last year in the local area (including Lickey, Barnt Green etc), 68% were at local "Beauty Spots". Cofton Hackett is seen to have a low incidence of car crime; however the Oaktree Pub has 1-2 incidents per month.</li> <li>- Police are working with the council at providing activities for children, making use of facilities such as schools.</li> <li>- Recent work in Rubery with local education staff – observed a lot of school children out, unsupervised, after 9pm. This may be an exercise that would be beneficial to Cofton Hackett area?</li> <li>- A recent planning application for 5 extra fast food outlets in Rubery was denied following concerns raised by Sgt Wilkes at a planning meeting. The meeting praised this action.</li> <li>- <b>Alcohol Free Zone for Cofton Hackett</b> ("AFZ") – PACT has taken it forward to the licensing committee – they depend upon "figures of disorder" i.e., reported incidents to the police / Council. Only 9 people attended Cllr McDonalds meeting of which 7 voted for an AFZ. A decision has been deferred as the police want to investigate what is happening in Cofton Park and West Midlands police area; Sgt Wilkes also requested assistance from CHNW and PACT in gathering a more comprehensive view of local opinion as Cllr McDonalds meeting unfortunately clashed with others. <u>Sgt Wilkes wishes to hear from anyone with incidents, either current or historical, so that he can present true opinion.</u></li> </ul> <p>Please email: <a href="mailto:mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk">mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk</a> - see attached leaflet at the end of the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Graffiti etc</b> – CHNW was requested to join the police (and possibly a member of PC) to do a "<b>walk around tour</b>" to highlight vulnerable areas/ overgrown trees/ litter etc. A similar scheme was successful in Charford last year.</li> <li>- <b>Sgt Wilkes presented some other statistics and trends:</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% of all burglaries are due to people not locking doors properly/ poor security habits.</li> <li>- Most common time for local burglaries over the last year has been between 2 – 4pm.</li> <li>- Recent "Vulnerable House Scheme" involved police posting leaflets through doors of homes which had poor security observed.</li> <li>- There is an emerging trend of "hoax burglaries"; with the fear</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed to circulate Sgt Wilkes contact email. Keith to also co-ordinate with local residents, in particular those on Grovely Lane.</p> <p>Emily to liaise with PC &amp; police re a date prior to end of March</p>



	<p>that with the downturn in the economic climate, incidents may raise?</p> <p>- There is also a concern that with the recession there may be an increase in burglaries/ other crimes.</p>	<p><b>Everyone to safeguard their belongings.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>AOB - The portable alarm (Homeguard MS 8000)</b> has now been given to a household in Kendal End Road who has been broken into twice.</p> <p>- <b>Rubery Police Station has reopened</b> after refurbishment. Improvements include a ramp, new front counter, a new consultation room and toilet with disabled facilities.</p> <p>- <b>Thank you to Peter Smith</b> for posting the PACT leaflets and offering to do them again. He urged prompt organisation due to Easter dates.</p> <p>- <b>Mr Duggan ( Rubery NW)</b> thanked the meeting and informed us of their success in obtaining Alcohol Free Zone – due to a commitment of their residents in informing the police of <u>all gatherings</u> of groups of youths (whether committing an offence or not)and obtaining incident Numbers so that they had available data to present to officials.</p> <p>- A recent burglary in the Marlbrook area highlights the need to <b>safeguard property such as cash</b>, which cannot be protected with Smartwater. Remember to use Smartwater on small items such as jewellery.</p>	<p><b>Report incidents to the police!</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April AGM.</b></p> <p><b>Date for diary - PACT</b> will also be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> – CHNW</p> <p>“May meeting” will be incorporated in the April PACT.</p>	

**Do you want Cofton Hackett to be an Alcohol Free Zone?**

**YES or NO**

Sgt Mark Wilkes, of Rubery Police station , wishes to gather information on local opinion, incidents (historical or current), areas affected, times etc, to present to The Licencing Committee .

Please complete the following and either post, deliver or email to  
 Sgt Mark Wilkes, c/o Rubery Police Station, 164,New Road, Rubery, B 45 9JA  
 Email: [mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mark.wilkes@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)      Yes       No

Name ..... Contact details .....

Comments .....

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PLEASE REPORT ALL INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE AND REQUEST AN INCIDENT NUMBER!

**Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch  
Coordinators Meeting Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Katie Wardle

**Apologies:** Emily Mayne; Garry Turland; Audrey Court; Sue Garvey; Pete Judd; Mavis Drew; Barry Bond

**Attendance:** 25 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> The minutes were agreed as being a true representation of the last meeting.	
2	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We are still awaiting the <b>invoice from Wheelie Wizards</b> for the erection of Smartwater signs.</li> <li>-<b>The Smartwater registration</b> documents are still trickling in; please return to Carol Barrett ASAP – we want residents protected immediately – and in time for Christmas.</li> <li>- <b>Anti-Graffiti Kit</b> – stocks are being replenished by Bromsgrove Safety Partnership –Thanks to Graham Rocke &amp; team. - <b>4x Personal</b></li> <li>- <b>Attack alarms</b> have been issued (more have been requested); one has been put in the Anti-Graffiti Pack – to support our volunteers who often work in The Stoken area.</li> <li>- <b>Cllr Peter McDonalds Alcohol Free Zone Meeting</b> – no one present at the meeting had been in attendance, so we are unable to provide feedback.</li> <li>- <b>Halloween - Anti Trick or Treat Posters</b> – thank you to Barry &amp; Theresa for having extra copies at The Post Office for collection.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Return to Carol Asap please</b></p>
3	<p><b>Incidents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>14<sup>th</sup> October 2008</b> - Ashmead Drive - evening /night of Sunday 12th October: A car was accidentally left unlocked; the resident awoke the next morning to find her boot open and car contents stolen. The police were informed. The alert was to raise awareness that there are unfortunately people in our vicinity who are willing to take advantage of any opportunity.</li> <li>- <b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b> – <b>Ashmead Drive</b>- Police were contacted by CHNW and asked to liaise with residents following their concern. The couple returned home after 12 days holiday to find articles under a tree in their front garden (Oct 17th); a small sized black jacket, curler and cigarette lighter and a large piece of black netting. On informing the police and asking if any recent incident in Cofton could be connected with this find, she was told they would ring her back. Eventually the police in Kidderminster did make contact &amp; told her to dispose of the items. The residents felt the police staff had been dismissive and felt that this find was significant. They contacted their co-ordinator; CHNW then contacted the local Police team who promptly visited the family.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Display your Smartwater stickers and mark your property.</b></p>



	<p>Our thanks to PC Jayne Willetts, Phil Cash &amp; Kevin Tudge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1445 hrs, Ten Ashses Lane, a rear patio window was smashed and an alarm activated, which alerted a neighbour – who promptly rang the police - no items stolen.</li> <li>- Cofton Church Lane - Trailer and Mini Digger stolen, press release received 20<sup>th</sup> October regarding the robbery on 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>- Today - A press release has been received , stating a Digital Camera has been found (possibly stolen in a local burglary) in Rubery, containing sentimental photos of a family. They are trying to Identify its owners.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Police Update. Provided by Sgt Mark Wilkes:</b></p> <p>Due to the recent spike in burglaries in Cofton Hackett and Barnt Green, Operation Cofton II has been launched. This entails: - an increase in visible police patrols and Community Support Officers in the area as well as the distribution of Crime prevention Leaflets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Use of Smartwater is encouraged and liaison with West Midlands Police in identifying offenders who may be from across the border;</li> <li>- ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Technology) enables police to identify vehicles of known offenders.</li> </ul> <p>Sgt Wilkes informed the meeting that a significant arrest has been made and that there have been no further incidents in Cofton Hackett since Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. Police are now trying to identify and reunite stolen property with their rightful owners. This is not always easy unless the property is marked ( e.g. Smartwater).</p> <p>Our local Police team are working hard to enforce legislation under The Proceeds of Crime Act whereby police can seize assets from those who make their living through crime. This was welcomed by the meeting.</p> <p>We have a new police telephone number ( as from 2<sup>nd</sup> November)</p> <p><b>West Mercia Police Number is now 0300 3333000.</b></p> <p>This is a reduced rate telephone number and replaces the former, more expensive, 08457 444888 number, although there is a few months “crossover period”.</p> <p>There continues to be thefts from cars parked in local beauty spots. Once again the police are asking people not to leave valuables either on show or in their boots. If people are victims of crime, they would like to be informed immediately so that forensic evidence can be collected at the scene of crime.</p> <p>Sgt Wilkes was informed of a residents concern regarding anti social behaviour in Parsonage Drive, whereby some local residents are fearful of retribution if they report incidents to the police. Sgt Wilkes and the subcommittee urge anyone to report any anti social behaviour. Sgt Wilkes recommended the crimestoppers number</p>	<p>Copies of Media Release on Operation Cofton were brought to the meeting for distribution. Copies left at The Post Office for any Coordinator not in attendance. Please Collect.</p> <p>Please inform your groups</p>

	<p>where people can give information anonymously <b>0800 555 111</b>.</p> <p>Recent Police patrols have also noted local cars left with car keys in the ignition and homes with windows and garage doors left open at night. They urgently request that residents be more vigilant with their home security. Sgt Wilkes also reminded the meeting that the crime of stealing cars when people leave their ignition running on cold wintery mornings can become an issue at this time of year. Residents of Cofton Hackett to beware please and are advised to refrain from this behaviour.</p>	
5	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The recent Cofton Hackett PACT meeting was unfortunately poorly attended; however it was acknowledged that this had not been as well advertised as previous meetings. Issues for action included paths to be cleaned and grit bins to be stocked. The next meeting is January 22nd. Katie said that discussions were to take place regarding the future format of PACT.</li> <li>- Keith did a presentation on the <b>Home Guard Security System Memo Minders</b> . We are keen that these items are used within the community. Anyone who is interested in these items to contact Carol Barrett on the subcommittee or via your coordinator. We do not want these items gathering dust!</li> <li>- <b>New Bus Route – No 625</b>; Runs from Oakfield Drive to Morrisons in Rubery. Information provided by Peter Smith, starts at 9.35am, with a bus service every 30 mins. More information can be obtained from Worcestershire County Council 01905 765 765 and pink timetables are on local Bus stops etc. Around Cofton Hackett.</li> <li>- <b>Another seasonal warning</b> from Sgt Wilkes is to avoid having presents visible under Christmas trees – as this can attract burglaries.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 8pm Rednal Social Club. This will be our annual <b>Skittles Night!</b> All welcome and please bring your partners. Start limbering up, we've got to beat Mavis this year!!!!</p>	

**STOP PRESS:** There has been recent activity in areas surrounding Cofton Hackett of Drug Dealing (Heroin). We do not want Cofton Hackett to be targeted for this kind of behaviour. Police have asked that we urge residents to report any suspicious activity immediately. Quiet areas, such as the entrance to The Stoken, are the types of areas chosen. We would hate to see our play area littered with drug paraphernalia, so please help to protect Cofton Hackett by reporting any unknown parked cars, suspicious activity, any time, day or night. Dial 999 if incident in progress. Thank You.

New West Mercia Police Number 0300 3333000  
 Crime stoppers 0800 555 111



**Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch  
Coordinators Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
Minutes**

**Chair:** Katie Wardle (nee Mann)

**Apologies:** : Keith Duncan; Martin Linford; The Police; Emily Mayne; Jo Lloyd; Mike Powell; Sue Garvey.


**Attendance:** 28 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1	<b>Minutes of the last Meeting (Sept 4<sup>th</sup>).</b> These had been received and were seen as being a true record.	
2.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>SMARTWATER –The subcommittee was pleased to announce that we were able to purchase the Neighbourhood Watch / Smartwater signs at half price; £10 each instead of £20 each (<b>Thank you To Mel Clarke at Bromsgrove Police</b>). This has enabled us to employ The Wheelie Wizards to promptly erect the 34 signs (performed on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct; with one sign yet to be drilled onto a tree trunk in Kendall End Drive) for an agreed price of £120. <b>We would like to thank Wheelie Wizards for their enthusiastic assistance in this venture.</b> The signs have been paid for (£310) and we are awaiting the invoice from Wheelie Wizards.</p> <p>We have returned the old Neighbourhood Watch Signs to Mel Clarke who may be able to sell them on to other areas and raise some funds for CHNW.</p> <p>Please collect the Smartwater Registration Documents and return to <b>Carol Barrett</b> <u>as soon as possible</u>. Many were returned at the meeting. They are taken to Mel Clarke at Bromsgrove police Station. <b>Your Smartwater does not offer any protection unless the registration process is complete.</b></p>	<p>The Wheelie Wizards</p> <p>Carol &amp; Emily</p> <p>Mel Clarke</p> <p>Coordinators &amp; Carol</p>
3	<p><b>Incidents:</b></p> <p><b>1. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept – Speeding, noisy cars on The Rover Site .</b> A resident saw and heard half a dozen cars on the East Works site on the very far area behind the old car park/The Grove. They were chasing each other around and making a fair bit of noise. A 999 Police call was made, the Police responded, but did not feedback. The next morning the resident passed the old security hut (by Focus) and rang the telephone numbers of both security firms whose signs say they patrol the property 24 hours. Both denied they had a contract! Two police cars pulled up and explained that the police are using the East works land for training purposes, Royal duties etc and this involves car chases!</p> <p>CHNW &amp; PC have subsequently made enquiries with the police and St Modwen: Our local West Mercia Police were not informed that</p>	

	<p>training exercises were taking place.</p> <p><b>2. Burglary, Monday 22 Sept ,Barnt Green Road.</b> This home was also burgled in August. Homeowner went upstairs and heard a noise down stairs. She went to investigate and found two young men (white, mid twenties) standing there. They had broken in through her patio doors at the back of the house. She actually said to them "can I help you?" and at that, they fled. They went out the way they got in, ran down the passage way between her house and the garage and scaled a 6' high gate leading onto Barnt Green Road.</p> <p><b>3. Burglary,Kendal End Road – Sunday night – 21<sup>st</sup> September.</b> House broken into at the Barnt Green end of the road. The occupants were away, but the burglar alarm went off and neighbours called the police. The police responded very promptly.</p> <p><b>4. Attempted break-in, Kendal End Road – Monday midday – 22<sup>nd</sup> September.</b> Again at the Barnt Green end of the road. The burglars were foiled by good locks fitted to doors. Again the police responded very promptly.</p> <p><b>5. Burglary, Cofton Church Lane – 3:00 am Sunday morning – 28<sup>th</sup> September.</b> The occupants were woken up by hearing their front door opening. They went downstairs and found a youth in the hall who took a handbag and ran off. It appears that the front door had been forced. The Police were informed and attended the scene.</p> <p><b>6. Oakfield Drive –this week:</b> Large, heavy, old, Cast Iron grass roller taken from front garden – reported to police. Possibly taken by rag and bone men, but not witnessed?</p> <p><b>There is great concern about the burglaries (please see police feedback report), we can only encourage everyone to report any suspicious activity <u>immediately</u>. It will be interesting to see if the Smartwater / NW Road signs prove to be a deterrent.</b></p> <p>The subcommittee were asked to request a greater, visible, uniformed police presence around The Barnt Green Road / Cofton Church Lane area. It was noted that Police cars had been witnessed around Ashmead Rise in the evenings.</p>	Carol
4	<p><b>Police Report. Information supplied by Sgt Mark Wilkes and PC Jayne Willetts:</b></p> <p>As mentioned at the previous meeting - The man with the "Pot Belly" is currently in a West Midlands Custody Unit, and will probably be returning to prison.</p> <p>It has been a very busy time for burglary and attempt burglary. We have had an increase of uniform and non uniform staff in the area but in general, the rural section across the boundary with West Midlands is being hit hard from Hagley through to Wythall again. Anything suspicious should be called in at the time -there is no specific pattern, day or night time, but Cofton Church Lane and Kendal End Road are the areas that seem to be targeted.</p>	



<p>5</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>1. Mel Clarke has supplied, free of charge – 4 x Personal Attack Alarms ; 2 x “Memo Minders” and 1 x “Home Guard Security Set “ (worth over £50 each). We have yet to study the uses of these items and how we can best utilise them within Cofton Hackett. Any ideas would be welcomed, or if you know of anyone requiring these items please let the subcommittee know. Thank you.</b></p> <p><b>2. - A meeting has been arranged by Councilor Peter McDonald to discuss Cofton Hackett becoming an Alcohol Free Zone. Cofton Village Hall, 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. CHNW encourages all residents to attend and await the outcome with interest. NW have made some enquiries from a local police perspective, who are supportive of an alcohol free zone, however, the District Council and licensing committee utilise Police Crime report statistics and the level of alcohol fuelled disorder, according to the a, may not provide enough justification at this time for an alcohol free zone to be adopted within Cofton Hackett. The meeting therefore encourages all residents to report alcohol related incidents (including ASB., litter etc). Issues raised at tonights meeting included Cofton Park being included in such a scheme. <u>Please raise at Cllr Mc Donalds Meeting.</u></b></p> <p><b>3. Communication / Alert Circle. A co-ordinator has asked that the issue of The Alert Circle and communication methods be raised. His email was read out at the meeting- “Please could we please revert to using the telephone to alert lead Co-ordinators that an incident has occurred...”and “Please could the contact list be updated and re-issued...” The use of emails vs. telephone communications were discussed again and the long overdue Communications Pack Update. The subcommittee to finalise the packs as soon as practically possible and to please telephone your next –in-line coordinator in the event of an alert. This does not prevent people from also emailing alerts, but please telephone too. Please note that the lead Coordinators must inform their own groups of any changes in contact details.</b></p> <p><b>4. Graffiti has been noted in The Myhill Field/ Stoken area and Rose Hill. Thanks to Barry Hodgson for graffiti removal and to Phil Reeves and Val Blunn for volunteering to clean The Stoken area again. More anti- graffiti cleaning solutions required.</b></p> <p><b>5. Halloween Night. A greater police presence was requested; however we noted that last year the PCSO’S actually praised the local behaviour. Katie recommended that any untoward incident be reported immediately to the police, who will allocate their resources as required.</b></p> <p><b>6. Some Members have received a questionnaire on the police Combined Equality Scheme and The Home Office Green Paper “From the Neighbourhood to the National” – comments are required by Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. More information available on</b></p>	<p>The Subcommittee to discuss</p> <p>All residents</p> <p>Carol &amp; Keith</p> <p>Please inform Carol or Keith of any contact changes immediately</p> <p>All coordinators</p> <p>Carol contact Bromsgrove Safety Partnership</p>
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	<a href="http://www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk">www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/policegp/">www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/policegp/</a> . <b>7. PACT</b> – A reminder that the next meeting is October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 8pm at Cofton Village Hall.	All residents
<b>6</b>	<b>Some Good News:</b> We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of the very beautiful, baby Tobias Joseph, 7lb 11oz, on Tuesday OCT 30 <sup>th</sup> , one week old today! Emily, Mike and Baby are all doing well. Congratulations and welcome to the world "Toby", from everyone in Cofton Hackett! Also, Happy 65 <sup>TH</sup> Birthday To Phil Reeves!	
<b>7</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> <b>Thursday Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. 8pm, Rednal Social Club, Barnt Green Road</b>	

## STOP PRESS

**SMARTWATER - PC Jayne Willetts and the CSO'S** have stated that if there is a demand, they are willing to dedicate a Saturday or two, to come out and assist anyone with SMARTWATER property marking. Please ask your co-ordinator to contact **Carol Barrett** if their assistance is required. Thank You.

### Dates for your Diary:

**Alcohol Free Zone meeting:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm, Cofton Village Hall.

**Cofton Hackett PACT:** Thursday Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8pm, Cofton Village Hall.

### Halloween Night Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Please remember to display your "Sorry, No Trick or Treat" sign if you would prefer no callers that night. **More Copies now available at Cofton Hackett Post Office**

Remember

- You always have the right to say No to "Trick or Treaters"
- Always use your door chain when opening the door
- Do not let anyone in your house unless you are happy with their identity.

And for all those considerate, responsible children and parents of Cofton Hackett, have a good night.



# Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch

## Minutes of Co-ordinators Meeting

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Chair:** Katie Wardle (nee Mann)

**Apologies:** Peter Smith; Garry Turland; Martin Linford; Fran Brannan; John Slack; John Price; Linda Babb; Margaret Edwards; Garry Turland.

**Attendance:** 24 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome to New Co-ordinators</b>                      Martin Peyton, Eachway. Group 5                      Jackie Weaver, Lickey Coppice. Group 6. Group 5&amp;6 Lead Co-ordinators to liaise with Keith re Contact details please</p>	<p>Keith and Co-ordinators from group 5 &amp; 6</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the last Meeting.</b> Due to the holiday period, we apologise that hand delivery could not be achieved this month and copies of the minutes were available. Minutes by email were sent and received. The meeting agreed that the minutes were a true representation of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>  <b>Smartwater Road Signs.</b> Carol &amp; Keith have completed a survey of all lampposts in Cofton as different fixing brackets are required for the many types of different posts! A sample of the new Neighbourhood Watch / Smartwater signs was shown to all present. These will replace all existing Neighbourhood Watch signs in Cofton. Three larger signs are also being supplied by the police, for Coftons outskirts. As these are yet to be installed, we have requested that these are positioned - On the roundabout at the bottom of Rosehill / outside The Oaktree Pub; Groveley Lane, outside Focus and Barnt Green Road, by the gate entrance to The Lickey Woods. These three sites surround Cofton Hackett, are sufficiently visual and would not be directly outside any dwelling. The meeting agreed.                      We wish to erect the signs as soon as possible, as this sends a clear message and deterrent to any criminal. The Wheelie Wizards have offered to assist which was accepted at the meeting.  <b>Smartwater Kits.</b> The kits and registration procedure were presented at the meeting. Co-ordinators collected their orders for distribution. Registration must be completed to render each Smartwater Kit effective. Anyone who may have missed the order date will be able to make a direct order via our next edition of "Cofton Watch" (as agreed with Mel Clarke).                      Thanks expressed to PC Mark Townsend at Bromsgrove Police Station for ensuring our order arrived on time.</p>	<p>Carol to finalise order with Mel Clarke.</p> <p>Emily to Contact Wheelie Wizards re costs.</p> <p>Registration forms to be returned to Carol Barrett ASAP. Any problems please contact.</p>

4.	<p><b>Incidents.</b>  Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August, Press release regarding Operation Emblazon.  Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August (Incident No 3795/31/08/08) Ashmead Drive, a ball shaped, privet style, ornamental tree and tub was stolen from a front garden. Neighbours reported a car stopping at around midnight, no further details.  Two Burglaries: Reservoir Road 23<sup>rd</sup> August &amp; Barnt Green Road 25<sup>th</sup> August</p>	
5.	<p><b>Police Feedback. Presented by Sgt Mark Wilkes</b>  Sgt Wilkes presented further information regarding <b>Operation Emblazon in Rubery</b>, which was organised as a response to Rubery PACT. Police are concerned as vehicles, many of which have had modifications, were being driven around Rubery in timed circuits. They were being driven in a dangerous manner, in relation to speed, tailgating, handbrake turns, wheel spins, and overtaking. Three vehicles were seized for having no insurance. Two people were arrested and a number of fixed penalty tickets were issued. Sgt Wilkes added that some of the drivers involved were employed by local fast food restaurants to deliver food. Around ten vehicles were identified as not the appropriate insurance to cover them for business use. Their drivers are therefore liable to be prosecuted and the owners of the food outlets may also be prosecuted in relation to using delivery drivers with inadequate insurance. He added that this activity may disperse elsewhere. We raised concern for Lowhill Lane as a possible target. <b>Any incidents must be reported immediately.</b>  <b>Recent Burglaries in Cofton</b> - One involved the burglar punching through a glass front door and activating an alarm and another occurred whilst a family were asleep in bed. Everyone is encouraged to review their home security measures and to avoid leaving keys on show.  Members were asked to report any sightings of a man behaving suspiciously with the following description: White, 5'8", short black hair, aged 30 and with a distinctive pot belly. This is believed to be a prolific burglar.  <b>Other Incidents</b> have included theft of cans of beer from the Newsagents at Parsonage Drive, a ford Focus in Ashmead Rise and a telephone cable being pulled from an exchange box in Lickey Road</p>	<p><b>All residents to report any incidents immediately</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Treasurers Report (Emily).</b>  There are still some subs outstanding! Co-ordinators to please collect £1 from each household and return to Emily. We need all subs to pay for "Cofton Watch" publication and new street signs etc.  All payments have been made to the police for Smartwater (cheque made to Bromsgrove Neighbourhood Watch).  Payment for the new Neighbourhood Watch street signs will be</p>	<p><b>Outstanding subs to be collected by co-ordinators.</b></p>



	made upon receipt of the order. We hope to purchase the signs at a reduced rate.	Carol & Mel Clarke
7.	<p><b>Press Releases</b></p> <p><b>CSO'S Have now been given new powers</b>, a move welcomed by C.I. Love. They are able to seize drugs, demand the name and address of those caught in possession of drugs and to also stop cyclists flouting the law (The Advertiser July 23<sup>rd</sup>).</p> <p><b>"Horse Watch"</b>, a dedicated network of horse owners who share information, are using SMARTWATER for protecting their saddles, bridles and other equipment.</p> <p>Two applications for play areas to become <b>"Alcohol Free Zones"</b> have been denied in Bromsgrove. This decision was made due to insufficient evidence, as only three incidents have been reported for the two areas in the past two years. As this has been a raised issue at Cofton Hackett PACT, Emily stressed the significance and importance of reporting all incidents to the police.</p> <p>Drink related incidents and antisocial behaviour are being tackled in Bromsgrove by the local Police Tasking Team (LPTT) by serving Section 27 notices. This can be used on anyone aged 17 or above and requires them to leave a specified area for up to 48hours(The Standard Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>)</p>	
8.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>-Sgt Wilkes provided 200 copies of a <b>"Sorry, no Trick or Treat"</b> poster which can be displayed to avoid unwanted callers on Halloween night. Further copies requested and an email version may be available.</p> <p>-The <b>subcommittee were thanked</b> for their efforts in organising Smartwater.</p> <p>- A member from Ashmead Drive has <b>kindly donated</b> <i>"The Home Security Handbook. How to keep your home and family safe from crime"</i> by D.G. Conway.</p> <p>- Special thanks and <b>praise was given to Sgt Wilkes</b> for his high standards in reporting information to our meetings and level of support.</p> <p><b>And now for Some Good News.....</b></p> <p><b>Cofton Hackett Post Office</b> - subject to a 6 week public consultation, our post office has hopefully escaped the closures! The whole meeting was delighted with this news and send their best wishes to Barry, Teresa and family.</p> <p><b>Katie Mann – our "Chair" has got married!</b> Warm congratulations to Rob and Katie, now Mrs Wardle, who tied the knot in New York.</p>	This book will be available at meetings for loan.
9.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm, Rednal Social Club.</p>	

For more information on Smartwater - [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com)

# Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Minutes

## Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Acting Chair:** Emily Mayne

**Apologies:** Katie Mann; Police; Sharon Imrie; Jo Lloyd; Mike Powell; Martin Linford; Hazel & Anthony Atwell; John Price; Phil Reeves; Peter Smith; Phillipa Fieldson; Garth Woods.

**Attendance:** 20 (names recorded on attendance sheet)

Item	Subject	Action
1	<b>Minutes of the last Meeting:</b> Minutes were agreed, however three members had not received their copies, apologies given for this distribution error.	Subcommittee
2.	<b>Matters Arising:</b> The litter bin from the Stoken area has now been replaced.	
3.	<p><b>Incidents:</b>  <b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Incident No. 21L5030208, 08:42am</b> two men seen acting suspiciously; appearing to be looking at houses without burglar alarms in Chestnut Drive and then looking at the rear access of houses in Oakfield Drive from The Stoken. Both men white, one approximately 5'6"; wearing a padded Dark Blue jacket with dark moustache. The second man was slim; 5'10", wearing a green jacket with "Jaguar" printed on the back across the shoulders; light grey jogging trousers; dark woolley hat. One co-ordinator recognised this description and stated they had been seen posting leaflets on Saturday (although type of leaflet not remembered, other members stated charity leaflets and garden / tree worker leaflets posted that day).  <b>No further alerts, however a further incident (witnessed on Ashmead Rise and not reported to the relevant co-ordinator by the time of the meeting), information provided by PC Jayne Willetts:</b>  <b>Night of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb /Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, Ashmead Rise:</b> Two males were arrested on suspicion of going equipped to steal a car from Ashmead Rise - they had gloves, hats and pliers which could have been used to commit a crime. Both males were from Stirchley .  <b>Concern regarding behaviour of groups of youths (Male &amp; Females).</b>            Members mentioned incidents of vandalism including: For Sale signs being unearthed; Large garden boulders being moved from flower beds to the road and pavements; Coping Stones removed from a garden wall; Bollards knocked over and foul language being used. Members strongly urged to report such behaviour immediately in order to track incidents, the time they occur and to ensure that police can respond and identify those responsible. The meeting agreed that this behaviour must not be tolerated.  <b>Graffiti</b>            Unfortunately a number of incidents have been reported including :The Newsagents, Groveley Lane / Chestnut Drive Bus Stop, The Stoken; The Bus Stop at the bottom of Groveley Lane, Brick wall at the bottom of Groveley Lane and the green services cupboard in Groveley Lane. The Anti Graffiti Kit has been used to remove all the "Tags" by local volunteers after the police have taken photos.</p>	<p>Police to be informed by Carol</p> <p>PC Willetts will provide further information when available from the CID</p> <p>Please report all incidents to the police immediately.</p> <p>Please report all incidents to the police for photo recording. The Anti Graffiti Kit available from Carol.</p>



4.	<p><b>A Big Thank you</b>  The Subcommittee and members would like to thank Val Blunn and Barry Hodgson for their hard work in removing the graffiti and helping to maintain the appearance of Cofton Hackett.  Mrs Price has requested that we express and record, her utmost gratitude to Barry Hodgson and Neighbourhood Watch for the swift graffiti removal in Groveley Lane which had caused obvious concern and distress.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Police Update. Provided by PC Jayne Willetts. Apologies given for no police presence at this months meeting.</b>  Provided the information on the incident Sunday / Monday night in Ashmead Rise as recorded above in item 3.  States that Criminal Damage has increased across the village, namely "Tagging".  <b>Anti Social behaviour</b> – a group of youths, giving a local address, appear to be forming relationships with local girls and gathering on The Myhill Field and Stoken area. The police request that we report any antisocial gatherings as they would like to identify this group and any others.</p>	<p>Carol to provide relevant feedback on tonights meeting.   All – please report all incidents.</p>
6.	<p><b>Annual Subs Collection.</b> Some members have completed their collections bringing their forms (attached to the Jan. Minutes) and money to the meeting. Can all co-ordinators collect their subs and bring to the next meeting please.</p>	<p>All Co-ordinators</p>
7.	<p><b>Report from Subcommittee meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008:</b>  Due to the recent vacancy on the subcommittee it was decided to review the present roles (as some have grown quite considerably over recent years!). The present subcommittee members are happy to remain with their basic roles ie., Katie – Chair; Carol - Secretary &amp; Police Liaison; Emily – Treasurer &amp; Vice chair; Keith – Communications , Co-ordinator Liaison and Minutes distribution; Sharron – PACT and Minutes distribution and Garry – Printing. Two further roles have therefore been identified:  1. Newsletter Co-ordinator / External Communications  2. Organisation of outside speakers; Thank you letters; Liaison with Park Rangers etc.  <i>This will hopefully provide any interested members to consider these roles. We also welcome any new ideas. Names to be put forward prior to the April AGM. Please feel free to contact any subcommittee member if you have any questions.</i>  <b>Expenditure Ideas.</b> There is presently approximately £800 in the kitty and this year's subs will increase this total. Some ideas expressed were:  Energy Saving Light bulbs, Wind-up Torches for co-ordinators and a NW / PC notice board in the Myhill Field / Stoken area which would be visible to young mothers, dog walkers etc. Concern regarding vandalism was voiced; however this will be raised at the next Parish Council Meeting.  <b>Please report any ideas that would be of value to the community and have a NW theme.</b></p>	<p>Vacancies open to any member who feels they can fulfil the role and be available to meet, on occasions, between meetings.   Expenditure ideas please!   Keith to raise at PC meeting. Barry to provide subcom. a catalogue on public notice boards.</p>
8.	<p><b>Police Liaison Meeting – attended by Keith &amp; Sharon.</b> Keith provided a brief feedback on the meeting: The Chief Constable reported that West Mercia had performed well in 2007. In fact, West Mercia is the best performing force in the country with its Northern Division (relating to our area) being its best! A number of Crime figures were presented: Violent Crime has increased, Burglary rates are down and Police detection rate is less than 30%.</p>	

	Keith gave praise to Sharron, who at a Question and Answer session, asked why, when cross boarder co-operation had been promised, that West Midlands police were not attending our PACT Meetings? This was deemed a good way forward and the Chief Inspector agreed to contact his West Midlands colleagues.	
9.	<b>Consultation on Proposed Merger of Crime &amp; Disorder Partnerships (CDRPS) in North Worcestershire.</b> A copy of the document, with Emily and Carol's response on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch, was available at the meeting. This had been forwarded to us by Keith and The Parish Council. There are presently teams in Bromsgrove, Redditch and The Wyre Forrest with a "North Worcestershire" merger proposed.	Please contact Carol or Emily if you require a copy.
10.	<b>Recent Press Reports - Emily</b> <b>1. The Standard. Jan 4<sup>th</sup> : Top Marks for the West Mercia police from the Audit Commission</b> <b>2. The Advertiser / Messenger Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Numbers up for police –</b> a report that the present use of 0845 numbers to call the police to report a crime is penalising good citizens. They can cost anything from 3p – 40p per minute dependant upon whether you are calling from a land line or a mobile phone with varying service providers. Keith remarked that this subject was brought up at the police meeting (item 8). <b>3. Recurring articles on Car Crime –</b> another reminder about not leaving property in cars, including Sat Navs; problems with parking at local beauty spots and the safe storage of car keys. <b>4. The Standard , Jan 18<sup>th</sup>: Elderly woman from Bromsgrove was a victim of a distraction burglary on a Wednesday afternoon –</b> 6' White man, claimed to be from the Water board and asked to check the stop cock while she used the taps. <b>5. The Village Feb 2008 – new NW scheme in Alvechurch.</b>	
11.	<b>Any Other Business</b> <b>Alcohol Free Zones:</b> A member asked why this scheme, presently in use in Rubery and Alvechurch, could not be adopted in Cofton Park? The meeting was advised to bring up this issue at the next PACT – particularly if attended by West Midlands Constabulary police. <b>Cofton Hackett Youth Club: An appeal was made for Male Volunteers</b> to give some time ( even just ½ an hour)to help supervise at the new youth club on Wednesday evenings 6.30 – 9pm at The Village Hall. Volunteers will need to be CRB checked which will be organised and funded by the club. The youth club has a growing membership, presently standing at 17. Anyone interested should contact Fran Phipps or Sandra at The Salon. <b>Mavis warned people about a recent Water Supply Pipe Insurance Cover,</b> brought to her attention, by elderly residents. She urged people to read the small print – after contacting the insurers, it seems you wont be covered if your pipes are in poor condition or if they have to remove or replace concrete/ paved/tarmac driveways! <b>The Library building has now gone!</b> Parish Council are trying to get Hard Core down to enable either the erection of possible portacabin buildings in the future or car parking. <b>Car Speed Wires on The Barnt Green Road</b> organised by Councillor McDonald.	Next PACT Meeting: 24 <sup>th</sup> April , 8pm Village Hal  Please spread the word!!
12.	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> <b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008. 8pm. Rednal Social Club, Barnt Green Road.</b>	All Welcome