



# GREENWICH BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Committee Information Sheet for Coordinators WINTER 2009

## Feeling Safe in Our Community

GBNWA hosted a Conference at Devonport House, Greenwich, on Saturday, October 31 with the theme of "Feeling Safe in our Community", which hailed the advent of "Not in our Neighbourhood Week" in the following week.

Guest speakers were Matthew Norwell, Assistant Chief Executive of Community Safety & Integrated Enforcement, Greenwich Council, and Inspector Nick Crowe, Safer Neighbourhoods, Eltham Sector, and Police representative on the Association's Committee.

Both speakers emphasised the need for increased cooperation and sharing of information between the Council and the Police and all the other various agencies involved in delivering services in the Borough, such as health, schools, environmental health, the fire service and probation. Neighbourhood Watch has a valuable part to play in this too, as the resident and business in the street are best placed to notice, in their own immediate locality, when activity becomes anomalous or strange. It is very important to report it.

The Council and Police are also keen to promote problem-solving, alongside traditional policing. Policing can suppress a problem in the short-term, but cannot police it for infinity; so at the same time the Council will analyse the problem with a view to removing its root cause. For example, "STIPE" (the support through early intervention panel) seeks to redirect the activities of under-18s, who have come to the attention of the Police, into more creative and worthwhile activity.

Since April 2009, the Police have changed their basis of measuring success. Until April, this was measured in terms of crimes prevented and solved; and criminals caught. From now on, the main measure will be public confidence. Policing will become more about engagement than enforcement.

There is not always a correlation between the two sets of criteria: often the fear of crime is greater than its actual incidence. Greenwich is currently the sixth safest metropolitan Borough. The perception is that it is about average. However, compare the following statistics:

- Burglary: In Greenwich, down 2.8% (representing 1 burglary per 1000 people) compared to an increase of 9.7% across the Met as a whole.
- Theft from Motor Vehicles: In Greenwich, down 17.9% compared to a reduction of 7.2% across the Met as a whole.
- Theft of Motor Vehicles: In Greenwich, down 22.9% compared to a reduction of 12.5% across the Met as a whole.
- Robbery: In Greenwich, down 22.4%, compared to an increase of 1% across the Met as a whole (representing 0.25 robberies per 1000 people).

In the next few years, Greenwich faces the challenge of hosting 3 venues for the Olympics, involving our largest ever mobilisation of staff and resources in peacetime. Coordination and communication will be needed more than ever and the groundwork is already being laid.

The Conference closed with 2 success stories about Neighbourhood Watches in the Borough and a slice of cake (baked by the Chair himself) to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Association: a fitting conclusion to a good morning's work!



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## Home Security Training

Due to the overwhelming success of the home security courses that Foundations (the national body for Home Improvement Agencies) have been running on behalf of the Home Office, there will be additional courses for voluntary and community organisations working with vulnerable clients. The courses are suitable for both staff and volunteers and the dates of the courses in London are on 6th January & 4th March.

The courses are free of charge. For further information, and for a booking form, please telephone Foundations on 08458 645210 or visit their Website at [www-foundations-uk-com/training/handyperson\\_home\\_security\\_training](http://www-foundations-uk-com/training/handyperson_home_security_training)

### Community Crime Fighters - Are you interested in becoming one?

The Community Crime Fighters programme has been established by the Home Office to support the engagement of local people in the Criminal Justice System. Community Crime Fighters are people who are already involved at some level in their community, either through a Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Neighbourhood Watch or as a housing representative through a Tenants and Residents Association. To become a Community Crime Fighter, local representatives attend a one day training event organised and run by the Home Office.

The Home Office website [www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk](http://www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk) states: There are 3,600 volunteers members of the public who are already involved in helping their communities, but who want to be trained for more advanced work acting as a link between the public and the police.

The aim of these training events is to inform local people about the range of services available to support them in fighting crime in their community. Topics covered include:

- how to get the best services from the criminal justice system
- how to get more involved with local services working to reduce crime in their community
- services they should and can receive from the Criminal Justice Agencies working in their area.
- how crime victims and witnesses can get help
- what the Police Pledge should really mean
- how best to fight anti –social behaviour in their community and the role they can play in helping agencies to take successful action.

After the initial one day training event, attendees are given a certificate stating that they have completed a Community Crime Fighters training event. They are then given the opportunity to take up a two day residential training course, covering each of the above issues in greater detail, including:

#### Victims

- Legal rights of victims
- The Victims Code of Practice
- How the police will keep them informed of actions taken
  - Victim Support
  - Victim personal statements
- Compensation for victims of violent crime

#### Witnesses

- Witness care
  - Witness Service – vulnerable and intimidates witness support measures
    - Special facilities such as waiting areas
    - Special measures such as screens, video links and intermediaries
      - Witness anonymity and protection
  - Specialist support – Child protection officers, Family Liaison Offers, Independent advocates and specialist intermediaries

Once trained, the Community Crime Fighters are sent quarterly newsletters by the Home Office and they have access to the Community Crime Fighters Action Line – 0808 000 2030 where they can report any issues of concern that they may have in relation to how services are being delivered at a local level

GBNWA's Postal Address is now: G.B.N.W.A., PO Box Number 56453, London SE3 3AH  
Visit GBNWA's website at: [www.gbnwa.org](http://www.gbnwa.org)