

Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch & Speedwatch

2008/2009 Annual Report for Parish Council

I am pleased to report at the outset that Whaddon remains a safe village with very few crimes reported and almost none of the anti-social behaviour that continues to be a problem in nearby villages.

The Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch team of co-ordinators cover the whole village, which is unique in this area. The team meets every quarter and with two exceptions is able to communicate via e-mail. We also receive regular messages from the police via “e-cops” on local area problems as well as requests for help or reminders of measures residents should take to protect themselves or their property. Anything that applies to Whaddon is normally passed to villagers via the Whaddon News although selective e-mails or notices through doors are an option.

Liaison with the police and local authorities is important and we have attended all the local Neighbourhood Policing Panels since their inception in 2007. It is worthy of note that a number of villages do not attend but we have found these meetings to be of value in placing our concerns regarding such issues as inadequate police numbers, speeding and lack of feedback on crimes before the local police and others.

Finances

The NW account is located at Lloyds bank in Royston. The account is rarely drawn upon and currently stands at £299.23. Current signatories are Cllr Clare Byatt, Mr Geoff Lane and myself.

Village Incidents

We have had some incidents in the village in the last year but these have all involved property. Probably the vehicle damage and subsequent theft from cars in Bridge Street was the most notable incident and our dissatisfaction with police action and the subsequent lack of feedback was made known to the police and reported in the local press. Forced entry into outbuildings continues to plague most rural villages including Whaddon and distraction burglary remains a potential problem. Fortunately there have been no further thefts of lead from St Mary’s roof in the past year and smart water has been used both to discourage further thefts and assist any investigations. Overall though, we should count ourselves fortunate to live in a village which rarely suffers from the range of crimes too often a feature of our larger neighbours.

Speedwatch

Speeding in the village is a continuing problem. While we cannot be certain of the precise cause, speeding may well be behind two accidents at Rose Cottage and a power pole being brought down at the end of Meldreth Road. All accidents occurred at a sharp corner. For the first time, the availability of Speedwatch equipment has given us the opportunity to monitor what is happening and acquire data for any future bid to reduce the limit in the village.

Speedwatch training and equipment was made available earlier this year and at the time of this AGM we have seven villagers trained (see below), have deployed the equipment on 17 occasions and monitored 1496 vehicles at various locations throughout the village. Of these 219 exceeded the datum speed of 43mph and of these 110 exceeded 47mph and will receive a letter from the police. Of the total, 35 vehicles were recorded in excess of 50mph and 4 in excess of 60mph. These figures would have been undoubtedly higher but some drivers spot the equipment and can be clearly heard to slow down. The team are in no doubt that Speedwatch is having some initial effect in encouraging adherence to the speed limit but the use of the equipment must be continued for any longer-term effect.

The Neighbourhood Watch Team:

Mike Monks	Cluster Coordinator/Treasurer	
Cllr Malan Peyton	Dep Cluster Coordinator/Parish Council NW Rep	
Coordinators:		
Anne Brandon	Lwr Meldreth Road	132 Meldreth Road
Karen Coningsby	Upr Meldreth Road/Church Cnr	17 Church Street
Carole Aldred	Church Street	104 Church Street
Wendy Paton	“	108 Church Street
Cllr Clare Byatt	Town Farm Close	Turpins Farm House
Tony Gardner	Lwr Bridge St/ Ridgeway Close	29 Bridge Street
Andrew Townsend	“	36 Bridge Street
Geoff Lane	Upr Bridge Street (38-72)	52 Bridge Street
Mike Monks	Upr Bridge Street (“)	58 Bridge Street
Cllr Malan Peyton	Dyers Green	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green

Speedwatch team

Mike Monks (Coordinator)
Cllr Malan Peyton
Cllr Nigel Strudwick
Cllr Phil Neale
David Evans
Tony Gardner
Michael Peyton

M R Monks
Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch