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TALK BY MARK HOWELLS ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Mark is Crime Reduction Advisor for Tandridge from Surrey Police and works closely with the Neighbourhood Watch (NW) organisation. The NW Scheme was initiated here in 1984 and grew out of America's Homewatch Scheme which was instigated in 1983 to reduce burglaries.

He gave an hour long very informative and interesting talk about how NW can benefit residents. Surrey Police do not run NW – we do! It helps us take ownership of our home, road and neighbourhood and improves our quality of life. It reduces crime by 23% and reduces opportunist crime by 80%.

Most neighbourhood crimes are carried out by an opportunist looking for money and valuables, not by organised criminals. The opportunist looks for properties with easy or hidden access, such as lack of lighting, high hedges or shrubbery to hide behind, lack of gates/fencing to rear of property.

Therefore, keep front areas open or with low hedges and restrict access to rear gardens with locked gates. The police can arrest someone for climbing over gates and fences but not if they have just walked into an open garden. If we do what we can to stop opportunists it takes away our fear of crime and gives us confidence.

People who knock at your door (Cold Callers) selling goods need a permit. Ask for their Permit/Identification card and if they will not give it to you, but just quickly wave it at you, then they are not genuine. Call the Police who will escort them from the Borough. If you have a vulnerable neighbour give them your 'phone number so they can contact you if approached, or worried by a scam 'phone call.

If a Cold Caller tries to gain access to your home by just saying they are from a Utility Company, eg Water Board, it will be a scam. There is no Water Board, but several different water authorities. Therefore they do not know which authority you are with. There is a Password Scheme run by Utility Companies whereby you can be given a password. If the Cold Caller cannot give you the password for that company then they are not genuine.

Being part of a NW Scheme improves communication. Dave Wood is our NW contact in Johns Road and will receive NW alerts to pass on to residents. As part of the NW Scheme we will get regular Police patrols, two yellow NW signs, plus NW window stickers and leaflets for every resident (these will be given to every household). The Police have been told by criminals that seeing NW signs and stickers would deter them from entering that area. Mark is happy to do a home security assessment if necessary.

The benefits of being part of a NW Scheme are:-

- It reduces all crime types, including vehicle crime and damage.
- It reduces fear of crime by giving residents confidence and quality of life.
- Most members of the Association of British Insurers offer a discount for those households in a NW Scheme. Ask your insurance company if they give this discount.
- Arrangements can be made with our PCSO for a property marking session, eg garden equipment etc.
- We can become a No Cold Caller Zone – if approached by a cold caller it makes it easier to say “I’m not allowed to buy anything at the door because we are a NCCZ.
- Telephones: BT offer a free No Cold Calling Scheme whereby you give the ‘phone numbers of callers you will accept and others cannot get through. If you are not with BT there is a similar scheme run by Truecall where for £35 you can get a plug –in device to stop calls.

Mark will find out how many other NW Schemes still remain in Tatsfield and which roads they cover.



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MINUTES OF JRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 6TH MARCH, 2017 IN W.I. HALL

Present: Chris & Ann Lovelace, Steve Bull, Linda & John Bennett, Dave Wood, Allen & Myra Moat, Dotty Davis, Trevor Sykes, Bob David, Roy Fiddimore

Apologies: John Howard, Martin Allen, Lee McDermott, Nick & Sandy Fisher, Gill Sykes

1. Chairman's Report

"Good evening everyone and welcome to our first AGM. My job is to report the progress we have made over the last year. We launched the Johns Road Residents' Association and formed a Committee 12 months ago. It took some time for us to actually do anything tangible as we had to research and assess the status of the road, and who was responsible for its upkeep. As we all know, it's a private road with bridleway access. So, as residents, we are largely responsible for its upkeep.

We also had to recognise what residents' opinions were, by a questionnaire. At the General meeting last Summer residents voted for a rural finish for the road and 75% of households variously contributed to the fund.

Residents also agreed to some minimal signage to help reduce the speed of vehicles entering the road and also a sign to encourage drivers to leave space in the parking area to allow visiting vehicles to turn. Signs were produced and erected. Sadly one of these was removed from the parking area within 12 hours. We now have a temporary sign which we think has had some effect and helps to keep the area clearer.

We used two thirds of the road fund to treat the top quarter of the road which is the section used by all of us and was most urgently in need of attention. On the whole we are pleased with how the surface has held up after the harsh winter. We all knew that maintenance of Johns Road was always going to be work in progress, (like all roads), so that we will need to continue to maintain the road. We believe that contributing to the road fund should be regarded as an investment rather than an expense.

We have some recognition in the village with our progress and our activities are reported on our website, ably handled by Trevor Sykes. We are the only Road Association in the village and I know that there are one or two other roads that are interested in our progress.

While the main objective for the Association has been to improve the road surface for all users, it also aims to attend to other issues and concerns. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme, being a good example. Our Secretary will cover some of the other issues in her report. I urge you to carry on supporting the Association and to continue to contribute to the road fund. Steve Bull will explain to you what we are proposing.

The progress we have made would not have been possible without the teamwork of our Committee and your backing. So I thank you all and everyone on the Committee. We also thank the SCC for their contribution to the road fund and we will be requesting financial help for this year. Finally, I'd like to mention how helpful Martin Allen, our Tandridge District Councillor, has been on various matters. That concludes my report, once the new Committee has been appointed the plans for the next stage of road works will be discussed."

2. Secretary's Report

"Following the initial attempt to repair the potholes at the top of the road - by hiring an excavator, spreading planings from the Approach Road resurfacing, and then hiring a roller to compact the surface - an initial meeting of residents was held at Braeside on 11th January 2016, where it was agreed that we would set up a Residents' Association. Since its inception we have achieved the following:

- Written and agreed a Residents' Association Constitution*
- Opened a Residents' Association bank account in order to manage finances.*
- Set up a Residents' Association website & e-mail address to keep residents up to date with what is happening in the road.*
- Established from Surrey County Council that Johns Road is a Private Road with Bridleway access for horse riders, cyclists, and walkers, - and vehicular access for residents of Johns Road and neighbouring properties with Rights of Way.*
- As our initial repairs deteriorated, due to persistent heavy rain at the time of repair, we obtained several quotes for getting a professional repair done to the top and middle of the road, and also a cheaper option for the top of the road. We organised a voting procedure for residents to choose how the work should be done and, as agreed by those residents who voted, we arranged for i-Pave to carry out the cheaper repairs.*
- After meeting and liaising with Surrey County Council they agreed to contribute 10% to our road repairs.*
- Unfortunately, Tatsfield Parish Council was unable to award us a grant but, as the whole issue of Tatsfield's unmade roads is being considered as part of the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan, the council would encourage the Johns Road Residents' Association to continue to present this issue as part of the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan process, - as mentioned in this month's Parish Magazine.*
- Also in accordance with residents' votes we arranged for two road signs to be made, at a cost of £96. One of these is installed on the Johns Road sign, but the other, which was put near the layby, has since been stolen. The Committee and Martin Allen have contacted delivery companies and police in an effort to deter speeding delivery vehicles and those who don't know the area from using Johns Road unnecessarily. We are hoping that the Council will move the Dead End sign to a more prominent position.*
- After liaising with the Fire, Ambulance, and Recycling Services we wrote to the owners of the woodland asking for the overhanging trees to be pruned so that emergency and recycling vehicles can access properties more easily. As yet they have not replied.*
- As some residents are unsure where their outside stopcocks are, we have asked Thames Water to investigate their whereabouts along the road. As Thames Water have not replied this will be chased up.*
- As you heard earlier we have arranged for Johns Road to join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme"*

3. Treasurer's Report

'Treasurer referred meeting to the Financial Statement and accompanying note, previously circulated to residents (and that further copies were available if needed). Our bank balance was shown as £1000+ and it was confirmed that a significant element of this is to be spent on an extension of the new surface down to the entrance to Trevor's and repair of potholes in the previously laid surface.

Further improvements and maintenance was clearly going to be an ongoing requirement and it was suggested that a further £1000 could be raised by subscription on an annual basis if a similar level of individual support was provided in the form of £5 per month or £60 per annum from each contributing household.

This can continue to be by cheque to Steve Bull at No.18 Johns Road, direct bank transfer or standing order, into account at HSBC - 40 09 25 - 01769375.

In subsequent discussion it was confirmed that some funds will also be allocated to assist with the separate works to the lower part of the road further down towards the existing concrete stretch, which is particularly requiring of attention.'

4. Ongoing Financial Contributions from Residents

We have £1000 in the Bank, which is earmarked for works about to take place near the layby and repairing potholes. We need to keep this maintenance ongoing annually and, based on the households who contributed previously, if each household contributed £5/month (or £60/year) this would raise £1000 a year for ongoing repairs. This could be paid by Standing Order or into the JRRA Bank A/c.

Question: How far down the road will repairs take place and how long will it take?

Answer: The next repairs will be from No. 18 to just before Lyn Cottage and repairing new potholes. John White has offered to repair with concrete the section past Hornbeams/St. Davids/Brentor when the weather improves. Exact costs are not yet known but it is likely that a contribution can be made towards this.

5. Election of Committee

In the absence of any other nominations the present Committee were re-elected: Proposed by Bob David and Seconded by Ann Lovelace. Two members are standing down: Dotty Davis and Lee McDermott.

6. Any Other Business

a. Previous NW Schemes had dissolved partly due to lack of organisation by the then NW/Police organisation. It is hoped that with more e-mail accessibility the new scheme will be better. If you see anything suspicious taking place or an emergency ring Police on 999, anything which is not urgent ring Police on 101. Also report it to Dave Wood so it can be passed to other residents. Dave will print out NW Alerts for those without e-mail when necessary and will deliver NW stickers and leaflets.

b. If you have an e-mail address, and are not on our mailing list, please send your e-mail address to info@johnsroadra.org.uk

Meeting closed 9.40pm