

WOKING ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES

SPRING MEETING 2020

WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2020

GOLDWATER LODGE, WISHBONE WAY, GOLDSWORTH PARK, WOKING GU21 3RW

This successful meeting attracted an attendance of approximately 42 WAN members plus Guest Speakers Woking Commander Inspector Andy Greaves of Surrey Police, PC Hugo Hubbard Woking Police & Andrew Gadd Bucks & Surrey Trading Standards.

Apologies:

Richard Kelly, Susan Gorvin, Angela Eaton, Angela Williams, Bill Pugh, Brian Davis, David Harmer, Helena Clarke, Jennifer Davis, John Whybourn, Seb Purbrick, Sue Neale, Susan Gorvin, Tony Jennings, Daphne Lander

1. Welcome and Purpose of Meeting: Martin Stilwell Chair WAN

Our Chair Martin Stilwell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, particularly the guest speakers Insp Greaves who was making a return visit and together with PC Hugo Hubbard would give an update on & current issues facing Woking Police. This would be followed by Andrew Gadd of the local Trading Standards who would talk on cyber security.

2. Martin Stilwell

Martin gave a short presentation on developments in current domestic security systems.

The Ring combined doorbell /camera produce good quality film which the Police may be able to use as evidence.

Wireless alarm systems are becoming easier to install, but all devices need batteries. Wired systems are better as a result but harder to install.

CCTV systems can be linked to smart phones.

Any physical security can only act as a deterrent to would be thieves.

Martin mentioned the NhW Street Sign refurbishment programme which was often needed due to aging or replacing where signs had disappeared during updating of street lights. Members are asked to advise Martin of any remedial/replacement work required before the end of February.

3. Inspector Andy Greaves (slides accompany these minutes)

Woking Commander Andy Greaves introduced his presentation as being an update of the current situation & Police priorities in Woking.

On the question on resources, Surrey loses Police officers through retirement, transfers to the Met & the British Transport Police.

Surrey Police are currently recruiting & Woking should be allocated 10 officers in additional to the current level when fully staffed. Details of current deployment

between Safer Neighbourhood Teams & Neighbourhood Policing Teams are on Insp. Greaves slides. Some additional officers will be as a result of the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner's additional precept & some from the promise of the new Government to recruit extra officers.

Following the move to Woking Civic Offices a Police Desk is now in operation there.

Woking Police Priorities: These are set by assessing the factors of treat/harm & risk the current priorities are:

Burglaries: Despite there being a recent spate of burglaries, numbers over the last 12 months have declined.

Many burglaries & robberies are associated with drugs & do not involve other members of the public.

As a priority Woking Police are focusing resource using overt & covert efforts, extra patrols especially in areas with high burglary frequency & generally making life difficult for known burglars.

Overall Woking remains a safe area with low rates of recorded crime.

Child Sexual Exploitation: These are mainly exploited children aged 14/17 of both sexes. Hotels & Fast Food Outlets are known venues for this illegal activity. Police making staff aware, & providing training on how to spot potential victims & offenders.

The crimes can include child abduction, rape & trafficking.

Crime in Woking: Inspector Greaves outlined the current Woking Crime Statistics & specifically mentioned Domestic Violence where a better understanding by the public had resulted in reporting of historic incidents, causing a spike in recorded crimes. This was now declining. The Police now have a greater appreciation of the issues involved and by working closer with partner agencies believe a better quality of response is achieved.

Hearsay evidence may be relied upon where the victim is reluctant to testify.

Drugs: The Police target known dealing areas by presenting a high public profile to ensure that they are seen & generally acting as a deterrent in addition to seeking information.

Crime Reporting: Whilst the Police actively encourage reporting, this should not be placing the informant at risk.

999 is for emergencies only or crimes actually being committed.

101 for other matters.

Crimestoppers for anonymous reporting when the informant does not wish to disclose their identity.

Surrey Police handle 1300 calls a day.

PC Hugo Hubbard: PC Hubbard recently recruited to Surrey Police has joined the Woking Safer Neighbourhoods Team. He explained the various entry routes to Police roles. As a graduate Hugo was eligible for Police Now which is a streamlined learning route to a Police Officer. Entry can also be via the Police Apprenticeship Scheme or Police & Community Support Officers.

Volunteer support as a Police Specials also provide welcome addition to the Force.

Surrey are currently looking to recruit 100 officers & 50 staff in 2020/21.

A copy of the Police slides are attached.

4. Andrew Gadd: Cyber Security (handout pack accompanies these minutes)

Andrew who worked for Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards gave a a very clear presentation "A Guide to Online Safety" a copy of which is attached.

This is well worth studying as in addition to containing many helpful hints on security, how to avoid fake websites etc, it exposes the vulnerability of many public Wifi, hotel Wifi & even domestic hubs.

5. Close of Meeting:

In closing the meeting Martin Stilwell again thanked the speakers & attendees for their presence & contributions to the meeting.