



# WARINGSTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## REPORT OF 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNI VERSARY MEETING held 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in the Parochial Hall

The meeting was opened by Melvyn Hamilton, Co-Scheme Manager, who chaired the meeting in the unavoidable absence of Dougie Barr, Lead Coordinator and Chairperson. He welcomed those in attendance and also apologised on behalf of a number of helpers who were unable to attend. He also extended a warm welcome to Ms Sarah Wilson, Community Safety Manager in the Borough Council Area, Guest Speaker, and also Inspector Ken Annett.

Dick Mullan, Co-Scheme Manager reminded the meeting what the aim and objectives of Waringstown Neighbourhood Watch are in advance of Melvyn Hamilton providing an overview of the work during the previous 12 months.

In doing so Melvyn thanked Dougie Barr, Lead Coordinator, the members of the Management Group, Assistant Coordinators and Sector Helpers for their continued effort during the past year and also Sarah Wilson, Community Safety Manager for her valuable assistance.

He remarked that over the year there had been apparent improvement in the general situation in the village, coupled with some successful prosecutions for various criminal offences. The community, especially the sector helpers and community partners, of which there were approximately 750 across the village, had been much on the alert and there had been a marked improvement in reporting suspicious circumstances to the PSNI. Communication between the PSNI, the Coordinators, the Helpers and the Scheme Management had been on a much better footing with PSNI providing timely community alerts for onward warning to relevant Community Partners.

The Management had met on a monthly basis over the autumn, winter and spring seasons and had taken forward a number of issues, while keeping the situation throughout the village under review.

Melvyn Hamilton went on to review the Scheme Operational Plan 2007-08 using a MS Powerpoint presentation [Presentations.ppt](#). It was very encouraging to note that in keeping with the Scheme's aim and objectives most of the operation plan objectives had been achieved.

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It was noteworthy that the Management Group had been instrumental and successful in persuading the NI O to obtain Public Liability Insurance Cover for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Northern Ireland. The MG considered that to be essential protection for the Coordinators and Helpers in the course of their voluntary duties and also means that meetings can be held at various village venues without limitation.

The MG had also undertaken a Scheme Evaluation among the Community Partners which had provided valuable feedback on a number of community issues, while indicating how successful the scheme had been to date. Results are included in the MS Powerpoint presentation that is also included on-line.

More enhancement was needed in respect of the Scheme's communication systems and in pursuit of that a website was being developed which is due to be launched later this year.

The MG were still pressing the NI O regarding the necessary development of a Regional NW structure – the Group saw great benefit for all if this came about. However one aspect of this had emerged with a successful well-attended Regional Conference being held in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown in April – between 200-250 being present, representing NW Groups across Northern Ireland!! A number of MG was in attendance.

During the year the MG had been active on a number of fronts with the following being lobbied:-

- The Planning Service regarding tree preservation on development sites and potential traffic problems in relation to a proposed housing development to the rear of Main Street.
- Craigavon Borough Council Technical Services re litter and dog fouling and a proposed house-to-house flyer campaign urging community partners to report offenders.
- Rt Hon Jack Straw, MP, Minister of Justice expressing concern about sentencing levels in the Craigavon court.

There had also been a increase in Scheme membership with a new sector – Moss Road Developments - coming into being with modest increases in the existing sectors.

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In conclusion Melvyn was upbeat about the Scheme's future and hence he hoped for another successful year with further increases in membership.

Dick Mullan, Co-Scheme Manager gave another MS Powerpoint presentation - [Presentations.ppt](#) on the Operational Plan for 2008-09. Details are on-line.

Mark Chapman gave a beneficial and informative talk on the development of our proposed website.

Inspector Ken Annett reviewed the crime statistics for the village area during the past year and within that context there was a number of notable successes with some encouragement arising from improving downward trends. On behalf of all present Melvyn Hamilton thanked Ken for the effort of his officers in our community.

The Guest Speaker, Sarah Wilson, gave an interesting and timely address on the development of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Northern Ireland, and in the Borough Council Area in particular. In doing so she referred to a Consultancy report the subject of which was the views and experiences of those involved in NW schemes, and also the recommendations on the way forward therein.

There was then a Question & Answer/Discussion Session chaired by Melvyn Hamilton with Sarah Wilson, Ken Annett and Dick Mullan forming the panel. A main item of discussion was the deteriorating situation in the Cambrai Drive/Churchill Park Area. It was agreed that a couple of the MG would meet with Ken Annett to discuss the way forward.

In conclusion the Acting Chairperson thanked those who had attended the meeting, especially the guests, the Select Vestry of Holy Trinity for the use of the premises, and those who had provided tea/coffee and refreshments.

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