

OTTERBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – November 2010 from Jean Mounter

It has been a very busy year in establishing even more Street Co-ordinators in the Village and also assisting established members and the Police with back up support where necessary.

A few of the incidents that come to mind, all fairly minor but unbelievable sometimes, are:

Eggs thrown at houses; Broken fences
Front gates removed & dumped (found by police)
Bay Tree in pot in main road
'There are sheep in my back garden - do you know the owners'
Thefts from sheds and garages; Sun Dial removed from front garden
Drill in bag taken from doorstep
many other incidents were circulated to residents via Street Co-ordinators

Last month I set up two meetings in my house as it was sometime since the co-ordinators had met. They were very interesting, included exchange of information, the easiest ways to deliver to residents and PC Mark Smith whom every person felt very sad about losing from the village beat. I always found him more than willing to deal with any matter

A few details of the 2 meetings: Speakers:

Thursday: PCSO Gavin Cooper outlined the responsibilities of a PCSO in detail and the one clear message was he was invaluable in keeping watch over the area he covers which includes Compton, Shawford, Hursley and the car park at Farley Mount. He is unable to arrest but explained everything that he could do to prepare any incident to the point where a Police Constable could immediately come and arrest. *A longer report is available from me if required by residents.*

Saturday: Mr Bob Purkiss who sits on the Police Authority panel talked about his responsibilities. He is employed by the Home Office and has several major responsibilities; one being he appoints Chief Constables and other senior Police Officers. He said major changes are happening in the Police. He is a resident of Otterbourne and knows how residents feel about PC Mark Smith being moved.

I gave out information for a discount on house insurance via the internet and lots of papers on different aspects of Police work and both speakers' Personal Cards.

Another big meeting is planned in the near future when it is expected the Assistant Chief Constable together with two colleagues will update everyone with a very interesting Agenda. Bob Purkiss and myself are putting it together now and it will take place in the Village Hall.