Our third issue sees us reflecting on our first meeting and looking forward as we look to pursue the issues that matter to us. At our first meeting more of you joined our watch bringing Dona Street and Webb Lane under the Victoria banner. Ideally we do need coordinators for these streets. Our progress has inspired others and residents of another three areas are joining neighbourhood watch. Remember if you have neighbours that have not signed up let them know what is happening and asked them to join us, the more there are of us the stronger we are. Remember all it costs is a little time.

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We need to get Neighbourhood Watch stickers in everyone's windows in our area, they are a proven deterrent and don't cost you anything.

Points of interest:

- The Fight against Burglary
- Home security Check available for free
- If you see anyone acting suspiciously telephone the Police on:- 0161 872 5050
- Problems with Doorstep Callers? Ring Stockport Trading Standards on:- 0845 404 0506

Mark Granby, Chief Superintendent, Stockport Divisional Commander, Stockport Police Station

“Since my arrival five months ago I have been consistently impressed by the can-do attitude of everyone here in Stockport”

“I want to improve your confidence in and satisfaction with the service we provide.”

“We monitor our performance by our Neighbourhood surveys.”

(quotes taken from GMP web site 16/10/09)

New website launched

Victoria Neighbourhood Watch, has a new website. www.victoria-nhw.talktalk.net all the latest information and news can be found on the site including any notifications of activity that we get from the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

We realise that not everyone has got access to the internet and will continue to try and pass on all relevant information through our regular meetings, in person or by just popping a note through your door.

As the watch membership grows it is important that we get more coordinators, if you feel that you could help as a coordinator please let us know.
PCSO Dave Crowley, is working in our area helping to keep us safe.

Stop this happening, close the window when

Joe Torkington is the Neighbourhood Consatble in our area.

Say hello when you see him around.

According to the recent reports on crime rates for our area of Stockport we have seen decreases in all but one of the reported types of crime.

Burglary has seen a rise though and even though there has only been a small increase; non of us want to be one of those victims. This is why in this issue of our newsletter we are focusing on home security.

With longer, darker nights and Christmas on the way, we are likely to see increases in this type of crime so we need to do all we can to prevent it happening.

By having lights on timers, dusk till dawn lighting, even leaving the radio on we can send signals that may prevent a burglary. We must remember to lock windows and doors and if you see anyone suspicious about let your neighbours know and report it to the police.

Home Security Checks

We thought it would be useful to follow up on one of the items we talked about at our first meeting, Home Security Checks.

The Home Security Checks are available from the council and for a large group of people for free as is the work done and products provided, so it has to be worth a phone call.

We know that a couple of people who attended our meeting had already had a visit from Christine but we thought it would be a good idea to test things out for ourselves, so one of our coordinators booked a visit from Christine and we thought it would be a good idea to pass on their experience to you.

The check wasn’t done because Bill is a coordinator but because he qualifies for the scheme as he is over 60, sorry Bill but you are. Bill also owns his own home, so these things combined mean he qualifies. If Bill had a private tenant he would also have applied.

It is worth mentioning that even if you are under 60 and you own your own home (including being mortgaged) or are a private tenant and you are in receipt of an income related benefit, like child benefit you still qualify.

Here is Bill and Glenys story.....

Question.  Was it easy to arrange the visit?
Answer.  Yes, it was easy just a quick phone call and they called us back a few days later to book a date and time.

Continued next page
Home Security Checks continued

Question. How long was Christine with you for?
Answer. Christine was with us for about …………… Christine was great, she is really busy but she took her time to see what would help us and took time to explain what would happen.

Question. What advised were you given?
Answer. There was quite a lot really, ……………

Question. When I spoke to Christine prior to our first NHW meeting, she mentioned that there was a pack that was normally brought out to people when she visited them to do the checks. What did Christine bring in your pack?
Answer. There was a carbon monoxide alarm, not one of those chemical ones, a proper one and Christine even put the batteries in for us. There was a security purse chain, which is really handy and there was a night light for the landing, it has a motion sensor, it gives off a nice light and saves switching the light on, for those trips to the bathroom at night.

Question. What else was there?
Answer. Christine arranged for some security lights, they are great as they are solar powered so don’t cost anything to run and they were fitted for free, and the guys we really friendly and knew what they were doing.

Answer. We have even had a courtesy call to see is everything is OK, the door grill hadn’t been fitted so they chased that up for us.

Question. You have a wooden front door, was there anything that they did related to the door?
Answer. Yes, we already have a security chain and a couple of good locks but Christine has arranged for a door grill. Apparently the door panels are an area that thieves target and the grill will stop them getting in or at least make it very difficult for them.

Question. Door grills, that sounds like being in prison and not that nice?
Answer. This was the last bit of the security to be fitted as is was made to measure and we weren’t sure what to expect. But when it came we were pleasantly surprised, it is white and has three sections that have curves just to soften it up a bit. We have a net over part of it so you don’t really notice it.

There are hinges on one side and window type locks on the other to it is secure but you can open it up to clean behind, which is good.

I think we might suggest a slight design change as the pattern could be used to add even more security; it’s just a suggestion but might help and shouldn’t add to the cost.

If you have, had a check done let us know how you got on so that we can let others know.

If you have not had a check done yet, why not! The only cost is the initial phone call and a bit of time, it really is worth making the call.

Contact details: - Christine
Neighbourhood Watch is a proven way of reducing criminal activity and antisocial behaviour in a neighbourhood and it does not require neighbours to work as vigilantes, just as neighbours.

According to the Safer Stockport Partnership, “Stockport is one of the safest places to live in Greater Manchester”. Our area though has one of the lowest levels of engagement in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Stockport. This must put us at a greater risk of crime and antisocial behaviour; let’s face it if another area close by has a good scheme running, where is all the trouble going to happen?

If we work together with the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and the other local agencies, we will be able to deter criminal activity in our area, that has got to be a good thing.

Many of us talk to each other anyway; all we need to do is talk a bit more and pass on information about anything odd that is going on in our neighbourhood to each other and to the police.

Neighbourhood Watch gives you the opportunity to improve the general well-being in the area as we can work closely with a number of other agencies and the Council. Together we can tackle graffiti, litter, noise pollution, speeding traffic and so much more.

Why not join in, join the neighbourhood.

**Just a few useful contact numbers**

- **Anti Social Behaviour Action Team** - 0161 476 2876
- **Crimestoppers** - 0800 555 111
- **Greater Manchester Police – Non emergency** - 0161 872 5050
- **Streetscene** - 0845 833 4444
- **Stockport Domestic Violence Unit (Police)** - 0161 429 0849
- **Stockport Social Services** - 08456 444 313
- **Stockport Victim Support & Witness Service** - 0161 477 9597
- **Stockport Women's Aid** - 0161 477 4271
- **Community Drugs Team** - 0161 480 4441
- **Crime and Disorder Team** - 0161 474 3143
- **Home Security Package** - 0161 474 4364
- **Stockport District Citizens Advice Bureau** - 0844 826 9800
- **Manchester Rape Crisis Centre** - 0161 273 4500
- **Greater Manchester Family Mediation** - 0161 797 9910
- **National Drugs Helpline** - 0800 77 66 00
- **Racial Harassment Helpline** - 0800 138 1666
- **Card Watch Campaign** - 0870 550 0005