

12 August 2004

Dear Resident,

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN ETTRICK ROAD & LOAN, GILLSLAND ROAD, NAPIER ROAD & LOAN and POLWARTH TERRACE

I am writing to update you on progress with the above. Our residents meeting on 29 June was very well supported, with around 50 people attending and a further 20 asking to be kept informed of developments. The Police were represented by our local Crime Reduction Officer, PC Jim McKenna and by Community Officers PC Angela Edmunds and PC Gerry Pullar. Merchiston Local Councillor Sue Tritton was also present, as was Cllr Marilyn MacLaren of South Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel.

STREET CO-ORDINATORS

The meeting heard about crime trends in our area and about how the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme could help reduce this crime. Accordingly, it was decided that such a scheme should be set up, in four "divisions": Ettrick Road, Gillsland Road, Napier Road and Polwarth Terrace. Each of these divisions will have a co-ordinator (see overleaf) whose principal responsibility will be to circulate Police Reports, Newsletters and other relevant material to residents in their street. This letter will have come to you via your Street Co-ordinator. It is being sent electronically to those for whom we have email addresses. If you would like to receive your copy by email in future, please let your Street Co-ordinator know.

POLICE REPORTS

These will be provided by the Police on an area basis, ie ours will cover the whole of Merchiston, and will be issued monthly. In addition, there are plans for a new city-wide Police Bulletin. We'll keep you posted on this.

NW NEWSLETTERS

The main ways in which NW works are by:

- ◆ *the sharing of crime prevention advice & activities*
- ◆ *the promotion of crime prevention equipment*
- ◆ *the identification & targetting of problems in order to deal with them quickly and effectively*
- ◆ *looking out for one another*
- ◆ *improving home security*
- ◆ *building two-way communication with the Police*

To this end we will hope to produce a NW Newsletter from time to time. It will probably cover all four streets and, since all of these activities are being carried out by volunteers, the Newsletter may not appear on a strictly regular basis. If you have any items that you'd like to see included, please let me know.

WEBSITE

There is a very good NW website with all sorts of helpful information about:

- ❖ *vehicle crime*
- ❖ *bogus callers*
- ❖ *home security*

❖ *personal safety*

- all of which are to a greater or lesser extent problems in our area.

The website is at www.neighbourhoodwatch.net

For anyone who doesn't have access to the internet, we can print this information out for you and let you have it as a paper copy.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....

Finally, several people who attended the inaugural meeting commented that the social aspect of the event had been both useful and enjoyable. So we will plan on holding another get-together, perhaps in December.

Meantime, do please contact either your Street Co-ordinator or me if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Bridget M. Stevens

Chair, Merchiston Community Council
