DRA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

Our email database continues to grow and it is an excellent medium for communicating information. Many of you will have received calls from the committee asking if you would like to be included and thus far the response has been extremely positive. Please e-mail us on drainfo@gmail.com if you know of anyone in our area who is NOT on our database, but would like to be included

Apart from communicating issues such as crime incidents in the area, the email has been a useful tool in helping residents find lost animals, employment of reliable and quality staff, among other things. There is always the danger of clutter and some residents have misgivings about the email forum being used for anything other than vital information relating to security issues. This is a problem we will be tackling on our website, more details below.

Crime Summary

Along with Cowies Hill we are being targeted at the moment and there have been several incidents over the last month:

11 March - Portman avenue
11 March 2100 - Kew Gardens
11 March 2130 - Cotswold Drive
07 March 0700 - Cotswold Drive - 1 suspect apprehended
06 March - Epping Drive
23 Feb - Dawncliffe Road
18/19 Feb - Epping Drive + Spring Grange
10 March - Portman Ave, Kew Ave, View Pl
11 March - Trevor Rd
12 March - Stephens Ave

Most incidents have involved opportunistic theft of cellphones and goods through windows, but there have also been more serious issues where dangerous weapons have been involved.

In order to be right up to date with crime incidents, please ensure that you inform the DRA if you have an incident, via our email, so that we can immediately notify all residents in the area. We need your assistance in making our homes a safer place. Also please ensure even minor incidents are reported to SAPS as this assists them in tracking activities in the area.

Maintain awareness. If you have misgivings or suspicions call your security company to check it out. Let wannabee crooks know they are being watched. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Cones

There is a small minority of residents who have misgivings about the cones at the access points.

In Chiral Drive the cones were moved back in order to avoid driving on the verge which had collapsed.

At a number of access points cones are periodically stolen, sometimes by youngsters with excess testosterone to burn off and at other times by individuals with issues in their lives.

Apart from slowing the traffic, which allows for better viewing of vehicles, the cones also have a visual effect, making the area appear well policed and potentially scaring off potential threats. It may not appeal to all residents but it is a minor inconvenience and we believe the positives far outweigh the negatives.

So, please, if there are genuine concerns about the cones, then address them with us. We have received some sarcastic emails which are contrary to the community spirit we are endeavouring to create.

WWW.Dawncliffe.com

Our website is under construction and we expect it to be accessable in approx 1 month. This is a project we are all very excited about and there are members of the community giving a tremendous amount of their time to setting the system up. Please note the existing website linked to the Westville co-op website is out of date and will be decommissioned once the new site is up and running. We intend to use the website as a forum for information and community discussion. It will have a "classifieds" section where residents are able to communicate around issues such as domestic employment, lost animals etc, selling goods etc. Detailed crime reports will be available, links to other interesting sites and pertinent information. There will be a municipal liason forum where information regarding council projects in our area will be available. There will be the opportunity to advertise on the various pages - we are in the process of determining prices, but should you wish to advertise then please email us and we will make contact in due course.

Hut Scheme Project Status

We will be installing an experimental cctv camera at the bottom of Dawncliffe Road, kindly sponsored by a member of the community. If successful we will be looking at installing such cameras at other access points.

There are 256 contributing members out of a possible 522 households.
The hut scheme is running at an over R2000 loss per month.

We again appeal to all residents to contribute to the hut scheme. Our crime prevention measures need to be highly visible so that criminals are deterred from even entering the area, let alone your specific property. Please email us and we can advise you of costs accordingly.

We are still seeking community members to "adopt a hut". It is important that the huts are visually appealing as this adds value to the area and hence property values (....Mr Sutcliffe will be delighted as he can then increase our rates...). Please email us and we will assist in sourcing plants, compost etc.

Community Feedback

We need your help by supplying us feedback, via email regarding:

1. crime you may have experienced - as soon as practical
2. ideas for improving security and the area in general
3. are you aware of any hotspots near your home that you know are an access point for undesirable elements
4. issues with the council that the DRA could take up on your behalf
5. legitimate complaints followed by practical solutions
6. compliments

Apart from that, the school holidays are upon us next week and many of us will be away on hols. Don't forget the usual precautions when going away:

- cancel daily deliveries of papers
- have someone collect your mail daily
- let your neighbours know you are away and leave them contact details

- check your insurance policies

All the best for Easter - we have instructed the security huts to allow the easter bunny a free run on Easter Sunday, so here's hoping he visits all of you!

Dawncliffe Residents' Association -
COMMUNITY IN UNITY

e-mail: drainfo@gmail.com
Web: www.thewestvilleco-op.co.za/DRA.shtml