

HOLLY LODGE ESTATE SECURITY

Background

In the past year there has been an increase in concern about burglary and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) expressed mainly by residents of Langbourne Avenue and Holly Lodge Gardens.

Since summer 2015 there have been several incidents of ASB, mainly involving people in cars at night using the Estate as a social venue causing some noise and litter with the suspicion that the ASB is associated with possible drug use.

In the 6 months to May 2016, as far as we are aware there have been 9 burglaries on the Estate and at least 3 serious attempted break-ins to houses.

The HLEC responded to the ASB by creating a special budget for security and testing an overnight patrol and by actively fostering good relationships with our dedicated ward Police Officer (John Hounsell). This budgeted contingency enables the Estate Committee to use the patrol for short periods when the Committee think it necessary.

Residents have responded by forming Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) which now cover all streets where there are houses. (Attempts are being made to extend the reach of NHWs to include the Mansion Blocks.)

Clearly crime and ASB on the estate is a matter of concern and there are no simple solutions, but the advice from the police is that residents should ensure that their houses are protected and secure. Additionally, residents are urged to join their street Neighbourhood Watch and report all incidents or suspicious incidents to the police, the NHW and to Barbara Wheatley at manager@hle.org.uk.

Here we set out what work the Committee is doing to address the issues, and to encourage everyone to take some simple actions that we hope will enable us to keep the Estate a safe and pleasant place to live.

What Has Been Done So Far

- HLEC has supported the setting up of Neighbourhood watches across the estate. The Mansion Blocks are yet to be covered and the current co-ordinators are working on this.
- HLEC and the Estate Manager have fostered relationships with the local Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team so we can have a direct route to information and access them for advice.
- The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team have dropped leaflets to the whole Estate to inform and encourage residents to secure their own properties. They have also visited a number of houses on the Estate to give advice on securing the particular property.
- We have closed the barriers on Holly Lodge Gardens earlier in the evening.
- HLEC is now keeping a detailed crime log of all burglaries, ASB, suspicious behaviour etc.
- The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team have followed up on some of the ASB perpetrators by visiting homes of car owners seen here late at night causing a nuisance. This has resulted in at least one arrest that we know of to date.
- A contingency budget was approved by residents at the November 2015 half yearly meeting and this has been used to trial a Security Patrol to address particular incidents of ASB.

Fact Finding

We are currently researching the facts so we can make informed, cost effective, evidence-based decisions. We have engaged the services of the Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science and along with the support from our Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team we aim to answer the following questions and thereby inform the most effective solutions.

THE HOLLY LODGE ESTATE

Crime on the Estate

- Are we a low/high crime area?
- How do our crime rates compare to areas in the immediate vicinity? Compared to surrounding area/Dartmouth Park.
- Do the police believe that increased security in surrounding areas (Kenwood, Fitzroy Park) has driven crime towards the Estate?
- Are there any patterns emerging in the MO of thieves gaining access? e.g. through back doors/ by breaking windows (front or back?)/avoiding houses without alarms or dummy alarms/stealing keys/picking or breaking locks on front doors/climbing through upstairs windows?
- Is there any pattern about what is being stolen? TVs/computers/mobiles/ cash/credit cards/ or items of jewellery/clothes?
- Are the properties on HLE equally vulnerable or is there a particular group or cluster of houses being victimised? (e.g. smaller houses/houses with or without garages or side access / situated on the side roads.)
- Does the closing of roads make HLE effectively a cul-de-sac? (there is a lot of research on their vulnerability.)
- What time of day or night are most of the burglaries occurring? Is there any pattern in terms of schooldays/ weekends/ tagged offenders reporting to police stations/ route to work or when most people at work?
- Do we know if the thieves are on bikes/cars/foot? How are they removing the stolen property?

Research into crime and possible security measures

- Is there a link between ASB and burglaries?
- Is there a link between drug dealing and burglaries in the immediate surrounding area?
- Statistically how effective a deterrent is ANPR, and how effective a tool is it for police in crime prevention?
- How effective are security patrols for burglaries?
- Are these effective if only on random dates?
- How many patrols would the Estate need to cover an area of 1.5 miles across many different roads effectively?
- How effective is public CCTV?
- How effective is private CCTV?
- What is a more effective deterrent, private security measures or public security measures?

What are the plans

Because the implications for the Estate are far reaching, long term and potentially costly, the committee wishes to pursue security in a highly quantified and objective manner using the very best independent sources of advice that are available so that evidence based decisions can be made.

We will report on the outcomes and recommendations as soon as we are able.

Temporary barriers have been placed at the top of Hillway at the request of the NHW.

HLEC has agreed to investigate lighting in the lower park. We are working with local residents.

We are encouraging the formation of Neighbourhood Watches right across the Estate as our experience to date shows that these are very effective in disseminating information quickly. The aim of the Neighbourhood Watch activity is very straightforward – to help keep the residents of Holly Lodge Estate safe and protect their homes.

We will be erecting NHW signs across the estate to warn criminals that they are in a NHW area, subject to agreeing quantity and location.

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We are intending to display signage on HLE saying that homes are protected by SmartWater. The police stress that SmartWater is a very effective preventive tool when it's clearly announced that it's in use. We need you to sign up for SmartWater so they will give us the signs.

What you can do to help

- Report all incidents. Please let the Estate Manager know all details – date, time, car reg no if appropriate, CAD no if reported to 101, descriptions of persons, details of incident etc.
- Join your NHW scheme. Coordinators are listed below.
- If your area is not covered yet and you would like to volunteer as a coordinator, please contact Mary Selfe at MCSELF@BLUEYONDER.CO.UK
- Consider installing an alarm system and/or CCTV on your property.
- Protect your homes and property with SmartWater. As a member of a NHW scheme you should enjoy a significant discount on home insurance

How does SmartWater deter burglars?

SmartWater has a long track record of helping the police to secure convictions against criminals, some of them for very serious crimes. Criminals are therefore well aware of it and the risks it poses to them. They also know that officers have been trained to detect SmartWater and will be looking for it routinely, both out on the street and in the police station. This not only puts real pressure on burglars but also their 'handlers', those people who buy the property knowing or believing it to be stolen, as they will be at risk too. Put simply, property marked with SmartWater becomes too 'hot' for them to handle. Contact your NHW coordinator or visit <http://content.met.police.uk/Article/Frequently-Asked-Questions/1400031129125/1400031129125> for more information.

NHW COORDINATOR	NHW AREA	EMAIL
Innes Meek	Bromwich Avenue	idxmeek@gmail.com
Zoe Rahman	Hillway 49-63	zoerahman@mac.com
Charles Orwin	Hillway 1-31	charlesorwin19@gmail.com
Louis Gerhardtstein	Hillway 33-47	hillway@hotmail.co.uk
Lucy Begg	Hillway 65-99	lucybegg@yahoo.co.uk
Ian Whittaker	Holly Lodge Gardens	ianwhittaker@gmail.com
Mary Selfe	Langbourne Avenue	mcsel@blueyonder.co.uk
Jay Stuart	Makepeace Avenue	stuartinfo@yahoo.co.uk
George Donaldson	Oakeshott Avenue	gdph22@btinternet.com
Neville Robinson	Robin Grove	pnrfmt@msn.com

Seeking volunteers for:	Holly Lodge Mansions Makepeace Mansions Langbourne Mansions	Contact Mary Selfe for the time being.
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