

COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

PENNINGTON SUB SECTOR

3 FEBRUARY 2015 – LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, PENNINGTON

MINUTES

Present: See attached list	Action
<p>Welcome: Jane Downey welcomed everyone saying how nice it was to see such a good turnout again. She went on to introduce Derek Johnson who came to our January meeting with his son Haydon and presented some very good ideas on how to prevent crime in Pennington. Since the last meeting Derek has held another meeting to organize volunteers to sit on the CPF committee and help with the organization of the WhatsApp initiative. Jane has been chairing the CPF meetings on behalf of the Pennington Ratepayers and Residents Association who now feel that the Community Policing Forum can be an independent group headed by Derek.</p>	
<p>SAPS Report: W/O Deena Govender: 18 Cases in January, 14 house break in, 2 robbery, 2 others. On 27-28 January SAPS traced the robbery and murder suspects to an area of Hibberdene only accessible by helicopter. 1 was shot and wounded, 1 shot and killed. 2 are in custody, 1 fled. SAPS will not rest until they catch the last suspect. Police members worked for 24 hours without food or water in this rural area. Deena commended the loyalty and dedication of members. Goods were recovered stolen from 46 Umdoni and suspects were linked to the murder in Umdoni Road South. Very brazen criminals who needed to be caught. These criminals were very professional and scouted the target area, knew where SAPS live. They were previously in prison and learned their trade there! Ages between 23 – 30 years. A lot has to be done before they can be taken to court to ensure a prison sentence. Police have to be questioned on legality of shooting as part of this process!</p> <p>We must learn from this experience. Report suspicions.</p> <p>1 house breaker accused was released because of lack of</p>	

evidence. He is very clever and SAPS are using latest technology to catch him.

How many vehicles in Scottburgh? 3 vehicles.

Calls must be made to 10111 which is the call centre in Port Shepstone. They are doing their best to have well trained staff on call but any problems call Deena direct in an emergency.

Report problems to Armed Response Services but they do not open a case with SAPS so unless you report problems to SAPS the statistics for the area will not be recorded. This relates to the number of police and vehicles allocated to the area. The Highway Patrol is operated out of Port Shepstone. The Dog Unit only has 3 dogs but 12 handlers.

When police stop someone in the street they are doing it for a reason and residents should not jump in to try to protect the person. Police have the authority to search. Vans are patrolling the area with blue lights which is just for awareness.

Ian Lawrie asked why Pennington was targeted. DG replied that it is seen as a good area with rich people. He drives around to see how many windows are open with no burglar bars, how many vehicles are parked in the street instead of behind gates on the property. He has been known to leave notes for owners!

DG noted that after the rape in Kirsim Close everyone was baying for blood but two months later they had gone back to normal. We must band together and look after one another. If you have an Ipad install Findme (locate me). Leads you to the Ipad like a GPS. Sometimes to the house where it was reported to be stolen from - Oh I just found it in the bush!

Do not buy stolen property! You will be charged. You are creating a market.

Don Bernhard asked if all stolen property must be reported? DG Yes deploying members is based on Crime intelligence based on crime in area.

Complaints on FaceBook are ignored.

SAPS must be informed as well as your security company.

Mark Davey: Soccer guys from outside Relton were threatened with a gun by a resident. Mark will report the resident responsible who is a danger to himself and everyone else.

Leslie Swartz: said that the SAP call centre staff were hopeless when she reported a car stolen from outside her office. DG said that was why he has given everyone his number. SAPS are doing their best to train staff.

If you are away from home make sure a neighbour picks up your Rising Sun and switches on lights while you are away. Look after neighbouring holiday homes by taking away their Rising Sun.

Young Lady said that her maid told her that she was asked about her employers by people at the Tea garden. DG suggested that this should be taken with a pinch of salt as they are harassing these people on a daily basis and have made 46 arrests for petty offences.

Derek Johnson thanked Deena and SAPS for the end of the Reign of Terror. Time to take our town back

Derek Gravitt – Chairman of the Scottburgh Community Policing Forum: said we could call on his expertise in setting up the committee and WhatsApp structure.

PENNINGTON CRIME PREVENTION

We will not respond ourselves only use existing SAPS and security companies. Community Patrol and response teams to be set up at a later date.

8 Whatsapp groups reporting suspicious happenings relay messages to SAPS and Security Co. Do not reply. Keep number of messages to a minimum. Marcel Verleur is group co-ordinator. Each group has an admin who reports to the central group so that a criminal can be tracked by residents to alert SAPS

to where suspect is running to.

Olive Goll: asked if small thefts should be reported when you are not sure exactly when they happened. DG said that they should be – like washing off the line etc.

Ian Lawrie: said that we should be specific about the address, colour of clothes, car etc. as this becomes evidence. Photos too.

Don Bernhard: Use all civic organisations as a community project.

Funding:

Derek Johnson: We must ask for donations to cover cost of advertising boards: Pennington Community Crime Prevention Area. Simon Lee Umdoni Municipality oversees all boards. Local business can sponsor.

Buy a dog for the Canine Unit approx. R7 000 per dog. German Shepherd or Rottweiler. Have to be exactly the right dog.

Web site sponsored, designed and maintained by Anderson Networks.

13 volunteers will make up the committee. There will be a community meeting with Pennington Recreation Club, Pennington Ratepayers and the Conservancy, Security companies and SA CAN which is an excellent service if you can afford it.

Derek Gravitt: explained that Scottburgh is the main forum and Pennington is a sub forum. The main forum has the Station Commander, Judiciary, etc in the forum. Giving the stats for the whole area. Radios are being provided to link all groups together. Marga: said Zello could also be used on the cell phone.

Olive Goll: Funds collected by past Neighbourhood Watch for Bobbies has been given to the Ratepayers as guardians until the new committee and treasurer have been appointed when this money can be deposited into the proper account.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at 16.30