

Cookstown District Policing Partnership
Council Offices
Burn Road
COOKSTOWN
BT80 8DT

Tel: 028 8676 2205
Text Phone: 028 8676 5827
Email: districtpolicing@cookstown.gov.uk



Press Release

Drumnacross Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Launched

The first Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to be set up within Cookstown and District was launched on Wednesday 15 February 2006.

The Drumnacross Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been set up in response to local concerns regarding crime. The households covered by the scheme include those located on Drumnacross Road, Oaklands Road, Knockaleary Road, Glenarney Road, and sections of the Pomeroy and Drum Roads bordering the scheme area.

It now joins one of the many schemes to be established across Northern Ireland.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community led initiative that aims to:

- Prevent crime through improved home security;
- Provide reassurance to people within communities to reduce the fear of the crime and;
- Encourage local people to be alert in looking after themselves and others.

Mr. Bobby Hamilton, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the area, speaking at the launch of the Drumnacross Scheme said it was being set up in response to concerns in crime, particularly burglaries, expressed by residents of the Drumnacross and Oaklands area in a door-to-door survey.

Mr. Bobby Hamilton said, “The results of the door to door survey undertaken of households in the area highlighted widespread support and need for such a scheme. It now offered everyone the opportunity to play their part in keeping crime out of the community, especially by deterring opportunist thieves.

The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator was joined at the launch by a cross section of the local community, the District Policing Partnership Manager, Mr. Philip Moffett, Sergeant Florence Ferry, Constable Billy Gallagher and the Community Safety Partnership Officer Ms. Shauna McCloskey.

Sergeant Florence Ferry attending the launch said, “The police need the help and support of the community to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The opportunist criminal commits much rural crime. When a community takes some simple crime prevention measures, watches out for each other and reports all suspicious activity to the police then it is a safer place for everyone. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is a formal way of reducing crime and the fear of crime while at the same time building community spirit.”

Sgt Ferry continued, “I would encourage everyone in the area to play an active part in the scheme for the benefit of everyone in the area”.

Philip Moffett, The District Policing Partnership Manager said, “Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are an important tool for preventing crime and reducing the fear of crime in a way that involves everyone in the local community. I am delighted that such a scheme has been set up and would encourage everyone to assist Bobby and the police to ensure that it is a success in keeping crime out of the Drumnacross area.”

Any group within the district that is interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should contact:

- DPP Manager Philip Moffett on 028 8676 2205,
- Sgt Ferry on 028 8676 6000 or
- Community Safety Partnership Officer Shauna McCloskey on 028 8676 4714.

Ends

Note to the Editor:

1. The NIO Community Safety Unit, the NI Policing Board and the PSNI jointly fund neighbourhood watch. Cookstown District Policing Partnership, Cookstown Community Safety Partnership and Cookstown PSNI promote it locally.
2. The Role of the NW Co-ordinator is to:
 - Act as spokesperson for the Scheme.
 - Be a contact point for the Neighbourhood Watch members and to provide information for agencies such as the police.
 - Organise Neighbourhood Watch meetings, as and when necessary.
3. For more information contact The DPP Manager Philip Moffett on 028 8676 2205