

**WANTAGE WEST**  
**MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

1. **Members present were recorded.**
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** All Ok
3. **Speaker**  
**Gary Hibbins - Damascus**  
Gary Hibbins gave an excellent talk on the Damascus Youth project. Consists of a small number of paid staff and many volunteers. They work with disengaged youths to change their attitude to other people, their environment, help them build up their self-esteem and confidence and to get and keep work. This operates in 5 villages within the Vale and South Oxfordshire  
Gary thanked for an excellent talk.  
The question do we need a Damascus group in our are? Was asked. Lots of discussion but it was felt that it was not necessary here as we have organisations already in place doing a great deal of good work. .
4. **Matters Arising/Updates/and Action Points:**  
Nothing new, will update next meeting.
5. **NAG Priorities:**
  - a) Speeding vehicles:  
DJ PCSO Chris Ratcliffe reported speed watch will let him know of new technology when it is launched including costs associated..  
Grove Parish Council would like a talk from Chris Ratcliffe re: Speeding. Cost of equipment expected to be circa £2,500.  
Rest of items b & c not discussed.
  - b) Litter:
  - c) Burglary and Rowdy Youths:
6. **Policing Priorities Report:**  
Dog fouling an issue WHDC dealing with it.  
New Leaflets are being issued on Dog fouling and Neighbourhood Policing team Wantage and Grove.  
Pub watch a big success as many arrests made.  
3 recent dwelling burglaries in Letcombe Bassett, East Hendred and East Challow.  
More VERA volunteers needed. 4 volunteers came forward to offer help.  
75 Christmas hampers, 18 supplied to needy people using our VERA list and 40 dinners were provided from Ray's party list. Balance was sent to JR Oncology ward.
7. **Nag Publicity/Website**  
Not discussed at this meeting.
8. **Neighbourhood Watch/Thames Valley Alert**  
More Neighbourhood action days to be put in place. Planned: Stockham (21<sup>st</sup> March TBC), East Challow (June) & Grove Mid Area (September)
9. **Report from Youth Members**  
Youth club taken on another member of staff , giving some 20 plus members of staff including 'squidgers'.  
It was noted that there was a small issue with youngsters going to shops in groups.  
Beat Box pantomime was fully funded.  
Attendance at Sweatbox was reported as being in the range of 100 to 200 on Fridays about 50 on Tuesdays.  
Usually Bans have been issued for bad behaviour (few testing the boundaries), but there is a trial where instead of banning, members are asked to help set up and take down.  
Rock in the park will properly be linked with the Carnival and Pictures in the Park as it was felt that the events together attracted a much greater attendance compared to if run separately.
10. **NAG contributions to neighborhood updates:**  
2 members had volunteered.
11. **Future Meeting Speakers:**  
Future speaker ideas were confirmed.
12. **Any other Business:**
  1. Neighbourhood watch need to look at how to improve, possibly speak with Andy Boyd
  2. Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch meeting at Didcot in April, dates to be confirmed.
  3. The NAG needs to consider if another survey is required and then the best way of conducting such a survey. The key point was to ensure that the NAG was representing the people of this area.

13. **Dates of next meetings: 2015 – April Missed due to forth coming elections.**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February**  
**25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**1<sup>st</sup> July**