

News – 4th March 2009

Pet-owners sign up for Dogwatch scheme to help reduce crime

Over 100 dog walkers in Stevenage, Herts, signed up to help police sniff out crime in the town at the launch of Dogwatch last month. The scheme aims to encourage dog walkers to report suspicious incidents to police and also to report environmental issues to the council.

Dogwatch has been developed with the help of Neighbourhood Watch and members will get regular updates on incidents of note and well as crime prevention advice.

Sergeant Ian Blundell from the Stevenage Neighbourhood Team said: "We are extremely pleased with the success of the launch. Hundreds of people turned up to meet with officers to find out about the initiative and we had 105 members sign up on the day.



"Dog walker's spend a lot of time out in their communities and would possibly know if something suspicious or out of the ordinary was occurring in their neighbourhood. We are looking forward to working with members in the future to make Stevenage an even safer place live."

I saw this news article and thought how it shows how easy it can be to keep an eye on your neighbourhood. As you walk your dogs, go to the shops or your children's school, you become familiar with your route and so pick up when thing 'just aren't right'. Don't be afraid to contact the Police should you witness anything; depending on the situation either using 999 if it is an emergency or if not an emergency, your local officer's Beat mobile telephone. You can get this telephone number by visiting the Essex Police website, (www.essex.police.uk) and putting in your post code in the - How to contact us section. This will take you to the page of your local area, giving all your local officers names along with their Beat mobile telephone number. Or you can ring Essex Police HQ on 0300 333 4444 and ask the operator for the phone number.

By looking out for each other, we make our community stronger and a better place to live as well as deterring criminals.

Angie Pearson