

ARBOLEAS HOME WATCH

COORDINATORS COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2018

Mark Drew (Lead Coordinator) welcomed everyone to the meeting

1) Presidents report

a) Alan Pearce (President) welcomed Andrea Ogden from Calida Homes to the meeting. It is the intention to give Andrea an insight into the work carried out by AHW and to encourage her to pass on this information to new buyers, subsequently to invite them to join the Group and with their support to continue to keep the crime rate low. Andrea was invited to give her input to the meeting.

b) Crime within the Arboleas area is very low and we need to keep it that way by continued vigilance by members of AHW.

c) Previously, crime and advisory notices have been sent to the Coordinators to pass on to their own group of members. Sometimes this information has been amended or not been passed on. It is proposed to create a central membership database holding member contact emails, held by the Lead Coordinator with secure backup copies. The Lead Coordinator would then issue the appropriate notices to those concerned from a central point. It was questioned if members should be made aware of this proposal and it was agreed that the centralisation of members contact details would take place and an email sent to Coordinators for distribution to their group informing them of this process.

2) Policia Local report

a) Maria Luisa explained she understood the concerns expressed by AHW that she remains the sole Policia representative for the Arboleas area. Yes it is a big problem and would be more serious if she had any length of time off through illness or personal reasons. Presently she does not have any time off and is always available. The request for further support is progressing, albeit slowly.

b) Maria Luisa has been asked for statistics regarding crime in the Arboleas area and these figures will be available for the next meeting.

c) Reported crime in the Arboleas area remains low, however, there was a local burglary last night. It is always quiet at this time of year and we must continue to be vigilant.

d) Currently there is a lot of credit and debit card fraud. Members are advised never to let their card out of sight when carrying out a transaction. Do not give their card to anyone. When making online purchases or bookings never give out your personal pin number or the three digit security code on the reverse of the card. Maria Lusua noted that most card fraud involved amounts less than 50 euros. Several members told of their experiences related to card fraud. It was suggested that members consider using PayPal for online transactions.

e) A number of leaflets have been left in gates intended for the occupants, however if these were not removed it would be an indication that the property is empty. It was asked if there was a way to stop this. Maria Luisa confirmed that she had contacted the relevant companies and requested they stop leaving leaflets, whether that will happen she does not know. It was suggested that members remove these leaflets.

3) Treasurer's report

There are 625 euros in the bank account. The only regular payment is for bank charges. Website fees are due in April.

4) Coordinators report

No further incidents to report.

A coordinator gave an update on a serious incident in her area which happened four years ago. Recently the case appeared in court and the criminal given a six year prison sentence.

5) Lead Coordinator report

a) Mark Drew sent out a copy of this report prior to the meeting, in summary there has been no reported crime over the past nine months. Advisory notices have been sent out regarding card and other types of fraud. It is noted that Senior Citizens appear to be the easier target as they have 'disposable income' and susceptible to this type of crime.

6) The Future for AHW

a) It was agreed that many people are interested in the success of AHW but no one wanted to become involved.

b) It was suggested that more about card fraud and similar advisory notices should be sent out. Any information regarding security should be passed on eg. leaflets on gates, piles of stones outside property, scams, strange cars in neighbourhood etc.

c) It was agreed that centralising member contact information should take place. Mark Drew to send an email to coordinators to pass on to their own group of members. This email would explain why this is happening. After this email has been sent out Coordinators to pass on contact information to the Lead Coordinator. Coordinators to continue liaising with their group members.

d) The Facebook page will remain a closed group. To avoid possible liability charges information held here is for members only and will not be posted on the web pages.

e) Andrea commented that one of the first questions asked by a prospective buyer is about crime levels in the area. She agreed that including a leaflet about AHW in her New Buyer Welcome Pack would be acceptable. Andrea to liaise with Mark and Alan to produce an appropriate leaflet.

f) it was suggested that Coordinators hold individual social events to include members and other neighbours. People would use the opportunity to meet each other, exchange information and explain the benefits of becoming a member of AHW. Cost would limit the scope of these events but agreed by all to be an acceptable suggestion.

g) It was asked if AHW should expand the type of information passed on to members.

h) It was asked if holding fund raising events would benefit AHW funds and membership. Currently there is no joining fee although a 5 euro donation is accepted when people register with AHW. An email will be sent out asking if anyone is interested in this type of event. Increasing membership numbers is not about adding to the bank balance, it is making more people aware of incidents and how to secure their property.

i) It was suggested a monthly newsletter be sent out to members. This would include all incident and advisory notices together with any other information regarding security of property etc. Issuing a news letter would mean less emails sent to members, only urgent information need be sent immediately.

j) It was suggested that four meetings a year be held, open to any member wishing to attend.

k) Mark, as Lead Coordinator has documented all processes for this post.

l) Questions were asked regarding driving laws and it was suggested members look at the website <http://n332.es/> for further information.

8) Any other business

There was no other business

The meeting started at 10.00 hours and closed at 11.10 hours