



HEMINGFORD ABBOTS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Annual Report April 2013 - March 2014

Summary

Once again crime in Hemingford Abbots was at a higher level than the previous year, with 31 recorded crimes compared with 21 in 2013.

Neighbouring Hemingford Grey has experienced a massive increase from only 18 reported crimes last year to 151 this year. Anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime and burglaries are mainly responsible.

Communication with residents of any local criminal activity continues through local coordinators, the parish magazine and the village website, which carries the NHW monthly report.

We are still one local coordinator short, with part of High Street and Church Lane not covered. Repeated appeals via the Parish magazine and by word-of-mouth have still proved fruitless. The Parish Council continues to provide funding to cover any costs of the NHW operation.

The Hemingford Abbots NHW scheme is recognised by Cambridge Constabulary under reference number 3503633B; re-registration having taken place during 2011.

Crimes in the Hemingfords during the period April 2013 until March 2014.

Hemingford Abbots (31 reported crimes)

15 burglaries were reported in Hemingford Abbots, which compares with just 2 in the previous year. The majority occurred in two separate months, with 4 in August 2013 and 8 in February 2014. Those in August involved dwellings and those in February were outbuildings.

3 cases of vehicle crime were reported; all on the A14.

5 instances of criminal damage were reported and 7 of anti-social behaviour.

There was 1 "other theft" reported.

Hemingford Grey (151 reported crimes)

25 burglaries were reported in Hemingford Grey involving village properties, which compares with only 4 the previous year.

37 vehicle crimes were reported, mostly, but by no means all, on the A14 parking areas.

12 instances of criminal damage were reported and 48 of anti-social behaviour.

There were 8 violent crimes reported, 2 cycles stolen and 1 drugs crime.

"Other thefts" amounted to 17.

Telephone (and other) scams

No telephone scams or visits by rogue traders were reported this year.

Coverage - local co-ordinators

There is currently one vacancy for a local coordinator to cover part of High Street and Church Lane. Constant lobbying has elicited no response.

Communication with the police

E-mail information from e-cops & the national police website (www.police.uk/) have been the main source of crime statistics this year. It has been a bit spasmodic and rather general at times, with little or sometimes slightly misleading information about the actual location of the crimes

At the end of August 2013 Cambridgeshire Constabulary introduced a new community messaging service called the Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Alert Scheme (CambsAlert). This is now the only messaging system used by the Constabulary to message NHW coordinators

Funding

At their monthly Parish meeting in January 2004 councillors took the decision to provide annual NHW funding of up to £100. This decision still holds and means that all Hemingford Abbots residents are members of the scheme without any need for a “membership” fee and that there is no necessity for any fundraising activities. We remain grateful to the Parish Council for their continuing support. Expenditure this year has again been nil.

Patrick Hurley

24th May 2014