

**Minutes of the High Street Ward SNT Meeting held at  
The Mall Walthamstow  
11 September 2013**

**Present** Philip Herlihy, Chair (PH)  
Sergeant Jay Champion (JC)  
Cllr Mahmood Hussain  
Cllr Clare Coghill  
Michelle Finn, Ops Manager, The Mall  
Sandra da Costa, Stop & Search Team  
Themis Kyprianou – Ascham Homes (TK)  
Bob Wheatley, Local Resident (BW)  
Jeff Fernandes, Resident  
Norman Minter, Resident  
Tommy, Resident

**Apologies** Insp Chris Jones  
Cllr Ali  
Tim Bennett-  
Goodman  
Nelvia Cetin

**Circulation** SNT

Point	Details	Action
1.	<p><b>Introduction &amp; Welcome</b> Meeting opened at 7:00pm</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> The previous minutes were agreed with the following actions noted :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Cycle Leaflets</b> Cllr Hussain brought to the meeting the recently produced Cycling Leaflets, these were handed to Sgt Champion for the High Street Team to distribute as and when necessary. Thanks to Bob and the Lib Dem Team for sponsoring their production.</li> <li>- <b>Blackhorse Road, Parking Issues near Churches</b> Cllr Hussain has spoken to Father Brown at St Patricks who has agreed to speak to his congregation. There was discussion regarding the Baptist Church and whether they should be consulted regarding the issue however Tommy advised the group that he lives very close by and has never seen parking as a problem. It was agreed that this matter would be monitored over the coming weeks but for now will be closed as no further action required.</li> <li>- <b>Cleveland Park Avenue</b> Sgt Champion confirmed that there had been an issue in this area with Street Drinking recently but not so much with Burglary. Cllr Coghill advised the group that she had completed a walk through with a local resident, Caramel Quinn and a representative from the development team at The Scene to discuss how the area could be improved whilst works are being completed. Cllr Coghill will report back at the next meeting with any improvements introduced. Sgt Champion confirmed that this area continues to form part of the High Street Team's patrol route.</li> </ul>	CC

<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Previous Minutes Action Updates Cont'd</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fly Tipping</b> Sgt Champion confirmed there has been a spate of fly tipping but unfortunately he has been unable to identify the offenders. The High Street Team now have cycles and are much more able now to get over to Coppermill Lane for checks. The team will continue to check and monitor. It was noted that if any residents witness fly tipping they can report the crime as it is happening to 999.</li> </ul> <p>Tommy and Cllr Coghill mentioned that they were currently in discussions with Waltham Forest's Gareth Jones regarding issues at Tenby Road.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Priorities &amp; Updates from previous Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal Theft</li> <li>- Street Drinkers</li> </ul> <p><b>During the last 3 months....</b></p> <p><b>Crime Figures</b> Latest figures are burglary at 19 (slightly down on last report), Robbery at 27 (down from 44 last report) and Motor Vehicle Crime at 33 (down from 41 on last report). All positive reductions.</p> <p>The Team have been concentrating on Personal Theft and Robberies since last report and are please to advise there have been :</p> <p><b>77 Arrests</b> <b>456 Stop and Accounts</b> <b>171 Stop and Searches</b> <b>10 Cannabis Warnings</b></p> <p>The High Street Team have successfully arrested a drug dealer who was in possession of 30 rocks of crack cocaine and another person who was buying. There is a group of Somali males at St James St end who have been targeted and who were in possession of another large haul of crack cocaine.</p> <p>Plans are being put in place to target this location more; Sgt Champion stressed the importance of reporting any issues as more intelligence will help. Hot Spot for robbery at the moment is St James St end during the early evening.</p> <p>Cllr Coghill confirmed that she regularly reports incidents to 101 and also has a contact in the Somali Community if it helps. Sgt Champion will keep this in mind going forward.</p> <p>Bob Wheatley wanted to thank Sgt Champion and his team for their support in ensuring railings had been fitted.</p> <p>There was lots of discussion regarding St James Street end of the High Street. A number of residents reported seeing illegal activities. Tommy confirmed that a group of 12 residents have shown interest in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Team for Coppermill Lane, Millennium House and St James St. Tommy will be liaising with Tim Bennett-Goodman and Bill Nisbet.</p>	

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Priorities &amp; Updates from previous Meeting Cont'd</b></p> <p>Sandra da Costa also reported issues at The Embassy Club and Coppermill Lane. Sgt Champion confirmed he is aware of the issues here and is going to be putting together an information report to assist with obtaining warrants. Jeff Fernandes asked if the drug dealing was linked to the crime stats and Sgt Champion advised this is an issue however as soon as 1 person is arrested unfortunately another person is quick to move in and Victims rarely know the offenders.</p> <p>Cllr Coghill wasn't sure if there were issues with Licensing at The Embassy Club and agreed to speak to the Enforcement Team for a visit to be carried out.</p> <p><b>Street Drinking</b></p> <p>Since the last meeting there has not been as much focus on Street Drinking but there have still been 35 Section 27's issued with 11 arrests. There have also been 8 beggars arrested.</p> <p>Sgt Champion also reported that there had been engagement with one street drinker who Pat Aitken hopes to place somewhere soon.</p> <p>Sgt Champion also reported that the new DS, Tom Melinson had also joined the team and is working with Cash Convertors to try and change their procedures.</p> <p><b>Safer Transport</b></p> <p>Since the last meeting The High Street Team have been working with Safer Transport under Operation Neptune targeting phone shops and checking their stock. There has also been liaison with the local banks highlighting dipping with their customers.</p> <p><b>Local Policing Model</b></p> <p>Finally Sgt Champion reminded the group that the local policing policy comes in to effect shortly, there may be some minor teething issues at first but on the whole we should see a benefit (with more officers available etc). Also the shift patterns are changing to cover longer periods which will mean attendance up to 11pm and later at weekends.</p>	<p>CC</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Soup Kitchen</b></p> <p>The Chair shared some background information with the group and the reasons why this issue has remained on the Agenda of the SNT for some time.</p> <p>A question was asked whether the Soup Kitchen was helping the situation with unsavoury characters on The Town Square or making it worse. Norman, who has worked with the Soup Kitchen for some time was asked to share his views. He advised that occasionally there is one person who causes issues but these instances are rare and on the whole the Soup Kitchen team believe in what they are doing and have good links with other organisations to provide support for those who use the facility.</p> <p>Tommy mentioned that he had also been involved in the Soup Kitchen for the last 8 years and he fully believes in the service they provide. Bob also mentioned that following a recent small survey he received 35 replies with not one complaint regarding the Soup Kitchen.</p>	

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Soup Kitchen (Cont'd)</b></p> <p>At this point the Chair wanted to point out that the issue has never been that the Soup Kitchen does not serve a purpose or that the kitchen is run badly. It is simply that there are a number of persons on the Town Square who are making life very unpleasant for local residents and it is felt that the Soup Kitchen is keeping them in this location.</p> <p>Norman reported that 6 people have been placed in Branches Hostel through the Soup Kitchen work. No consultation has been carried out in respect of relocation.</p> <p>Sgt Champion reported that there are at least 15 to 20 persistent street drinkers who cause most problems around the library and market area who are regular soup kitchen users. In his opinion relocation needs to be explored as a positive way forward.</p> <p>Norman reported that he felt insulted about the suggested relocation areas which were totally inappropriate for the service users.</p> <p>PH stated that the problem is not with the soup kitchen but with the service users who are sustained by its services whose anti social activities have an impact in the neighbourhood in general and local residents are objecting to this behaviour.</p> <p>Sandra challenged the discussions and asked how do we know that the service users of the soup kitchen are the same people who cause the anti social behaviour?</p> <p>Claire reported that she worked very hard to cement relationships between the Council and the campaigners of the soup kitchen and tried to reach a solution. She stated that a lot of the people who use the soup kitchen do not live in Waltham Forest and use it as a "Front Door". She pointed out that we need to give people routes to achieve their potential. She will provide volunteers to work along side the Eastern European service users to give them advice and support.</p> <p>Some discussion took place regarding suggested alternative locations.</p>	<p>CC</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Priorities Going Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Street Drinkers</li> <li>- Personal Theft</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 3 December 2013, 7pm at The Mall, Walthamstow</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>