

**High Street Ward Panel
The Mall Offices, Walthamstow
23/08/16**

Present

Philip Herlihy – Chair
Sgt J Champion – High Street SNT
PC M Fletcher – High Street SNT
KC – The Mall security manager
Brian Ellick – LBWF Neighbourhood Team
Manager
Clare Coghill – High Street Ward councillor
Themi Kyprianou – LBWF housing officer high
street ward
Sandra Decosta – Stop & Search Chair
Andre Henry – Erskine Road
Rev Frances Shoesmith – St Luke's
Katie Pomeroy – Salop, York & Chester Road
NHW (minutes)

Apologies

Nelia Cetin
Mahmod Hussain
Liaquat Ali
(Raja Anwar – no apologies received)

Residents from Leucha Road:

Miss Wise
Yvette McIntosh
Elaine
Kayleigh Webb
Ahmed Boudine

Residents from Pretoria Avenue, also
representing St James Big Local

Tom McVeigh
Linda Sansum
Mark Meharry

1. Matters arising

Previous minutes agreed. No actions to carry forward or review.

2. SNT Report

NB: all residents can contact Safer Neighbourhood Team on 020 8520 4652 or 020 8721 2035, if the team is on duty they will respond. 101 or 999 if a crime is suspected of taking place at the time of the call.

Sgt Champion (JC) summarised structure and function of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the Borough, including recent structural changes. High Street SNT has 13 officers. High Street Office is open 10am-6pm, Tuesday-Saturday and residents are welcome to visit.

High Street Ward crime report for last 12 weeks

Residential burglaries: 7 (decrease of 5 on previous quarter)

Robbery: 19 (increase of 7 on previous quarter). The increase can be explained by a spike in incidents around Coppermill Primary school when a group of young males on bikes targeted younger children leaving the school and stole their phones. PC Fletcher (MF) has worked with the school to increase willingness to report this. No subsequent incidents.

Theft of/from motor vehicles: 24 – same level as previous quarter

Good news stories: 88 arrests in past 12 weeks represents high volume for the team and covers a range of offences. Several significant arrests regarding drugs and knife crime, charges pending. Search warrants on properties suspected of involvement with drugs carried out (this is a significant

piece of work).

MF reminded those present that information from members of the public is vital to Police evidence gathering, e.g. evidence required to gain search warrants.

JC emphasised need for members of the public to call 101/999: if the Police don't know a crime has or might have taken place they can't act. SD confirmed that she has seen at Stop & Search monitoring meetings that the Police are held to account on their responses to calls.

3. St James Street & Leucha Road: drug dealing and anti social behaviour

It is noted that the residents from Leucha Road and Pretoria Avenue attended today's meeting because of their grave concerns with this issue.

Summary: this is an ongoing problem that appears to have deteriorated severely in recent months. Young people dealing drugs and using vulnerable young females to carry drugs. Residents are impacted by threatening behaviour, people using drugs on their door steps and associated anti social behaviour, e.g. urinating and defecating in gardens, litter. Residents of Leucha Road do not feel safe going out at night.

JC and PH acknowledged this is a long standing problem that has got worse. The residents' concerns are noted and they are assured that this is a major issue for the Borough. A multi agency operation is in development, setting up information sharing protocol and terms of reference in order to insure that work carried out will be effective if/when it gets to Court. It is not possible to divulge details of the Operation at this stage in order not to jeopardise its effectiveness.

Question from residents: what are the implications for a member of the public who films suspected criminal activity?

Answer: it is not illegal to film but (a) residents must make a careful judgement about risk to themselves in doing so and (b) whilst such material may be useful to Police, there is no guarantee it could be used as evidence in Court.

Question from residents: What is the mobile CCTV unit for (perception it is focused on parking offences) and why can it not be deployed on Leucha Road?

Answer: Brian Ellick (BE) clarified use and purpose of relocatable cameras. He has arranged a visit to Leucha Road with his manager to assess placing a camera there.

ACTION: BE to confirm use of CCTV unit and if a second unit is to be made available.

Clare Coghill (CC) requested at least one representative from Leucha Road attend the next Ward Panel in order to hold the meeting to account on these actions.

Discussion about MOPAC7 (Mayor's office policing priorities) and why drugs are not included in the list.

Question: can LBWF deploy a patrol car to the affected streets?

CC: no budget for such a targeted response but she is confident that the Enforcement Team is active across the Ward.

Question: why not find resource for this?

ACTION: CC will raise with Cllr Loakes who holds the budget for CCTV to see if more can be released in respect of this specific issue.

St James Street Big Local have commissioned work on designing out crime as part of the project. MF will shortly be taking on a role which also focuses on this area (designing out crime) and is likely to feed into High Street Ward.

BE: confirmed that the Neighbourhood Team is working with local businesses on their responsibilities and what can be done to design out crime. CC confirmed that she is keen from

businesses benefiting from the redevelopment of the area to work with the Borough and Police on this issue.

CC updated on her meetings with the Chief Inspector. She has been disappointed with progress but hopes that momentum is now changing.

Question: are Circle 33 part of the multi agency approach and are they fulfilling their responsibility as landlords?

ACTION: CC will insure all relevant agencies are involved, including Circle 33

Question: why does the Borough permit so many licenses, e.g. alcohol sales?

CC: many of the licenses on St James Street have been held for a long time. Reviewing the licenses would take away Police resource from directly addressing the problem.

4. Sex work in cars on South Grove

This issue was raised via a local FaceBook group and brought to the meeting by PH. Confirmed the matter is known to Police and being looked into.

5. Women harassed on the High Street

Insufficient time to discuss this but agreed to carry forward to next meeting. In the meantime CC will look into this in more detail.

6. Chair & Vice Chair

PH is stepping down due to moving and other commitments, though he will remain a ward panel member, and is currently also Chair of the WF Safer Neighbourhood Board. He was thanked by the panel for his commitment and hard work.

Andre Henry and Katie Pomeroy volunteered to stand as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, this was agreed with no one against the proposal.

7. Priorities

- Drugs on St James Street
- Drinking on Coppermill Lane

Meeting closed at 9pm.