

High Street Safer Neighbourhoods Ward Panel

Meeting notes: 21st September 2018

Attendees:

- Sgt Tony Howe
- PC Stephen Bragg
- PC Scott Defreitas
- Andre Henry (Chair)
- Sandra DaCosta
- Philip Herlihy
- Malcolm Patten (Blackhorse Baptist Church)

It was noted that the turnout for this meeting was relatively low – this might have been due to a circulated message which had given the date incorrectly – apologies to anyone disadvantaged by this

News & Updates:

Police Report:

Work on the **drug dealing** problem continues. Various police teams are cooperating to address the problem – though information sharing needs improvement. The “Mali Boys” have been forced to relocate their activities to Leyton (often around Coronation Gardens). Two panel members confirmed that they have been significantly less in evidence in the High Street recently, although there are reports that they have been loitering in local shops.

Only one report concerning **street harassment of women** has been received by police, though this is believed to be an under-reported issue. Panel members suggested street signs encouraging those affected to make reports.

The “Tasking Team” has been operating around St James St Station. Arrests include 7 for possession of drugs, 1 for breach of bail conditions, 1 for breach of dispersal order (drugs found), 1 female stopped in Newham found with £1,000 in the street which led to drugs found at her home.

3 warrants were executed, including 2 at a local hostel – 2 arrests for possession. 265 Stop & Search encounters on the Ward – the high number resulting from the focus on the drug dealing problem. (Panel discussion covered body-worn cameras, and retention of footage). A number of knives were seized, plus an imitation gun (an AK47!). Total arrests were 42, of which 16 were drug-related (this does not include cannabis warnings issued). 3 were arrested in connection with a “palm-reading” scam/extortion. 1 was arrested for GBH in the Mall, where a knife injury to an eyelid was involved. 1 pickpocket was arrested after a successful stop & search. Two beggars were “dispersed”, including one dressed as a priest.

4 dispersal orders have been made since May. The team now has access to “Airspace”, which records ASB, a vulnerability assessment, and the impact of the behaviour.

Ward Priorities

After discussion, the team’s **priorities** were agreed to remain as:

- Drugs/gangs
- Street drinking
- Street Harassment of women

Ward Panel Officers:

The Ward Panel **Chair**, Andre Henry, has expressed an intention to stand down, due to new family responsibilities (congratulations are due!). This is a great opportunity for another member of the panel to step up to what has always been an interesting, rewarding, and (thankfully) relatively light responsibility in terms of the work involved. Anyone interested is encouraged to talk to any of the team's officers, or to Philip Herlihy, who was chair for many years – all of these will be glad to offer continuing support as needed. The website (<http://www.walthamsoft.com/high-st-snt>) has a link to a summary of what the role involves. It would also be helpful to have a **deputy chair**, and the same applies. Do get in touch if you'd like an informal discussion, without obligation!

Residents are invited to join the **Facebook** group "High Street E17 Ward Panel" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1579777132311261>), and a resident also mentioned the Borough-wide group "Crime Awareness Waltham Forest" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CrimeAwarenessWalthamForest>). Neither of these is an "official" Met Police group.