

High Street Safer Neighbourhood Team - Ward Panel

Notes of meeting held Tuesday 16th October, 7pm at The Mall Offices

Attendees: Phil Herlihy (Acting Chair), PC Terry Smart, PC Stephen Bragg, Sandra DaCosta (resident, Chair of WF Stop&Search), Maya Walker (resident), Rachel Roe ('Women taking back the streets'), Debbie Byrne (resident, 'women taking back the streets'), Alan Smith (Cleveland Pk Res. Assoc. Chair), Helen Last (resident), Fiona Martin (Markhouse SNT Chair), Alice Taylor-Rugman (resident), Malcolm Patten (resident, Pastor of Blackhorse Rd Baptist Ch.).

Apologies: Andre Henry

NB: It was noted that Andre Henry (previous chair) had resigned and was no longer living in the area. Thanks and appreciation for the way he had served this Panel was conveyed to him.

Minutes: No corrections

Matters arising: Agreed to invite ASB (anti-social behaviour) officers and councillors to future meetings, though noted that these meetings were not for case work but for discussion of general issues affecting the Ward. **TS to action**

Ward Priorities:

PH explained that as these were not given priority by the Police, they weren't very meaningful and were being discontinued. Residents would simply express issues at meetings that needed attention.

Police Report: A detailed report was circulated (annotated copy appended). Questions:

- Concern raised about low no. of drug-related arrests, and about ASB not being recorded correctly. However, PH noted the recent arrests due to co-ordinated operation (20 simultaneous "warrants") to disrupt organised drug crime which had a measure of success – including the seizure of five mobiles used in "County Line" drug-dealing enterprises.
- Noted that 'violence with injury' (including ABH & GBH), though varied in nature, occur mainly after 8pm. Common assault not included in these figures.
- Police concern about the number of 'dippings' (purse snatching etc) and the need to increase awareness, particularly as Christmas approaches. Mainly older people and mothers with children in prams/pushchairs. **PH proposed a formal request to The Mall to increase security relating to dippings including PA announcements. Unanimously supported. TS to action.** Police will facilitate cadets giving out leaflets towards Christmas.
- TS noted improvements at St James' Street and increased policing for a limited time. MP concerned about what happens after purge to prevent re-occurrence. Police acknowledged not able to maintain high presence continually so it remains a concern.
- MP raised concern about how to report low level anti-social drug use/dealing. TS/SB said that where there were patterns of behaviour these could be reported to the SNT using the officers' email addresses, but specific incidents should not be reported this way. Concern about 101 service though AS noted he had a good experience of police response from using it.

Report on Cluster meeting by PH:

PH had stood in for the Chair at a Borough-wide "Cluster" meeting (20 Sept) of Ward Panel Chairs. This was led by Inspector **Chris Nixon**, who is the Neighbourhoods Inspector for Waltham Forest, reporting to Chief Inspector Matt Casey and Superintendent Wadid Khan.

- It was confirmed that the merger of Waltham Forest and Newham police into the new “North East” BCU (Basic Command Unit) would go ahead on October 17. Shoulder badges change from “JC” to “NE”. The new BCU will be under the leadership of Chief Superintendent Richard Tucker, who has been the WF Borough Commander.
- There is now a dedicated small team working on “serious acquisitive crime”.
- The Uplands patrol base (not open to the public) is unlikely to close before 2020.
- There is a new Neighbourhoods “Tasking Team” (one Sgt + 4 PCs) which will provide tactical support to neighbourhood teams as needed.
- PCSO recruitment has been revived, with 200 vacancies – some had believed the role was being phased out, but this appears not to be the case.
- The High Street team will grow to 5 PCs to reflect the workload due to the Market and the transport hubs.
- Met Police priorities are:
 - Counter-Terrorism
 - Serious Youth Violence
 - Serious Acquisitive Crime
 - Safeguarding of vulnerable persons
 - Antisocial Behaviour
- Operation “Norris” is to address Serious Youth Crime, including knife crime.
- Operation “Monkash” is to address “cuckooing” – a practice where criminals exploit the home of a vulnerable person as a base for criminal activity. Ward panels are urged to raise awareness of this possibility and to report any suspicions to police.
- Inspector Nixon spoke of his aspirations for Ward Panels:
 - An elected resident Chair should set the Agenda
 - Minutes should be taken by a resident, with Actions recorded – this replaces the former “priorities” which had been set at meetings.
 - The meetings should focus on local issues, and hold the local team to account for their response – are they being effective?
 - Police will provide recent crime figures, and these can be retained by panel members
 - Meetings should be public, but it must be made clear that they are not for individual casework
- Insp Nixon mentioned a facility known as “the Hub”, which can arrange leaflet production for Met-related projects, including Ward Panels, at no cost.
- The new Chair and Vice-Chair of the WF Safer Neighbourhood Board gave a very encouraging report of significant progress on all fronts: engagement with police, recruitment of membership and allocation of project funding. This was warmly welcomed by everyone present. (*The Safer Neighbourhood Board is the Borough’s central police-community engagement body, where its appointed members hold to account the Borough Commander and the Senior Leadership Team.*)

AOB:

Street Harassment of women - PH expressed the view that this problem was under-reported and so it doesn’t become a priority. RR noted that teenage girls were not reporting because a) they don’t know how, b) they don’t realise they should. Concern that it was not being taken seriously enough. TS/SB said few were reported, but if every incident of verbal harassment was reported it would be overwhelming.

Ways forward:

- 'Taking back the Streets' had distributed 2k cards with info in Town Square and felt greater awareness was needed. TS suggested engaging with school police officers and sharing info between 4pm-6pm on weekdays in Town Sq when many school age children passed through.
- Query whether incidents could be reported via Met CC (Control Centre) Twitter – **Action: FM to follow up**
- Idea raised of an APP that women could use to log incidents; this would need to be facilitated by the council and allow mapping of incidents to occur and information passed on to police to follow up. **Action: FM and PH to follow up.**

Need for new Chair/ Vice-chair expressed, no volunteers at present. (Note from PH: This is an interesting and rewarding role which is relatively undemanding! There's a "job description" on the website: www.walthamsoft.com/high-st-snt)

Next Meeting agreed for Tuesday 11th December, 7pm at The Mall Offices.

For Information:

SNT hold a weekly 'surgery' at Costa Coffee in The Mall every Thursday at 11am. (PH suggested at the meeting that an early evening slot might be better attended by residents.)

Twitter feed for SNT: @MPSHighStreet

Email for SNT: NEMailbox.SNTHighStreet@met.police.uk (*new*)

Met Police web pages: <https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/waltham-forest/high-street/>

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Ward Priorities Set April 2018. HALF TERM.

- Drugs.
- ASB.
- Violence with injury.

Searcher
detection
'Community resolution'

Recorded Crimes on the Ward May-Sep.

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	Aug	Sep
Crimes Recorded	228	173	178	187	194
Mall Crimes	32	35	30	21	45
Dipping in Mall	16	20	15	11	13
Dipping o/s Mall	32	22	26	21	20
Drugs	8	6	5	7	5
Violence with injury	20	16	18	15	14
ASB	5	4	6	8	4

Handwritten mark

rise snatching etc.

Ward Priorities Previously

can be caught, resolution, charge.
actual bodily harm or
grosses bodily harm.
mostly after 8pm
(common assault)
not included in
figs

Ward News

Went live Monday 15th Oct. New officers now at 4 wait 1 more by the end of Oct.
Joint boroughs Newham + WF

DRUGS. Running steady at about 6 arrests per month.

An OP running at the moment St James St surrounding area Re Drugs 17 arrests made last 2 week 14 still on remand joint OP with (Plain clothes, BTP, TFL, TSG VTF)

ASB. Running at about 5 crimes a month.

Dealing with street drinkers on the ward with joint patrols with Enforcement officers from the council.

At McDonalds completed, with only 1 crime reported in the last 7 months for a theft.
The Mall meeting with head of Security regarding banning some school kids.

V W I running at about 17 crimes a month ABH/GBH.

More visible officers in the High St with the up load of officers.

We will be asking for more help from the MSC due to late hour's assaults.

Pictures of knives' taken off our Streets in the last month.

Specials

need to check manually its (lock)

Theft from motor vehicle.

In the last 6 weeks we have seen a large amount of theft from motor vehicle (by some kind of electrical devise in & around Coppermill. This has been noted to the ERT's to pay attention when on patrols. As ward officers we had plains clothes officers in an unmark car for days with no results, We have seen a reduction in the last two weeks however there is still a problem with theft from motor vehicle across the ward.

Moving forward.

incident sent to ward officers

Essex Close only 1 Airspace since August 2018

Large amount of AIRSPACE (Local cads to ward officers) with regards to noise nuisance. Which is taking up a lot of police time should go through to LBWF.

- put in LBWF news

Dealing with High Tide festival in The Town Square.

This will run every year now September.

Winter Wonderland from 1st Dec 2018 until New Year. - 10am - 10pm
As diagram not signed off as yet??

Saturday 1st & 15th Dec we will be working with the police Cadets to reduce crime in the High St & The Mall with the run up to Christmas.

I have shown the amount of dipping (theft from person) maybe to change Ward Priorities.?

next biggest crime generator.