

High Street Safer Neighbourhood Team - Ward Panel
Notes of meeting held Tuesday 11 December at 7pm, The Mall Offices

Attendees: Phil Herlihy (Acting Chair), PC Terry Smart, PC Stephen Bragg, Helen Jackson and Roy Messenger (Cleveland Park Residents' Association), Charles Mutuku and Gino Di Franco (Thomas Jacob Place), Sandra DaCosta (Chair of WF Stop & Search), Marta Wasinska (ASB Officer LBWF), Tommy Anderson (Southcote Road), Louisa Bergese (Essex Close), Malcolm Patten (Pastor of Blackhorse Road Baptist Church).

Helen Jackson (HJ) volunteered to take the minutes.

Guidelines for the meeting were reiterated: listen respectfully without interruption, give way to the chair, continually improve to aim what we do and be open to new ideas.

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.
2. **Minutes:** There were no corrections to the minutes dated 16 October.
3. **Actions arising: Dipping/bag snatching** - PC Terry Smart (TS) reported that an operation had taken place in The Mall on Saturday 8 December 10.30am to 3.30pm with the cadets and hourly tannoy announcements reminding people to look after their bags and purses. There had been no reports of dipping either in the Mall or High Street during this time, but two reports between 4pm and 5pm. A second operation will take place on 15 December. Two stores in the Mall are frequently targeted: one without CCTV and one with, although the quality of the footage is not particularly helpful and most suspects are unidentified. Targets are mainly the elderly, infirm, or mums with buggies. A new Head of Security starts in The Mall in January and he is keen to work with the police and retrain existing security staff. It was suggested that the market traders could help identify dippers and that they be invited to a meeting. **Action - TS to invite a market representative to future meetings.** Charles Mutuku (CM) suggested the market stalls within The Mall use the Shopwatch Scheme. TS said they have a radio system linked to security.
4. **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - Marta Waskinska (MW)**

Marta is the ASB Officer in Central Walthamstow along with her colleague James who is responsible for the High Street. Their focus is on (1) street drinkers (2) rough sleepers and (3) aggressive beggars - all sensitive issues and so they are engaging with St. Mungo's and CGL. A stepped approach is taken - 120 Community Protection Warnings have led to 10 Community Protection Notices: the next stage is Fixed Penalty Notices. They receive few complaints: issues should be reported via <https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/report-anti-social-behaviour-asb>.

Begging - falls into two areas: those with genuine need and organised groups. Officers have witnessed a van dropping off females and are pursuing. Whilst individuals can be arrested for begging, it is an inefficient use of police time to arrest them. It was noted that compared with other areas of London e.g. Islington and Camden, the problem in Walthamstow is not as great.

Street drinkers - Walthamstow has a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) banning street drinking and reports should be made on 101. The police will seize the alcohol and serve Community Protection Notices. Tommy Anderson (TA) was concerned that the police are not tackling issues around Coppermill Lane, but TS said this was not the case. It was noted that a bench opposite the power station attracts drinkers and that once the art gallery is opened the bench will be turned round to face it. This bench cannot be removed and it was noted that whilst benches attract drinkers, they also provide a much-needed facility for the elderly, infirm etc. Phil Herlihy (PH) said that whilst we are here to hold the policy to account and voice our concerns, this should be

balanced with reduced police numbers and council funding cuts. The ASB team are currently dealing with individuals causing disruption in the library in terms of physical and racial abuse.

CCTV - TA expressed concern that CCTV cameras are not always working. **Action - MS to provide further detail on totals camera numbers, those working etc.**

Councillor attendance at meetings - once again, none of the three High Street Councillors were present. **Action - PH to invite councillors once again to send a representative to meetings.**

Street harassment of women - the item was covered at the end of the meeting more fully, but MW made the group aware of the LBWF Victim Support Champion who can provide emotional support and guidance to victims. Referrals can be made through the ASB Team. A café in Hoe Street where harassment of women is reported is being looked into.

Moped delivery drivers - groups of drivers wearing crash helmets waiting for deliveries, can appear intimidating and options are being looked at.

A vote of thanks for attending was given to Marta, particularly as it was her day off.

5. Police Report

	Sep	Oct	Nov
Reported crimes	194	187	168
Dippings in The Mall	13	15	16
Dippings outside The Mall	20	30	28
Drugs offences	5	9	7
Violence with injury	14	9	5
Anti-Social behaviour	4	4	6

Operation Langdale - the multi-stranded approach established in response to violent crime committed in the High Street and St. James's area, is due to finish in December 18. Statistics were circulated. Over the last 2/3 months, they have undertaken 198 stop and search leading to 6 arrests with knives being taken off the streets and 14 drugs offences. Sandra DaCosta (SDC) said these were not effective but accepted they needed to be done and if people were being stopped correctly and dealt with fairly there was not a problem. Steve Bragg (SB) said stop and search were only undertaken when there were the grounds to do so.

Resource levels - there are currently 4 full time police in High Street, with a fifth joining in January. Additional support has been provided recently by the Violent Crime Task Force, but this will finish by the end of 2018. There has been a more visible presence in the High Street by MSC Officers between 11pm and 3am when attacks have been occurring.

Photos of knives and drugs taken off the streets were handed round. In addition, 3 people have been arrested on suspicion of theft having found IT items with a value of circa £10,000. There has been a slight dip in motor vehicle crimes around Coppermill.

Patrols are still taking place around Essex Road with a view to issuing Fixed Penalty Notices where there are gatherings of youths' drug dealing. Five names have been put forward for Criminal Behaviour Orders.

Winter Wonderland was cancelled following a meeting between the police, promotor, council licensing officers and ward officers. The security levels proposed were thought to be insufficient bearing in mind previous

incidents at Christmas markets across Europe and expected visitor numbers. The WW had also been advertised as a Borough of Culture event without council permission.

6. Street harassment of women

PH said that despite comments from Chief Constable Sara Thornton that the police should focus on crime, not misogyny, there may be a need for these issues to be investigated in the future. TS said that would happen if required but instances needed to be reported.

To facilitate reporting of incidents in order to gather intelligence, PH suggested an app was needed. HJ mentioned the LWBF Chat Bot, used to report graffiti, fly tipping etc. PH also suggested a poster be developed for cafes. **Action - PH to meet with the council to take forward street harassment ideas.**

7. Any Other Business

Email list - As the email distribution list for the group has been abused, PH said all emails to group members should be routed via him for issue.

Appointment of Chair - Malcolm Patten had agreed to stand as co-chair with PH and this was unanimously agreed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 26 February 2019, The Mall Offices, 7pm

Contact details were handed out:

PC 2271 NE Steve Bragg

PC 1110 NE Terry Smart

Email: NEMAILBOX.SNTHIGHSTREET@MET.POLICE.UK – this should be used for intelligence and not reporting of incidents.

Mobile: 07843 291115

Twitter: @MPSHIGHSTREET