

# **SOUTH RICHMOND POLICE LIAISON GROUP**

## **Minutes of the Meeting – Thursday 6 October 2011**

### **Headlines**

**Total Notifiable Offences in South Richmond ward have decreased by 12% between 2010 and 2011.**

**Richmond Street Pastors have made a successful start to their work on Friday evenings, and hope shortly to cover Saturday evenings as well.**

**The SNT priorities were left as before – antisocial behaviour, retail theft and theft of bicycles. Specific measures are being developed against shop-lifting and bicycle theft.**

### **Agenda Items 1 and 2 – Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

1. Those attending were:

Lisette Simcock (Chairman of the South Richmond PLG)  
Detective Chief Inspector Martin Ward (Metropolitan Police)  
Acting Detective Inspector Mark Long (Metropolitan Police)  
Sgt Rafael Nadal (Head of the South Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Team)  
PCSO Chris Walden (South Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Team)  
PCSO Dayna Stephen (South Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Team)  
Tony Cotton (Richmond Synagogue)  
Richard Eason (Richmond LGBT Forum)  
Gary Flynn (Richmond Street Pastors)  
Jill Grist (Kings Road)  
Terry Lowden (Richmond Green)  
Alan Sanders (Cambrian Centre)  
Cathy Thomas (Grosvenor Road)  
David Shaw (Chairman, Alberts Community Association)  
Peter Willan (Chairman, Richmond Society)  
Alan Simcock (note-taker)

2. Apologies were received from Ginny Curry, Liz Dewson, Bunny Farnell-Watson, Councillor Pamela Fleming, David Martin and the chair of the Petersham, Ham and Riverside Police Liaison Group (who had hoped to attend).

### **Agenda Item 3 – Minutes of Previous Meeting**

3. The PLG approved the minutes of the meeting on 6 July 2011.

4. The Chairman drew attention to a further note from the Borough Council on CCTV cameras: 7 are now fully functioning; a further 4 are in place; the legal issues on the aerial on Monsoon had been resolved and 5 cameras should come into operation within the next four weeks.

5. Richard Eason stressed the need to keep up the pressure and suggested checking progress in a few weeks' time.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Dealing with Burglary Offences**

6. Detective Chief Inspector Martin Ward and Acting Detective Inspector Mark Long gave a presentation on the problems of burglary offences and how the police handle them. Their main points were that:

- (a) most burglary resulted from thieves taking advantage of unintended opportunities, such as unlocked doors, keys available through “fishing” through a letter-box, garden tools available in unlocked sheds being used to force entry, lack of locks on doors from integral garages, older types of patio doors (where the glass could be easily removed) and unprotected houses undergoing renovation;
- (b) in dealing with the burglary offences (and other crime requiring investigation) they were supported by three detective sergeants and eight detective constables;

- (c) the processes involved a daily sequence of a review of what had happened in the previous 24 hours, a review of new intelligence received and a management meeting to decide on action. This was supported by a weekly review of what types of offence were happening and action that had been put in hand;
  - (d) much burglary in Richmond was linked to outbreaks of offences of the same kind in neighbouring areas. This was particularly true of events such as raids on jewellery shops.
7. In the subsequent question-and-answer session, the following main points were made:
- (a) 70% of those convicted of burglary in Richmond-upon-Thames came from outside the borough;
  - (b) convictions were secured in 10.2% of the residential burglaries reported and 9% of the non-residential burglaries;
  - (c) since many offences were committed by a relatively small number of persons, bail conditions were used to try to ensure that those accused of burglary were kept out of the area;
  - (d) the Criminal Investigation team worked closely with the Safer Neighbourhood teams. The SNT Inspector attended the daily management meeting. The Neighbourhood Watch system also helped in getting information through;
  - (e) automatic number-plate recognition was used at least once a month on Richmond bridges to check on the movements of vehicles suspected or known to be involved in burglary.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Safer Neighbourhood Team report**

10. Sgt Nadal presented a report on the work of the SNT over the last quarter (6 July to 6 October). The picture shown by figures on reported offences continued the positive picture: total notifiable offences had decreased by 12% between the year to date and the same period in 2010. There would be an event to enable the public to meet the SNT in the Meadows Hall on 26 October, and street briefings would continue about once a fortnight. On the shoplifting priority, a new effort would be made to encourage the managers of the ten shops with the highest number of cases to take steps to discourage shoplifting.

11. In discussion, the main points were:

- (a) the presentation of the figures on offences was confusing. There was a lack of information on anti-social behaviour, which had previously been provided, and the figures for the “year to date” were difficult to reconcile with information given previously and the figures given for specific offences;

It was agreed that the Chairman, Richard Eason and Sgt Nadal would discuss the best way to present figures to future meetings.

- (b) the street briefings were of limited use. The time of day was not suited to many of those at work, since they were still on their way home. Efforts such as the surgery at the Alberts’ Deli and the session at the Duke’s Head (which had attracted 20 people) had been more effective in the past;

It was agreed that the issue of street briefings (which were apparently required by central Metropolitan Police guidance) could usefully be raised at the Borough Community and Police Partnership and considered in commenting on the draft revised guidance which would be circulated as part of the review of SNTs.

- (c) special efforts were being made on shoplifting and bicycle theft. A Borough-wide strategy on shoplifting was being developed, and decoy bicycles were being used at Richmond Station in conjunction with British Transport Police;
- (d) there continued to be problems over alcohol abuse on the Riverside terrace, linked to the “Vodka Revolution” bar.

Sgt Nadal said that the licensing team were considering this problem, and would be approaching the manager of the “Vodka Revolution” bar.

12. The PLG reviewed the priorities for the safer neighbourhood team and, on the recommendation of Sgt Nadal, confirmed that the priorities for the next three months should continue to be antisocial behaviour, retail theft and theft of bicycles.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Neighbourhood Watch**

13. Cathy Thomas presented a report on behalf of Bunny Farnell-Watson. The main points were:
- (a) a Neighbourhood Watch scheme had started on and around the Green, with six coordinators;
  - (b) arrangements were being made to try to ensure that all recipients could read all NW material sent by e-mail;
  - (c) there would be a meeting in January to encourage street parties for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee;
  - (d) new red stickers for NW for 2012/13 would be launched shortly.
14. The meeting discussed the roads for which there were still no Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, and agreed:
- (a) the list should be put in the minutes;
  - (b) those seeing the PLG minutes should be asked to contact Bunny Farnell-Watson ([farnell-watson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:farnell-watson@blueyonder.co.uk)) if they had friends or contacts in these roads who might be approached.

The streets for which coordinators are needed are:

Cambrian Road	Lichfield Gardens	Queens Road (other
Chester Avenue	Lower Grove Road	than Queens
Chisholm Road	Marlborough Road	Crescent to
Chislehurst Road	Onslow Avenue	Floyer Close )
Friars Style Road	Onslow Mansions	Terrace Lane
Greville Road	Park Hill	
Kings Road	Park Road	

15. The PLG recorded its thanks to Bunny Farnell-Watson for her excellent work as Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Street Pastors**

16. Gary Flynn gave a report on the start-up of the Street Pastors in Richmond: they were now operating on Friday nights from 9:30 pm. When the twelve further members had completed their training, they were hoping to cover Saturday nights as well. There had been a good response from the general public. They had had to deal with a couple of cases of sexual predators looking to pick up young women. They had stopped a number of fights developing. They had picked up 600 bottles and glasses – important because so many young women discarded their fashion shoes on leaving night spots. They had only had to call for an ambulance on one occasion. They had noted a lot of heavy drinking by 14 – 16 year-old youths.

17. The PLG thanked Gary Flynn for the report, and congratulated the Street Pastors on their successful start.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Report on key meetings**

15. The Chairman presented a report on the Community and Police Partnership (CPP) meetings on 26 July and 27 September and the CPP's meeting for Neighbourhood Watch on 7 September. The main points were:

- (a) although the Borough was the only one not affected in some way by the August riots, the police in the Borough had been working hard for five weeks in support of their colleagues in other boroughs;
- (b) public confidence in the Borough in the police had improved;

- (c) violent offences had decreased significantly across the Borough between April and September, but there had been increases in burglary and robbery.

**Agenda Item 9: Counter-Terrorism**

17. Sgt Nadal confirmed the continuing need to report things that looked out of place: the telephone number for such reports was 0800 789 321.

**Agenda Item 10: Future Meetings**

16. The PLG confirmed that the next meeting would be on Thursday 26 January, 2012, and that the other meetings in 2012 would be on Thursday 26 April (a change), Wednesday 11 July and Wednesday 10 October. The next meeting would be addressed by

- (a) Acting Chief Inspector Hannah Wheeler on the finding from the Anti-Social Behaviour project;
- (b) PC Bob Mitchell from the Counter-Terrorism team.

**Agenda Item 12: Any Other Business**

17. Peter Willan drew attention to the consultation by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the deregulation of entertainment licenses.

18. Jill Grist drew attention to the problems of skips being left in, and thus blocking, residential parking bays. Peter Willan commented that there was now a high charge (and initial fee of £90 and £30 a day) by the Borough Council for licenses to place skip on the highway: this should deter skips being left too long.

19. David Shaw drew attention to the recurrence of graffiti, which had been less common for quite a period: in particular, the back of Tesco and the alley between Church Road and Richmond Station. The SNT agreed to take action on the Tesco case, and to speak to the British Transport Police about the alley.