

**Minutes of the KEW Police Liaison Group Meeting
Wednesday 7th September 2011**

Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Judi Braddock	Chair / Kew Youth Club
Anne Stoddart	Secretary / Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, The Avenue
Sgt Mick Coughlan	Kew SNT
PC David Johnston	Kew SNT
PC Glyn Fuller	Kew SNT
PCSO Mitz Jani	Kew SNT
Meena Bond	Councillor, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
J-F Burford	Councillor, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Peter Burrows-Smith	Community Police Partnership, London borough of Richmond upon Thames
Valmai Smail	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Layton Place
Lyn Earl	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Cumberland Road and Leyborne Park
Hilary Fitzhugh	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Ruskin Avenue and Defoe Avenue
Marian Howells	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Brick Farm Close

Residents Chris Winn, Dinah Teather, Lesley Howells

Apologies from

George Goddard	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Bushwood, Priory, Maze, Haversfield and Forest Roads,
Joe Stephenson	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Gloucester Court
Jenny Wakefield	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Gloucester Road
PCSO Heather Busby	Kew SNT

Note: Those named above were attending the borough-wide Neighbourhood Watch meeting

PCSO Fiaz Ismail	Kew SNT
David Linnette	Councillor, Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Hans Weijman	Kew Approved Premises
Nick Hutchings	Pensford Field
Suzanne Sheffer	Rotary Club
Leanore Copeland	Resident

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the members of the PLG, residents and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Introductions were made together with declarations of the groups represented. The Secretary regretted that some of the information circulated during the summer had been sent out with insufficient postage; the correct envelope size will be used for future mailings.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

a) Antisocial behaviour at Kew Riverside

Sgt Coughlan reported that the Thames Valley Housing Partnership had circulated dos and don'ts in a letter on antisocial behaviour to all residents. The situation had now quietened down and some youths had moved out of the area, possibly to avoid future sanctions.

b) Problems in North Road

Since the spike in burglary at the beginning of the year Kew SNT were only aware of minor problems – cars scratched in April and possible damage to trees. Cllr Bond had received complaints about recurring graffiti, including one incident on the railway bridge where a cardboard cut-out had been left behind. Sgt Coughlan thought it possible that the Council had cleaned up graffiti very quickly. It was important for residents to report graffiti to the police so that it could be photographed and checked against the police database. Sgt Coughlan confirmed that perpetrators often took photographs of their own work to keep in albums.

Cllr Burford mentioned the repeated graffiti on the railway. PCSO Jani pointed out that this was a matter for British Transport Police. A number of residents had noticed the spray painting in gold of the post box and the pub door at the station. It was believed this was ‘urban art’. The pub landlord, unlike the Royal Mail, seemed quite happy with the result. Cllr Burford had however noticed a post box in Atwood Avenue that had been sprayed less successfully in black and yellow.

c) Parking by visitors to Kew Gardens

Sgt Coughlan reported that the six nights of summer concerts in Kew Gardens (Kew the Music), with up to 8,000 in the audience, had been much better organised than in the past. Kew Gardens had provided their own stewards and had made arrangements with local car parks. The police had received no complaints. Cllr Burford had received a few about drunken behaviour, litter and the obstruction of driveways. These had been passed to Kew Gardens. Sgt Coughlan noted that the Council had been asked to help with parking attendants but chose not to. Parking across driveways only counted as obstruction if someone wanted to get out.

3. Update on SNT and on Kew Priorities

Looking back at the summer Sgt Coughlan noted that there had been no particular problems in Kew at the time of the **August riots**. There had been one incident at a petrol station but there was no proof of any linkage. The Borough Reserve had however been on standby in case of trouble. Police in Kew had been sent to help elsewhere in London and had worked very long hours. Cllr Burford mentioned an incident on Kew Green where a fire extinguisher had been threatened to be thrown through a shop window. Those involved had however fled when confronted by the owner. A resident, who was involved with cricket for young people in a number of boroughs, had been reassured to hear the coach insisting there was nothing racial about the riots and praising the work the police had been doing with ethnic minority communities (including playing cricket).

During the summer there had also been the trial for the **Olympic cycle race** that had required road closures in the area, although not specifically in Kew. The police had fed back to the organisers a number of complaints about the closures and restrictions on access. Peter Burrows-Smith thought there had been no problems in Richmond Park itself but there needed to be more control of crossing points where tempers had frayed.

Sgt Coughlan circulated the **crime figures for Kew** from 1 April to 4 September for both 2010 and 2011 (copy attached). **Burglary** was up because of the bad start to the year. There had been a considerable improvement since (even though one of those present had been burgled while on holiday). Burglaries were mostly in daytime and spread all over Kew. Doors were forced or windows broken. The police carried out both plain clothes and high visibility patrols and extra officers were posted to Kew on some weekends. **Non-residential burglary** included the theft of bikes from the Mellis Avenue underground car park. Keys found during a recent arrest had led to the recovery from the Earl’s Court area of a number of the stolen bikes.

The figures for **theft from motor vehicles** had improved. June and August had been particularly good months. In most cases windows had been smashed but there were a few instances where vehicles had been left unlocked. The police were continuing to check parked cars and warn residents if they were insecure. **Theft of Pedal Cycles**, mainly around the station and near entrances to Kew Gardens, was up but the previous year’s figures had been very low. Cllr Burford pointed out that there were more targets as the number of bike stands had increased. Sgt Coughlan noted that crime prevention activities did not reach those

from outside the area who brought bikes in by train. The police had however used a bike with a tracker system and had been able to arrest a person who had stolen it. He agreed that locks were not a total answer but a thief would always look for the least protected bike so good security was still important. A resident reported that in Brick Farm Close youngsters left bikes out instead of putting them away in the sheds provided and they had witnessed fly-tipping. It would be helpful if the police could intervene and the residents were encouraged to call the SNT.

Overall **total crime** was slightly up but the trend was less so figures may balance out by year end. In answer to a question from Cllr Burford Sgt Coughlan explained that 60% of the **violent crimes** were domestic in nature. There was a specialised unit in Richmond to deal with these cases. Random assaults were very rare. A resident referred to the incident at the station where the umbrellas were set on fire. She understood that no one had been arrested although the culprits had been tracked by CCTV as far as Gunnersbury. Sgt Coughlan undertook to find out what had happened **Action** Sgt Coughlan. He pointed out that CCTV was most useful if suspects were already known to the police and that pictures were shared across boroughs.

In relation to a stabbing in High Park Road, raised by Cllr Burford, Sgt Coughlan said that a youth known to the police had been arrested and went to court but was not convicted. The injuries suffered by the two victims had not been life threatening. A resident referred to the anxiety caused by reports of an attempted rape at the station. Sgt Coughlan said the police had been trying to reassure the public. The allegation had not been proceeded with. The police had to be very careful about what they disclosed so it was often difficult to make public statements. He encouraged residents to email the police if they heard alarming rumours. The Chair encouraged Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators to pass on the reassurances given by the police.

4. Any other business

A resident raised the problem of speeding in Burlington Avenue especially with the roadworks and asked if the road could be made "local traffic only". Cllr Bond agreed to get in touch with her to discuss.

A resident suggested that Borough Commanders needed to meet regularly as many offenders came from outside the borough where the offence was committed. Sgt Coughlan confirmed that this happened and there were also joint operations and intelligence units worked closely together sharing CCTV and other information. It was also pointed out that Commander de Brunner of South West London had a strategic overview. Peter Burrows-Smith added that Commander Chalk had borough-wide meetings to look at trends across wards.

Cllr Burford announced that Kew Village Market (www.kewvillagemarket.org) would be held for a trial period of three months on the first Sunday of the month, starting 2nd of October. All profits would go to the community. Charities were very welcome to take stalls as was the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

A resident raised the question of cycling on pavements that was particularly dangerous at Chalkers Corner. Sgt Coughlan asked her to keep him informed of specific incidents.

The Chair passed round copies of the September Newsletter of the Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership. This is available from www.richmond.gov.uk/csp_newsletter_sept_2011.pdf

Sgt Coughlan noted that PCSO Heather Busby was attending the borough meeting of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators that evening and would report on anything of interest to Kew (see email of 15th September).

5. Next meetings

The Chair recalled the suggestion that the next meeting should be held on a Saturday but subsequent discussions agreed that this should be scheduled in March. The date of the next meeting is therefore as originally planned **Wednesday 7th December 2011**, 19.15 for 19.30 start, at Kew Library. The Counter Terrorism team has offered to give a short presentation at this meeting.

Meetings in 2012 will be held on Saturday 10 March, Tuesday 12 June, Tuesday 9 October and Tuesday 11 December. The usual September date is not possible in 2012 because of police commitments for the

Olympics.

The Chair thanked the SNT and residents for attending.