

Minutes

**Police Liaison Group (PLG)
Hampton North
08 October 2011
10:30am
All Saints Church Hall
The Avenue
Hampton**

The meeting was opened at 10:30am by Suriya Goodlett (Chairperson).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Darren Thornton.

Suriya Goodlett presiding over her first meeting introduced herself to the floor and explained her role as Chairperson. Suriya then handed the meeting to Sergeant Woodroofe.

Sergeant Woodroofe firstly expressed her delight and thanks to Suriya for agreeing to be the Chairperson and then introduced the two other members of her team present, PCSO 7266TW Lorraine Childs and PC 582TW Robin Claydon. The feeling of thanks to Suriya was echoed by the floor. Sergeant Woodroofe then explained that due to changes within the Met, the responsibility for Hampton Ward as well as for Hampton North now also falls upon her shoulders. A promise was made that Hampton North still has a dedicated team and that the added responsibility would in no way diminish the quality or amount of time spent with the ward and dealing with its priorities. The arrival of a new PC to the team was also announced and the floor seemed to be impressed when told of PC Morgan's experience.

Sergeant Woodroofe then delivered the current year and last years crime figures and was delighted to inform everyone that the figures were in the black except for Theft from Motor Vehicle thanks to a spate of incidents back in May.

The figures in brackets are the figures from the same period last year from 1st April to 7th October.

Burglary Residential 11 (12)
Violence against the person (26)
Robbery of the person 3 (3)
Theft from Motor Vehicle 31 (16)

It was pointed out that Violence against the person and Robbery tend to be youth on youth and so nobody should be unduly alarmed by these figures.

The floor seemed delighted that Burglaries are on the decrease however slight. Sergeant Woodroofe told the meeting that this is due to the High Visibility Patrols performed by the team and the countless crime prevention advice given out.

A question came from the floor asking if many exclusions take place within the local schools and it was suggested that pupils who are excluded from school typically go on to be future criminals in that it is a slippery slope. Sergeant Woodroffe responded by pointing out that the team has an excellent youth engagement history and many tactics are deployed. These include amongst other tactics conducting “team around the child” meetings involving partner agencies such as the education department, Social Services and when appropriate, local housing associations and as well as the child’s parents and family. The Sergeant shared a story with the meeting of one such student and told the meeting how this student who remained unnamed, was expelled from one school and was then engaged by us and other partners and is now doing well in a new school and has not come to notice by either the Police or the school.

Sergeant Woodroffe then told the meeting about the efforts made by her team at the Newhouse Centre. It was explained that the Newhouse Centre is a school for children with emotional behaviour difficulties and that 5 months ago, PC Claydon and PCSO Marek Regan from our sister team, now hold football sessions with the students and that the students only get to play football with the officers if their behaviour has been of a satisfactory level and added that when the officers first started they were met with a good degree of hostility but this has now subsided and the officers are now met with much enthusiasm and many of the children have now totally turned their worlds around as a result of her teams engagement.

The increase of Theft from motor vehicle offences was raised from the floor and the Sergeant was asked why she believed this was. The Sergeant pointed out that in times of recession, acquisitive crime sadly increases but pointed out that still all too often the crime has only occurred because the victim left items of value on display or simply did not lock the car or as often is the case, both. Sergeant Woodroffe reminded all those present that we all need to do our bit to reduce crime by locking our cars and removing all valuable items from show and that we all need to take responsibility for our own actions. This was a sentiment echoed from the floor.

Sergeant Woodroffe then asked if there were any other questions regarding the crime figures. No further questions were raised.

Suriya Goodlett then welcomed PC Bob Mitchell to the meeting and handed over to him.

PC Mitchell then introduced himself to the floor and explained his role on the Counter Terrorism Focus Desk for Richmond Borough. It was explained that the Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Chalk has requested he delivers his talk to all the PLG meetings on the Borough during the build up to the Olympic Games which start in less than a year from now. The meeting was reminded that Richmond will play its part as one of the host Boroughs.

PC Mitchell then went through an informative power point slide that outlined why terrorism is something everyone should be aware of and why Richmond shares the threat. As PC Mitchell pointed out, Richmond has its fair share of crowded places, transport links and iconic sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Twickenham RFU, Kew Gardens, National archives etc. PC Mitchell informed the meeting that we all

have our part to play in combating terrorism and keeping our community safe. This ranges from ensuring we shred or burn all unneeded documents or correspondence with our names, addresses or personal information on, to calling the team if they suspect anything they see or hear as maybe being somehow connected to terrorism.

PC Mitchell then treated the meeting to a DVD which was a documentary showing how a male was conducting hostile reconnaissance on his mobile phone whereby he was filming transport links, crowded places, iconic sites and paid particular attention to security features such as CCTV cameras. Luckily on this occasion, the male was spotted by Police and later successfully charged and convicted with offences. It was all too obvious that every one of us has responsibility to report suspicious behaviour to the police.

PC Mitchell ended the talk by assuring every one that his talk was designed to raise awareness and not fear and assured every one further that no specific information has been received to suggest that Richmond Borough is a target.

PC Mitchell can be reached at the Richmond Borough Counter Terrorism Focus Desk on 020 8247 7163

Alternatively, you can report any suspicious behaviour on free phone 0800 789321.

Remember, if you suspect it, report it. You will not be criticised if your information turns out to be harmless. Best to be safe than sorry.

Suriya Goodlett then thanked PC Mitchell for his input and for attending today.

Sergeant Woodroffe was then asked to read out the minutes of the previous meeting. The Sergeant apologised to the floor and confessed that although the minutes were taken, she has since mislaid them in one of her many computer files. Sergeant Woodroffe was most apologetic and promised the floor that the minutes will be made available to everyone once they are found.

Suriya Goodlett then asked the floor if there were any concerns from the community.

A question was asked if the Police team could provide a poster like the one currently on display in their office window entitled "No Trick or Treat". Sergeant Woodroffe invited the gentleman and any other resident to attend the office and collect a poster for displaying in their windows. On the subject of Halloween, Sergeant Woodroffe took the opportunity to remind the meeting that if any trick or treaters knock on their doors, one way of dealing with them is to not answer the door or to do as she has and that is to offer the children fruit instead of sweets. Surprisingly this has had the desired affect for Sergeant Woodroffe who reported that the children did not knock on her door the following year. This was met with much amusement from the floor. Sgt Woodroffe reminded the meeting to call 999 should anyone be subjected to any offences and informed everyone that the team will be on duty till the early hours over the Halloween and Guy Fawkes periods.

The subject of vehicle speeding was then raised from a resident of Oak Avenue. Sergeant Woodroffe reported that since the last PLG meeting, all the members of her

team including herself, have been trained in the use of the speed gun and the meeting was told that she and PC Claydon have already been out at the hot spot areas identified by the residents from past meetings but surprisingly, no one was seen to be speeding. The meeting was assured that many more operations would be carried out over the next few weeks and the Sergeant listed many roads and locations where the Police have received complaints of speeding. Those present at the meeting were invited to call the SNT with any further suggestions for locations where the team should set up their speed traps. This was met with much delight by the floor. It was also pointed out that buses will also be targeted and dealt with if caught speeding after a resident informed the meeting that he often witnesses buses speeding in the area.

An issue was then raised by a local resident who stated that some of the speed humps are different sizes to others and that in Oak Avenue by one of the bus stops, it has been witnessed many times for drivers to deliberately go over a hump on the left as it is significantly less aggressive than the others in the stretch. This therefore means the vehicles drive to the left of the road and almost mount the pavement. Sergeant Woodroffe requested this be reported to the local highways department. The same answer was given when another member of the meeting asked why the speed humps have gaps between them meaning mopeds can easily speed along the road without being engaged by the speed humps.

It was then pointed out to the team that cars park awkwardly outside Buckingham School in the mornings and afternoons. Sergeant Woodroffe informed the meeting that the team does patrol during these times and will continue to do so. The meeting was also urged to call the Council so they can send their enforcement car along.

Another member of the meeting complained of youths on mopeds causing anti social behaviour. Sergeant Woodroffe displayed knowledge of the problem by knowing exactly where the problems are occurring and by knowing those responsible. The meeting was assured that those responsible are/will be dealt with by means of Antisocial Behaviour Contracts, section 59 warnings, and vehicle seizures and by working with partners such as housing associations with a view of eviction warnings being issued.

The problem of dogs barking in the early of the morning was raised by one angry resident. Sergeant Woodroffe pointed out that this is a noise nuisance and therefore the complaint should be made to the local Council as noise nuisance and also the RSPCA.

There were no further points made and so Suriya Goodlett asked the members of the meeting to set the priorities. After a short discussion the following priorities were discussed and voted on as being the three the SNT should concentrate on:

- ASB by youths
- Speeding
- Drugs

On the subject of drugs, Sergeant Woodroofe told the floor that the main drug dealer on our ward is believed to have moved after telling her personally, that “Hampton is no longer a place for me as you pay me too much attention”. This was met with humour and delight from the floor.

The question was then asked of Sergeant Woodroofe if faith groups etc are engaged in order to facilitate a joint approach to combat terrorism. Sergeant Woodroofe reported that on this ward, local churches, faith groups etc, are all engaged and we have a good relationship with them as we all share the same goal.

Suriya Goodlett asked the meeting if there was any other business.

There was no comment from the floor.

Suriya informed the floor that a Vice Chairperson is required and if anyone fancies the role, to speak to her or the SNT.

Sergeant Woodroofe reminded everyone that there is not a post box at the Tangley Park office and that if people wish to send mail, please send it care of Teddington Police Station.

Suriya Goodlett then spoke of a date of the next meeting and suggested sometime in March. This will be confirmed at a later date subject to availability of the hall and those needed to be present.

Suriya Goodlett then thanked the team for their hard work which was echoed by the floor, again thanked Bob Mitchell for his input and thanked all of those for attending.

The meeting was then closed at 1220hrs.

Robin Claydon PC582TW