

Minutes from the Police Liaison Group Meeting

Location - Elleray Hall, Elleray Road, Teddington
13/06/2011 1930 hours

Persons Present:

Martin Kingsford - Chair

Anthony Lovegrove - Sgt Teddington Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT)

Lee Wollaston - PC Teddington SNT

Abiola Hassan- PC Teddington SNT

Paul Spratley - PCSO Teddington SNT

John Daoud - PCSO Teddington SNT

4 members of public present

Apologies - Joe Kettle - PCSO Teddington SNT

Judith Schomberg, Official minute taker.

The meeting was opened by Martin Kingsford who was unanimously re-elected as Chair. The entire group joined together in wishing Judith Schomberg the best and a speedy recovery with her broken leg.

Anti-social behaviour by youths

Sgt Lovegrove stated that crime overall in Teddington was down on this time last year. He then went into a detailed description of the two Anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspots of Grove Gardens and Udney Hall Gardens and that the SNT had increased its patrols around the area, as well as being in regular touch with local residents. Sgt Lovegrove then went into describing the events over the weekend of the 10th and 11th of June whereby a large numbers of youths with alcohol had been dispersed from Udney Hall Gardens.

A member of public asked whether the youths were local to which Sgt Lovegrove replied that the majority were from Kingston, Ham and Twickenham. He also stated that the SNT had investigated where the youths were getting their alcohol from. Several had stated that they had taken it from their home addresses without the parent's consent. Off License's were discussed, Sgt Lovegrove informed the meeting that several operations were planned in the future to check integrity of local premises selling alcohol.

Theft - Shoplifting

Sgt Lovegrove went on to describe an incident in February where a thief had threatened a security guard with a knife in Tesco's. The suspect had recently been arrested having returned to the same store. He further described several other incidents where offences had been committed and the persons responsible apprehended. Sgt Lovegrove also spoke

about a recent case where a suspected person been detained and arrested outside of Marks and Spencer's in the High street and that this person having been convicted was willing to enter into a drugs rehabilitation programme. He went on to praise the efforts of PC Wollaston in this case.

A member of the meeting inquired into the age of the person concerned. PC Wollaston replied that the suspect was 28 years old.

Other crimes

Sgt Lovegrove then discussed a crime of Arson that had occurred in Blackmores Grove resulting in the front garden being burned to the ground. He then asked PC Hassan to describe the incident.

PC Hassan described the case in further detail stating that the suspect was a vulnerable youth of 11 years of age who suffered mental health issues. After fully investigating the matter and involving all the necessary outside agencies it was considered not in the public interest to prosecute the youth. The damage was paid for by the parents and the victim was fully supportive of this conclusion. Youth offending team and social services will continue to monitor this youth's progress.

Sgt Lovegrove then described how Teddington SNT had been doing some information lead and co-ordinated work with both Richmond Housing Partnership and Ham SNT. This joint partnership work resulted in the eviction and relocation of a prolific offender away from the Ham area.

Sgt Lovegrove then briefed the meeting about the crime figures for the Ward.

Burglary residential 2010= 17 - 2011=11,
Violence against the person 2010=22 - 2011=22,
Robbery of the person 2010=2 - 2011=6,
Theft from motor vehicle offences 2010=17 - 2011=4.

Sgt Lovegrove then went onto the subject of Residential Burglary and that this offence had fallen in across the Ward compared to the same time last year. Sgt Lovegrove then went on to describe incidents of Non Residential Burglary in the area, including a number of burglaries that had occurred within the area of Harrowdene gardens and that these were being investigated by the CID/Burglary squad. SNT would continue to provide High Visibility patrols throughout the area and that all persons were reminded to report any suspicious vehicle/person. Sgt Lovegrove emphasised the term "Make that call"

The subject of Pedal Cycle thefts was raised by a member of the meeting.

Sgt Lovegrove then described the work that the SNT were doing to reduce pedal cycle thefts. Members of the community were notified if their cycles were found to have been left insecure. SNT had performed 8 bicycle marking events and were now actively

stopping and checking people on pedal cycles. Sgt Lovegrove mentioned that the SNT were planning a pedal cycle tracker operation, whereby a bicycle equipped with GPS tracking technology would be left on the Ward and if taken would be tracked and the thief apprehended.

A member of the meeting then brought up the subject of criminal damage that had recently occurred to St Mary's Church and whether this had been committed by youths.

PC Wollaston described how the incident was committed. He stated that the case had stalled because there were no witnesses or CCTV and no evidence had been found at the scene. PC Wollaston said that due to the high number of youths reported around the area it was probably youths but hastened to add that this was merely a surmise, and that in order to prevent further criminal damage and theft from the church the church committee should consider CCTV cameras.

PS Lovegrove then brought up the National Drink Drive Campaign that he had been working on for Richmond Borough. His number one priority will remain the Teddington Ward and that many of the operations that are planned are using the Teddington SNT Team. Operations are planned at various locations and will continue throughout the month of June. On the 11/06/2011 in the Kingston Road over 50 vehicles were stopped and one driver was arrested for drinking and driving.

A member of the meeting raised a concern regarding the term Violence against the Person. It was mentioned that the figures are misleading due to the fact that Section 5 of the Public Order Act were included in the violence against the person category and this could be misleading to the overall figures.

Domestic violence matters were raised.

PS Lovegrove replied that the SNT had very little interaction with Domestic violence unless they encountered it in the course of patrolling and that usually officers from the response teams would be the first officers to arrive at such incidents. SNT would provide re-assurance visits as and when required.

Martin Kingsford then thanked Sgt Lovegrove and the team for their continuing efforts across the Ward and opened the floor up for any questions.

A MOP asked whether the crime prevention officer visited estate agents across the Borough to discuss crime prevention matters concerning Rental/Lease hold properties. PS Lovegrove answered that at present he was not aware if this was incorporated into Peter Cason's daily duties. It was mentioned that it did fall under the remit of the local SNT and that each Ward had different ways of making contact with their respective premises.

Martin Kingsford stated that he will bring up the issue with the Borough Commander Ch/Supt Chalk at his next meeting.

The forthcoming Olympics were raised and the test runs for the cycle course on the 14th August 2011 were discussed. The road closures were discussed. It was generally agreed that it was an honour to have any part to play in the Olympics and that Teddington should embrace any opportunities and challenges that arise from the London Olympics.

The priorities for Teddington Ward were discussed and re-set as Anti social behaviour, Shoplifting and Burglary.

The meeting closed at 2030 hours and the next meeting was arranged for 25th October 2011.