

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE WARD POLICE LIAISON GROUP MEETING & A.G.M.

Room 7, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2011 @ 7.00pm

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Colin Heath (Chair); Julie Hill (Secretary); Sgt Gavin McCandless; PC Suzanne D'Cruze; PCSO Lee Nunes; PCSO Steve Barret; Cllr. Scott Naylor; Cllr. Susan Chappell; John Sutcliffe; Dan van der Vat; Peter and Maureen Payan; Bridget Miller; Geoff Holden; John Milner; Tom Hautot; Jennifer Totton; Derek Mitchell.

APOLOGIES:

Karen Boother; Walter and Fiona Holland.

1. Welcome by Chair and Apologies for absence

Colin Heath welcomed everyone to the Meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

These were agreed as being a true record, but it was noted that the reduction in burglary's dwelling should read as 37% and not 3%.

3. Matters Arising

3.4 Walkabout with Ward Councillors - A walkabout with Councillors to look at cycle routes in the Town Centre had not yet taken place. Sgt McCandless added that his Team were currently busy working on other operations but it was hoped the walkabout could be arranged soon. New markers have been installed at junction of Heath Road and Cross Deep to make the cycle route clearer.

7.2 Orleans Festival – Cllr Scott Naylor said there is now a full time Events Co-ordinator for the Borough and a new form to be completed by anyone wishing to put on an event. In future Councillors will be alerted to all planned events and road closures. Sgt McCandless added apart from Remembrance Day, the Police were not involved with organising or stewarding road closures.

4. A.G.M.

Colin Heath was unanimously re-elected as Chair
Julie Hill was unanimously re-elected as Secretary

Scott gave thanks to Colin Heath for all his work during the past year.

5. Counter Terrorism Talk

PC Bob Mitchell gave an informative talk about the work of the Counter Terrorism Unit. Although we are one of the safest Boroughs we should not be complacent. Terrorism presents a serious and sustained threat to the UK and UK interests abroad. The current threat level is assessed as “Substantial” – an attack is a strong possibility.

In the Borough of Richmond there are crowded places, iconic locations such as the Rugby Ground, The National Archives, Hampton Court transport infrastructure – rail, road, river and airport - and a potential international impact, as we are seen as London. The Madrid Train bombings were as far out of the City as Teddington is to London. With the Olympics next year and the Borough used for both training and competitions, we could be seen as a soft target.

From the North Sea up to Teddington Lock there are no official stop points, although the Marine Unit does carry out stops. A River Watch Scheme is to be put in place so there is a co-ordinated approach.

Behavioural Risk Factors – know your environment, be vigilant and protect your neighbourhood. Cyber theft is on the increase, so protect computers and do not put any personal details in the dustbin – ensure they are shredded or burnt.

A presentation followed on “Operation Langley 2”, which showed real CCTV footage of two illegal immigrants who were arrested after being observed carrying out “hostile intelligence” on the rail and tube networks and also at various shopping centres. They were both arrested and subsequently charged with a recommendation for deportation – although it was not known if they were actually deported.

PC Mitchell stressed that although the film related to Central London, we are on main rail and road links into London and Heathrow close by.

If you suspect anything, contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team or the Counter Terrorism Unit on 0800 789 321. The hotline is manned 24 hours a day or you can ring: 020 8247 7163.

6. Police Report

Sgt McCandless gave the crime figures for the month October 19% decrease in crime. For whole of October there had been 57 crimes across Ward compared to 70 last year. Overall a reduction of 12%. Total 784 crimes compared to 886.

Crime	October 2010	October 2011	% Reduction
Burglary dwelling / non dwelling	10	5	50%
Theft from motor vehicles	4	2	50%
Robbery	2	1	50%
Violence against the person (assaults ABH, GBH etc)	21	15	29%

6. Police Report (contd.)

Cluster patrols had been successful.

Licensing is doing a tremendous job to reduce anti social behaviour and assaults on Friday and Saturday nights.

Crime Prevention - A great deal of Crime Prevention work is going on. Police will identify vulnerable houses and unlocked sheds and unlocked cars and give crime prevention advice. Bike theft is still a problem and many locks have been found to be ineffective.

Chair Colin Heath added that at the recent Community Police Partnership Meeting, Borough Commander Clive Chalk had stated that unlocked cars, internet fraud and theft of cycles from sheds is difficult to police and that residents must take responsibility for their possessions.

Cycle Marking – Police carry out free bike marking whereby a unique number is etched onto the frame, enabling the bike owner to be traced.

Children from St. Mary's Primary School designed crime prevention posters to combat shoplifting, burglary and phone and wallet thefts. Involving the local community is hugely important.

Christmas Campaign – One uniform PC and one plain clothes PC will be patrolling. The onus is being put back on to shopkeepers to protect their goods from being stolen.

River Watch – PCSO Steven Barret, who is new to the Team, had already instigated a River Watch before the Borough wide scheme came into operation. Frances Spencer who runs the Hammerton Ferry and who is also an identified Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator will be involved in the scheme.

There is a huge appetite for NHW and a Neighbourhood Watch is being set up at the end of Duck's Walk by Richmond Bridge. Sgt McCandless said the next stage was to link this in with the Marine Unit and it is hoped that by the end of January there will be a co-ordinated Marine River Watch in place.

Olympics – The Borough will host Olympic events and many teams will also be training here. It was understood that crime prevention advice will be issued with tickets.

Pub Watch – Radios should work in all locations.

7. Local Issues and Concerns

7.1 Monument – The Friends of Cambridge Gardens are discussing the possibility of erecting a monument to J.M. Turner and sought advice as to how best protect it from theft or vandalism. (please see useful numbers section). Sgt McCandless said Police focus on where stolen metal is going and who is accepting it. From January legislation should be coming in to tighten up on scrap metal dealers.

7.2 SPEAR – It was hoped that a representative from SPEAR would be coming along to the next meeting and that this could be co-ordinated with the Homeless Charity on Richmond Hill.

7. Local Issues and Concerns (contd.)

7.3 Travelodge – A new application to sell alcohol from Monday to Sunday on a 24 hour basis, for consumption on and off the premises and to non residents has been received by Richmond Council. The original licensing application had been for a 24 hour license but Condition 18 (from Planning Application 08/3063/FUL) prevents non residents from purchasing alcohol. There was concern that this would lead to the hotel bar becoming a late night drinking den and disturbance and noise and nuisance in the area, particularly after 11pm.

John Milner, local resident, expressed concern on behalf of St. Mary's Terrace Residents Group as to why a hotel would want to sell alcohol in this way. Cllr Chappell said she had spoken to Licensing Sergeant Dave George and the question is "what is reasonable?" It may well be reasonable for a bar to be open to residents until 2300 but is it reasonable for a hotel to have off sales?

Anyone wishing to comment on, support or object to the application has until 9th December to do so by writing to the Licensing Department at Richmond Council or emailing: licensing@richmond.gov.uk; b.croft@richmond.gov.uk, david.b.george@met.pnm.police.uk l.thatcher@richmond.gov.uk, cldr.s.chappell@richmond.gov.uk

7.4 The Gary Owen Pub – Just along from the new Travelodge, The Gary Owen Pub is now called The London Road with a nightclub upstairs. The license is currently to 0100 with clear out up to 0200. The police will monitor the situation and if necessary will disperse customers if they fail to leave, giving them appropriate routes out of the area.

A local resident reported noise problems at the former Gary Owen and was advised to keep a log, detailing dates, times and details, as this could make a huge difference at any subsequent licensing hearing. Such a log could be forwarded to the SNT and to the Licensing Committee (emails above). If however, there is a public order disorder, residents should call 999.

7.5 Piano Lounge – The current license expires on 13th December and a new application has been received. The name of the Licensee has been changed as has the establishment, which would then be known as Playhouse Gentlemen's Club. Citing moral grounds is now an acceptable reason for objecting to lap dancing establishments and anyone wishing to comment on, support or object to the latest application has until 22nd December to do so. See: www.richmond.gov.uk/planning for more information.

7.6 Licensing at Convenience Stores - Police take this very seriously and recent test purchases, using under age police cadets have been successful. "Lucky Wines" in East Twickenham was not so lucky and failed a test purchase operation. "AM to PM" in Heath Road Twickenham has now become an internet café. "Mortlake News" drinks license was taken away. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicious sales and little snippets of information really do help Police to build up a picture which may then lead to mounting an undercover operation.

8. Setting Ward Priorities

After discussion it was agreed the Priorities would be:

Burglary

Illegal Cycling (one way streets, on pavements, running red lights)

Anti Social Behaviour (including public order offences in the Town Centre)

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Speaker at the next Meeting. It is hoped that the Borough Commander will be able to attend the next meeting.

9.2 June PLG - This will have to be cancelled due to demands of the Olympics as between 10th June – 23rd September. By the time of the March meeting, more information will be known about the Olympic events in the Borough and when the Torch comes through (twice) and how these events will be policed.

9.3 Rugby Policing – A Briefing will also take place about rugby day policing. A new Dispersal Notice for Rugby days has been signed off by the Borough Commander and is now awaiting the Council to sign.

9.4 Operation Hawk – This was a crackdown on neighbourhood crime, whereby all Borough Safer Neighbourhood Teams came together in groups of three and was very successful. It is so important that local communities report anything suspicious to the Police so they can target their resources appropriately. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) wide initiative to put criminals on the back foot is working. Other successful initiatives such as Traffic days and Automatic Number plate Reading days also take place.

9.5 Special Constables – There are not currently enough fully trained Special's on the Borough who can patrol alone. This is slowly increasing and the SNT's are utilising the special resources when they are able to.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Twickenham Riverside Ward PLG meeting will held on:

DATE: WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2011

TIME: 7pm (refreshments from 6.30pm)

VENUE: The Terrace Room, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham

USEFUL NUMBERS:

Twickenham Riverside Police Liaison Group:: twickenhamriversideplg@gmail.com

Twickenham Riverside Safer Neighbourhood Team:

TwickenhamRiverside.SNT@met.police.uk

Mobile: 07768 178989 Office desk number: 0207 161 9483

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE – PROPERTY

<http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention>

INFORMATIN ON REPORTING CRIME

http://www.met.police.uk/reporting_crime

REPORTING GRAFFITI:

Richmond Council: 08456 122 660

envprotection@richmond.gov.uk

or via the online reporting form: www.richmond.gov.uk/graffiti_removal

NOISE COMPLAINTS

Weekend Noise Service (operates Friday - Saturday 10pm – 3am)

Telephone: 07944 038495

Noisy neighbours and domestic burglar alarms :020 8891 7737

Commercial Noise, building sites and car alarms :020 8891 7994

commercialeh@richmond.gov.uk