

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD (SNB) MEETING

THE TERRACE ROOM, YORK HOUSE, LONDON ROAD TWICKENHAM

TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00 PM

M I N U T E S

SNB MEMBERS ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
CA Carole Atkinson	Chair SNB, Stop and Search
WKP Wendy Kyrle-Pope	Vice Chair, Advisor
PBS Peter Burrows-Smith	Richmond Park PLG/Treasurer
JB John Bell	Advisor, Twickenham
RA Ravi Arora	EMAG
JE John T Evans	NHW/PLG Whitton & Heathfield Joint PLG
MD Martyn Kingsford	PLG Teddington
PK Peter Kirkham	LGBT Forum
JC John Coates	NHW/PLG South Richmond
JM Janet Marriott	Hampton Wick Community / Older People's Forum
TL Tony Lindsay	NHW Co-ordinator
LP Lesley Pollesche	Community
WC William Collis	Community
PG Phil Garside	Community
PM Philip Morgan	Community
JC John Coates	Chair South Richmond PLG
GL Georgina Lotinga	Victim Support
AJ Anne Johnstone	Adviser
RE Richard Eason	LGBT Forum

POLICE ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
C/Superintendent Colin Kennedy	Borough Commander
Sgt Michael Boulton	Royal Parks Police

COUNCIL ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
Natasha Allen	Community Safety Partnership

ORGANISATIONS / PUBLIC	REPRESENTING
Kirstie Craig	Chair Fulwell & Hampton Hill PLG
Michael & Margaret Warden	Heathfield PLG & NHW Co-ordinators
John Demont	Teddington Society (Ex CPP)
Geoff Holden	Oak Lane NHW Co-ordinator
Mac McInerny	Heatham Alliance & NHW Co-ordinator
Martin Davis	LCP2
David Green	NHW Co-ordinator Hampton
Christina Gore	Hampton Wick PLG & NHW Co-ordinator
Anthony Paish	Richmond Cycling Campaign
Seamus Joyce	School Governor Rep
Philip Perry	public
Rosalind Graham-Hunt	public
William Goxford	public
Ann Goxford	public
S. Landey	public

APOLOGIES (SNB/COUNCIL)	REPRESENTING
Cllr Tony Arbour	LBRuT Councillor Hampton Wick
Cllr Ben Khosa	LBRuT Councillor St Margaret's & North Twickenham
Ravi Arora	EMAG
Jack Lewis	Youth Council
Maurice Press	Advisor
Charles Owens	NHW/PLG South Twickenham
Anthony Cotton	Adviser

APOLOGIES (POLICE)	REPRESENTING
Sgt Inocencio Logo	BTP

APOLOGIES (OTHER)	REPRESENTING
David Loftus	Whitton & Heathfield PLG
Andrea Samuelson	NHW Cumberland Road Kew
David Eggleton	Whitton Network

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chair Carole Atkinson (**CA**) welcomed everyone to the meeting. **WKP** congratulated **CA** on her MBE for services to the community.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st October 2014 were agreed as being a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None that are not on the Agenda.

CA reported on the fantastic response to the Christmas presents for children and older people initiative organised by the Police and thanks were recorded to all those who generously donated gifts.

4. UPDATE ON LBRuT SNB

CA outlined what was planned for the Group. Current SNB members should indicate if they wish to stand again. PLG representatives from particular areas will be elected by the respective Chairs, as will NHW Co-ordinators. There will be 3 NHW representatives, 3 PLG representatives and 3 members of the community. Information about the process will be circulated. **TL** was assured that detail about how the election process will work, along with details of the sub groups which members are expected to be on, will be available by mid February.

An SNB MOPAC update issued by Steve O'Connell will be circulated again with the Minutes.

CA and **WKP** will be standing down at the AGM so the Exec is looking for people who are prepared to be Chair, Vice Chair.

SNB SITS

This part of the Meeting allows for questions from SNB Members only.

5. FUNDING BIDS

PBS reported on the annual allocation of £28,000 from MOPAC, of which £5,200 was for secretarial and admin services. Of the £23,000 left for specific projects, 5 projects have to date been approved, with £19,000 being allocated. There may also be a surplus from the

secretarial/admin allowance. The 5 projects are: Youth Crime Conference, EMAG Event, EMAG multi faith event, domestic abuse event, and an open spaces project to help people with learning difficulties, which is being run by the Police.

Therefore, we currently have £6,000 to allocate before the end of the Financial Year. Moving forward the Exec Committee will approve proposals and then present to MOPAC.

TL asked what would happen if the Exec wanted to go ahead with a proposal but the Board did not agree. **CA** explained that the Exec, as a management group elected by the SNB, should have the expertise to approve projects and it would not be time effective or necessary to consult all Board Members. **JB** added that obtaining money from MOPAC was time consuming and any further delay was not welcomed.

A launch party will be held to mark the official launch of the new Safer Neighbourhood Board. It is hoped that our MPs will be able to attend. (**Chair's note: the date is Friday 20th March – details to follow**). **WKP** to discuss further with **LP**. **ACTION: WKP & LP**

6. PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

(a) Statistics

The MOPAC document had been circulated.

CK reported that public confidence in the Borough is the highest in London at 84%. Discussion took place about the perception of the fear of crime and public confidence is also about the ability of the public to hold officers to account.

A meeting with all chairs of the PLGs facilitated by **CK** had taken place to ascertain what information is needed for Chairs to hold the police to account in order to maintain/increase confidence. **CK** is looking to use residents who are police volunteers to provide this information in a consistent format ie Data Pack for the PLGs. John Coates had agreed to take the lead and consult with the 16 Chairs to agree what figures are required. **ACTION: JOHN COATES**

(b) Rapid Response CCTV

Keith Free's report had been circulated. Any questions should be submitted to **CA** for forwarding to Keith Free.

TL asked if per head, Richmond was performing better than other Boroughs with regard to overall crime. **CK** confirmed that Richmond remains one of the Boroughs that has relatively low crime, although vehicle crime has increased compared to this the last year and remains a challenge for the Borough.

CK stressed that in addition to prevention and solving crime, victim satisfaction is very important. When a crime is reported and investigated, officers must follow a due process. In response to a question, **CK** said that not pursuing perpetrators because of their ethnicity is not a policy nor one to which he subscribes.

CK had met Keith Free and has posted an officer, who is currently on restricted duties, in the control room for a period of three months to maximise the opportunities provided by the current CCTV network.

Geoff Holden, Oak Lane NHW enquired about information gleaned from the CCTV camera in Oak Lane, Twickenham as he had been told by Keith Free that it wasn't in use and he wondered what the parameters are regarding the use of the CCTV camera.

It was agreed that Keith Free would be asked if the camera is an ANPR camera or not. Another gentleman said he had one in his one way road and it was an ANPR camera. It was further agreed that Keith Free would be asked to explain the protocol with regard to cameras in the Borough. **ACTION: CA & KF**

7. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS (ICVS)

CK said responsibility has been transferred to MET Detention which comes under the leadership of Ch Supt Matt Gardner. Police, in partnership with the NHS and a Mental Health nurse, already work effectively in custody suits. In addition Richmond Police and the NHS have started a local pilot scheme which includes a Mental Health nurse working with response offers and therefore allows for a swifter response and effective treatment of individuals during Friday and Saturday night shifts.

Whilst dealing with an application to extend custody, it became clear to **CK** there is still have a problem with not enough appropriate adults. Police do not have the jurisdiction to manage or regulate them and there are currently situations where officers have had to try to persuade members of the public help out. If anyone would like to volunteer to be an Appropriate Adult at Kingston they can contact **CA** for further information. **WKP** suggested that the role is best suited to those living on the Kingston side of the Borough as they can be called on at any time of the day or night. **CA** to ask Inspector Hannah Wheeler for the criteria. **WKP** knows of someone who is an experienced Appropriate Adult who would be happy to give advice to anyone considering putting themselves forward. **ACTION: CA**

8. COMPLAINTS

a) MPS

CK reported that Richmond is the second lowest Borough, with currently 121 public complaints recorded.

Complaints Sub Group – **WKP** had spent a lot of time with Inspector Lucy Perrett, the Complaints Officer looking into the process and is now training people to be part of the sub group. In this Borough about a quarter of complaints are vexatious and have no substance. The object of looking at complaints is to see how much they are repeated, such as against the same officer or the same instance.

On the subject of vexatious complaints, **CK** had recently met with an individual to resolve their concerns and this approach had proved positive and he proposes to continue with this strategy.

b) VICTIM SUPPORT

GL's paper had been circulated. Only three informal complaints had been received. It was agreed that Georgina would be asked to continue to log information in this way. Victim Support is independent to the Police and they do not pass on information to the Police unless requested by the victim to do so.

CA added that City Hall has money for projects to do with Victim Support. Suggestions welcome.

PK asked whether de-personalised information could be passed onto the Police. **GL** confirmed that if anyone was at risk, such as a domestic abuse case where children were involved, someone was at risk or suspected terrorist activity, they could break confidentiality. Victim Support can still report on crime types, rather than naming individuals.

JB asked if the Borough Commander felt there were barriers to people giving information about their concerns as quickly as possible. **CK** believed the majority of residents are confident in reporting a crime. However there are areas where it was recognised some residents were reluctant to report crimes to the police. **CK** re-iterated the priority was to meet the expectations of the members of the community and particularly, those who do not understand the process. People need to know where they stand. **CK** is currently working with EMAG to review existing processes to ensure that all communities within the Borough receive a good standard of service. **ACTION: RA**

PK asked how much email was used to communicate with victims of crime. **CK** confirmed that email is used but suggested there may be additional methods of communication. **CK** will look into this. **ACTION: CK**

TL asked if NHW co-ordinators could help in the process. **CK** said the priority at present was getting the right figures to the PLGs. Volunteers performing the function of preparing statistics will be a welcome step forward.

A question was raised by an attendee who had been the victim of crimes said he had received letters from the Crime Management Unit at Kingston but they were standard letters and none referred to the specific crimes he had reported, together with crime reference numbers. A topic and reference number should be included. **CK** stated he would speak to the gentleman after the meeting. **ACTION: CK**

9. STOP AND SEARCH

The Report had been circulated. The Stop and Search Group meet 4 times a year, with a pan London meeting held on 14th January. In 9 boroughs they are trialling body worn video cameras. Feedback to date has been positive from both Police and the public.

There is a lot of information on the MET website about Stop and Search.

http://www.met.police.uk/foi/units/stop_and_search.htm

A question was asked if it is a policy to stop people smoking cannabis in a public street. **CK** said they should be stopped and given a fixed penalty or arrested. If someone is arrested, Section 18 PACE gives police powers to search a house without a warrant but they would have to have reasonable suspicion and agreed with **PK** who said a small amount of cannabis on a person for personal use is unlikely to give reason to a search of premises. **CK** said he would expect to see a correlation between Stop and Search activity and hot spot areas of crime.

10. PRESENTATION OF CRIME FIGURES

CK advised that in future the crime figures will be presented using a projector and for the first time, figures for each of the 18 Wards will be shown.

Total notifiable offences had seen a reduction of just under 3%. There had been an increase in violence with injury. This increase was consistent with the rest of the MPS. Robbery and burglary continued to fall and for the first time since **CK** had been in command, there had been a reduction of non residential burglary (sheds, garages).

Discussion took place about Teddington appearing on a list of the top 10 burglary locations which had been quoted by Money Supermarket and was based on claims. However, the figures did not correlate with MET figures and further research was taking place to understand the basis of these claims. Police want to work more closely with Neighbourhood Watches, focusing on "super hot streets" to reinforce crime prevention measures. For example, there are still burgled properties where alarms were not used.

PK added that more detail about local crimes needed to be on leaflets or given to residents, such as the time of day burglaries took place and modus operandi. **CK** agreed.

MK, Chair of Teddington PLG said this item will be on the Agenda for the next Teddington PLG meeting as mis-information such as this undermines the Police figures. **MK** felt that the company who published the information should be challenged and asked if this was a case for the Advertising Standards Authority.

The consequences of mis-information are:

Loss of confidence in police crime figures

Higher insurance premiums

Reduction in property values

Vulnerability of properties which are seen as easy targets

TL suggested that the Board could challenge misleading information such as this. MPs could also be involved. **PK** offered to do this but it was agreed that the SNB Exec would formulate a response. **ACTION: SNB Exec**

Theft of motor vehicle – geographically this is concentrated in Mortlake, Barnes, Sheen. A recent reduction in keyless thefts is positive but moped thefts are still high. Police are focusing more on the offenders, most of whom come from outside the Borough, linking in with other partners. The number of cars left unlocked, with property on display, is still too high and again the subject of extensive crime prevention activity.

Violence with injury against the person – 19% increase. The way in which the Home Office guidelines have been interpreted have led to an increase in statistics. We have seen an increase in harassment, especially using social media.

Serious sexual offences – increase in rape – 36% to 58%. **CK** has spoken to the Sexual Abuse Command and 35% are historic. 44% of rape cases are historic. **CK** reassured residents that the increase can be attributed to historic allegations.

MK asked about geographical location of perpetrators. **CK** said prolific offenders come into the borough to offend. Richmond officers are working with other boroughs in this respect including probation and youth services to ensure a more integrated cross border approach.

MK asked about hate crimes. **CK** believed there was a link between the increase and what was going on worldwide. **PK** felt most was hate crime was race related rather than religious.

Regarding the terrorist situation, **CK** had visited the synagogue and assured the Rabbi that police would do their utmost to make those attending feel safe. The threat against Police Officers themselves has increased and officers briefed to ensure their own safety whilst on duty but maintaining engagement with the public at all times.

10.1 British Transport Police

No report received. Any questions to be submitted via the Chair.

10.2 Royal Parks

Sgt Michael Boulton's Report was circulated. Last December MP Zac Goldsmith had chaired a very constructive meeting on park cycling issues and a Working Group is to be formed. Local enforcement of road issues i.e. speeding, careless cycling/driving continues.

The next deer cull starts on Monday 27th January and lasts for 6 weeks, during which pedestrian gates will be closed from 2000 – 0730. Enquiries to: 0300 061 2200.

11. PRIORITIES SETTING

Priorities for the Borough were set as:

ASB including anti social cycling
Burglary
Motor Vehicle Crime.

It was agreed that following the presentation of crime figures at the next meeting these may change.

BOARD IN ADJOURNMENT

The Board was adjourned for open discussion on the proposed priorities.

12. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OF THE BOARD

Q.

Richard Eason referred to the spreadsheet on Met website which gives the actual number of offences, by crime type, by month for the last two years and asked what proportion of violence with injury are domestic abuse cases and felt it was useful to look at trends which are domestic abuse and which are not. Details can be viewed: <http://maps.met.police.uk/tables.htm>

A.

CK gave the figures: 812 non domestic abuse, 557 violence with injury and 225 domestic abuse. **CK** said he would be happy to give a pre-meeting talk on specific crimes.

Q.

A Richmond resident was concerned about her safety when out and about, citing cyclists using a pedestrian passageway and in an area by the A316 and asked if signage instructing cyclists to dismount could be installed at these locations. Police regularly undertake operations in the Borough and **CK** offered to speak to the lady further after the meeting. **CK** has a meeting with Cllr Stephen Speak, who is responsible for signage, next week and would raise the matter with him. CA said she could also speak to the Director of Environment. **ACTION: CK & NA & CA**

BOARD RECONVENES FOR CONFIRMATION OF PRIORITIES

Priorities agreed to be as per Item 11.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (SNB)

The next Meeting will also be the AGM. Details of the official launch party prior to this will be circulated.

Broken Rainbow – Richard Eason raised concern about the national specialist helpline service as unless funding is forthcoming, the charity helpline will have to cease. There may be a need to lobby the Home Office, perhaps via MPs and Broken Rainbow is looking at alternative funding sources. **WKP** suggested that if there are enough potential users in the Borough, they could go to the Parish Lands, Fuel Allotment in Hampton and Workhouse in Barnes and ask for a loan. **GL** added that there may be funding from MOPAC in the Victim Support area.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

CA thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2100.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be on **Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 7pm in York House.**

SNB Contact Email: richmondcpp.snb@gmail.com