

Open Meeting - Safer Neighbourhood Board

MINUTES

Date: 23/3/2016

Time: 19:15-20:45

Venue: Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club

Chair: Steve Thompson

Residents Present: R West, T. Carlton, BR Brown, J Davies, Tim Brown, J Brown, C Johnson, K Voase, T Forsyth, T Justice, A Jones, D Purvis, V Shaw, H Shwood, JGriffin, G Hart, S Hart, J Garfield, C Benoit.

SNB Present: S Thompson (Chair) , K Hutton, R Giles MBE, Inspector J Reeves, D Neville, J Campe, L Choppy, K Proudfoot (Interim Group manager)

Apologies: Cllr.Butt, Mathew Cole (Divisional Director) Jean Flavin –Jones, Harry Gosling, June Griffin, Prince Kumar, Cheryl Deane, Mickey Linclon,. Sean Wilson (acting Borough Commander)

Absent: None

Minutes: Anne-Marie Haxell

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Steve Thompson welcomed everyone. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as accurate. There were no matters arising.

Steve informed the meeting that the Sean Wilson acting borough commander had sent his apologies and that Inspector Jon Reeves would be deputising in his place.

The chair informed the meeting that there would be a change in the agenda order and that the two presentations would be going first.

Presentation – Operation Falcon

Officers from Operation Falcon the Met Police fraud team presented to the group.

Key points were:

- Remove your name from the open Electoral Register by ticking the box
- >>Free wifi is easy to hack. When using this don't process personal information or access your bank accounts etc.
- Back up your data and don't open emails when you don't know who sent it.
- Use pass phrases instead of pass words they are more difficult to hack
- Never give out your bank details
- More information is available on www.getsafeonline.org or www.cyberstreetwise.com

A question and answer session followed

Q. What is your view as Officer on cloud storage?

A. I would think about where it is going? It could be based anywhere in the world perhaps in a country which doesn't have the stringent data protection laws you find in Britain. Be very aware of your personal details such as banking

Q. I use Cornish or welsh words as my passwords, will that help keep me secure?

A. People should use different passwords or phrases for each account. Using a different language sounds like a good idea.

Q. Do you catch people who are scammers?

A. Unfortunately, only the ones who are not very good at it. Many frauds are carried out by people who live overseas, police resources would not stretch to travelling abroad to catch them. The Met's message is that we can't arrest ourselves out of Cyber Crime so the public must be made aware and learn to take precautions.

Q. I have heard about women being scammed out of their money through dating sites, women should be aware of this.

A. Yes this does happen, the criminals prey on vulnerable people. A recent case involved a woman who was groomed over a long period and ended up handing over thousands of pounds. If you are approached you should make sure you have some understanding of who you are speaking to. If they won't meet up for example could be a clue that they are not even in the country.

The internet is a great tool but it doesn't feel right it probably isn't.

Q. who should you report obvious scams to?

A. They should be sent to Action Fraud. www.actionfraud.police.uk

A resident informed the meeting that you can protect your contactless payment cards from fraud by wrapping them in foil. This deflects card readers which may be in the possession of a fraudster who is trying to capture your details. This can also be used on iPhones. If information is stolen in this way it is still difficult for the fraudster to use your card details as it doesn't collect information from the back of your card and most online payments will ask for the three figure number from the back of your card. Banks will refund on contactless fraud.

Presentation 2 – Eastside Community Heritage and Abphab

Julia from Eastside Community Heritage gave the meeting an outline of the work they are doing with the Abphab youth club in Barking and Dagenham.

There were just over £52,000 case of Hate Crime reported in England and Wales last year. There is low reporting of Hate Crime amongst people with a disability. Our project has set out to boost confidence and increase confidence for people with disabilities in reporting hate crime.

We are doing this by working with young people with a disability to help them use the internet safely. This should help them to be more confident in using the internet safely.

Our research says that many young people with disabilities use online technologies to keep in touch with popular culture and their peer group. They use sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google Plus. However, they are worried about safety and bullying.

Equally, parents and carers are also concerned about safety. They note the importance of online tools and social media for young people but they are worried about issues relating to privacy, sharing data etc. They feel their children are vulnerable. We have noted how young people have an option to report crime online via their personal devices. London Boroughs, such as B&D, provide online reporting opportunities. This mode suits many young people with disabilities who are reluctant to attend police stations however there are some drawbacks. Many young people need support in being aware of safe online behaviours and many reporting sites and apps need to be simplified so more people can access and understand how to make a report.

After discussions with parents, carers and young people, the young people we work alongside wanted to develop a web series about safety in the community and online. We have made small start on this idea. You can find the beginnings our work here: <http://antibullyingdisability.com/onlinesafety/episode-4-privacy/>

Many young people cannot be filmed for privacy reasons but they have worked on content and filming. I feature in the earlier videos but gradually - as we gain people - more young adults and young people with parental permission are leading the web series.

Each web-based video also has downloadable materials for families and members of the community. We hope users will undertake additional learning in home or informal learning environments. It is hope that, as we build up videos, young people will share them with their friends and the word will spread - young people teaching young people.

Abphab then presented their work which is accessible and educational. Follow the link above for information to find out more.

Borough Commanders Report

Inspector Reeves reported that there had been an incident in the Town Centre that had been widely reported. These reports had been widely exaggerated. Inspector Reeves informed the meeting that extra patrols would be taking place before the Easter holidays.

Burglary has been reduced by 15%. The borough is currently challenged on Criminal Damage and vehicle crime. The main protagonist of recent criminal damage crimes has been arrested.

Mr. Reeves reminded the meeting that with the change of clocks they should reset any timer switches they have.

7, 500 homes have now received Met Trace in the borough and this is having a great impact in the reduction of burglary.

Mr. Reeves asked that the meeting remember all that had lost their lives in the tragic event in Brussels. The threat level is not being raised and the message is 'be aware, not alarmed'.

Borough Commander Question and Answer Session

There were no questions for Mr Reeves.

ST informed the meeting that he had just received a copy of a newspaper with a report about an assault on disabled man who was in custody. The incident occurred about 6 years ago ST said the SNB would follow the case and would be asking questions of the Police when the case was over.

Neighbourhood Reports

Barking

Neighbourhood Priority:

To reduce ASB and Violence With Injury offences in Barking Town Centre via targeted patrols and intelligence-led policing.

Results

Violence With Injury offences in the street continue to occur, however the majority of offences are committed inside buildings such as kebab shops and private flats. The whole Neighbourhood has continued to provide a regular coverage of patrol throughout the Town Centre, backed up by British Transport Police. The injunction obtained by LBBD to stop the twelve most prolific street drinkers appears to be still working and this, backed up by pro-active patrols, has led to a decrease in offences and instances of ASB in the area.

Inspector Harrold informed the meeting there had been a number of serious assaults. These were linked to a range of issues and gang members were coming in from other areas to Barking. Police resources from other parts of London have been deployed to assist with the situation and ensure that assaults are kept to a minimum.

Confidence levels in Barking standing at 15%.

Thames has seem a recent increase in vehicle racing again. Mr. Harrold said that the situation is being monitored and he would use ASB powers again if it escalated.

Dagenham

Update on activity

- Despite ongoing targeting, & increased patrolling, of identified MOPAC crime & ASB hotspots throughout Dagenham NPA, (including an Impact Day in Village Ward on 17/12), & a continuing increased focus on arresting outstanding offenders, there have been substantial increases in overall reported crime offences, particularly in Village Ward in January, River & Parsloes Wards in February, & Eastbrook Ward in December & February. These have contributed to the total for the whole Dagenham NPA for the period December 2014 - Feb 2015 increasing by 16% to 1265 for the same period in 2015/16.
- Of the 30 NPAs in the East area of the MPS, the 1% increase in overall reported crime for the last reporting period was only bettered by 6, but this 16% increase puts Dagenham very near the top for this current period.
- This may be as a result of recent increased patrolling of higher crime areas on the Borough temporarily displacing criminals on to Dagenham NPA - I will continue to closely monitor this unfortunate trend.

The priorities for the previous 10 week period & action taken:

Violence with injury

Overall 2% increase in assault with injury offences from Dec 2014 - Feb 2015 to a total of 98 for same period 2015/16, especially on Village & Eastbrook - expected Xmas spike did not occur.

- High Visibility Equinox patrols continued in identified hotspot areas, especially The Heathway & surrounding areas.
- Increased liaison with, & use of, LBBB CCTV.
- Best sanctioned detection rate for Domestic Abuse in East area at 51%.

Burglary

Overall 18% decrease in Burglary from Dec 2014 - Feb 2015 to 101 for same period 2015/16, especially on Village, Eastbrook & Alibon - expected Xmas spike did not occur

High Visibility Omega Patrols using predictive mapping & deployment of Proactive

Unit continued in identified hot spot areas.

Cocooning – checking for witnesses, & crime prevention advice to residents.

- Offender Management - known burglary nominals, & prison releases, visited ensuring bail conditions not breached.
- Intelligence led search warrants executed.
- NHW continuing to be promoted through the Wards in the area & working with local police to convey crime prevention message to local residents.
- Met Trace project not on Dagenham NPA yet but 32% reduction in last year where it has been deployed compared with a 16% reduction over rest of the Borough. Planned introduction in Dagenham from April.

Drugs & Anti-Social Behaviour-

Overall 16% increase in all possession of drugs offences from Dec 2014 - Feb 16 to 77 for same period 2015/16, especially Eastbrook & Village - only recorded when found by police - does not portray actual incidence of drug offences.

Much ASB, & overall crime, is connected to use of drugs, & alcohol, & there has been an overall 26% increase in reports of ASB from Dec 2014 - Feb 2015 to 259 for same period 2015/16, especially Mayesbrook & Village, despite:

- ASB hot spots being targeted, especially New Years Eve with Winter Nights patrols.
- ASB regarding neighbours effectively managed with range of interventions working with LBBB (from mediation, ABC's up to evictions).

- Guard Cams installed to instances of ASB.
- Zero-tolerance regarding alcohol related offences, alcohol seizures continue throughout the area but particularly around the Heathway.
- Dedicated LBBB funded Safer Estates Team targeting Village Ward regarding ASB and drugs.
- Intelligence led search warrants executed.

Other crime types:

Robbery

Overall 11% increase in robbery offences from Dec 2014 - Feb 2015 to 52 for same period 2015/16, especially on Eastbrook, Parsloes & River - noticeable post-Xmas increase in last 3 months mitigated where possible by:

- HVP in identified hot spots/predictive mapping.
- Crime prevention advice provided.
- Offender Management - robbery nominals visited ensuring bail conditions not breached.

Possibly caused by offenders moving from burglary to robbery?

Theft of motor vehicle

Overall increase of 71% from Dec 2014 - Feb 2016 to 87 for same period 2015/16, especially on River & Alibon.

Possibly caused by offenders moving from burglary to theft of vehicles?

Theft from motor vehicle

Overall increase of 3% from Dec 2014 - Feb 2015 to 66 for same period 2015/16, especially on River, Alibon & Village.

Criminal damage

Overall 43% increase from Dec 2014 - Feb 2016 to 177 for same period 2015/16, half of which is criminal damage to motor vehicle, especially on River & Eastbrook.

Whalebone

Good News: Barking and Dagenham's increase in Public Confidence.

The overall trend in Burglary across Whalebone SNT continues to drop. This is the result of combination of a number of factors. The Met Trace project, crime and intelligence analysis and focussed patrols. MET TRACE has now delivered over 7500 kits, this will shortly be supplemented with council purchased kits moving forward. However we are continuing to see small "Spikes" of Burglary offences across some wards that appear to be random, sporadic and seasonal.

- **Priority - Burglary – Chadwell Heath and Whalebone**

There has been a small downward trend on the last statistical reporting period. Chadwell Heath and Whalebone will continue to be priority wards.

- **Priority - Vehicle Crime – Becontree and Whalebone**

Motor vehicle crime has persistently been a continuing issue for Barking and Dagenham. The statistics currently available show MV crime of all types currently static at the same levels on the two priority Wards. It is proposed to keep Becontree and Whalebone as priority wards.

MPS Operation Omega (MOPAC 7 reduction plan) has continued to be implemented; police deployments are focus driven on crime hotspots with emphasis being placed on Intel analysis. Hopefully a further reduction achieved in the run up to April and the MOPAC 7 target end date.

Current risks:

- MOPAC 7 reduction
- Theft from M/V
- Burglary
- Violence with Injury.

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AOB

Mr. Reeves informed the meeting that Rick Sweetman had been made PCSO of the year. Rick works in Eastbrook Ward.

There will be a police open day at Dagenham Police Station on the 23rd of April.

Inspector Reeves informed the meeting that the family who had established the Shrine at the junction of Ballards Road and Church Street had met with the Council to discuss them taking down all the memorabilia. The family have agreed to do this and have planted a rose bush and will be placing a bench in the park opposite.

Inspector Reeves informed the meeting that the family would be holding an all day event in Cross Keys, the evening event would be ticket only. The event would raise

funds for the Air Ambulance. The anniversary is on Sunday, flowers that are laid will be removed once they have died. They are expecting a contingent of Motorcyclists.

KP said that the CVS is running an event on the 31 March at the Chefs Hat Barking as part of the programme of work being delivered by the CVS on behalf of the SNB.

ST informed the meeting that the IAG which is chaired by Keith Hutton has just received a police commendation for the work they do in the borough.

ST informed the meeting that this would be AMH's last meeting as she was taken up a different position in the team. KP said that if anybody needed to make contact with the Council they could contact her. Details below.

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The next meeting will be held on the 16 June at Barking Town Hall, Council Chamber.