

# Safer Neighbourhood Board – Open Meeting

## MINUTES

**Date:** 12 January 2017

**Time:** 17:30 -21:00

**Venue:** Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club

**Chair:** Stephen Thompson

Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Board

	Matthew Cole	Divisional Director – Public Health
	Rita Giles MBE	Dagenham Neighbourhood
	Prince Kumar	Barking Neighbourhood
	Katherine Gilcreest	Antisocial Behaviour Manager
	Keith Hutton	Chair of the IAG
	Emma Jones	Victim Support
	Sean Wilson	Borough Commander
	Gareth School	Acting Inspector
	James Kent	Inspector
	Jon Reeves	Inspector
	Diane Worby	Neighbourhood Watch Vice Chair
	Erika Jenkins	Barking & Dagenham CVS
	Cheryl Deane	Community Payback
<b>Present:</b>	Kanta Craigen-Straughn	Support Officer ( <b>Minutes</b> )
	Mary Carroll	Resident
	Ruby McCrudden	Resident
	Tim Brown	Resident
	James Brown	Resident
	Gemma Seargeant	Resident
	C Butterfield	Resident
	K Butterfield	Resident
	Linda Jennings	Resident
	Gary Jennings	Resident
	Pat Harding	Resident
	Dee Hunt	Resident
	Terry Flint	Resident
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor Butt	Cabinet Member for Crime & Enforcement
	Dan Neville	Whalebone Neighbourhood
	Jim Campe	Forum for the Elderly
	Hamera-Asfa Davey	MOPAC
	Val Shaw	Resident
	Heather Charles	Resident
	Brian Brown	Resident

## **1. Introduction**

The introductions and apologies were noted.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as correct.

## **3. Borough Commanders Report**

This agenda item was presented by Borough Commander Sean Wilson, who advised on the following:

### **Recent Events**

- The MPS have embarked on a pathfinder pilot project known as Basic Command Unit, the project involves sharing officer assets across 3 boroughs, essentially creating tri-borough policing in Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering.
- Recently statistics show transitional crimes being committed in and outside the borough.
- The community has shown great support in light of the recent murders within the borough, arrest have been made for all three however the murders are not linked. The community meetings that followed the murders were well attended and there was significant engagement with residents, the police and council attendees. Each incident saw use of social media uploads to convey events as they happened.
- The Stephen Port trial has received much media coverage and an IPPC investigation is underway the conclusions of which are currently unknown.

### **Crime Statistics**

- Statistics on violence with injury have shown a slight decrease on the previous year.
- Knife crime has been replaced by the use of noxious substances.
- Car registrations involved in street racing in the Choats Road area are being monitored and letters concerning the issue have been sent to local residents.

- The reporting period has seen a general decline in Anti-social behaviour.
- Some crimes go unreported and the public are encouraged to submit reports.
- Public Confidence stands at 77% despite the level of current activity taking place in the borough.
- The public confidence calendar is in place to ensure officers are available to attend major events.
- Crime levels over the Christmas period saw a decline.
- Residents are asked not to leave doors and windows open and ensure that keys are not left near letterboxes.
- The trend of keyless car thefts continues and residents should be aware that criminals can capture signals. Residents are also being asked to be careful about leaving valuables close to windows and car seats.
- Moped enabled crime remains an issue, drivers of mopeds are aware that they will not be perused if helmets are removed. Residents are being asked to report youths seen driving up and down for no apparent reason.
- Incidents of crime taking place in groups have been reported locally and the vulnerable have been targeted.

#### **4. Proposed Merger of 3 boroughs – Impact on Policing**

A recent announcement from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) informed us that they are considering a pilot Basic Command Unit (BCU) structure which Barking and Dagenham are involved in. An operational plan is being developed in parallel with the Police and Crime Plan known as the 'One Met Model 2020'.

The current MPS model has 32 units across London replicated in each borough. The new proposal being considered is to move to the BCU model, which sees larger units that cover a number of boroughs to meet the changing demands of crime and public safety.

The main principal of this model will provide more officers at a local level and teams can be shared across boroughs. These are anticipated to be Response Team Units and Senior Management but the detail of these proposals have still to be confirmed.

In order to test this model, two areas have been agreed and these went live in the New year. One of the test areas sees Barking and Dagenham merged

with Havering and Redbridge. Camden and Islington have also been selected for testing.

Trials will be undertaken on the understanding that:

- The tests/trials will be reviewed with the Mayor taking a view whether to support implementation across London
- The pilots would be reversible
- The tests would be evaluated in terms of service delivery for each Basic Command Unit and for individual boroughs engaged in the test. The evaluation criteria would be agreed with local authorities involved.

### **Changes in MPS rank structure**

The MPS has decided to phase out two of its eleven ranks by summer 2018. The ranks of Commander and Chief Inspector will no longer appear in the new leadership model.

The ranks of Superintendents and Chief Superintendents (the rank of borough commanders) will continue to play significant leadership roles across the Metropolitan Police.

The MPS envisage that these changes will support front line officers in boroughs and specialist units. In addition, it aims to reduce bureaucracy, enable more officers to better use their professional judgement to make quicker decisions, and allow talented officers to be recognised and shine through.

## **5. Questions to the Borough Commander**

*Q. Before Christmas there was a lot of publicity about the use of spit guards being trialled on high risk violent prisoners, what was the reasoning about their use?*

*A. A police consultation took place on the matter and it was decided that officers needed to be protected.*

*Q. How much negativity has been displaced about the use of spit Guards?*

*A. The results of the evaluation have yet to be seen, but the use of spit guards has not been seen in great numbers.*

Q. *Are there any age restrictions on the use of spit guards for juvenile use?*

A. *There are regulations and safeguarding measures put in all place to address the use of spit guards on individuals.*

It was noted that the use of spit guards go over the head of the offender which may have health implications for offenders and will be implemented across London in the coming months. It was further reported that currently spit guards are only used whilst offenders are in custody and reports have been made that youths and young adults are spitting at bus drivers and spit kits are being supplied to drivers who can the pass samples to the police.

Q. *How long does it take for officers to attend call outs and how are the details being relayed?*

A. *Calls to either 101 or 999 are assessed on an individual basis and all calls should be dealt with and responded to within an hour. Standard call pick up times are 10 seconds for calls to 999 and 30 seconds to 101 for non-emergency calls.*

It was noted that a resident was pleased with the police response time in a recent incident and an acknowledgement of the swift service and attendance was made.

**It was agreed that:**

**A brief presentation on MET detention and the use of spit guards will be arranged for the next meeting.**

**Action: Kanta Craigen-Straughn**

**The use of spit guards will be placed on the agenda for the next stop and search meeting**

**Action: Kanta Craigen-Straughn**

## **6. Priorities for Policing**

### **Barking**

This agenda item was delivered by Acting Inspector Gareth Schoorl, the Inspector reported that positive action has been taken against drinking and drug offences in the Town Centre and wards. Additional patrols have also been put in the town centre

A plan has been developed working along partners to tackle Anti Social Behaviour and dangerous driving in Thames Ward.

In comparison levels of crime are lower than last year, key priorities for Barking are alcohol zones and street racing in the Choats Road area.

Improvements have been seen in the town centre and peak time of activity have been identified as being 2 – 10pm. 12 stop and searches have been carried out in the reporting period and a 20% reduction in crime has been seen in town centre offences.

Sunningdale Ave has also seen a decline in anti-social behaviour and leaflet drops have also taken place in Eastbury Ward regarding speed awareness.

Ongoing work around the Town Centre is being conducted to tackle ASB, Street Drinking & Begging as part of larger work to tackle Violence With Injury Risk and the results of the Speed Bumps on Halyard Street & PSPO Consultation will continue to be monitored.

Changes under the new Basic Command Unit Model will also continue to be implemented and monitored to ensure that all policing operations can continue.

Q. *Although begging around supermarkets has been reduced. There still seems to be a lot of drinkers and begging in the Town Centre.*

A. *Drinkers and beggars are being move on by the Town Centre Team, who are also carrying out focused investigations on these issues.*

Q. *How can residents report drinkers in the neighbourhood?*

A. *Residents can report street drinkers by using the 101 non-emergency number.*

## **Dagenham**

This agenda item was presented by Inspector Jon Reeves, it was reported that in spite of continuous patrolling of identified crime & ASB hotspots throughout Dagenham continuing focus has been made on arresting outstanding offenders. The reported offences in the period has seen a slight increase of by 3%, to 1163, compared with the same period in 2015. In the last 3 months there has been a 14% increase on Eastbrook Ward and River has remained the same. There have been significant decreases of 9% on Village, 12% on Alibon, & 37% on Parsloes.

2 additional DWOs have already been posted to Dagenham NPT (River & Village). The planned amalgamation with Havering and Redbridge Boroughs early next year, there will be a significant uplift in NPT staffing with a minimum of 2 DWOs & 1 PCSO dedicated to each Ward.

It was also reported that there will be a reduction in the number of spare NPT PCs overall, Ward Sergeants reduced to 5 and NPT Inspectors to 1.

The MPS Met trace system of burglary reduction has seen positive results.

Inspector Jon Reeves also reported on the funeral arrangements of Duran Kajjama, the stabbing has led to an increase in support by the local community in the ward panel meetings with young people also standing up against knife crime. The family of Duran in association with their church have organised a march from Barking Town Centre to Village Ward. The procession will leave at 12pm and will proceed to Barking train station via Arboretum Place and Ripple Road to get a tube to Dagenham Heathway. The procession will then disembark at Dagenham Heathway and turn right down the Heathway, then left into Church Elm Lane and onto Wyhill Walk via Church Street where the Beatrice the mother of Duran will say a few words in memory of her son. It is expected that 400 individuals will be taking part in the procession.

*Q. Why is the funeral being allowed to take place on a Saturday when the normal burial days are usually Monday to Friday?*

*A. It is not known actually why the funeral is taking place on Saturday and there maybe a number of unknown factors as to the reasoning behind this, but it is the role of the police to ensure that the day goes smoothly.*

*Q. Will there be police presence around the procession?*

*A. There will be police and council presence during the procession, the procession is a celebration that youngsters do not want this to happen again and are keen to demonstrate against knife crime. The mother of Duran has given police assurances that they are free to deal with any incidents not related to procession.*

## **Whalebone**

The report on Whalebone was presented by Inspector James Kent on behalf of Inspector Tracey Roffey.

It was noted that Burglary offences across Whalebone SNT continues to drop, following a brief rise from September to November, 28 recorded offences in November indicated a 20% decrease compared to last year. This can be attributed to a number of factors one of which was the Met Trace project which has led to a dramatic reduction in burglaries, the project will be continued to be rolled out across the wards.

Motor vehicle crime remains an issue, statistics show that Motor vehicle crime of all types remain static across the wards. 11 offences for Becontree for October and 7 for November compared to 40 and 42 across the Borough as a whole have been recorded. ASB against motor vehicle crime has reduced and will continue to be monitored.

Drugs offences have dropped from 24 to 9 offences in the last month due to increased patrolling and autumn nights. Total notifiable offences compared to last year have reduced by 8%.

January 2017 will see wards have 2 DWO's and one PCSO. The service is working towards an uplift of 7 in the Town Centre and Thames.

Over the period 3 arrests were made against intent to supply and residents have been made aware of the increase in property being targeted for asian gold, residents are being asked not to store gold in the house.

## **7. Victim Support**

This agenda item was presented by Emma Jones from Victim Support who advised the group of the services that are provided to those that have been directly or indirectly affected by crime.

Victim Support are a national charity with over 40 year of experience whose experienced team are fully trained to provide emotional, practical, advocacy support. Victim support will provide their services whether the crime has been reported to the police or not and will receive receive referrals through the police, other agencies and those who wish to self refer.

In addition, Victim Support provides a IDSVAs service which offers support to those affected by domestic and sexual abuse and a Safer Homes service which offers free home security and advice to any resident.

Victim Support is run by volunteers who are trained to a high standard of service and City and Guilds Accredited.

Support is available from 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and a live chat option is also available online 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

Details of the Victims' Code leaflet can be found online:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/341367/adult-victims-code-leaflet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/341367/adult-victims-code-leaflet.pdf)

## **8. Any Other Business**

It was reported that Powerhouse International and Barking and Dagenham CVS are organising a marathon to raise money for charities who work with communities in the borough. Those interested in taking part were asked to review the Powerhouse international website. [www.phim.org.uk](http://www.phim.org.uk)

It was also reported that the 'China freight train' would be arriving in Barking in the next few days. The service passes through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France before it arrives at Barking Rail Freight Terminal in East London, which is directly connected to the High Speed 1 rail line to the European mainland. It was further noted the arrival of the train in Barking would have a positive effect on the borough.

The CVS are running a Bedding Scheme which provided rough sleepers with a bedding pack over the winter months. Packs can be collected from the Ripple Centre.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

SNB Open Meeting  
Thursday 23 March 2017, 19:30 – 21:00  
Main Hall, Barking & Dagenham Council for Voluntary Service  
121-125 Ripple Road, Barking, IG11 7FN

Member and Residents are kindly asked to note that parking in this venue is restricted, if anyone would like to book a space please contact [mala.alina@bdcvs.org.uk](mailto:mala.alina@bdcvs.org.uk) or call 0208 532 7300 to do so.

