

Safer Neighbourhood Board – Open Meeting

MINUTES

Date: 23 March 2017

Time: 17:30 -21:00

Chair: Steve Thompson MBE

Present:	Councillor Butt	Portfolio Holder, Enforcement and Crime
	Mr Wilson	Borough Commander
	Mr Gwillim	East Area Commander
	Keith Hutton	AIG Chair
	Cheryl Deane	Community Payback
	Louise Choppy	Victim Support
	Prince Kumar	Barking Cluster
	Rita Giles MBE	Dagenham Cluster
	Erika Jenkins	CVS
	Dan Neville	Whalebone Cluster
	James Campe	Older People's Forum
	Diane Worbey	Chair, Neighbourhood Watch

Apologies: Insp Roffe
MOPAC
June Griffiths
Pat Harding

1. Introduction

The introductions and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as correct. The presentation on spit guards was promised at the last meeting and this is on the agenda.

3. Presentation on Spit Guards

The presentation was given by Chris Morrow. Those at the meeting were given the opportunity to ask some questions:

Q- Are the spit guards used on children?

A- Yes, but in practice only one juvenile has been subject to use of the guard. All use is on CCTV and in the case of juveniles are independently reviewed.

Q- Are the guards used in terms of mental health?

A- There have been no reports about their use for medical rather than violent reasons. The alternatives for restraint are generally more intrusive.

A minute silence was then held as a mark of respect for those who died during the Westminster terrorist incident.

4. Borough Commanders Report

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

Recent Events

- The incident at Westminster- this is being investigated by specialist terrorism command unit. You will see an increase in police officers in busy areas and people should remain vigilant.
- Tragic murder the week before the meeting- this is being investigated by the specialist command unit that deals with murder. There have been 2 arrests in connection with this crime. There has been speculation about the connection of this crime with gangs but it is too early to speculate. This is an on-going enquiry.
- General crime- there has been an upturn in total notifiable offences (total crimes reported to the police) which is a trend seen across London.
- There has been a reduction in burglary to residential properties (homes) and a small increase in non-residential burglaries (which included at time of meeting commercial premises and also premises like sheds and garages). Barking and Dagenham also has a higher rate of detections (crimes in which the offender is identified) than other boroughs, particularly in terms of burglary.
- There has been a rise in motor vehicle crime. Particularly theft of higher value, keyless entry vehicles. The public are asked to report anyone acting suspiciously particularly holding devices near car
- Drugs- Borough Commander acknowledged residents' concerns about the supply of drugs in specific areas of the borough. The tri-borough model had given them greater ability to work proactively around these issues and lots of work has already taken place, the results of which the public will be made aware of when it is possible to share this. It is

likely that the public will not see most of the work which is done to deal with this issue.

5. Update on the Basic Command Unit (3 Borough) Pathfinder

Mr Gwillim explained the Basic Command Unit structure, which is about the merging of 3 boroughs. The focus of the BCU is on protecting vulnerable people. Each ward has an uplift of officers, including additional officers focused on schools and young people. There will still be ward panel meetings and bodies like the SNB will still hold the police to account in their area.

There will also be additional proactive officers to deal with issues like drugs and violence. However there will never be all the resources required to deal with all issues and prioritisation will have to take place. Prioritisation will be done on the basis of crime figures, data and intelligence.

Services which deal with serious crime, sexual offences and crimes against children are coming to the BCU which are all services which we did not have locally before.

6. Questions to the Borough Commander/ East Area Commander

- Q. *Concerns were raised about the response to issues regarding drug supply and drinking in Ripple Road and surrounding streets.*
- A. *The police are aware of the issues and there has been a lot of work which has taken place which the results of which will be made public when this information will not jeopardise the investigations. The police are aware of the impact this behaviour is having on residents and local businesses. The SNB Chair said that Councillor Butt offered to meet with residents and businesses with the police to provide them with more information and answer their questions further. PS Schoorl also advised that he was requesting impact statements from businesses and residents to support their work.*

Action: Residents and businesses in Ripple Road and surrounding streets to be updated on action

- Q. *You mentioned keyless entry thefts. Are you suggesting people use additional security? Also asked about hate crime.*
- A. *The advice regarding keyless thefts is to report anyone with a device near a car acting suspiciously. Manufacturers are making vehicles*

more secure all the time and are working on making this type of theft more difficult but this takes time. In terms of hate crime this continues to be investigated by a specialist unit.

Q. The residents of Greatfield Road have written a petition in respect of an increase in burglaries in their area. They have asked if the Fire Service can secure their site as they feel this is the method of entry?

A. It was confirmed that burglary remains a priority issue. It was agreed that an officer would be sent to see the petitioner to agree a course of action.

Action: Inspector Barfoot to arrange police contact with petitioners

Q. Member of the public stated that people with children on the Gascoigne Estate were very frightened after the recent murder and also in the Town Centre. They welcomed the increase in police officers on the estate but were concerned about the opening hours of the police base in Barking and wanted to know what more the community could do to assist?

A. The Borough Commander advised that work was on-going but this couldn't be discussed for operational reasons currently. It is unlikely that the hours of the police station would impact on reducing crime and generally the public want to see officers on the streets and not in offices. The best assistance the community can give is to continue to provide information.

Q. There seems to be an increase in prostitution in Eastbrook Ward and Village Ward as there are lots of stickers on lamp posts advertising massage services. Also the Barking and Dagenham Post reported 95 cases of FGM were reported in Barking and Dagenham- what is being done about this?

A. Mr Wilson said he would come back about the perceived rise in prostitution in the wards mentioned and the reports of FGM as he would need to look at the data. Zara Ibrahim responded regarding the FGM issue- the report related to concerns raised by professionals and this is indicative of the training about the issue that professionals have had in Barking and Dagenham. These figures did not relate to cases of FGM. She thanked the person who raised this issue and welcomed his concern about this issue. An officer from the Council advised that the Council is working hard to remove the stickers and prosecute those who 'fly post'.

Q. *Is there a lead Councillor who over sees CCTV?*

A. *Councillor Butt is the Portfolio Holder for Enforcement and Crime. The member of the public asked about CCTV being used to issue parking fines and it was confirmed that this is not the case in terms of parked (static) vehicles. Parking fines are issues by Civil Enforcement Officers.*

7. Priorities for Policing

The teams did not provide their usual performance update due to the meeting over running. However Inspector Jon Reeves addressed the meeting to say goodbye as he is leaving Barking and Dagenham.

The SNB Board and many members of the public thanked Inspector Reeves for all his work as Inspector of Dagenham Neighbourhoods.

8. Date of Next Meeting

SNB Open Meeting
Thursday 15 June 2017, 19:30 – 21:00
Dagenham and Redbridge FC, Victoria Road, Dagenham