

Safer Neighbourhood Board – Closed Meeting

MINUTES

Date: Thursday 23 November 2017 **Time:** 5.00-7.30pm

Location: Dagenham and Redbridge FC

Chair: Steve Thompson, MBE

Contact Officer: Jade Hodgson, Partnership Board Business Manager
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Present: Steve Thompson (Chair), Matthew Cole, Rita Giles MBE, Insp. Tim Barfoot, Insp. John Goodwin, Dan Neville, Keith Hutton, Cheryl Deane, Prince Kumar, Jade Hodgson

Apologies: Jim Campe, Councillor Butt, Diane Worby, Katherine Gilcrest, Spt.Int. Jane Scotchbrook, Louise Choppy, Rita Chadha

Minutes

1	Introductions and Apologies Steve Thompson (ST) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions and apologies were noted.
2	Minutes, action log and matters arising The minutes from the last open SNB meeting held in September were reviewed. It was highlighted that Cheryl Deane (CD) attended the last open board meeting however this was not recorded on the minutes.
3	Safer Neighbourhoods Board Chairs Report ST highlighted that Summer has been a challenging time, not only for the Borough but for the Basic Command Unit (BCU). Work is being carried out to address the concerns around Dedicated Ward Officers (DWO's) and it was highlighted that these are back in place. ST noted the reasoning behind the extractions of the DWO but is pleased that these are now back in place. The chair briefly discussed the Street Watch scheme and what it entails. The Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) would be presented on the Scheme by the Havering co-ordinator which would feed into the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board. It was noted this is a different process.
4	Updates on action Sunningdale Inspector Tim Barfoot (TB) noted this is a short hand for some of the issues affecting Barking Town Centre including the corner of Ripple Road. It was recorded that there are serious issues with Anti-social behaviour (ASB) including the issues with drug dealing. This issue was partly covered by a

covert operation which resulted in some individuals being arrested. This has had a positive impact on the issue however the MET Police are still aware that low level dealing is ongoing in the Borough.

The MET Police are working with the Council and environmental issues have been identified and action has been taken, this involved work such as removing railings to reduce places for people to gather. The Board Street PSPO that has now been agreed will allow police and some council officer to take action.

ST raised concerns around the PSPO stating there is sufficient enforcement in place once the PSPO has gone live, otherwise residents would lose faith in the scheme. The enforcement process should be multi-agency including street cleaners and Council enforcement teams. TB noted that the PSPO's are flexible and can be altered if certain parts of the order aren't working well.

ACTION: Jade Hodgson to circulate the Broad Street PSPO street map to SNB members once agreed by Community Safety Partnership Board.

Academy Central

TB raised the issues with the level of ASB, serious events and robberies over a number of years. Police are aware of the issue and work is being carried out to tackle this issue. The police are working with L&Q and in discussion to increase the number of estates team on patrol. Currently they are actively drawing up a contract where residents will pay an additional charge to support the increase in estates team.

Again, environmental issues have been raised around the gates on the edge of Mayesbrook park being left open, the Council have now locked this, and work is being look at to potentially put in a staggered gate to reduce the level of mopeds. It was noted that Dame Margaret Hodge MP has called for a street meeting.

5 Street Watch Presentation

Sally Miller (SM), Havering Street Watch coordinator presented Street Watch to the SNB members. Street Watch was based on a model currently running in Bedfordshire and Suffolk and has now been running in Havering for nearly 3 years covering 9 out of 18 wards soon to be rising to 11. Havering Street Watch currently has 26 volunteers throughout the borough. There is a proposal for this to be rolled out in some wards throughout Barking and Dagenham.

Volunteers when joining will have a PCN check completed which involves a criminal background check. An induction will be held and if successful they will be given a high vis jacket, a pocket book containing the code of conduct and useful numbers and email addresses including the DWO's and a personal attack alarm for safety.

Safe zones have been set up in areas alongside the local police.

Q - ST asked whether volunteers are encouraged to patrol in pairs?

A – Each volunteer will do a personal risk assessment and if they feel comfortable and confident to patrol alone they can. The first time a

volunteer patrols they are buddied up with a ward officer or experience volunteer.

Q – ST raised concerns around the level of checks the volunteers received, have DBS checks not been considered?

A – A PCN seems to be the right level of check for the volunteers given the work they carry out. You get a feel of why the volunteer is joining the scheme and whether they are community or vigilante minded.

SM advised that all volunteers must log onto a forum to highlight when they are patrolling, no more than 30 volunteers can be on patrol at one time. Once finished the volunteer will again log this on the forum and mark where they have patrolled.

Q – Keith Hutton (KH) asked whether Street Watch volunteers have a shortcut to report crime?

A – No, the volunteers do not have any police powers and follow the same protocol or reporting the crimes through either 999 or 101. The high vis jackets are more likely to deter the offender and offer reassurance to residents.

All volunteers are insured with public liability and personal injury.

Matthew Cole (MC) noted that this scheme could be appropriate for some areas in the borough where there is low level risk however there are some areas where this would be unsafe.

Q- MC questioned who would be accountable for the safety of the volunteers?

A – This is an independent scheme although sponsored by the Police each volunteer has a code of conduct to follow to ensure their safety.

Dan Neville (DN) raised concern around Street Watch in places such as Barking Town Centre when covert operations are in place, you wouldn't want people patrolling which could jeopardise the operation.

Q – Rita Giles (RG) asked how this scheme links with Neighbourhood Watch?

A – Street Watch work very closely with them and have a good rapport, there is a very tight link between the two.

Q – KH questioned whether there have been any major issues or complaints in the 3 years this scheme has been running?

A – No, we have only received positive feedback and thanks from residents.

ACTION: TB to link with the Safer Borough Board on 11th December to discuss who would be appropriate to pilot Street Watch in the Borough.

ST welcomed the members to submit comments to him which he can pass on to the Safer Borough Board to discuss. SNB members were also invited along to trial and meet the volunteers.

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Performance Summary

Police representatives discussed the MOPAC crime data. There was a discussion around the current Officer Complement within the Borough. TB stated that Barking & Dagenham was currently 10% understrength. ST asked if this was on top of the 7% reduction due to the implementation of the BCU. TB thought that the 10% included this 7% but was unsure.

ACTION: JG and TB to send the exact complement numbers to ST and indicating how many we are running under levels.

JG highlighted that there are 2 DWO per ward in all 3 boroughs, Barking and Dagenham's are all in place. The SNB members highlighted concern around not being informed when the DWO's move on. There was also a discussion on the extra DWO's and when they might be deployed.

ACTION: JG to keep the SNB members informed of the new DWO's and the wards they are going into.

Recorded Crime Data

TB noted that there has been an increase in Burglary which is an expected seasonal rise. There has been a reduction in moped crime, intelligence has helped take out some main leads on moped crimes. It is apparent that crimes are changing and those committing moped crimes are turning to burglary.

ST questioned the timeline stating it seems to be incorrect. MC and JG highlighted that there have been changes to the reporting of burglary which now includes sheds and garages. Operation Be Safe is in place which has replaced operation Bumblebee. DWO's are in possession of new equipment and cocooning is still in place.

ACTION: JG to send burglary hot spots map which is published every 2-3 weeks.

MC stressed that although they are recorded as hotspots 3 crimes in one area can potentially make it a hotspot.

The SNB were informed that we are currently at a 5 year high for theft of motor vehicles, crime prevention is in place to help tackle this issue and work has been carried out with car dealerships. DN noted that there was a consultation for ANPR cameras which didn't take off. JG highlighted that although these are very useful kits there are some issues around staffing and who will be able to monitor the cameras and respond to them.

ASB Data

ASB data is running on par with last year's figures. LBBD have rated this as amber. It was noted this is a standard agenda item for the VOLT meeting and joint tasking takes place every Monday with Council officers and Police.

Victim Satisfaction

It was highlighted that satisfaction has not had much focus however there is a BCU meeting on Monday 27th November to identify how this operated

	<p>previously and what can be done to address this issue. Possibility to break down into three Boroughs and report back.</p> <p>Q – CD questioned what the actual targets were. Although we may be rated green compared to other boroughs this still may not be a positive figure. The question had been previously asked at other meetings however we are still unsure what the actual targets are?</p> <p>A – Currently the target is to be above the MPS average. This will be raised at Monday’s meeting</p> <p>Stop and Search Stop and search is on the increase, although from a low base, and we now have the ability to show body camera images. ST and KH review these on a quarterly basis. It was noted that Havering and Redbridge have also started reviewing the images. It was noted that most of the searches within the Borough were undertaken by the Estate Team and the extraction of DWO’s during the summer had impacted on the number. ST highlighted that with a number of young officers being recruited the importance of S&S’s being supervised by a manager, something raised by the S&S Monitoring Group.</p> <p>Independent Custody Advisers The only issue raised through the report was Fresh Wharf where there are concerns over safety whether people could get through the doors in an emergency. No other issues were raised. It was noted that they used to have a Borough Commander to report on the issues as this was an agenda item agreed by MOPAC when the SNB was set up.</p> <p>ACTION: Jade Hodgson to invite Independent Custody Advisor Report to the future SNB meetings.</p>
7	<p>Police Priorities TB noted this has been previously covered during the meeting, the main priorities for the police are burglary and ASB.</p>
8	<p>Updates on operation Be Safe As previously noted, operation Be Safe has replace operation Bumblebee. This include crime previous. The latest operation Mexico is a joint operation running with Essex and operation Neptune is running to target smaller individual second-hand shop which may be selling stolen goods.</p> <p>JG offered SNB members to join a ride along to patrol or to attend a briefing which can be arranged by the police.</p>
9	<p>Update Reports</p> <p>Community Payback CD provided the board with a written update on Community Payback and reported to the team on the work that had been undertaken by the group throughout Barking and Dagenham. No other information was added during the meeting.</p> <p>Independent Advisory Group (IAG)</p>

	<p>Keith Hutton (KH) updated the board on IAG sub-group, again no other information was added at the meeting.</p> <p>Stop and Search ST provided a written update on Stop and Search to bring the board up to date with the on the work completed by the Stop and Search sub-group.</p> <p>Neighbourhood watch TB highlighted they are unable to find a list of schemes in the borough. DN reported on behalf of the deputy chair that this has been quiet. Links need to be made with the police around Neighbourhood Watch.</p> <p>Ward Panels DN expressed concerns around the lack of communication with the council officers. It was not communicated that officers are unable to attend during the restructure. Currently no-one available to administer the meeting with minute taking and distribution or meetings and invites.</p> <p>ACTION: MC to feed concerns raised to Katherine Gilcreest (KG).</p> <p>ACTION: MC/ KG to feed back to Ward Panels once concerns around Ward Panel meetings have been discussed.</p>
10	<p>Priority Review Due to limited time at the meeting the priority review has been deferred to the following SNB.</p> <p>ACTION: Jade Hodgson to add Priority Review to the forward plan for the next meeting.</p>
11	<p>AOB No notable business.</p>
12	<p>Next Meeting Safer Neighbourhoods Board (SNB) Open Public Meeting Thursday 15th February 2018 6.30-8.30pm Dagenham and Redbridge FC</p>
MEETING CLOSED	