

Safer Neighbourhood Board – Open Public Meeting

NOTES OF MEETING

Date: 15TH FEBRUARY 2018

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Location: Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club

**Contact Officer: Abdul Chowdhury, PA to Director
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Steve Thompson (MBE)	Chair
Present	ST
Present	
Rita Giles (MBE)	Dagenham Cluster
Keith Hutton	Board Member
Dan Neville	Board Member
Superintendent Scotchbrook	East Area Partnership Lead
Inspector Tim Barfoot	Partnership Inspector, Barking and Dagenham
Neil Mathews	Det. Superintendent
Zobia Mahmood	Chapel DC
Jonathan Toy	Director of Enforcement Law & Governance
Apologies	
Councillor Butt	Portfolio Holder, Enforcement and Crime
Councillor Irma Freeborn	Unwell
Bernard Street	?
June Griffin	?
Jim Campe	Has withdrawn his membership due to Health
Matthew Cole	Director of Public Health, LBBDD
Katherine Gilcreest	Lifecycle Lead, Community Solutions
DCI McMannus	Safeguarding

AGENDA ITEMS	
Introductions, apologies for absence	Chair – Verbal 5 Mins
Notes of last meeting and matters arising	Chair – Verbal 5 Mins
Police Update	Sean Wilson/ Jane Scotchbrook – 15 mins
BCU Burglary and Robbery initiative	Det. Supt Neil Matthews – 10 mins
Neighbourhood policing - Current issues affecting the Wards	Inspector Tim Barfoot Verbal 20 mins
Questions from Public	Public – Verbal 20 mins
Any other business	Chair – Verbal 5 mins
Details of next meeting	Safer Neighbourhood Board (Open Public Meeting) Barking Learning Centre Thursday 16 August 2018, 6.30-8.30pm

Introductions, apologies for absence	Action
<p>The introductions and apologies were noted. A slight change to the format to accommodate Jane Scotchbrook as she is running late.</p> <p>The Chair commenced meeting by explaining the current format of the SNB meetings which will be held twice a year (6 monthly). He also apologised for the cancellation of the Ward Panel Chairs meetings due to the recent tragic events in Barking and the stabbing of a 19-year-old boy. Concerned raised by member of public that a shooting also took place. Clarification was provided by Inspect. Barfoot that the reported shooting in Barking was not verified but was responded too.</p> <p>Following on from the events in Barking the Chair informed the public that a section 60 enforcement was issued which allowed Police to stop and search any member of public without reason. The section 60 can only be authorised by Senior Police and the Chair was also consulted that this would take effect immediately and agreed. This has been lifted.</p> <p>Finally, dedicated ward officers that had been extracted earlier in the year to address public concerns have now returned to their respected wards. There has been significant impact in each ward with reports of increase in crimes and the lack of policing this will be addressed by the Police and update on concerns raised by all during Q&A.</p>	
Notes of last meeting and matters arising	
<p>The Chair asked if there were any matters arising from previous meeting. It was noted there are no matters arising.</p>	None
Neighbourhood policing - Inspector Tim Barfoot - Current issues affecting the Wards	
<p>TB informed the meeting of the various work undertaken to address issues and concerns in the different wards. TB explained as things stand there are 2 dedicated officers and 1 PSCO per ward. This is a return to the old model where previously was withdrawn to address remodelling of Policing. TB explained there was not enough time to cover updates on all 17 wards however there were reoccurring themes of anti-social behaviour, illegal activity of drugs, vehicle theft and prostitution (stickers advertising) and burglary. Some updates are listed below but please note not all wards are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chadwell Heath Ward – Targeting of cannabis factories and seizing of illegal items, addressing of stolen cars dumped and theft of number plates. - Goresbrook Ward – Sweeps were undertaken offensive weapons were seized, vehicle theft addressed. - Thames Ward – Cannabis raids made to several properties and targeting theft of number plates. Because of ASB a public space protection order has been issued with partnership work with the council. - Abbey Ward – ASB issues working closely with partners including the council. Street Prostitutions has been addressed through joint operations with Redbridge Council. Residents have reported significant change and positive outcome so far. 	

- Village Ward – Rough sleepers have been targeted many families evicted who have persistently caused ASB, partnership work with the council will continue and appropriate action to be taken.
- River Ward – addressed the ASB situation and intelligence led targeting of cannabis factory. This has led to a 30month sentence of perpetrators and continue to target others.
- Eastbury Ward – 2 arrests have been made for burglary which has been positive and a reduction from previous year. In addition, child protection concerns are being addressed via ward panels to address stickers.
- Longbridge Ward – Addressing ASB and Burglary with successful weapons sweep.
- Gascoigne Ward – investigation on gun crime and discovery of shot gun cartridges. Additionally, seizure of knife dangerous zombie knives. A public meeting was held on the estate following the fatal stabbing of a young boy. Addressing concerns of safety and importance of parenting and child protection are key messages to the community there. There are currently ongoing investigations.
- Becontree Ward – Academy Central ongoing work with successful weapons sweeps.
- Whalebone Ward – Ongoing traffic issues and gathering around the parade causing disturbances. Having regular meetings with partners to look at public space protection order.
- Albion, Eastbrook, Heath, Mayesbrook, Parsloes and Valence wards were not covered due to the lack of time.

Moped Crime – In comparison to other neighbouring boroughs LBBB is ranked 4th lowest crime rate and London wide ranked 9th. This is not say the crime committed is not serious, but the borough has a better chance addressing this and targeting theft and putting in effective measures to counter this problem.

Broad Street area is going through a consultation to look at public space protection order. Concerns of begging and alcohol misuse around the Heathway is a problem so working again with partners to tackle this. On a positive note the What's Up group set up by residents for reporting crimes has been working well and with good administration it will continue to do so.

Q: How many police vehicle are on the road given some incidents with vehicles being rammed in the past. Have not seen presence on the roads will there be more vehicles?

A: TB; The vehicles are back on the road there are limited number of vehicles in the wider context due to cuts in funding. Moving forward there is looking to allocate bicycles to our neighbourhood officers. This will give a better coverage where vehicles cannot access. Additionally, distance of 20minute from the hubs means responses and visible presence will be there. This this is not yet in place but aspiring to have in all wards.

Q: Resident described incident involving her husband and approached by gang trying to get number plate and threatening behaviour. When police were called on 999 emergency it was not deemed urgent and asked wrong questions when reporting. The assessment on the phone was wasteful and inappropriate given the serious nature. Several weeks later told case was closed whilst given the impression was not an emergency in the first place.

A: TB requested for details of the incidents which he is happy to investigate and follow up on what went wrong.

BCU Burglary and Robbery initiative - Det. Supt Neil Matthews

DS Neil Mathews introduced the initiative with a new team primarily focused on burglary and robbery. The initiative started back in December 2017 and designed to address the ongoing issues. 26% Increase of robberies more than past year were attended to but often missed links and a less collaborative approach. This meant only look at crimes in isolation and this has led to less desired impact in catching the perpetrators.

As a result, a total of 16 specialist officers a combination of analysts and signed officers are now dedicated to this area. Other operations like MEXICO will be more familiar to public but this initiative intends to hit hard and address the ongoing concerns of burglary.

Looking ahead on crime preventions an update can be provided to highlight the effective work that has been undertaken. Namely 57 suspects have been identified and arrested with many more pursued and charged in court.

Every week there is a task meeting looking at hotspots with in the 17 wards. This enables follow up with intelligence led information which an analyst and assigned officers can action to. Intelligence gathered through the team and public means vital evidence with successful targeting of individuals.

There will also be an initial 4-week covert operation to tackle persistent areas of crime in the evenings however exact date and times cannot be disclosed for security reasons.

Furthermore, there will be monthly public meetings like the SNB set up working with press and partners and feeding information updates using the monthly intelligence meetings.

When a crime related to burglary takes place it will be now assigned to this team immediately for action. More urgent and immediate concern should be reported via 999 emergency number.

Q: Even when theses suspects have been charged its usually a very lenient sentence. In some cases, because or the age factor the is no deterrent and these types of crime happen again.

A: NM – although this has been the case there are ways to appeal against the sentences given. Namely challenging the verdict through gathering of signatures as a community appeal through due process. This is your citizens' rights.

- 78% are burglary related
- 14% are walk ins – insecure properties

There is a need to be more vigilant and being aware of your surroundings as many fall preys to criminals because they are not. Individually there are free advice services in the borough like Victim Support who also offer free adaptations for your homes to make them safe.

Q: Is there a dedicated number to call the team on to share intelligence or contact in relation to burglary? **ACTION – NM to pass this number to Chair to circulate.**

A: NM – Advice is that you have rights as citizens to use reasonable force to remove if an intruder is in your home. However please note by calling 999 you will get more immediate response do not put yourself at risk.

Residents informed that other tactics are used to identify vulnerable people and their properties using markers. Blue dots are left to properties for criminals to target. In addition, another resident informed the use of 'What's Up Groups' that her locals had used to keep each other informed of live activities and awareness. The use of Shop Watch and Pub Watch are other such useful intelligence gathering.

NM is not aware of this but happy that this is shared with his team. This is the type of public interventions and information's that will make it harder for criminals to do crime. As for the use of social media group this is a brilliant idea unfortunately the police are not informed and more too often the group are busy and active but not informing the police.

Final remarks NM:

There is no doubt that this would bring a sense of confidence to the community and further broadens the need for intelligence led action. Whilst using the specialism of the new initiative and collectively we can make the borough a safer place.

Police Update - Jane Scotchbrook

JS apologised for her lateness due to other pressing commitments.

Starting of with the BCU update the new model and what lies ahead. Last year was a turbulence year with remodelling has had it drawbacks. With various factors influencing the model inclusive of financial constraints.

- **999 calls** - an average of 15 minutes response time is recorded as 80% which is high but not enough. The Met Police response is currently at 90% with emphasis on priorities and effective response.
- The dedicated ward officers back in the substantive wards with 2 safer neighbourhood officers and 1 PCO.
- Smart Communications – Smart phones are now assigned to officers for communicating with the residents they know best. Using intelligence via What's Up group and other social media to inform and update ward on ongoing or urgent issues. Additionally, resource of the council website and contact for neighbourhood concerns. Neighbourhood Watch Live, What's Up Group is apposite action but all to note that keep Police informed with issues and concerns.
- Street Watch – In some other areas residents have acted by wearing high vis jackets when walking their dogs. This is believed to have a positive impact and acting as a deterrent, but this type of activity needs to be responsible. Once again is faced with emergency public to call 999 and 101 in non-emergency concern.
- Change to structure has meant that Safeguarding, Missing People, Gangs and Emergency Response have all come under one.

- Rebuilding the communications between School Officers, Ward Officer and working together and information sharing.
- Partnership Working between operations like MEXICO and issues related to moped crime, prostitution and ASB requires a central hub. This is where licensing officers and dedicated ASBO can help address is collaboration. This will help reduce demands on lower level crime and working with local businesses to address this. As an example, businesses can make their shopfront less inviting to crowds of young people who cause ASB.

It is apparent the response teams in recent times has not worked and lessons have been learnt. However, given the new model we now have more licensing officers in a central location provide cover and gaps due to sickness or leave.

Gangs Unit will be based in Harold Hill increasing the number of officers in the gang's unit's, but an urgent review still is required.

Q: Cut backs have had direct impact in wards and is evident in absence of our neighbourhood officers.

A: This has been acknowledged and additional 16 officers in total have been added to the BCU. This was supported directly from the mayor of London. TB informed the number was 8 but the mayor of London has matched that.

Q: Peter – asked what is be done in relation to Domestic Violence and what measures are in place. Alongside the ongoing issue of FGM and figures in 2016/17 highest number recorded what is being done around this and has there been successful prosecution?

A: There is a Positive Action Policy in place to address the issues around domestic violence with extra powers to address. Court orders can be obtained for the immediate removal of perpetrators 28 days once reported. Wider social issues of safeguarding strand can be in place to deal with all other levels of violence. In relation to FGM this has been taken very seriously and the vulnerability of women facing this is being continuously looked at. However, from allegations through to prosecution has been difficult to prove given the evidence. Trauma and cultural issues have meant a lot of the evidence cannot be followed though that saying a serious crime directorate will be looking at this specifically.

Q: Peter asked what is being done in relation to the prostitution stickers, not just in Barking Town Centre but in Rainham Road South and the Heathway. There had been no attempts to remove stickers on Rainham Road over the last year.

A: Jonathan Toy - Our teams work hard to remove them but as soon as we do they are put out again. However, to say stickers in Rainham Road South and The Heathway had been there for over a year is not true. A follow up with our street cleaning team can provide an update first thing on Monday.

Q: Rita Giles: Each ward officers PCO and a new loaned officer to cover latter shifts. What assurance is given that dedicated officers that are familiar to residents in each ward are restored to their respective places of patrol.

A: There has been changes and during the remodelling officers from different area brought in as there was shortages this was an interim arrangement.

<p>Some things are demand driven however with the return to dedicated PCO's that will bring normality back to the wards.</p> <p>Q: Begging on the Heathway seems to be more aggressive with cash machines being targeted. This has a very negative perception of the area and creates other ASB situations.</p> <p>A: A public consultation in few weeks to address this to tackle this problem with potential public space protection order as a viable option.</p>	
<p>Any other business</p>	

<p>Details of next meeting</p>	<p>Safer Neighbourhood Board (Open Public Meeting)</p> <p>Barking Learning Centre</p> <p>Thursday 16 August 2018, 6.30-8.30pm</p>
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