

**Hammersmith & Fulham Neighbourhood Watch Association  
Annual General Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Attendance was recorded from the following schemes**

Gresswell Street, Elmstone Road, St Peters Square, Hadyn Park Road, Masbro Road, Branksea Street, Eynham Road, Nasmyth Street, Wendell & Gransden, Hetley Road, Kinnoul Road, Sulgrave Road, Mustow Place, Bassein Park Road, Clifton Avenue, Waldemar Avenue, Flanchford Road, Wormholt Road, Chiswick Mall, Fulham Park Road, Ravenscourt Gardens, Winslow Road, Coverdale Road, Kenyon Street, Napier Court, Bolingbroke Road, Warbeck Road, Brecon Road, Seddlescombe Road, Emlyn Road, St Peters Grove, Boscombe Road, Melrose Gardens, Cambridge Grove, Munster Place, Norbroke Street, St Stephens Avenue, Perrers & Atwood, Lancaster Court, Chiddingstone Street, Archel Road, Bradmore Park Road, Ringmer Avenue, Brading Terrace, Binden Road, Minford Gardens, Agate Road, Wormholt Road, Delaford & Tilton, MacFarlane Road, Aylmer Road, Skelwith Road, Parsons Green Lane, Lysia Street, South Black Lion Lane.

**Apologies were received from**

New Hurlingham Court, Rivermead Court, Cambridge Grove, Bloom Park Road, Chancellors Street, Atwood Road, St Dionis Road, Addison Gardens, Vernon Street, TRACA, Orbain Road, Napier Court, Hartswood Road, Snowbury Road, Burnthwaite Road, Donneraile Street, Hammersmith Terrace, Iffley Road, Brightwell & Lowlands, Ellerby Street, Felden & Swift Street, Ravenscourt Square.

**Welcome & Introductions**

David Millar (DM), Chair of the H&F Neighbourhood Watch Association, welcomed attendees to the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM. He introduced the evening's guests. The Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Lucy D'Orsi and the current Hammersmith & Fulham Mayor Councillor Belinda Donovan, whom he thanked for her support in helping Neighbourhood Watch to grow in the borough over the years.

He then proceeded to introduce the committee to the attendees.

**Review of previous year**

DM updated the meeting as to some of the main local issues since the last AGM in June 2011.

Soon after the last AGM there was the widespread civil unrest across London and elsewhere in the country. He was thankful to LDO and her officers that the violence seen did not manifest itself in H&F.

DM mentioned the review of neighbourhood policing, a process which is currently reaching its end. He recognised that there has been a high turnover in SNT staff, and noted that this was one of the main topics of discussion at the NW event at the Lyric Theatre in February.

DM reported that during the London Mayoral elections he and other NW coordinators met with Boris Johnson when the Mayor came to H&F to discover more about NW.

In June 2012, the first of what are intended to be a series of crime roadshows took place in Munster ward. These consultation events will be taking the place

of the crime summit and will be travelling across the borough for the next year. DR reported that despite the extra policing pressures during the Olympics crime overall was down in the borough. However, there was a tragic incident where one of the council's street sweepers, Poitr Mickewicz, was killed when he intervened in a residential burglary. DM reported that the police had acted quickly to arrest the alleged perpetrator.

Finally DM reported that the number of schemes had grown from 179 covering 242 streets at the last AGM to 196 covering 266 streets at the present time.

### **Borough Commanders Presentation**

LDO thanked DM and the Association for inviting her to their AGM for the second year.

She reported that Hammersmith & Fulham compares well with other London boroughs and is currently in the top five boroughs in reduction of key crimes across the Metropolitan police area. She emphasised that neighbourhood watch has a key role to play in crime reduction. For example, the increase in the number of drug warrants executed comes from information from the community.

### **Crime Overview**

For an overview of crime in the area, LDO gave a run through of final figures for the year to April 2012 (compared against the period to April 2011). There have been:

- 336 fewer victims of violent offences
- 16 fewer victims of robbery
- 250 fewer victims of residential burglary
- 357 more victims of theft from motor vehicle
- 51 more victims of theft of a motor vehicle
- 220 fewer victims of criminal damage.

So far this year the motor vehicle crime figures are much improved.

LDO emphasised that the police responded strongly to the civil unrest of August 2011. 19 arrests on the first night sent a strong message, and there was good partnership working with the council and businesses such as Westfield. In 2012 the policing of high profile events such as the Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics, as well as the Notting Hill Carnival, had been in effect the largest policing operation since WW2.

So far in 2012 (April to September), LDO reported the following crime trends (compared against the same period the previous year):

- 24 fewer victims of serious violence
- 29 fewer victims of personal robbery
- 174 fewer homes burgled
- 189 less victims of theft from a motor vehicle
- 72 less victims of theft of a motor vehicle
- Knife crime has halved.

LDO spoke briefly about the range of tactics employed by H&F Police, including weapons sweeps, knife arches, working with schools, unmarked police cars on patrol in hotspot areas and the offender management unit working with high risk offenders.

### **Operation Hawk**

LDO briefly discussed operation Hawk, whereby the police have a concerted effort on the execution of drugs warrants. LDO believes that if drugs markets can be disrupted that this will disrupt a significant driver of local crime. Operation Hawk will involve the focussing of resources to act on intelligence received and execute warrants from now until Christmas.

### **Does Neighbourhood Watch work?**

LDO had asked her borough intelligence unit to look at the possible correlations between crime and Neighbourhood Watch. Prior to the first community crime roadshow in Munster they had overlaid the residential burglary figures with the roads in that ward that had existing NW schemes. Though the analysis was necessarily a little crude, there was a clear correlation shown between roads that had existing NW schemes and lower levels of burglary and other crime. By replicating this model across the borough the police will be able to identify areas where support for NW is needed.

### **Local Neighbourhood Policing Model**

LDO reported that the police had to save half a billion pounds by 2015, so this will obviously impact on the ways in which policing services are delivered. In H&F LDO wants to increase the number of officers deployed to neighbourhood policing by rationalising senior management and other functions, such as custody and investigation teams. Larger safer neighbourhood teams will work with emergency response teams, whilst borough support units will also feed into the neighbourhood policing model. The Safer neighbourhood aspect of local policing will be the largest policing team within the borough.

### **Current successes**

In summary LDO outlined some key recent achievements that she was particularly proud of in terms of local policing:

- The Shepherds Bush Safer Neighbourhood Team won the Commissioners award for being the best performing SNT in the metropolitan policing area.
- H&F has the best response time in London to emergency calls (8 minutes, 4 seconds).
- H&F currently has the second highest rate of solved crimes in London.

### **Question & Answer Session**

**Q.** A crime type that wasn't reflected in your presentation but that I know has affected neighbours of mine is telephone and internet scams. These are often highly organised and very plausible. What can be done to prevent this type of offending?

**LDO** – The cyber and financial crime team in London has been set up by the City of London police, where fraud is more prevalent than on this borough. This type of offence can be reported via the action fraud website (linked to the NW website and found at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/home> ). The key way of preventing this type of offence is to get the message about scams to our friends and neighbours.

**Q.** Can we have updates of the scams as they occur so we can be involved in spreading the word?

**DM** – Yes. We will look to see how we can capture and spread those messages.

**Q.** You talked about the new policing model. However, on my ward (Town) we have only had one dedicated police constable for the past few months, and there have been no ward panel meetings.

**LDO** – We will be maintaining the current model at a minimum, which would be 2 police constables with additional PCSOs. Town ward may have suffered recently from abstractions, but this will be resolved. The new model will be flexible and responsive to crime trends, so additional officers can be deployed in response to criminal activity, but the basic ward teams will remain in place apart from in exceptional circumstances (e.g. the recent murder).

**Q** – Although you report crime as falling, in Ravenscourt Park we feel that crime is trending upwards. What's being done about this?

**LDO** – Several of the warrants mentioned in my presentation will be executed in your ward, and your neighbouring ward, Hammersmith Broadway, has some significant crime drivers relating to licensed premises that we are working on. We will be having a crime roadshow for your ward in November, but if you want to send me your crime figures in advance of that I will ask our intelligence unit to look into it.

**Q** – Some of the information that people are receiving from the SNTs seems to be sporadic. Can there be a communications audit to ensure there is consistency across the SNTs?

**LDO** – We'd be happy to look at how the teams communicate and see how this can be improved.

**Q** – Where we live is on the border with Hounslow, and I'm sure many other people live near borough boundaries. We are currently sending messages to our members every week about crime occurring, which the SNT seem to feel is linked with offending across the boroughs. From a police perspective, what is being done about cross border crime?

**LDO** – From an intelligence point of view we do link with the neighbouring boroughs. It's possible that we could improve links between the neighbouring SNTs and we will look into how this can be achieved.

**Q** – We also need good news stories to spread to our members, otherwise everything seems to be doom and gloom, and this probably isn't a fair reflection.

**LDO** – I will seek to share good news policing stories with the public, especially where offenders are caught and convicted.

**Q** – Is knife crime falling, and what's being done in schools to address the problems of young people and knives?

**LDO** – It is down. We have a Borough Schools Office managed by Sergeant Gordon Barlow, and supported by local SNTs, which works with all schools in

<p>the borough to deliver presentations about knife and other crime. Officers are involved in activities during school holidays, such as the boxing club scheme in Sands End. The engagement work sits alongside the enforcement strategies I outlined earlier.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – You spoke earlier of savings that have to be made in the Met Police. Some provincial forces seem to be outsourcing some of their functions. Is this an option being considered in H&amp;F?</p>
<p><b>LDO</b> – It’s not something we have considered at all and we have no intention to outsource our services on this borough.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Is there some way that feedback and good practice from NW schemes can be shared?</p>
<p><b>DM</b> – It is something that we have been intending on doing with the NW website and we will speak with our web designer to see if a forum or message board could be added to the site.</p>
<p><b>Q.</b> Would it be possible to have something similar to the council’s Environment “Report It” online system for the police?</p>
<p><b>LDO</b> – We will look to see if this could be done as part of the police Grip &amp; Pace system, but at this time I have no idea whether it would be feasible.</p>

### **Douglas Hurd Cup**

Councillor Belinda Donovan, the current Mayor of H&F, attended to present the Douglas Hurd Cup.

BD spoke briefly of her experience of neighbourhood Watch. Before becoming an elected councillor in 2006 BD was one of only five neighbourhood Watch coordinators in H&F, so she was happy to see how much it had grown in the past six years. She thanked members of the Borough Association for the work they had done to support this growth.

BD reported that the Douglas Hurd Cup had come about as we wanted to recognise the important work that Neighbourhood Watch carries out. The Cup itself was invested with the support of BD and her mother in remembrance of her late brother.

BD said that although the Cup is only presented to one scheme each year, but it symbolises the work that all NW schemes do across the borough.

DM read the citations and the Cup was presented by BD and LDO to Viv James from MacFarlane Road. Paul Alexander from Anselm Road was also commended.