

## Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015– 6.45 p.m.

### Attendees

David Millar (DM - H&F NHWA, SNB Chair), Paul McNulty (PM - HAFFTRA), Marie Thomas (MT - HAFFTRA), Amanda Lloyd-Harris (ALH - Palace Riverside Ward Panel), Julie Farn (JF - Addison Ward Panel), Howard Weinberg (HW - Addison Ward Panel), Sarah Chambers (SCh - Fulham Broadway Ward Panel), Angela Horsfall (AH, Ravenscourt Park Ward Panel), Dai Prichard (DP, North End, part) Jane Davis (JD, Fulham Reach Ward Panel), John Ryan (JR, Guest), Claire Rai (CR - LBH&F), Gideon Springer (GS - H&F Police), Simon Causer (SCa – H&F Police), Chris Reynolds (CR, LBH&F) Pat Cosgrave (PC - LBH&F).

### Apologies

Ifeoma Williams (IW - Victim Support), Brian Pender, Caroline MacMillan (Askew Ward Panel), Graeme Wait (GW, Parsons Green & Walham Ward Panel), Nick Wood (NW - Shepherds Bush Ward Panel), Rebecca Lane (RL - Shepherds Bush Ward Panel; Only Connect), Councillor Mike Cartwright (MC – Deputy Leader LBH&F), Matthew John (MJ, Hammersmith BID), Annabel Cottrell (AC, Town Ward Panel), Stephen Garside (SG, Avonmore & Brook Green Ward Panel).

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

DM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the March meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

### 2. Chairs Update

DM reported that since the last SNB meeting he had attended two LCP2 meetings. These are meetings of SNB chairs from across London, but is independent of MOPAC and the police. It is a useful forum where SNBs can share their experience of MOPAC and the police with one another. DM reported that some SNBs were having difficulty in meeting the MOPAC requirements to access funding. Other issues raised at the meeting were the efficacy of police contact points and “screening out” letters, where a victim of crime receives a standard letter to let them know the police will not be investigating their crime further. DM asked if GS could address both these points in his update.

Other issues of interest arising included the all-night weekend tube service commencing in September and the possible consequences for crime and disorder. A more immediate concern was the recent rise in knife crime reported by a number of boroughs.

An issue of local interest was raised at a residents meeting. On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 5 cars on Emlyn Road were entered with no forced sign of entry, and it appears that entry was gained via electronic override. Whilst this had previously been a method of offending associated with the taking of high end vehicles, it appeared to be a more

worrying trend that the same means were now being used in the more “minor” offence of theft from vehicles. DM asked GS for a response from the police. GS replied that all modern vehicles are run by computers. Some criminal gangs have got hold of override devices and these devices are becoming increasingly available and cheaper to obtain, which may explain why they are being used in the more frequent “theft from” offences. Where previously high end vehicles had been targeted now a wider range of vehicles were at risk. The best prevention advice, as always, is to remove anything of value from your vehicle and to use an old fashioned steering wheel lock to prevent the vehicle being driven away.

DM noted that spreading such crime prevention messages on behalf of the police was an area where the SNB might be able to assist. This brought him onto the topic of developing a contacts database. PC asked GS whether the LPTs would be willing to share their KIN lists with the CSU on behalf of the SNB so they could be added to the SNB contact list. GS felt there might be data protection problems with this but he agreed that he would ask the LPTs to e-mail their KIN lists to ask whether they were happy for their e-mail addresses to be shared with the SNB. **Action – PC to draft e-mail for clearance by GS and SCa to approve and forward to LPTs.**

DM announced that SCh had agreed to be the deputy chair of the SNB.

### **3. Borough Commander Update**

GS apologised to the meeting that the Taser report he was having prepared was not yet ready but reported that he hoped to have it available to be sent out with the minutes of the meeting. **Action – GS (now attached below).** However, he did verbally update the meeting that 4 Taser equipped officers per day were being deployed on the borough. The exact usage figures are in the report but their use is very low. There is a section of the MPS website which shows Taser data for across London: (<http://content.met.police.uk/Site/taser>)



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pdf

In terms of the “screening out” letter mentioned by DM, GS reported that this was a central MPS, rather than local, design, so he has little input into the content. Whilst he could not confirm exactly how many such letters had been sent out on the borough but he estimated that approximately a third of all crimes are screened out. The process for this to happen is via the criteria set out by the MPS Crime Management Unit. Offences that are screened out are mainly “low level” or “minor” offences where there are, for example, no witnesses, no evidence as to where the crime took place or no intelligence as to what time the offence took place; i.e. there are no leads with which to proceed with a viable investigation. The offences are still recorded as crimes but the police do not proceed beyond the initial investigation. The

reason for this process is to enable the police to balance their resources in the most effective manner, based on the seriousness of an offence.

In terms of knife crime GS accepted that this is an issue across London and there have been increases in many London boroughs. Whilst the percentage increase in H&F looks concerning the raw figure increase is 7 offences (from 8 to 15). Currently H&F is not experiencing a huge problem in this area.

In terms of contact points GS confirmed that aside from the police station front counters there were contact points at Shepherds Bush Library and the Lillie Road Community centre. Both are seldom used. The front desk at Hammersmith is relatively well used, as to a lesser extent is the one at Fulham police station. People are now more likely to contact the police on the phone.

In terms of the 24 hour tube, GS sees there being 2 main issues. It will make it easier for people to get home safely from a night out. However people may stay out later and drink more. Licensing hours are likely to extend and in GS's opinion this can lead to increased disorder. There are generally fewer police on duty at night time. On the tube network itself the policing will be the responsibility of the BTP. The police will monitor the situation as it develops but GS reported that the BTP shift pattern was already being amended in preparation.

#### **4. Data Pack**

DM noted that there had been an increase in TNOs and a significant increase in Violence with Injury. Robbery, burglary and theft from person performance is good, but there appear to be challenges around motor vehicle crime and criminal damage.

GS acknowledged that there were increases in the current year's figures, but this was in the context of record reductions on the borough in the MOPAC 7 crimes the previous year. Since the baseline year for the MOPAC 20% reduction target there have been significant decreases in all the 7 crime types aside from VWI. He pointed out that violent crimes are now much more stringently recorded and that minor issues are now reported as violent offences where they would not previously have been. In terms of domestic violence the police have been trying to encourage more reporting. When reports are made this can often lead to historic offences also being recorded which inflates the figure. Police figures nationally are showing increases in violent offences, but this is not a trend reflected in A&E and ambulance service data.

In terms of criminal damage the main hotspots are in the town centres. The police have more council funded officers based in town centres now, which can have the side effect of increasing criminal damage reporting.

In general GS feels that there appears to be a shift away from the acquisitive crimes that usually carry a prison sentence (burglary, theft person etc.) to those that don't (motor vehicle crime).

GS also noted that some of the main hotspots for violence and criminal damage included Hammersmith Police Station and Wormwood Scrubs prison. In institutions such as the prison such offences would likely have previously gone unrecorded, but policy changes now mean that these are more rigorously reported and recorded.

ALH noted that aside from the MOPAC 7 crimes, rape, sexual offences and gun crime were all showing an increase on the current year's figures. GS responded that from a police perspective there has been an increase in reporting and more accurate recording of rape offences. This offence is probably still under reported though, he noted. Recent Operations (such as Yewtree) have led to an increase in the reporting of historic sexual offences, which are recorded for the year they were reported rather than the year they took place. GS also noted that out of the 32 London boroughs, Hammersmith is recorded as being the 4<sup>th</sup> safest overall.

SCa advised that MOPAC had a dashboard where the public could look at all crimes across London (<https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/data-information/crime-dashboard>)

DM said that the Board appreciated that the long term crime trend was down, but that SNBs by their nature were always going to concentrate on the most recent figures. He thanked GS and said that the meeting appreciated the narrative context.

## **5. Feedback from Ward Panel Chairs meeting**

PC reported that further to an action from the March meeting the SNB hosted a meeting for ward panel chairs on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The meeting discussed how the police and council can support ward panels, how they can assist ward panels in garnering new members and how the SNB could help to publicise the work of ward panels. There was also a discussion around the minimum data standard that WP Chairs can expect every month.

It was agreed that ward panel information would be hosted on the ward pages of the H&F NHW website and that the police and LBHF CSU would endeavour to attend every ward meeting. PC will also ask the council's communications team to periodically steer readers towards these web pages via their e-news mail-out. SCa has produced a data pack which was well received by the meeting and will be sent out via the LPTs every month. The SNB will host an annual meeting for ward panel chairs each year to share good practice. PC has produced some templates for minutes, agendas and terms of reference for panels to adopt as they see fit.

**Actions – PC, SCa.**

## **6. Business Case for Project Funding**

PC took the meeting through the funding proposals that were to be submitted to MOPAC by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

(NB, subsequent to the SNB PC found that the MOPAC funding panel were meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June so wrote up and submitted the proposal for 23<sup>rd</sup> June). A summary of the proposed spend is below:

<b>Spend area</b>	<b>Proposed allocation</b>
Crime roadshows/engagement events	£3500
Crime Prevention	£2500
Youth Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OC West Youth Engagement - £3k</li> <li>• Lytton Estate Youth Project - £2.5k</li> <li>• Wipers Project - £3.2k</li> <li>• Prison me No way - £3k</li> <li>• Unallocated - £8,300</li> </ul>	£20000
SNB and WP engagement projects	£2100
Administration (ring-fenced)	£5200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£33,300</b>

PC agreed to send further information about the allocated youth projects to the SNB under separate cover. **Action – PC**

## **7. S&S Monitoring Group Update**

SCh informed the meeting that members of the group had attended a training session by Christine Matthews who coordinates Stop & Search monitoring throughout London. There have also been two meetings with the police to dip sample some of the stops to quality check them. 2 of the group attended a further training session at City hall and a member of the H&F Youth Parliament is now a member of the group.

SCh reported that there were some issues in getting consistent attendance at every session and she hoped to broaden out the membership. There was a short discussion around the feasibility of involving the W12 Youth forum, the Masbro Centre or the Bridge Academy in the group, as well as other organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch.

There have been some issues with the S&S data provided by MOPAC which PC agreed to follow up, especially where the CRIMINT data and MOPAC data don't agree. **Action PC.** SCh also reported that the police CRIMINT system doesn't lend itself to easy interrogation, especially when trying to extract data about under 14s.

## **8. MPS Documentary**

SCa spoke briefly about the current BBC Documentary, "Policing London". He reported that the MPS were seeking public opinions on the programme and that if anyone had any comments they could pass them to him.

## **9. AOB**

GS reported that the MPS had stated they will roll out body worn cameras for all officers within the next calendar year.

The next meeting is proposed for 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, time and venue to be confirmed.

