

# Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

## Minutes of the meeting held Monday 22 July 2019 Dalgarno Community Centre, 1 Webb Close, Dalgarno Way, W10 5QB

**Chaired by: Kim Howell**  
**Minutes taken by: AscribeR**

*Attendance list attached*

1	Word from the Chair	ACTION
	<p>The Chair welcomed and thanked those present for attending, and then reminded the meeting of the role of the Board.</p>	
2	<p><b>LFB – Your local Fire Brigade</b></p> <p>Ben King (Station Manager) outlined the operational side of the work of the fire service including responsibilities and the resources available to the Borough. Their regular activities included prevention, community safety and risk reduction emphasising that the brigade’s main focus was now prevention, detection and escape.</p> <p>Attendees were invited to ask questions and the following were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bleeping smoke detectors without removable batteries needed to be replaced and the legal standard was for one per room where a fire might start and one in the kitchen.</li> <li>• Following a home safety check, the fire service could not issue a certificate for the purpose of insurance discount.</li> <li>• The Fire Service were currently working with housing associations and carrying out neighbourhood checks.</li> <li>• Exceptionally high buildings, too high for ladders, should be built with integral safety systems (such as sprinklers) that allow the ‘stay put strategy’ to be effective. In some places, in the light of the Grenfell fire, the evacuation strategy has been changed.</li> <li>• The Fire Service does not currently include on their list of vulnerable people communities who have English as their second language however they would like to make contact with partner agencies.</li> <li>• Older converted Victorian Tower blocks (six to seven) stories high, with wooden floors would need to have home fire safety visits, if necessary</li> </ul>	

	<p>by a specialist team, in order to assess potential risks, in particular the interplay between the people the buildings, on a case by case basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Service budgets were still under pressure following the reduction in the number of fire stations in 2015 however funding had been secured for the next three to four years and discussions were on going.</li> <li>• Fire safety law change in October 2006. Responsibility for safety now rests with building owners who have to appoint a person responsible for the carrying out of an assessment of the risks of fire. The Fire Service now carries out audits and issues notices of deficiency.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting thanked Ben King for his presentation and welcomed the contribution of the Fire Service, acknowledging the community's good will towards them.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Council's Community Safety Team Presentation</b></p> <p>Stuart Priestley (SP) (Chief Community Safety Officer, RBK&amp;C) gave a presentation on the role of the Council's Community Safety Team in making the borough a safe place to live and work. The team's work included helping to combat anti-social behaviour, hate crime, burglary, violence, modern slavery, and violence against women and girls. SP advised that youth violence and gangs were on the increase and were a priority. The Glasgow public health model was being adopted which seeks to intervene at every level. In addition, the Team takes part in competitive bidding for funds, particularly important given the reduction in funds from the Mayor's office and the Council. SP reported that £536,000 would be invested next year for new CCTV cameras and additional resources would be invested for an extra 17 police officers.</p> <p>During questions, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The additional police officers would be ring fenced to anti-social behaviour work, but could be extracted to other areas for up to 10 days or in cases of emergency.</li> <li>• Discussions on the new CCTV system would be commencing the following week.</li> <li>• New ways of working are being implemented to increase the safety of parks and open spaces including working closely with neighbouring boroughs.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Feedback/Reports</b></p> <p><b>Borough Crime Report - Chief Inspector Simon Brooker (SB)</b></p> <p>SB presented the borough crime report outlining increases and decreases in domestic abuse, youth violence and burglary. Moped robbery had declined massively from the previous year, but was still high in areas such as Knightsbridge and Holland Park. The pursuit policy had changed, giving the force increased confidence. It was noted that Smartwater (an asset marking system to help the detection and deterrence of criminal activity) had been successfully piloted and would be rolled out as a five year project. Also, more training was required for officers in Stop and Search. Weapons sweeps particularly in open spaces were a priority.</p>	

	<p>During questions, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information from anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance reports was collated and shared between partner agencies so appropriate action could be taken.</li> <li>• A local system for aggressive begging had been developed involving warnings and referrals.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood policing has a shift pattern to cover the hours of 7am to 10pm which should allow for daytime visibility, however each ward has flexibility to allow it to cover demand.</li> <li>• Reduced availability of after school activity has contributed to the rise in youth crime (for example the Dalgarno Centre with only one youth worker for 150 young people is very limited in what it can do) however activities such as cubs, brownies and police cadets still exist and a list of available activities was being compiled, with the assistance of the borough commander's team.</li> </ul> <p><b>SNB Chair – Kim Howell (KH)</b></p> <p>The Chair presented the report on the grants programme funded by MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) and managed by the SNB. He outlined the work of the seven projects that had been funded during the previous year. The main focus was on youth violence and diversionary, positive programmes for young people. This year's funding was at the same level as the previous, £23,670, for no more than £5,000 per project plus some additional funding for Neighbourhood Watch.</p> <p>KH drew attention to updated SNB core functions and priorities recently issued by MOPAC which the Board should review and discuss.</p> <p>SB advised that the police service were looking to recruit people to an IAG (Independent Advisory Group) which is a strategic group advising the police on structuring policies and policing in the borough including after an incident. It also advises the local police on community engagement and feedback. Interested parties should contact him or his staff.</p>	
5	<p><b>Open discussion on local crime concerns</b></p> <p>In response to a question concerning electric scooters and why they could not be confiscated, it was noted that the use of these vehicles on public roads and pavements is illegal. They are unlicensed powered vehicles without number plates and were not insurable. Legislation was being considered, but there are currently no powers to seize scooters being used illegally.</p> <p>It was noted that action taken to reduce the level of busking on Portobello Road had been successful.</p> <p>A question was raised on what could be done to reduce the racing of fast expensive cars around Tesco supermarket on the Cromwell Road. It was reported that the Tesco car park had now been secured.</p>	