

**Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea**  
**SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CONFERENCE**

**Minutes of the meeting held Saturday 10 March 2018**  
**At Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall, W8 7NX**

**Chaired by: Kim Howell**  
**Minutes taken by: Ruth Scott**

*Attendance list attached*

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome Apologies &amp; Introductions</b> Kim Howell, RBKC SNB Chair	<b>ACTION</b>
	The Chair opened the meeting and reminded attendees of the members of the Board. He thanked Board members for their time and commitment, introducing those who were present. The full list of Board members is below.*	
<b>2</b>	<b>SNB AGM Business &amp; Minutes</b> Kim Howell, RBKC SNB Chair	
	<p>It was reported that the Board members have agreed to stay on for another term with the exception of Mark Barr which means there are two current vacancies: <i>Business Representative</i> and <i>Ward Panel Representative</i>. Anyone interested in being considered for either of these vacancies was asked to contact Sylvia Nissim (SN) at the Social Council. SN clarified that Board Members serve not as individuals but as representatives of interest groups and local areas.</p> <p>A questioner asked why there was so little youth representation and KH replied that it is hard to attract young people but greater engagement would be welcomed.</p>	All/SN
<b>3</b>	<b>Taser presentation</b> Inspector James Bister, Met Police	
	<p>JB began by providing background on tasers, which were introduced to UK policing in 2003. He described them as a reasonably safe and effective tool in responding to incidents. Their purpose is to combat violent incidents, thereby protecting the public and police; they are seen as a real alternative to firearms.</p> <p>JB presented a taser X26 model which delivers 50k volts, rendering muscles immobile. It has a 6.4 metre range. Other comparable tools, such as CS spray rely on much closer proximity.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that all tasers are bright yellow; this is to make explicit that they are not guns.</p> <p>In the remainder of his presentation, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previously limited to specially trained firearms officers, tasers are now being deployed as widely as possible (with associated training).</li> <li>• JB provided a summary of the ‘use of force monitoring’ which illustrates the escalation of taser use: <i>Out of holster</i> prevents violence and resistance (there were 29 incidences in K&amp;C in the past twelve months), as does <i>red dotting</i> which shows the suspect that the taser is engaged (40 in the past twelve months), the next step is <i>taser aimed</i> (9 incidences) i.e. aiming the red dot at part of the suspect’s body and the last step is <i>firing</i> (which happened four times in the Borough in the past twelve months).</li> <li>• K&amp;C is one of the lower users in London.</li> <li>• A slide showing the latest model was presented; this contains two pre-loaded cartridges . This taser aims more accurately and offers greater accountability and monitoring. It will be rolled out from December 2018.</li> <li>• Community engagement is important and a community monitoring group is in place.</li> </ul> <p>A short Q&amp;A followed, summarised below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One attendee asked whether there have been fatalities resulting from taser use, and JB confirmed that there have been deaths, often as a result of a pre-existing condition. JB added that there is a risk of death with any use of force (baton, cs, physical altercation).</li> <li>2. An attendee asked under what circumstances taser is employed. JB replied that use of force is down to the individual officer to justify typically involving some or all of the following factors: risk to self or others, non-compliance, has a weapon, active resistance.</li> <li>3. The third questioner asked whether members of the public can use tasers and whether tasers are in use at the Notting Hill Carnival. JB confirmed that (despite tasers being reportedly advertised for sale on the internet) only authorised officers are permitted to use tasers, and that tasers were among the tools deployed at Carnival.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Street Crime presentation</b> Paul Hamilton, Met Police</p>	
	<p>PH introduced himself as a plain clothes officer; he recently joined Notting Hill Police station from Westminster. During the course of his presentation, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K&amp;C has very low incidences of knife crime compared to other London Boroughs. There were 43 reported offences in the past year with 35 of these from the Carnival weekend.</li> <li>• K&amp;C have the 2nd highest numbers of Stop and Searches in the MPS for weapons.</li> <li>• Even if one were to remove the Notting Hill Carnival effect (which equates to 688 of the 1364 searches) K&amp;C would still feature in the top 12 in the MPS table.</li> <li>• K&amp;C has a charge rate of 93% for those arrested for knife</li> </ul>	

	<p>possession offences which ranks the borough as 4th in the MPS .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PH highlighted that there had been only 21 complaints about Stop and Search of which none were upheld. One in three of all searches, result in the officer's suspicion being confirmed and an illegal object found or a relevant crime detected, with an arrest rate of 16.2 %.</li> <li>• PH concluded his presentation with a brief overview of weapons flash sweeps whereby local communities and police are coming together, searching open spaces such as estates, parks and play areas, to take knives off of the streets. There have been weapons sweeps taking place already, and the new focus is on community engagement.</li> </ul> <p>In the ensuing questions, the issue of drug dealing at Holland Park School was raised It was felt by several present that this issue had been raised before but not adequately dealt with by the school's senior leadership nor the police. PH resolved to look into this matter and to speak to the schools liaison officer. On the question of street crime mitigation and prevention, one questioner suggested that the police use mopeds and it was confirmed that some MPS officers do use mopeds and scramblers but that K&amp;C had not been prioritised. There was discussion of how K&amp;C officers work with colleagues in neighbouring Boroughs, and it was confirmed that this is done in a coordinated way.</p> <p>In response to a question about increasing the numbers of Stop and Search it was noted that Stop and Search is on the increase and that body worn videos has helped to reduce number of complaints and to improve quality of searches.</p>	PH
5	<p><b>Counter Terrorism presentation</b> Matthew Burr, Counter Terrorism officer for Kensington &amp; Chelsea</p>	
	<p>MB introduced his presentation by outlining the strategy of <i>pursue</i> (stop attacks), <i>prevent</i> (stop radicalisation), <i>protect</i> (strengthen protection against a terrorist attack) and <i>prepare</i> (reduce the impact of an attack). The current threat level for international terrorism is severe meaning an attack is highly likely, this is partially a reflection of the four attacks in the UK (of which three were in London) in 2017.</p> <p>Self radicalised lone actors are currently the most significant group of perpetrators; they are driven by a range of different motives, from international terrorism, the far right and other causes.</p> <p>Targeting of crowded public places with no warning is the main current methodology, with vehicles being used as weapons, also in some attacks bladed or blunt force weapons and automatic firearms are employed. They aim for mass disruption and/or mass casualty. MB characterised these latest attacks as 'low sophistication, high impact'. Unlike the IRA in the 1980s, no warnings are issued.</p> <p>MB shared a slide on the run/hide/tell advice which people are being asked to follow in the event of an attack, and referenced Citizen Aid a free app developed by a group of doctors to help people be prepared for an attack. Questions centred on the threat of a vehicle attack on the Portobello Market. Stuart Priestly said the Council will take the lead from the police and the security services. It was noted that an expert has been appointed to do a feasibility study on the best mitigation strategies, and that local residents,</p>	

	<p>traders and other stakeholders are being consulted. MB said as well as considering the range of measures which could be put in place, is it important to be proportionate and to consider unintended consequences. For example would a 'sealed' environment be acceptable to traders and residents? Would residents and traders favour a system whereby all those entering the market are vetted? One idea mooted was large concrete planters to slow vehicles but these would dramatically alter the look and feel of the Portobello and reduce parking spaces thereby impacting traders. A potential unintended consequence could be providing cover for a firearms attack. It was noted that these challenges are being faced by all the street markets in the MPS district and that currently only Columbia Market have a strategy in place. In response to a question about why the London bridges have been protected so swiftly by comparison, SP said bridges are simpler to deal with and markets are more complex. SP also mentioned that all stall holders have been given guidance about what to look out for to help identify suspect behaviours. SP briefly touched on the work of the <i>Prevent</i> team in schools and youth clubs. One questioner asked if any local residents have been arrested for suspected terrorism offences, SP replied that he wasn't aware but that this information would not be publicly available to share in any case.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Community Safety Programme Board</b> Stuart Priestley, RBKC</p>	
	<p>SP introduced this item by explaining that the community safety programme board was a statutory partnership for council, police, probation and fire brigade, focused on safeguarding concerns. The following recent activities were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the Met on operation Sceptre, which is the current knife crime initiative; this includes council trading standards colleagues undertaking test purchases to identify where retailers are selling knives to under 16s.</li> <li>• Supporting parents in the above initiative including a recent knife crime event at St Charles College.</li> <li>• Establishing a violence reduction network.</li> <li>• A multi-agency serious youth violence forum meets monthly.</li> <li>• Working closely with opposite numbers in neighbouring Boroughs.</li> <li>• Learning event to review domestic homicide cases.</li> <li>• An additional 41 police officers have been appointed to tackle community safety.</li> <li>• 2200 arrests have been made as well as a range of actions to tackle some of the following: begging and public order offences; 111 actions taken against sex workers' cards in telephone boxes which causes distress to residents; 96 criminal behaviour breaches; 37 street trading offences.</li> <li>• The four-year community policing team has been extended by one year. The Mayoral office is considering the future of the programme.</li> <li>• SP flagged that following a significant decrease in residential burglaries from 2010/2011 to 2016/2017, to the end of December 2017 there was a sharp rise in burglaries which is very concerning. Plans are in place to tackle this and the key strategy SP drew attention to was the use of a traceable liquid (SmartWater) to mark valuables (known as the MetTrace project).</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The four-year community policing team has been extended by one year but at a reduced level of resource due to budget challenges. The Mayoral office is considering the future of the programme.</li> </ul> <p>In the ensuing questions, SP was asked how gang-related crime is defined/measured and he clarified that both the victim and the perpetrator would need to be on the gangs matrix (or sometimes someone close to them such as a sibling) and that the investigation would need to go on to confirm any suspected gangs link.</p> <p>SP highlighted the significant resource challenges that lie ahead with K&amp;C spending on police officers due to reduce from £1.5million to £1.2million. These are the kind of choices Council members have to make in the context of shrinking resources. As the nature of victims and victimisation changes the Council needs to ask if it spending its shrinking pot of money on the right priorities. The aim is to work smarter and achieve more for less.</p>	
7	<p><b>Basic Command Units (BCUs)</b> Chief Superintendent Rob Jones, Met Police</p>	
	<p>The number of Metropolitan Police boroughs is due to decrease to 12 "Basic Command Units" (BCUs) each led by a chief superintendent who will be the BCU Commander. KH said that every Borough was opposed to the BCU initiative but it is going ahead.</p> <p>RJ the new BCU Commander was welcomed and introduced by KH.</p> <p>RJ introduced himself outlining his twenty years experience in policing including as a Borough Commander in Newham and Lewisham. He confirmed that different models had been looked at by the Commissioner and they ultimately settled on the BCU model. He clarified that this was an operational decision (in the face of budget cuts) and not one that was politically imposed.</p> <p>Central West (comprising K&amp;C, H&amp;F and Westminster) will have 1800 police officers. Officers will become more mobile and custody space is being centralised. RJ flagged that officers will be issued with tablets to help them in completing processing tasks on the go, to be more agile and less office-based. This is a rollout of a system which has been trialled in Hammersmith &amp; Fulham.</p> <p>In the ensuing questions, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One attendee questioned the decision to close police stations saying there is value in having local neighbourhood offices. He cited the neighbourhood office on the World's End Estate in Chelsea which has worked effectively for many years. RJ confirmed that neighbourhood officers would still be present and visible on the streets and on estates.</li> <li>Several questioners were concerned about the cuts and their impact, saying that K&amp;C seemed to be having more than its fair share of closures perhaps due to the value of the real estate. The closure of Paddington Green was noted this was previously the central office for terrorism prevention and, as such, enjoyed a high profile. RJ said he was sad to see this closing and said counter terrorism is now moving to</li> </ul>	

	<p>a number of sites (rather than one central location) some of the new locations need to remain confidential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RJ confirmed that following the Grenfell tragedy a new North Kensington location is being identified.</li> <li>• RJ commented that having worked in a lot of London Boroughs the relationship and collaboration between the Police and Stuart Priestly’s team at the Borough is really effective.</li> <li>• In response to a question about the recent sharp rise in burglary, he replied that he thought the issue was with burglars coming from other areas and that BCU will be collaborating closely on the MetTrace SmartWater initiative.</li> <li>• One questioner asked if police would be more vulnerable carrying tablets which might make them more of a target for violence and theft. RJ thanked the questioner for caring, and said that risk assessments would be undertaken daily to mitigate this potential risk.</li> <li>• Another attendee spoke of their great debt of gratitude to the police, this view was endorsed by others and followed by applause.</li> <li>• In response to a question about how to tackle gang violence when working on such a vast scale, RJ replied that there is no bigger priority than gangs and organised street crime. He said often trafficking lies behind the latter which also needs to be tackled. He said sentences should be moderate for street dealing and the focus should be on proactively preventing such crimes, adding that drugs will never go away entirely. Another approach RJ cited as key was putting more resource into youth and schools initiatives. He said his top priority for the next two years is to tackle serious youth crime, including drugs.</li> <li>• Raphael D’Orsi the outgoing Borough Commander was introduced and he commended the work of the police cadets on both prevention initiatives and on their work post-Grenfell. Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group Representative Lucy Smith Ryland (LSR) endorsed the work of the cadets.</li> <li>• In response to questions, there was brief discussion of a stab death on Earls Court Road a few weeks earlier and it was confirmed that there have now been five arrests and three people charged with murder.</li> <li>• RJ said detection rates are good, stop and search is effective with a very low complaints rate. LSR said there was intensive training provided for Stop and Search which she has watched and been impressed by. She said the body worn camera is effective.</li> <li>• A question was raised about short-term lets and the associated noise nuisance. SP said if anyone wanted to follow up about this issue to contact him.</li> <li>• The final questioner asked whether the police were powerless to deport criminals who are in the country illegally. RJ said they do take people to tribunals, if someone dangerous is here illegally, so that they can be removed to their country of origin.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Closing words</b> Kim Howell, RBKC SNB Chair</p>	
	<p>Raphael D’Orsi the outgoing Borough Commander thanked the Safer Neighbourhood Board for being a critical friend to the police.</p>	

KH thanked Raphaelae, and the other contributors, and asked attendees to stay for lunch and networking and, to visit the stall to sign up for weapons sweeps. KH then closed the meeting.	
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\*Board members present:

Executive Committee

Kim Howell (Chair)

*Ward Panel Representative*

Roger Baresel (Vice Chair)

*Community Representative*

Vassiliki Stavrou

*Independent Custody Visiting Panel Representative*

Lucy Smith Ryland

*Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group Representative*

Core Ex-Officio Members

Stuart Priestley

*RBKC Chief Community Safety Officer*

Raffaele D'Orsi

*RBKC Borough Commander*

Board Members

Cllr. Gerard Hargreaves

*RBKC Cabinet Member for Community Safety*

Cllr. Eve Allison

*North Kensington Representative*

Cllr. Bevan Powell

*North Kensington Representative*

Cllr. Malcolm Spalding

*Kensington Representative*

Cllr. Andrew Rinker

*Chelsea Representative*

Luke McCrone

*Youth Representative*

Mark Barr

*Business Representative*

Deqa Salad

*Community Representative*

Tarik Hardadou

*Youth Representative*

Jamie Renton

*Disabled People's Representative*

Zara Ghods

*Older People's Representative*

Daniel Lawless / Phil Greasley

*Victim Support Representative*

Angela Spence

*Voluntary Sector Representative*

Caryl Harris

*Neighbourhood Watch Representative*

Hamish Adourian

*Ward Panel Representative*

Alison Wakefield  
*Ward Panel Representative*  
Harry Singer  
*Ward Panel Representative*