

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of meeting held Monday 17 July 2017
At Heythrop College, Kensington Square, London W8 5HN

Chaired by: Kim Howell
Minutes taken by: Take Note Ltd

Attendance list attached

1	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	<p>Kim Howell (KH) welcomed everyone to the Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting. He explained that the board was set up by the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and their purpose is to support police and review borough policies.</p>	
2	<p>Knife Crime Presentation Sergeant Clint Sturgess, MET police</p> <p>Sergeant Clint Sturgess (CS) presented a video that demonstrated how showing photos of stab wounds to young people can stop them from carrying knives. He then displayed the kinds of large serrated knives and screwdrivers that people carry with them for protection. He reported that people in the borough are very pro Stop and Search. He explained that these weapons could be easily and cheaply sourced from websites like eBay or Argos, though high street retailers are not allowed to sell knives to people under 18. He added that these knives are usually used to defend patches and ward off competition at drug houses. He stated that they work with cadets and vendors throughout the borough.</p> <p>Ellie O'Connor (EO) noted that one young man had a knife down his trousers and accidentally punctured his own femoral artery, indicating that it's quite likely people will injure themselves with their own knives. She added that they were due to have a knife seminar for young people, but that was postponed after the recent events at Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>A woman asked what age groups they target and if they go to youth clubs. CS replied that they try to start as young as they can, usually at year 6 before the transition to secondary school, which is a risky time. They go to youth clubs and work with cadets, who are great ambassadors for the police and the borough and spread the word to their friends.</p> <p>EO noted that teenage girls carry knives too as a rite of passage, for their boyfriends or just to feel safe. The young people don't really get the message until they see the graphic images of stab wounds. She added that it's often the infection that kills, not the stabbing itself.</p> <p>A man asked if there would be another knife amnesty and bins to deposit knives into. EO answered that this tactic didn't work to prevent knife crime. In 1 week, this year there were 14 separate murders across London.</p> <p>A woman observed that she never sees police on King's Road, where knife crime has increased and her son witnessed violence and robberies. EO replied that there may be police in plain clothes. Her findings from speaking to communities are that the new generation think it's okay to carry knives because they don't feel safe. They need to educate young people and parents alike.</p> <p>A man asked what the punishment is to fit the crime. CS answered that they take them into custody and they have operations for habitual knife carriers. They stop the same people all</p>	

	<p>the time and the message gets through. EO added that for an adult's second conviction, they should go to prison for 18 months, but this doesn't happen. They go through youth offending teams instead.</p> <p>A woman stated that research in 2005 showed that if legislation prohibited the sale of long knives, there would be a significant reduction in the deaths of stabbing injuries. They should push the elected representatives to get this change. KH confirmed that MOPAC has published a new Knife Crime Strategy which includes reducing availability, alongside education and Stop and Search strategies.</p> <p>A woman said that children in lower groups at school can't take their GCSEs, and in combination with a poor home environment can lead them to joining gangs and dealing in drugs. EO declared that they were going to open another cadet opportunity and they have sport clubs, which are a chance for interaction with kids who are on the margins. They offer meaningful apprenticeships because some of these children are very bright.</p> <p>Stuart Priestley (SP) said that the Early Years Foundation looks at evidence based interventions from indicators that show heightened risk at a later stage. They work with the family to help the transition from primary to secondary school. EO added that there was a group of girls aged 12 to 17 causing trouble, and so the parents were brought in for an honest discussion. They work with the parents not to criticise but as a partnership to empower them, and since then it has calmed down.</p> <p>A woman asked about gangs and information percolating down from the top adult male criminals. EO responded that they have case management meetings about gangs with a multi-agency approach for crime prevention.</p> <p>A lawyer said she was keen for more CCTV as knife crime and harassment of women has rocketed, and she had raised funds but the council has refused to install more CCTV. SP stated that the council has decided not to add to its suite of 58 fixed CCTV cameras, and all of the cameras that were removed should have been replaced. He said he would speak to her after the meeting.</p> <p>Roger Baresel (RB) asked about any further recruitment from police cadets after the previous presentation about this from Tarik Hardadou. EO replied that they have a few more wanting to join the constabulary.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Counter-terrorism Presentation Sergeant Mark Webster (MW) MET police</p>	
	<p>Sergeant Mark Webster (MW) stated that the current threat level remains at severe, which means an attack is highly likely. There are 550 investigations throughout the country. He said that even police don't get told all the details because they don't want to show their capabilities and it helps prevent copycat attacks. The increase in Irish Republican terrorism was raised last January to substantial. They want to bring a campaign back to the mainland, but they don't currently have the capacity. Despite the attacks, London remains one of the safest global cities. There is now more vehicle mitigation to protect pedestrians on bridges across the Thames. There has been an increase in officers in crowded places, particularly in the evening period when it's been most vulnerable. Project Servator is a national project around engagement on counter-terrorism. They get the business community and security staff to proactively challenge people and work together. They also work with big businesses to be responsible for people outside their buildings. They continue to give lots of Project Griffin presentations. Run, hide, tell is an example of government advice being given.</p> <p>A man inquired about the safety of Portobello Road. MW replied that a lot of work is being done there and the crossing points are the issue. They must prepare not only for vehicle attacks but also improvised explosive devices. Putting blocks in place could actually prevent people from escaping. SP added that if the road were locked down, it would block the whole West London bus network. The council is working with expert advice to find a solution.</p>	

	<p>A lady asked about right-wing extremism. MW answered that they have good relations with the 5 mosques in the borough. They have increased patrols following the attack in Finsbury Park.</p> <p>RB asked what they can do to help. MW responded that they should use the forum to promote facilities like Project Griffin. Project Argus brings businesses together to discuss best practices.</p> <p>Vassiliki Stavrou (VS) commented that the terrorist groups are organised and sponsored by larger groups outside of the country and get financial support in the UK. EO replied that there was an arrest recently for collecting funds, money laundering and facilitating terrorism. MW added that many groups are well funded from wealthy individuals outside of the UK.</p> <p>A lady asked if the punishments fit the crimes. EO answered that the punishments are quite harsh given the level of involvement in some cases.</p>	
4	<p>Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Caryl Harris (CH)</p>	
	<p>Caryl Harris (CH) reported on the Neighbourhood Watch activities. She said that society has changed and communication is becoming more important. Many people use Online Watch Link (OWL) to find out information. People were asked and it was found they would like fortnightly crime statistics, particularly where the crimes have happened. They have active groups that take photos and report antisocial activities or items such as prostitution cards in phone booths that they don't want their children to see. She asked for anybody with anything useful to implement to contact her and thanked the group.</p>	
4	<p>Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group Lucy Smith Ryland</p>	
	<p>Lucy Smith-Ryland (LS) reported that the figures for Stop and Search stay roughly the same. She then gave the statistics from the police. Drugs remains the largest reason for searches. Weapon searches are the same for April and May, but weapon findings percentage dropped. 97 people were arrested in May at 22%, and 78 people were arrested in April, at 21%. The police aim for 20% conversion to arrest, so these are satisfying figures. The number of tasers in the borough has increased from 6 to 10 with trained taser officers. Now, a single officer can have tasers instead of requiring 2 officers together. There have been 64 deployments in 3 years with 2 aimed, 22 red dotted, and only 1 arching. Efforts are being made to make youth realise that it is beneficial for everybody if they allow people to stop and search them.</p>	
5	<p>Independent Custody Visiting Panel Vassiliki Stavrou</p>	
	<p>Vassiliki Stavrou said she didn't have much information from the panel. Kensington and Chelsea have joined with Westminster in recent years. Belgravia and Charing Cross have had improvements to their custody suites. In the last visit to Charing Cross, there was always an in-house doctor. There are fewer custody officers than there ought to be. Last time there were only 2 custody officers and 3 TTOs. One detainee was trying to strangle himself with his own shirt, but the escorting officer was fast to notice and act. Detainees addressed seem happy with the treatment they receive.</p>	
6	<p>Community Safety Programme Board (CSPB) Stuart Priestley, RBKC Chief Community Safety Officer</p>	
	<p>Stuart Priestley shared the key agenda priorities for the forthcoming meeting of the board. The community safety plan will be the main agenda item, and it sets out priorities for the partnership and the work to deliver those priorities. It covers tackling violence against girls, reducing burglary, preventing youth violence, tackling vulnerable locations and victims for antisocial behaviour, and working to address hate crime. Non-domestic violence with injury and theft from motor vehicles are also required areas. He went into detail on the example of reducing burglary. Burglary has been reduced in the last 5 years for the borough. There were 850 reports last year, but there were about 2,700 reports 7 years ago. Nevertheless, it's always in the top 3 concerns for residents. 18% of burglary offences are where someone has</p>	

	<p>walked in through an open door or leant in a window. Detention rate is 7%. 96% of those accused of burglary were male, with an average age of 38.</p> <p>Response is around ensuring the programmes from the youth offending service and probation service identify the right people. The police have a range of intelligence and make sure the initial response to a victim is targeted to that household and the houses around it. Burglars come back to the same homes and locations. The board work on prevention, going to properties to ensure they have decent doors and windows. People with building works like scaffolding are at high risk, so they put in plans with the building industry and work with housing providers to ensure landlords take measures to decrease incidents of burglary. They raise awareness for people to use the locks they have. The Board will also talk about changes to the configuration of the police, and changes of governance for the board. They will also talk about accessing the mayor's office for funding. MOPAC gave the borough £448,000 last year. 13% of that has been sliced off the next financial year to go into a co-commissioning fund and encourage boroughs to work collaboratively on new services on a sub-regional basis.</p>	
7	<p>Borough Commander's Report (BC) Ellie O'Connor</p>	
	<p>Ellie O'Connor thanked everyone for the support from the community for her staff recently. The MET website has been updated to allow far more self-reporting on the portal without coming into the department, and that can include intelligence as well. They've had to save £650 million on police buildings, and still have to save £450 million before the end of 2019. It's a question of either keeping buildings open or reducing police officers. Work will be done on the streets with tablets to feed it back electronically. Notting Hill is being considered for closure, but the mayor's office makes the ultimate decision. There will be 2 designated ward officers and one dedicated ward PCSO. They just need a locker and somewhere to plug in their tablet, which means there won't be the overheads from big buildings. The numbers will reduce from 400 to 100 buildings.</p> <p>She stated that they are currently using the Belgravia custody suite, whereas they used to go to all the way to Wandsworth for detainees. Notting Hill is not fit for purpose as a custody suite. Now it has now been announced that Belgravia will close on 31 July. Custody sergeants are trained on dealing with risk and harm. Some designated detention officers are police staff. The problem is recruitment. They should have 35, but there are only 5. Charing Cross will be a safer and more modern environment with 60 cells, but RBKC officers will have a bit more travelling time. All of their transport vehicles are fitted with CCTV. They're audited for quality, the safety of the individual and all conversations are recorded. The change to tasers is for the better. If you're red dotted, you back down or you will get tasered. That's normally sufficient to get people to back down, which is better than using firearms.</p> <p>She pointed out an officer present who was wearing a body warn video camera. It serves as a protection for the officers and shows the reality of any given situation. It's also good for gathering evidence at crime scenes. The BCU will merge all London boroughs down to 12 command units. It is proposed for RBKC and Westminster to merge with Hammersmith & Fulham. Moped related crime is a big problem right now. It's invariably young men, at least 2 mopeds, double-crewed. Weapons range from hammers to guns. The law actually prevents police from pursuing them. This borough gets 2 or 3 a day, but places like Islington get 30 or more a day. There are very few pursuit officers here. The punishment doesn't fit the crime, so it's good that legislation is being looked at. They work with colleagues from other boroughs to gather intelligence.</p> <p>The organisers for Notting Hill Carnival are planning to go ahead with it and start off with a prayer for Grenfell to set the mood. On Monday, they plan a minute's silence at 3pm. There will be a float in honour of the Grenfell residence.</p>	
8	<p>CHAIR'S REPORT Kim Howell, RBKC SNB Chair</p>	

	<p>Kim Howell stated that £23,672 is funded for this borough to distribute to projects. MOPAC has to approve all of it. They submitted 7 projects and they approved them all. Currently, only 7 boroughs in London got all of their projects approved. The projects focus on youth engagement, anti-knife crime, vulnerable adults, crimes against girls and the Neighbourhood Watch. He then opened the floor to questions.</p> <p>A woman asked about people driving under the influence of drugs. CS replied that a traffic officer can do a skin swab, which can be used as evidence. The driving itself can fall below standards from drug use. When in custody, they can take blood, which is also evidence. The kits are £100 each if the money is raised for them.</p> <p>A man inquired about dangerous cyclists. EO answered that they don't have the resources to tackle that right now, though cyclists need to take responsibility for their actions. SP noted that cycling wasn't one of the priorities that came up in the safety plan, but he appreciates the concern.</p> <p>A woman commented that a lot of officers have suffered from trauma from recent events and asked if the police force have had any assistance. EO confirmed that every single member of staff had to be properly debriefed with health officers before going back on duty, and that will continue.</p> <p>Kim Howell thanked the attendees and the meeting closed.</p>	
9	Next public meeting on 29 January 2018	

ATTENDANCE LIST

Safer Neighbourhood Board Annual General Meeting, 10.00am, Saturday 12 March 2016,
Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall

1. ATTENDANCE LIST

	Name	Organisation/Area of representation
1	George Alafouzo	Abingdon Ward Panel
2	Khalid Aziz	Shravale LTD
3	Roger Baresel	SNB Vice Chair
4	David Campbell	
5	Nicole Carbonara	
6	Karen Clark	Neighbourhood watch
7	Esta Codanda	
8	Geoffrey Davies	Pinehurst Court Residents Association
9	Kumar Devadasan	
10	Cynthia Dize	Golborne Forum
11	Liz Ellerton	
12	Madeline Elsdon	The Knightsbridge Association
13	Peter Fox Linton	
14	George Grimes	
15	Elizabeth Harrap	
16	Caryl Harris	Neighbourhood watch Representative
17	Will Hart	
18	Kim Howell	SNB Chair and Ward Panel Representative
19	Giulia James	
20	Daniel Lawless	Victim support representative
21	Ashley McNeile	CherryTrees Residents Amenities Association
22	Sean Monaghan	
23	Thea Montgomerie Anderson	
24	Sylvia Nissim	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
25	Ellie O'Connor	Metropolitan Police
26	Giulia Parodi	
27	Stuart Priestley	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
28	Elizabeth Shaw	Linden Gardens Pre-School
29	Posimon Simson	
30	Harry Singer	Ward panel representative
31	Lucy Smith-Ryland	Stop & Search Representative
32	Angela Spence	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
33	Vassiliki Stavrou	Bramley House Residents Group
34	Matther Steel	HSBS
35	Keith Stirling	Golborne Forum
36	Clint Sturgess	MET police
37	Claire Surr	Lincoln, Coulson & Anderson Streets' RA
38	Andrea Walker	Iverna Gardens Residents Association
39	Anthony Walker	
40	Mark Webster	MET police

41	Edward Wellman	
42	Jenny Whitby	
43	Elaine Whiteley	The Knightsbridge Association
44	Collette Wilkinson	
45	Ina Wolf	
46	Michael Wright	Linden Gardens Pre-School
47	Eman Yosry	Lancaster West Children's Community Network
48	George Alafouzo	Abingdon Ward Panel

2. APOLOGIES

	Name	Organisation/Area of representation
1	Hamish Adourian	Ward Panel representative
2	Barbara Austin	
3	Pamela Barley	
4	Mark Barr	Buisness representative
5	Deborah Collinson	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
6	Rita Day	
7	Sally Kefi	
8	Sally Kington	
9	Maire Murphy	
10	Jamie Renton	Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
11	Andrew Rinker	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
12	Alison Wakefield	Cremorne Ward Panel
13	Susan Wolfe	