

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 16 July 2018 At Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall, W8 7NX

Chaired by: Kim Howell

Attendance list for Board members and presenters attached

1	Welcome from Chair	ACTION
	The Chair welcomed and thanked attendees, noted the good turnout and invited other board members present to introduce themselves.	
2	Presentation – Moped Crime Sergeant Matthew Carey, Met Police. Link to presentation	
	<p>Sergeant Matthew Carey introduced a presentation on Operation Venice as it related to the area of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham. Operation Venice was a London-wide crack down on two-wheel scooter crime, which had been ongoing for approximately one year and received much media coverage.</p> <p>The crime was not area-specific with criminals being willing to travel, especially to areas perceived to be affluent, and recently had started to carry weapons. Matthew Carey referred to statistics of powered two-wheeler bike theft across London which had seen a dramatic increase between July 2016 and July 2017 compared to the previous 12 months; in one borough increasing of 291.9%. This was in part due to the introduction by the Met of flagging which resulted in an increased awareness of where the problems were found. Information sharing including CCTV, telephone calls and working with Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) had also helped to build a better picture of the problem.</p> <p>Roving traffic police were also being employed to great effect. However, an inquest finding had resulted in police activity being somewhat curtailed as they were required to abide by lawful driving rules. As a result, pursuit training has been introduced.</p> <p>Information gathered does lead to arrests. Work was also taking place within schools and youth clubs to impress on young people the adverse consequences of this type of criminal activity.</p>	

Matthew Carey then outlined new tactics in the police response to the moped crime, including Forensic Tagging which helped to identify suspects and scooters, as well as the use of remote controlled 'ProSpike' stingers which increased safety for officers and are specifically designed to assist in the pursuits.

TPaC (Tactical Pursuit and Containment) operations have been available over the past few weeks and would continue as long as necessary. Additionally, image comparison work within Operation Venice was proving very successful in identifying bike riders and resulting in convictions.

Matthew Carey was pleased to report a 22.2% decrease in the theft of scooters used in crime over recent months. He also drew attention to the Lock, Chain and Cover campaign introduced in 2018.

Questions raised related to reasons why mobile phones were stolen, and the response was given that thousands of phones were known to be sent abroad. It was noted that a number of handlers had been identified and are being targeted. Work also continued with agencies in other countries.

In answer to a question on the feasibility of tracking devices on bikes, Matthew Carey responded that extra locks were a deterrent to an extent, however trackers were less so as they are hard to hide and easily removed. It was noted that high end motor bikes were many times stolen to order, and that any fast vehicle was a potential target.

Regarding a plea for action to be taken on evidence of moped crime previously submitted, Matthew Carey assured that a number of operations, working with DWOs, were currently taking place using the intelligence gathered and received from residents.

Regarding a plea for an increase in the number of CCTV cameras, Stuart Priestley (Chief Community Safety Officer) added that the council had 58 static cameras, and that the increased use of CCTV was to be reviewed. However, the council's resources are finite and resources were spent on community safety staff, working with partners, commissioning the voluntary sector and purchasing additional police officers. A member of the public drew a comparison with Hammersmith and Fulham alleging that they had 1200 cameras that were monitored 24/7.

In response to a question on theft, Mathew Carey advised that 70% of thefts were from cars and only 5% personal robberies. He advised that electronic devices can emit signals which were detectable outside of a vehicle by thieves. Therefore, items left out of sight in cars (such as a laptop in the boot), should have their Bluetooth signals switched off.

In response to a question on what to do when observing incidents of anti-social behaviour, Mathew Carey reminded the meeting that the police welcomed information. Residents should not be reticent to call 101, or 999 in emergency, or to telephone or report anonymously online at CrimeStoppers, or to make a report via the internet on the new Met website (www.met.police.uk).

	<p>A question was raised on whether legislation could be introduced to prevent the motorbike drivers from using L plates or stop wearing visors. Matthew Carey responded that any new such laws would be irrelevant to the perpetrators who were unlikely to abide by any law change and, in any event, the vehicles were stolen. Offenders tended to be young people who wanted money, from nationalities across the board. The organisers of such crimes were also being targeted.</p> <p>The meeting also discussed the theft of keyless cars. Matthew Carey reinforced the advice to use steering wheel or gear stick locks, to double lock cars and to protect keyless signals from being intercepted and detected. Roger Baresel added that the incidence of keyless crime had declined significantly due to the increased security introduced by car manufacturers.</p> <p>The meeting also discussed why residents were not allowed to direct their CCTV cameras outside their properties onto the streets. Stuart Priestley emphasised the need to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act guidance which was available on the internet under the surveillance camera commissioner.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Independent Custody Visiting Panel Vassiliki Stavrou, Independent Custody Visiting Panel Representative</p>	
	<p>Vassiliki Stavrou gave an update on the activity of the Kensington and Chelsea (combined with Westminster since there is no custody suite in K&C) ICV Panel from January to April 2018.</p> <p>ICV Panel matters arising VS outlined a few outstanding matters clarified at the ICV Panel meeting including who should introduce an ICV to the detainees. It was suggested that this should be agreed by the ICV and the supporting escorting officer before the start of each visit.</p> <p>The Panel heard that problems with hot and cold water continued at the Charing Cross custody suite. Inspector Flynn had given assurance that new facilities would be installed as part of the refurbishment at Charing Cross.</p> <p>Regarding a report of a detainee having to wait for more than five hours before seeing a nurse, Inspector Flynn has advised the Panel that this was unusual and due to a medical emergency elsewhere. Nurses had to prioritise requests.</p> <p>A shortage of resources was resulting in K&C detainees being held for extended periods of time. Consideration could be given to release to avoid overnight stays where this was considered unreasonable or unnecessary.</p> <p>New paper cutlery that had been introduced for safety reasons, an example of which was circulated.</p> <p>MPS update</p>	

	<p>The ICV Panel heard that there were currently considered two custody suites at Charing Cross: upstairs and downstairs. The downstairs area was being used for booking only, referring detainees upstairs and leaving downstairs suite empty. The Panel agreed to monitor during the next quarter and review since considering Charing Cross as having only one custody suite would result in the need for more visits.</p> <p>Staffing levels are four sergeants and four Dedicated Detention Officers (DDOs), versus the previous eight and nine respectively. As a result, it was now likely that downstairs would either be closed or only used for booking. It was reported that Islington officers were co-using the site on a temporary basis.</p> <p>The refurbishment was not due until January/February 2019.</p> <p>The ICV Panel had expressed concern at the closure of West End Central custody suite as it was often used during large operations, for example the Notting Hill Carnival.</p> <p>Chair/MOPAC report VS reported that the ICV Association was requesting feedback around voluntary attendance, i.e. where a suspect attends a police station for interview without being placed under arrest. The question is whether this should become the responsibility of the ICV to visit, however, the Panel felt that it would be impractical. In any case, voluntary attendees had different rights than detainees.</p> <p>VS reported that PACE Advisory Group had issued guidance stating that a single person could not act as both ICV and also as an Appropriate Adult. The MOPAC code of practice would change accordingly.</p> <p>Lastly, the National Preventative Mechanism requested feedback on the definition of ill treatment in detention. The ICV Panel felt that detainees concerns mainly centred on the duration of the process, but suggested a definition involving humiliation, extreme anxiety and emotional distress.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Stop and Search Lucy Smith-Ryland, Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group</p>	
	<p>Lucy Smith-Ryland reported on the Stop and Search statistics for the six-month period between January and June 2018 which ranged from 475 to 304 S&S per month. There was direct correlation between selling drugs and carrying weapons. Searches had resulted in findings of cannabis, weapons and stolen property. She reported that K&C had achieved 30% positive outcomes which was 10% over the target compared with H&F where the outcome was unchanged. K&C outcomes also compared favourably with other boroughs which have higher crime rates.</p> <p>The Board heard that April saw an increase in Stop and Search due to knife crime. A stabbing incident in Latimer Road in June had led to the introduction of Section 60 powers for a period of time (this allows for the stop and search of any persons in an area without being intelligence-led). Other forces were</p>	

	<p>drafted in to assist. Policing levels also increased in the light of the visit of the US President.</p> <p>Lucy Smith-Ryland was also pleased to report that young K&C police officers were receiving TSG (Territorial Support Group) training and gaining increased confidence and competence in S&S. Additionally, there was now a further opportunity for student police officers to have community engagement including with young people, on monthly basis for Q&A about Stop and Search. The committee were pleased to hear that for this month in K&C, Wands (metal detectors) were on the street for Stop and Search and in police vehicles.</p> <p>There were a total of only seven complaints, all of which were being looked into. Since body worn cameras had been introduced, complaints had reduced by 80%.</p> <p>Tasers had been used 27 times in the last three months and there were now 68 trained officers in the borough.</p>	
5	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Caryl Harris, Neighbourhood Watch Representative</p>	
	<p>This item was introduced by Caryl Harris (RBKC Neighbourhood Watch Representative) who focused on efforts being made to improve and simplify the scheme. In addition to improving intelligence, new ways of working to improve the link to DWOs, to be introduced by the end of the year, working with the Met's Digital Team. This would emphasise the use of Twitter to access information published by the Met and to also share information from the Dedicated Ward Officers and Ward panel meetings which were lively and informative.</p> <p>The vision was for K&C Neighbourhood Watch Network System, a two-way information platform hopefully linked to the Ward SN Team, where residents could log on, on a Ward basis, and which would be updated weekly. Arrangements had been made for residents would be schooled in Twitter by Age Concern UK.</p>	
6	<p>Community Safety Programme Board Stuart Priestley, RBKC Chief Community Safety Officer</p>	
	<p>Stuart Priestly set out the aims of the Community Safety Programme Board, a statutory Board. The strategic aims in K&C included a reduction in hate crimes, burglaries and violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour and knife crime. He outlined the agenda for the next meeting due to take place on 13 July and which included an update on the transition from K&C Police to Central West BCU; crime performance, the Fire Brigade service on recent incidents and the RBKC community safety plan; domestic homicide reviews; a knife crime strategy update and review and; a review of terms of reference and processes.</p>	
7	<p>Borough Commander's Report Karen Duckworth, Chief Inspector Met Police</p>	

	<p>Karen Duckworth explained the changes to local policing from borough based to BCU (Basic Command Units). 32 borough units would be replaced by 12 units. K&C would be part of Central West Command Unit together with Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster. Areas of police business have been divided into strands namely: safeguarding, local investigations, neighbourhood policing, headquarters and response policing – each to be headed by a superintendent and supported by a chief inspector (apart from neighbourhoods which would have two chief inspectors) The new BCU would go live in February 2019.</p> <p>The main benefits were seen to be an uplift of 118 people in 999 service staff including attending officers providing a single point of contact for the investigation of crime; an increase in staff available for youth engagement and work in schools and; a tasking team to target problems across the BCU. Some wards in K&C would have additional staff to work with the usual two DWOs and one PCO. The estate plan would be streamlined to one police station per borough, generally. Money from property sales would be re-invested. The response team in the new model would have two parade sites, one each for east and west of the BCU, one neighbourhood inspector for each borough, two partnership inspectors and a team for the West End. The project was currently at Expression of Interest stage for staff and massive upheaval to local policing teams was not anticipated.</p> <p>In questions, concern was expressed at the potential police station reduction and also to reports that computer tablets, designed to allow police to be more agile, were not working properly. Karen Duckworth acknowledged that there had been some teething problems with some of the applications and also that Met vests had yet to be adapted to allow the tablets to be easily carried by neighbourhood police. Karen Duckworth stated that there were no plans to go to one police station per BCU however there was no answer to hub the two Safer Neighbourhood Team bases, at present Kenway Road and World's End.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Crime statistics Daren Bone, BS Neighbourhood Police Team Inspector, Met Police Link to presentation</p>	
	<p>Darren Bone introduced the Met Police crime statistics report for K&C as at 5 July 2018. Burglary and residential crime had decreased, but was still fluctuating. The Inspector outlined ways of combatting these crimes and encouraged residents to visit community contact points which take place twice monthly on each Ward.</p> <p>There were 102 notified thefts from the person in June and a significant increase in personal property robbery, many of which were in the Chelsea area. Darren Bone again outlined tactics and prevention introduced and support offered.</p> <p>On thefts from and of motor vehicles, the value of working with residents was stressed for intelligence and CCTV, and it was agreed to circulate a dedicated email address for reporting (See RBKC Safer Neighbourhood teams email and numbers as well as MET police reporting page). He reported on the</p>	<p>Met</p>

	<p>general increase in violent crime which was comparable to increases across London, however, some types of offences had reduced in the borough.</p> <p>He outlined the work taking place in the BCU to address ongoing problems and to improve information sharing with H&F and Westminster, and also to responses to Anti-Social Behaviour calls.</p>	
9	<p>Chairman's Report Kim Howell, RBKC SNB Chair Link to presentation</p>	
	<p>Kim Howell reported on the introduction of successful Knife Sweep operations in the borough, similar to the practice in other boroughs. He also reported on the Funds to be received from MOPAC for 2018/19, for Safer Neighbourhood Projects, most of which would focus on youth engagement, anti-drugs, anti-gangs and anti-knife crime and ASB.</p>	
10	<p>Discussion</p>	
	<p>In response to questions on knife sweeps, the Board were advised that the police decided when and where these should take place. To sign up as volunteers, residents should contact Sylvia Nissim at KCSC (Kensington and Chelsea Social Council) at sylvia@kcsc.org.uk. It was noted that a community clean-up had taken place in Acklam Road (North Kensington) and many offensive items had been found. Requests were made for information on clean-ups to be publicised in one place so residents could be informed and join.</p> <p>A concern was raised on drug-related problems in Finborough Road which having been cleared, would recur, particularly in the absence of a gate which had been requested. Stuart Priestly undertook to take details and follow up.</p> <p>Reference was made to the need for drug and alcohol support services in the Earl's Court area and concern was expressed that the promise of high visibility police presence in the area had not appeared. Residents were extremely distressed and facing open drug dealing and witnessing drug takers lying unconscious on the streets. Despite sending emails and photographic evidence there has been no response and residents, some of whom were vulnerable, felt abandoned. Residents called for action, including a visible police presence and not empty words. Darren Bone undertook to investigate.</p> <p>The meeting attendees were reminded of the link between anti-social behaviour and drugs which was resulting in an increase in violence and gangs, and an increase in the confidence of the drug smugglers putting the public at greater risk.</p>	<p>Met</p> <p>SP</p> <p>Met</p>
11	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>TBA.</p>	

EVENT NAME: Safer Neighbourhood Board Public Meeting

EVENT DATE: 16 July 2018

PLEASE CHECK IN BELOW OR ADD YOUR DETAILS

✓	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
AR	Angela	Spence	Voluntary Sector Representative
✓	Caryl	Harris	Neighbourhood Watch Representative
✓	Cllr. Malcolm	Spalding	Kensington Representative – RBKC
✓	Daniel	Lawless	Victim Support Representative
✓	Hamish	Adourian	Ward Panel (Colville)
AR	Harry	Singer	Ward Panel Representative (Norland)
✓	Kim	Howell	Ward Panel Representative/Chair
✓	Lucy	Smith-Ryland	Stop & Search Community Monitoring Group Representative
AR	Mark	Barr	Business Representative
✓	Roger	Barasel	Community Representative
✓	Stuart	Priestley	Chief Community Safety Officer - RBKC
✓	Vassiliki	Stavrou	Independent Custody Visiting Panel Representative
✓	Zara	Ghods	Older People's Representative
✓	Karen	Duckworth	Chief Inspector, Met
✓	Darren	Bone	BS NPT Inspector, Met
✓	Matthew	Carey	Sergeant, Met