

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD**

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 21 January 2020 **Chelsea Methodist Church, 155a King's Road, SW3 5TX 7NX**

Chaired by: Kim Howell
Minutes taken by: AscribeR

Attendance list attached

1	Welcome, apologies and introductions Declaration of interest	ACTION
	The Chair welcomed and thanked those present for attending.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting – 28 October 2019 and actions pending The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.	
3	YIAG Football Project – Carlos Husbands, MET Police The Board received a presentation from Carlos Husbands (MET Police) which included a video on the work of Hazelwood Kicks, a project supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Board. The youth engagement project was an opportunity to divert young people from anti-social behaviour and drug dealing challenges and to introduce them to other options. The project provided an opportunity for the police to be seen in a different light and to provide age appropriate support and advice to children including how to stay out of trouble; knife crime and saving lives; county lines grooming and; earning money through football coaching. Some young people had been able to get employment as FA coaches with QPR football club and others had apprenticeships with Virgin Active Gym and also as electrical engineers. There was also an opportunity to visit the Old Bailey and gain work experience as murder detectives and take part in social opportunities such as pizza nights. The Board also heard from the retired sergeant who introduced Carlos Husbands to the MET and who supported the value of children getting to know the police and learning transferable skills. He emphasised the need to avoid making empty promises. During questions the following was noted:	

	<p>The aim was to have the project operating borough wide once football pitches were available. Every effort would be made to contact hard-to-reach groups in particular doing outreach into their communities.</p> <p>The Board applauded the work outlined.</p>	
4	<p>MET Communication with Residents Meredydd Jones, Inspector MET Police</p> <p>The Board heard from Meredydd Jones (Neighbourhood Policing Inspector) who outlined current methods of communication which included Twitter and Nextdoor, the latter of which was launched in 2016 and is used by 3000 public services across the world. It enables neighbours to connect with each other and provides the police with a tool to communicate with a chosen audience of residents (e.g. by neighbourhood, ward or borough) that are members of the network. It was noted that currently 15% of K&C residents had signed up from whom feedback could be received. It was noted that Nextdoor was not a means to report crime which should be done via the traditional methods i.e. online, by telephone or at police stations.</p> <p>During questions the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for residents explaining categories of crime could be provided via ward panel meetings. • Ward officers should be contacted for advice on Cold Calling. • Residents should contact police directly to report crime and not rely on posting incidents on social media platforms or leaving messages on mobile phones. • While Nextdoor was currently in use, it was acknowledged that communication was a competitive market, the service had a mid and a long term strategy and media officers are working to keep the service up to date. • There was a need for an improvement in communications balance as there is significant focus on drug operations, graphic pictures of weapons seizures and Section 60 messages, but many residents were concerned with personal safety, such communication had the effect of making some feel unsafe. • The OWL (Online Watch Link) service still in use in some boroughs, was no longer funded by RBKC. • Information on Nextdoor regarding incidents in Earls Court appeared to be light however ward officers for that area rank among the highest performers. • Meredydd Jones undertook to look into why the Royalty Studios police station was not open on a particular Saturday, which was likely be due to officer availability. 	Merrydd Jones
5	<p>CCTV development and Community Safety Warden Scheme</p> <p>Stuart Priestley (SP) gave an update on the council's customer and resident-focused environmental transformation programme (CREST) which seeks to respond to requests from residents for more joined up, accessible and effective</p>	

	<p>services. CREST 1 joined up Council services concerned with construction sites to provide better outcomes for residents. CREST 2 focusses upon establishing a Council Community Safety Warden service to tackle anti-social behaviour concerns. The aim was to provide swifter responses to residents' issues and improve community communication.</p> <p>SP also outlined changes to the community safety department, introduced following changes the contracts of community safety police team. For the future, police team would be reduced from 17 to three who would work with 14 council officer community safety wardens. It was the intention for this scheme to be able to provide an enforcement service and a swifter targeted response, dealing with problem solving and address issues of concern including anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>On CCTV, £536,000 had been provided to upgrade stock and expand the network. The CCTV advisory group was considering options for a more strategic approach to CCTV to be rolled out over the year, starting with location identification in February.</p> <p>During questions the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main role of community safety wardens would be to change people's behaviour wherever possible, and for the three police officers to be called on when necessary. • Police officers do investigate drug problems, however in the absence of the sufficient information and intelligence, they are sometimes unable to take action. • Recruitment for community safety warden posts was being promoted locally and, once the service was established, the service would be launched. • The inclusion of resident privately funded CCTV cameras currently was not part of the strategy and the outcome of discussions on whether they could be accommodated would be known at a future date. • The Earl's Court area, with its transient population and the challenges faced for support services dealing with complex needs, was felt to be a priority area. It currently has 13 CCTV cameras which are monitored for eight hours but can be reviewed outside of these hours if necessary. 	
6	<p>RBKC SNB Business</p> <p>Feedback/Reports Borough Crime Report - Chief Inspector Simon Brooker</p> <p>Simon Brooker (Chief Inspector) in his crime report, commented on the Community Safety Warden Scheme advising that the MET would be assisting with crime analysis data. Additional police officers had been recruited for the MET which would provide an additional 300 officers for the Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster BCU (Basic Command Unit). However it was acknowledged that they would be inexperienced. There were currently vacant local ward officer posts. In the light of the increase in staff, the existing police station buildings would now be retained.</p>	

	<p>The following was noted from the crime report: robbery in the area was up 20% and the challenge was to decide on the allocation of resources; while knife crime was relatively low, fear of crime was an issue; violent crime was currently down; a burglary unit had been created with MOPAC; phase 2 of Smart Water was due to start next year; moped crime was down; stop and search was being promoted locally and the more targeted professional approach had reduced the number of complaints; crime figures for the Notting Hill Carnival were down, in part due to the hot weather.</p> <p>SNB Chair Report – Kim Howell</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
7	<p>Open discussion on local crime concerns</p> <p>During questions the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of funding in the criminal prosecution service, results in a high number of court hearings being cancelled. It was acknowledged that achieving an outcome was a challenge and sometimes drug treatment orders were a better option than a prison sentence. • Only 81% of Met police emergency calls were responded to within 15 minutes, while the target is 90%. Additionally, the response for domestic abuse is particularly low. The Board heard that there would have been an immediate response for high grade calls however over the past few months, there has been additional demands on the service (such as the Extinction Rebellion campaign), resulting in a shortage of trained officers. However, changes were being made to address the problem including resources, courses and governance. Also, there are fine margins in the method of recording which can adversely affect the figures and the Board were assured that appropriate responses would be provided to the public when needed. • Sanction detection has decreased significantly in London however a new custody suite at Hammersmith Police Station will increase available accommodation and encourage officers to be more proactive in the use of arrest. A new model is now being adopted to re-skill front line officers who would now hold responsibility for cases from initial reporting to the court case at the end. Serious crime and robbery offences are the priority and had seen an increase in sanction detection. • There are no plans to review policy of local police carrying firearms but there are more firearm officers in the area, taser capacity is being doubled and the emphasis was on engagement. • There is community concern over the rise in muggings and people feeling increasingly unsafe at all times of the day. The need for an increase in public awareness was emphasised, and the police response is to target areas, intelligence gathering and working with local authority CCTV. 	
8	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>	
	Meeting ended at 8.20pm	