

Minutes of the Haringey Community & Police Consultative Group Meeting  
**Wednesday 19 MARCH 2008** at THE CIVIC CENTRE, WOOD GREEN, LONDON  
N22

## **1 WELCOME TO THE MEETING**

1.1 The Vice Chair Dr Samuel Wynter, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited members of the panel to introduce themselves beginning with Enid Ledgister HC&PGC Director; Richard Wood Acting Borough Commander Haringey Police; David Singh Treasurer HC&PCG; Joanne McCartney Link Member Metropolitan Police Authority.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from John Hadju, Muswell Hill Ward Chair; Cllr Sheik Thompson, C&PCG Member, Mrs Anton, Local Resident; Vivien Rodgers, Scotch Estate Neighbourhood Watch; Fred Ellis, Chair HPGC, Barry White Neighbourhood Watch, Eddie Wedderburn HREC, Stephen Whittle Westy Green Ward Chair, and Cllr Nilgun Canver for lateness.

## **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 21 November 2007**

3.1 Item 37.1 Page 6 “... Joy Barber” should read “...Joy Gardner” and Item 44 Page 7, “... of London CLCs CICs” should read “... of London CICs”.

## **4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 The Vice Chair, Dr Samuel Wynter, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited members of There were no matters arising.

4.2 A motion had been brought to the previous meeting by Chris Harrington relating to a letter to go to Met Police regarding the Sylvester case and a draft is available. The vice chair signed the minutes as a true and

## **5 RICHARD WOOD AND ANDY HARRISON HARINGEY POLICE ON BOROUGH POLICING**

5.1 Copies of Andy Harrison's presentation had been handed out to attendees at the start of the meeting and he said that the figures in the presentation showed performance targets for the year 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009 based on 2007-08 performance. He explained that the percentage of crime reduction would change as the year progresses according to performance.

5.2 The performance targets for the coming year were based on different crime categories from previous years. The so-called Basket of Ten had changed and rather than compare Haringey with the rest of the Metropolitan Police Boroughs, the Borough will be compared with other parts of the UK – eg Sussex.

5.3 Andy Harrison MPS then read through the key targets and explained that the figures were in draft because they are based on the figures for the current year to date and would change once the current year's figures had been compiled.

5.4 A number of questions arose from the audience in relation to the usefulness of the targets and figures presented with the consensus being that knowing what the police service was going to do differently from previous years in order to reduce crime rather than bare figures would be more useful and meaningful.

5.5 Andy Harrison MPS said that targets focus the mind on the job and that behind them were real people doing real work to reduce the crime levels and serve the community.

5.6 Andy Harrison MPS highlighted the following crime reduction targets for 2008-09:

**Assault with Injury:** Target to reduce the number of offences recorded to 2242

**Most Serious Violence:** Target to reduce the number of offences recorded to 122

**Serious Youth Violence:** Target to reduce the number of offence recorded to 96

**Knife Offences:** Target to reduced the number of offences recorded to 416

**Burglary – Residential:** Target to reduced the number of offences recorded to 2636, while maintaining at least a % detection rate

**Total Robbery:** Target to reduced the number of offences recorded to 1512, while maintaining at least a 17% detection rate

**Theft of Motor Vehicle:** Target to reduced the number of offences recorded to 1199, while maintaining at least a 8% detection rate

**Theft from Motor Vehicle:** Target to reduced the number of offences recorded to 3154, while maintaining at least a 8% detection rate

**Serious Acquisitive Crime:** Target to reduce the number of offences recorded to 8051

**Gun Enabled Crime:** Target to reduce the number of offences recorded to 111

**Hate Crime:** Racial: to solve 42% of all reported racial crime; Homophobic: to solve 45% of all reported crime.

5.7 The Vice Chair, Dr Wynter asked that when the police return to update on the figures that they show the then current figures so that there is something real to compare against.

5.8 Andy Harrison MPS responded that because the crime categories are different from before it is not possible to have such figures at this stage.

5.9 Acting B/Commander Wood thanked the meeting for its feedback.

5.10 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that most people experience fairly low level crime eg vandalism and these are not shown in the presentation. He also said that as a shop owner he found it difficult to get a crime number when reporting such low level crime and this may be a means to massage the figures.

5.11 **QUESTION:** Another member of the audience asked to see a response time target to a 999 call which he believed currently took 20 minutes.

5.12 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience spoke about organised stalking and harassment saying that the Scottish parliament was doing something about this but why not in Haringey.

5.13 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood agreed there was a significant amount of low-level anti-social behaviour which is covered by the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. In response to the question on number manipulation he said that this was not something the service wanted to do. Rather he wanted to give a quality service, some aspects of which cannot be quantitatively measured.

5.14 **ANSWER:** In relation to stalking, he said that there was a special unit that deal with such activity and invited the questioner to speak to him outside the meeting in relation to specific issues.

5.15 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked that abbreviations not be used in future and suggested that the presentation should mention how the service intends to reduce crime.

5.16 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that he was passionate about reducing youth crime – knives, guns – and that he wanted to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce the number of young people perpetrating crime and being the victims of crimes.

5.17 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked firstly if there were incentives in place in Haringey to help young people that the residents can become involved in; secondly what action is taking place to reduce crime as the figures presented whilst helpful to the service were somewhat frightening to the public.

5.18 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that it wasn't just about programmes but about trusted adults telling young people not to indulge in crime. He also reminded the meeting that there was a police officer in every school.

5.19 Dr Wynter reminded the meeting about the Youth Forum with young people themselves telling young people not to engage in crime.

5.20 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked what the major blocks to reducing these crimes were and the methods being used to reduce such crimes.

5.21 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that the service was looking at problem solving, working closer with communities and qualitative issues such as building bridges with officers spending time with people. He told the meeting about Citizen Focus - a Met-wide initiative about giving a quality experience in relation to interaction between community and police service. He assured the meeting that the acceptance of the targets as outlined is a signal to the wrong-doers that crime is acceptable.

5.22 He said that to say crime will be Zero was unrealistic and advised the meeting that although the 2007-08 target on robbery was to reduce by 6.2% the actual reduction had been 25%. He added that targets helped them to focus on specific crimes that needed attention.

5.23 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked what the word “solve” meant in relation to domestic violence.

5.24 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that in this context solved means where the offender is cautioned, is charged or taken to court. The victims, usually women, he said, often suffer violence on many occasions before they make a report and even then they do report, they do not always want to co-operate to bring a prosecution. The service has to balance its concern for the violence and the requests of the victim.

5.25 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that the Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant and Team in St Anne’s Ward have really worked hard to reduce low level anti-social behaviour but that there was still concern about the slow response rates to burglaries.

5.26 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that in regard to burglary response, the service has 2 dedicated cars with 2 officers on duty to visit homes that have been burgled. Although the aim is to get there as quickly as possible, he did not feel that such crime merited a blue-light response and the potential dangers of fast driving.

5.27 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked for a definition of “organised stalking” and added that having a police officer in every school was surely nothing to boast about.

5.28 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if initiatives such as “Say Yes” could be publicised more so that members of the Group at local level can help blur the lines between the police service and the community.

5.29 **ANSWER:** Cllr Canver said that the Say Yes initiative was the first of its kind in London and was targeting one school, working with young people from that school with the business community providing mentors for them around community safety issues that affect young people and finding solutions to the things that affect them. She explained that groups of 10 youngsters were linked to a business mentor. They discussed anti-social behaviour and came up with some solutions.

5.30 She also informed the meeting that Gladesmore School was working with young people on Value Life projects which involved taking statements from young people in regard to saying no to guns and knives.

5.31 She said that the Council wanted to bring other agencies into Haringey too and said that the Council website had information and that there were press releases about these initiatives. **ACTION:** She asked that anyone who wanted to know more should give their contact details.

5.32 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that he understood there were 2 victims of electromagnetic harassment - that is directed energy weapons – in the Borough and asked if the police service needed any further help in helping to reduce this crime.

5.33 Acting D/Commander said that he had no knowledge of electromagnetic harassment and would be pleased to receive information.

5.34 **ACTION:** The Vice Chair asked that definitions of organised stalking and electromagnetic harassment be sent to the Group's Director for onward transmission to members of the audience.

5.35 **ANSWER:** Joanne McCartney said that the Targets were priorities that came out of public concerns and that historically targets have helped focus action on particular crimes which has resulted not only in a reduction in that crime but a sharing of good practice. She said that she was pleased that youth violence had a specific target saying that the Council has money from the Mayor of London to support this work. In respect to the query on the manipulation of figures, Ms McCartney said that the MPA has looked at ways of reducing the opportunities for massaging the figures by ensuring common categories of crimes across the area, common definitions of all crimes and centralisation of data gathering.

5.36 **QUESTION:** Cllr Canver asked for input into any consultation processes the police service planned.

5.37 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood concluded by saying that police officers in Haringey were dedicated to making a safer community.

## 6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked how 1000 new officers requested by The Mayor of London were going to be recruited and added that there was lack of visibility of police in terms walking the beat.

6.2 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience voiced concern that the post of Borough Commander had still not been filled.

6.3 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams were visible on the streets when they were needed - during the day when most people are at work - giving working people an incorrect impression. He added that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams do good work, but that the way their shifts are organised often means that they are all off at the same time sometimes leading to no-one being on duty for a whole weekend. The point was raised that rape or serious sexual assault cases does not get reported enough.

6.4 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that he could not go into recruitment issues as he was not in a position to respond. He added that the Haringey is geographically huge and it would be impossible for the police to walk on the streets all the time, but he said that he and his officers were visible on the street in uniform.

6.5 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that the comment made in reference to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams' shifts was a fair one and that this was something that was being constantly reviewed so that officers are on duty during peak demand. He added that they do work late at night and at anti-social times according to need.

6.6 **ANSWER:** McCartney said that recruiting a Borough Commander was a lengthy process but the MPA was nearing a decision.

6.7 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience from Bruce Grove said that a man was sleeping on the pavement outside his house day and night but that no-one seemed to be able to do anything about it. He then raised a number of concerns including fly-tipping, rubbish and uneven pavements in his neighbourhood.

6.8 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that many of the issues were local authority matters not police matters. **ACTION:** He suggested that anti-social behaviour matters be raised with the local Safer Neighbourhood sergeant.

6.9 **ACTION:** Cllr Canver said she would speak outside the meeting about the issues raised.

6.10 **QUESTION:** Members of the audience asked firstly if Key Individual Newsletters could be put on the police website and secondly if the police service was connecting with groups of people such as bird watchers who have a good notion of what is happening in Parks to gain intelligence.

6.11 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if the crime reduction targets included credit card fraud?

6.12 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that credit card fraud was monitored and that every effort was being made to support rape victims to come forward and report rape because without reporting it was not possible to bring perpetrators to court.

6.13 **ANSWER:** Andy Harrison MPS said that the target for 2008-09 was to reduce rape by 50%.

6.14 **ACTION:** Andy Harrison MPS said that he would post Key Individual Newsletters on the Safer Neighbourhood website.

6.15 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that although he wanted encourage intelligence gathering from the community, it was difficult to connect with all of the very small groups.

6.16 **ANSWER:** Acting B/Commander Wood said that PCSOs were doing good work in the community citing disorder in Wood Green High Road that day which resulted firstly in 2 PCSOs being chased by a man with an axe, secondly police officers being called and finally the arrest of the man in question.

## **7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.1 The date of the next meeting is 24 September 2008.