

Minutes of the Haringey Community & Police Consultative Group Meeting
Wednesday 25 April 2007 at the Civic Centre, Wood Green, London N22

1. WELCOME TO THE MEETING

1.1: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Simon O'Brien.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1: Apologies for absence were received from Faridoon Madon, John Hajdu, Chris Hannington, Fred Williams, Cllr Ron Aitken, Cllr George Meehan, David Lammy, Kirsten Hearn, Cllr Canver, Gillian Prager, Nevil Hartley, David Singh, Anne Jones, Hesketh Benott, and Mario Petrou.

2.2: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 January 2007 were approved as accurate

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 The Chair mentioned in order that there were no action points, no questions arose the last time. On point 9.1 the date of the meeting was changed.

4. POLICE REPORT - Chief Superintendent Simon O'Brien

4.1: C/Supt Simon O'Brien commenced by announcing the utilisation and the initiatives that would take place in the forthcoming changes, providing a wider consultation which was going very well. He suggested that the public should ask questions, and any matters of concern will be acknowledged. He mentioned his aspirations for the London Borough of Haringey and in particular targets achieved in the number of crimes in 2006 (ie. assaults and thefts). He looked at the list of British crimes. On Burglary, there needs to be more hard work. Christmas was a high crime time; the police gave valuable assistance in partnership with the Local Authority – which was a difficult task and challenging. Robbery – there was the threat of knives and guns. The figures were down from 16-18 robberies, now down to 3 and 4 and will continually try to achieve figures which are important. He said that personal robberies, and street crime is the most challengeable targets, and he would like to see those targets achieved and make the community feel safer. There are car crimes (including theft from motor vehicles) where there was a reduction in the Haringey Borough.

4.2: Violent crimes were also on the list and 709 people did not suffer due to good policing tactics and the success rates in Haringey were achieved. There were 1-4 cases of bringing the person to justice, and one in three crimes to solve, so a lot of work to be done this year. The crime rate in London – especially robberies at night – one on one was 23% which was very good. Rape is a very sensitive area for police officers, but half the cases were investigated and a very good result with individuals going to prison for this crime.

4.3: Looking at the Green Sheets there is a significant work going on in Haringey and the performance indicators showed time off sick, taking cases to court, and some cases were not firmed up – but Haringey delivered. The officers' work was not repeated by any other Borough – which the Commander was very proud to note.

4.4: Other success stories, to mention were the inspections to the constabulary – not pleasant, but pointed out how to do better. The HMIC published a report – which the Commander asked the meeting to look at, as this gave a positive reflection of what the Police are doing, the sense of direction, and expectations. The report can also be

accessed via the website. Reiterating on the good performance figures, the forum on the last occasion, on a winning point with Central Government's organisation which provided the best officers on the streets of Haringey.

4.5: On the technical side – there were changes to the police call centres particularly the Met call centres – to provide a faster delivery to public calls. There is still a way to go but with new organisation and a challenge.

4.6: Personal robbery the rate was 6.2% a good challenge to achieve with a 7.5 reduction with 20% over a 3 year period. Bringing the target of 7½% which was a challenge for Haringey. Overall, the British crime survey the emphasis is that there was good input in partnership with LA. But personal robberies are repeated across London.

4.7: Looking at car disable passes there is work in progress for new registrations on the passes.

4.8: The Commander said that looking closely at bullying in schools, at knife crimes, which then goes on to the guns mentality, who then try to gain creditability – the evidence is successfully handled by the police and no particular tragedies.

4.9: To the future achievements, the Commander would like to see a robust challenge within the community in 2008- 2011, and to maintain and provide extra police in the community. He would also like to see clear focus on the 21% protections and would like to see a higher rate rather than just the normal comfortable target rate.

4.10: The Commander also looked at Customer satisfaction – to have good positive reactions to be clear for next year. He also wanted to get comments and feedback from the public and phone calls to the responses of police intervention.

4.11: On Estate Strategy the Commander and the Met Policing had discussions and alternative Muswell Hill, which would be better and acceptable in that Borough.

4.12 This year the organisation of the Wood Green police station consultations for it to be knocked down, and to put 21st century facilities (i.e. lockers, showers etc) and to have proper 21st century customer facilities (i.e. custody area, quick release of local residents, public planning) hopefully in the next few weeks. The move of the quick Silver move after rebuilding. Wood Green would be the base and make use of Tottenham police station and all offices in the local area (including Muswell Hill). The Commander encouraged the audience to put forward any questions or comments to be raised in a debate. He also said that consultations would be open at public meetings and would be on call to attend. He said the borough had a good business case for expansion for the future and that public money should be available for it. Again there should be public meetings to take feedback and views on these issues.

Questions to the Borough Commander

4.13: A member of the public thanked the Commander and publicly congratulated him on his marvellous achievements. He also said he personally felt like the area was a safer place, but felt there should be greater presence of the police after 5.00 pm when they disappear. He drew attention to an incident at Hollywood Cinemas, namely at 10.45 pm in which an individual was battered, his questions referred to the security CCTV cameras and their operation.

4.14: The second member of the public asked a question referring to the answer phone system. The SMT officers based on the ward and also people are frightened to report back on criminal incidents that happen.

The Borough Commander's response to questions

4.15: The Commander responded that there was a sense of teamwork, and a sense that police officers wanted to work together and the challenges of this environment which they tackle at an early stage. This year, he headhunted several people for recruitment and is proud to say he has a top team of police officers in the Haringey borough, where there is investment and intelligence – but at the same time the public are the 'eyes and ears' to assist.

4.16: The Commander also responded on the Hollywood incident by saying that there are 90 support officers in and around the pubs, wine bars to take the heat out of those places. He hopes that the police presence continues – and hopefully night time policing over a 24 hour period would deter criminality and get a balance. The Pulse Patrol Police – gave a good clear message at a meeting on Friday, to discuss where to put police at night. It was also keen to place police in the early hours.

4.17: On Alexander – he will be looking at the phone communications. If this style of policing is successful and get the public views, there could be a major organisational venture to get future tasks.

4.18: There has been major success with the Neighbourhood Watch and the communities coming together and being positive around the wards.

Questions to the Borough Commander - Part 2

4.19: Additional questions were raised from the public. He said the response times to phone calls and emails had quick responses from the police on the communications front. He noted on the safer neighbourhood teams and customer commitment is strong, emphasising the need for more officers and acceptance of the Commander's good work. On the transport teams (19 PCSOs) 9 of which were on secondment. There was a breach of the 'green fencing', and will be looking at the policing priorities.

4.20: A member of the public, congratulated the Commander on his good work, but highlighted an incident at the Texaco incident where the police were informed but no police arrived at the incident. He also commented on the language communication of Eastern Europeans and how does the police cope with this aspect?

4.21: A few questions from members of public on whether there should be police that 'hop on/off' buses, and whether that could be looked at and what are the hours of the PCSOs?

The Borough Commander's response to questions

4.22: On the 'ring fencing' the Commander said it's not about numbers. He said that the PCSOs were on short secondments and he was a firm champion of safer neighbourhoods and commitments on maintaining a foot print – but it was right to bring it up and he would monitor it.

4.23: The Commander's response to a question regarding an individual in a crisis - The investigations is ongoing and there are some lessons to be learned. There are also specialist officers dealing with those incidents and is contained. On the

language point there is a history to make communities feel welcome, and there are officers that can interpret and speak the language. So the police know the challenges and there is representation. The police are aware of these new challenges and do reach out to diversities of the communities.

4.24: On the communications point, there is a new licence from O2 and new radio connections, with commercial kits. The Commander hopes that the constabulary will overcome any communication difficulties.

4.25: The Commander noted to the public that the buses was not in his jurisdiction and that it might be an idea to relay some suggestions to the Arriva Bus company, who may have some initial ideas on what to do about certain behaviours on the buses (particularly with the school children).

4.26: He commented on the hours of the PCSOs who are contracted to do day or late shifts only until 2.00 am – not unfortunately through the night hours. If the Ward Panel are willing to address the issues to the PCSOs of changing their shift patterns to suit particular needs, then the PCSOs will be flexible for the community. The Commander said on robberies the police is doing very well and number one on bringing justice on robberies.

Questions to the Borough Commander - Part 3

4.27: Question from a member of the public – Where do young people go?

4.28: A question from a Community Warden in Haringey, who said that he has noticed a lot of suspicious movements within the area – but notes it's good to have diversity within the community. But sometimes hears a lot of what is happening and notices a lot more things than maybe the police may do.

4.29: Another member of the public asked if the police go to speak to the schools, as at present there seems to be a lot of school kids who frequent the coffee shop in Morrisons who are very loud and noisy. Can anything be done about that?

The Borough Commander's response to questions

4.30: The Commander said that terrorism is a threat. It's important that the public give the police assistance and being the 'eyes and ears' for any suspicious activities. So more communication is needed. The public can pass on their names and numbers which will help the police make the community a safer environment.

4.31: The Commander commented on the buses incidents in which there is 'Operation Butler' on certain times and certain areas. Officers do go into the schools, at bus stops, from Wood Green to Turnpike Lane, covering the Bruce Grove, Muswell Hill and Crouch End areas. The police work together very well with Arriva Bus Company. Every senior school has a police officer that is appointed to them, and if the public has any concerns they can also relay their comments to the Head Master of these schools in the area. He reiterated that it's sometimes just the behaviour of school kids, not meaning to be loud, but gather together in groups – it's not always a police problem more of a behavioural problem. Though there is a cause for debate.

4.32: The Chair thanked the Commander C/Supt O'Brien for his comments and the very important policing in the Haringey community and the audience for attending the meeting.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1: The 'No Smoking' ban in July how does it affect prisoners in their cells. The Commander said there has never been any smoking in cells; normally detainees would be escorted to an open area (the gage or the yard) for a smoke.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

6.1: The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27th June 2007** at the Civic Centre Wood Green.