

Minutes of the Haringey Community & Police Consultative Group Meeting  
**Wednesday 27 June 2007** at Weston Park Primary School, Denton Road, N8 9WP

## **1 WELCOME TO THE MEETING**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Superintendent Richard Wood.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Khan, Borough Commander C/Supt O'Brien, Haringey Council; Ian Sygrave, LCSP; Dr Samuel Wynter, ICV; Bill Guy, HC&PCG; Sally Mustoe, HC&PCG; Ms Cohen, HC&PCG; Cllr George Meehan; Cllr Canver, Haringey Council; Mario Petrou

## **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 April 2007 were approved as accurate.

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

4.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4.2 The Chair asked for and obtained ratification of Reg Rice, Gillian Lacey, Ellen Coyne, and Sally Mustoe as Members of the Group. He then named outgoing members Angie Buzzacott and Bomi Jila and spoke of Mr Jila's constant support of the Group since its early days, in recognition of which the Chair presented him with plaque in honour of his work.

## **5 POLICE REPORT - Superintendent Richard Wood**

5.1 Superintendent Richard Wood began by saying that the Borough continued to perform well and informed the Group of key statistics detailed in the documents circulated to the meeting.

5.2 He announced with regret that there had recently been 2 murders – one a domestic violence incident and the other the shooting of a 17 year old female.

5.3 Superintendent Richard Wood also reported that the Haringey Carnival had gone well although an hour after the Carnival had ended there had been some unrest.

5.4 He informed the meeting that youths coming into the Borough around the Wood Green area and identified as trouble makers have been dealt with straight away.

5.5 Superintendent Richard Wood said that the Safer Neighbourhood panels were bedding in and working well with the community and should make local policing easier.

5.6 He ended his verbal report by saying that the Police Open Day had been a good event with dogs, cars, helicopters all on shown to the public.

5.7 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that there seemed to be some controversy as to whether Safer Neighbourhoods are operating very locally or whether you can phone a 999 call to them.

5.8 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that Safer Neighbourhood teams were principally working in local areas only so they are not principally answering 999 calls or policing London-wide, but he advised the meeting that they may be called upon to respond to a general 999 call on certain occasions or used to police large public gatherings such as those at Wembley or Notting Hill.

5.9 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if Special Constables have the same powers as Police Officers, to which Superintendent Richard Wood replied that Special Constables have the same powers as Police Officers whereas PCSOs are in place to provide reassurance to the public and do not have the same powers as Police Officers.

5.10 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked if the police could random checks for weapons.

5.11 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that stop and search is a very sensitive issue and stopping young people randomly can lead to the resentment that existed in the old days. If a Police Officer has reasonable ground to suspect that someone is carrying a weapon he said then a search can take place. There are occasions when we want to carry out random searches and we do, but we keep these to a minimum and only when we have intelligence to back up our actions he added.

5.12 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience raised a question in reference to traffic policing, highlighting the fact that young children and parents do not feel safe walking children to school. She suggested that the police do not give enough emphasise to the fact that traffic infractions are breaching the law.

5.13 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood agreed that there are problems in policing traffic and that policing of traffic was probably under-resourced across the capital. He informed the meeting that more people die in road traffic accidents than are murdered. However, he felt that in terms of local priorities, traffic issues can be dealt with through the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

5.14 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience raised the importance of vetting new officers saying that the community puts trust in the police to safeguard and if vetting is not sufficiently vigilant you could take on possible criminals and this is a serious matter.

5.15 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood assured the meeting that no one joins the Metropolitan Police without a full vetting of their background. He advised the meeting that the Met had grown from 26,000 officers to 30,000 very quickly and that although there had been delays in the vetting, everyone would be vetted. Moreover, he informed everyone that police officers are vetted during their career when they take on any special role.

5.16 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked firstly how many Haringey Safer Neighbourhood teams are currently located in dedicated accommodation, secondly whether all teams will have accommodation by March 2008 and thirdly if any arrests made at the Carnival.

5.17 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood explained that there are a number of bases for Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the Borough and this means that accommodation is fluctuating within the Borough. He also reported that 2 vehicles were damaged during the Carnival and the matter was being investigated.

5.18 **QUESTION:** The Chair of a Safer Neighbourhood Panel reported a spate of crime around the recreation ground and the golf course and reports of arson and made the observation that the local Safer Neighbour Team appeared to be stretched. He asked if, as Chair, he had the right to ask for extra resources and if so from whom.

5.19 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood suggested that he speak to the Sergeant first because it may be that the matter can be dealt with locally. If not, an application can be made by the Sergeant for extra resources but these are finite.

5.20 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience explained that the council has been working with the Anti-Social Team in the Park and that there was CCTV in place, too. She advised the Group that incidents needed to be reported promptly.

5.21 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that whilst understanding that resources are limited, the Highgate team loses much time in walking from the base in Crouch End to Highgate – the equivalent of one team person per week. Whilst the headline figures are that crime is down but in the first 2 months of 2006-7 (April-May) there was a marked increased in robbery and theft from the person. What proposals are there to redirect Safer Neighbourhood Teams' efforts to countering robbery and theft from the person rather than focusing on low level crime, albeit a nuisance. Secondly, a recent successful operation by a Safer Neighbourhood Team in Archway

Road had netted 4 arrests and it would be good if further resources could be made to repeat that kind of operation more regularly.

5.22 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that robbery had shifted from the east through to the west of the Borough and that at the moment there are people in custody accused of robbing 10 people. He informed the meeting that robbery response has been directed to the west of the Borough and that Haringey's Cue Cards have been recognised nationally as best practice. He said that his officers were also working with school boys and girls some of whom are terrorising the community. In context, however, he assured the meeting that it is still relatively small numbers and that robbery was still down across the Borough albeit that there have been a spate in the West of the Borough with people coming in from outside the Borough. He also advised the meeting that Haringey police solve more robberies than any other London borough except Kingston.

5.23 **ANSWER:** In response to the Archway Road operation Superintendent Richard Wood said that this would be repeated in due course and told the meeting that he was keen to get traffic officers into the Borough and DVLA people, too.

5.24 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that there was a gang culture in the Borough with people coming in to the locality from someone else's manor and that he had noticed increasingly what appear to be signs of areas being marked as territory eg plimsolls, wires, etc. He asked for Superintendent Richard Wood's comments.

5.25 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that this was a new issue and that evidence of "marking" is removed as soon as possible. He advised the meeting that because there has been much press coverage about gangs in London, it is easy for the issue to get out of proportion. However, he said that when there was intelligence action was taken and gave as an example an operation 2-3 weeks previously when a gang involved in firearms was brought off the streets.

5.26 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked for an update on distraction burglary of elderly people.

5.27 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood reported that although this was a pan-London problem with people travelling far and wide to commit these offences, Haringey does not appear to have too much of a problem and we try to act quickly. We work with Age Concern, Meals on Wheels to get the message across but we try not to worry elderly people. We are sensitive to this issue.

5.28 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that it was the Neighbourhood Watch liaison officer who had advised that this was happening. The local representative rang round and discovered he was too late when one elderly person had been robbed of £700 from bogus police officers. It started in the Muswell Hill area and the recent incidents were in Wood Green so it is spreading.

\* A handout from the Hornsey Journal was brought to the attention of the meeting.

5.29 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that in Haringey there were not too many incidents - 25 offences in 10 weeks. However he accepted that whilst in terms of numbers it was small, in terms of impact it was significant.

5.30 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said the most Safer Neighbourhood Teams worked 9am to 5pm when most crimes take place after dark and asked who monitors the effect of ASBOs.

5.31 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that although there are peak times in the evening, broadly speaking crime happens across the day. He reminded the meeting that Safer Neighbourhood Teams were about reassuring the community. He said that Safer Neighbourhood Teams work shifts and are around later in the evening but not, for example, at 5am and that their shifts vary according to local problems.

5.32 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that in terms of ASBOs there was one dedicated officer who deals with the council and partners.

5.33 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience asked how the community gets its priorities across.

5.34 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood said that Ward panels were the vehicle for communicating local issues.

5.35 **ANSWER:** In response to the question about ASBOs a member of the audience explained that it was important in the first instance change behaviour and only if the mis-behaviour continued to take evidence to the Court.

5.36 **QUESTION:** A member of the audience said that the police were not enforcing ASBO injunctions, suggesting that it was a low priority.

5.37 **ANSWER:** Superintendent Richard Wood invited the questioner to speak to him outside the meeting.

5.38 The Chair welcomed the Mayor of Haringey to the Meeting who had been present for some time.

## **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Attention was drawn to leaflets at the back of the room.

## **7 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

7.1 The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19 September 2007** at the Civic Centre Wood Green.

7.2 The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

