

Notes of the Haringey Community & Police Consultative Group

Ward Chairs/Vice Chairs and Partnership Forum Meeting

Monday 23 June 2008, 7.30pm

Civic Centre, Wood Green, London N22

1 Welcome

- 1.1 Ralph Crisp, a member of the HC&PCG Management Board, welcomed everyone to the meeting as chair in place of Fred Ellis. He introduced pane members: C/Insp Shaun De Souza Brady MPS; Enid Ledgister, Haringey CPCG, C/Insp Jon Williams MPS; Insp Craig Middleton MPS and Ian Diditon.
- 1.2 C/Insp John Williams informed the meeting that he would shortly take responsibility for the Borough's Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and would be speaking to and forging links with as many people as possible.
- 1.3 The Chair invited everyone around the table to introduce themselves.

2 Apologies

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Fred Ellis, Sally Mustoe, Sgt Paul Davies, Cllr Wayne Hoban, Nick Day, Bill Guy, Sally Billot, Sgt Darren Green, Sue Grant, Viv Manheim, Insp Eric Monk, Sgt Vegas, Stephen Whittle, David Singh and Gerard McGrath.

3 Minutes & Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 January 2008 were agreed as a true record. The following matters were raised:
- 3.2 On page 2 item 4.29 Insp Craig Middleton reported that a regular newsletter giving feedback on crack house closures and ASBOs issued would be sent to Ward Chairs. He informed the meeting that although the Crack House Closure Team had closed over 150 properties it did not always feed information back to the community.
- 3.3 In response to a request for feedback in relation to the Wood Green Police Station closure (page2); the withdrawal of the planning application and proposed community consultation, C/Insp John Williams said that the police were in business premises in Silver Place and that there would be public consultation before anything moved forward. He said that the counter service would move to the Fishmongers' Arms.

4 Presentation by Ian Diditon: Designed Website for Ward Chair

- 4.1 Mr Diditon explained that a private area, on Haringey CPCG website, accessible via a login, had been created for Ward Chairs. Its key features include General, as well as Ward-specific, resources available in PDF file format for both onscreen reading and easy printing and secure access to information in relation to their own as well as other Wards, via usernames and passwords.
- 4.2 It was suggested that a link for the latest Adobe Reader be included.
- 4.3 Enid Ledgister informed the meeting that she would be responsible for updating information. It was explained that as well as Ward Chairs, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Sergeants would have access to the password-protected area but the Chair opened up the meeting for discussion relating to access.
- 4.4 Some concerns about personal information being disclosed were raised but the Chair assured the meeting that Ward Chairs could determine what personal information was disclosed.
- 4.5 It was agreed that information would be archived with only current information visible.
- 4.6 It was thought that the real value of the website was to find out what was happening in other Wards and that whilst access could be determined by the Ward Chairs, having access was important.
- 4.7 In response to a request for a Notice Board, whilst this would be possible, there was little point in setting up a discussion board if no-one used it especially when the Ward Chairs meetings served that purpose. It could be developed at a later date.
- 4.8 Mr Diditon informed the meeting that a search facility could be added to the site.

- 4.9 The Chair asked for a show of hands by those Chairs who agreed to have their areas open to other Wards and the majority agreed.
- 4.10 In relation to contact details being shared one Ward Chair asked that this be “preferred” contact details (eg email or mobile phone rather than landline). Everyone agreed.
- 4.11 It was also asked that topic headings be added to facilitate finding information.

5 Presentation by Chief Inspector Shaun De Souza Brady: Informing the Crime Reduction Partnership & the MPS Police Strategic Assessment

- 5.1 C/Insp De Souza Brady explained that policing priorities were set by National Government, Home Office Directives, MPS Priorities, Local Priorities and Performance Frameworks. The local priority at Ward level is to carry out a consultation every 6 months to find out concerns. Following analysis of the outcomes of the consultation and other crime data, the Ward Panels are given the results in order to determine the 3 key issues for action by the police and its partners (eg voluntary and community groups) during the next 6 months. This enables the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, the Sergeants and Inspectors to be held accountable for their performance to the Home Policing Command, the Borough Commander and most of all the community itself.
- 5.2 He informed the meeting that the service and its partners are measured against the Assessment of Police and Community Safety Framework (APACS) which is driven by National Indicators and Performance Indicators so that everyone is held accountable.
- 5.3 In addition, C/Insp De Souza Brady explained that annual meetings are held during which decisions are made on how to meet targets and that national indicators and local satisfaction reports enable action plans to be developed, systems and processes to be put in place and a Control Strategy determined.
- 5.4 He added that the service considered its success in controlling crime, the trends, the seriousness and impact of the crime and whether it resulted from other issues or causes and, at the same time, its impact across a range of indicators including, Political, Economic, Social, Technical, Environmental, Legal, Geographical and Organisational (PESTELGO) are considered.
- 5.5 He concluded by saying that the Control Strategy enabled actions and initiatives to be developed to deliver the required level of performance to manage crime in the Borough.
- 5.6 **Question:** In response to a question asking why terrorism had not been highlighted on the list, C/Insp De Souza Brady said that this was because terrorism was a given.
- 5.7 **ACTION:** It was agreed that the information presented could be made available on the Ward Chairs Website.
- 5.8 **Question:** A Ward Chair said that although the key crime areas identified in the Borough are Robbery of the Person, Domestic Burglary, Violent Crime (with a focus on Gun Crime), Supply of Class A Drugs, Motor Vehicle Crime his Ward had identified Safety.
- 5.9 **Answer:** C/Insp De Souza Brady said that the areas mentioned were Borough wide; set every 12 months and reviewed every 6 months. Ward priorities were set in addition to these.
- 5.10 **Question:** In response to a question about how the overarching priorities were reached and the extent to which Ward feedback affects the overall weighting of the priorities, C/Insp De Souza Brady said that there was a great deal of analysis done to arrive at the overarching policing priorities and they should carry a hefty weighting. He added that The MPS and Safer Neighbourhoods value perception as much as statistics and the police service is keen to narrow the “perception gap” so that as well as reducing actual crime the fear of crime is also reduced and that in order to narrow this gap, the service carried out education at local level as well as Borough-wide activity.
- 5.11 **Question:** In response to the suggestion that Gun Crime should read Gun and Knife Crime C/Insp De Souza Brady said that he believed Knife Crime would feature from the time of the upcoming review.
- 5.12 C/Insp De Souza Brady told the meeting that anti-social behaviour was dealt with by the local authority as well as by the police with issues being discussed between the two.

6 Overarching Policing Priorities for the Borough and the Perception of Crime in Haringey

- 6.1 The Chair drew the meeting’s attention to the document entitled Safer Neighbourhoods

Team Priorities attached to the Minutes of the previous meeting showing the priorities each Ward felt were important for the Borough as a whole and asked if these were an accurate reflection.

- 6.2 It was reported that the recent Bounds Green Ward had identified urinating in public, alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour amongst young people as a key issue not only in the Ward, but Borough-wide. In addition, whilst not a police issue, the general bad behaviour of drivers was felt to be Borough-wide.
- 6.3 It was reported by the Tottenham Green Ward that its Sergeant experienced problems when dealing with anything that involved the Council.
- 6.4 **ACTION:** Ward Chairs were advised to inform Enid regularly about things that were happening in their Wards.
- 6.5 It was also pointed out that attendance of these meetings by all Chairs and Wards was advisable and one Ward reported that its Sergeant had done a good job in reaching out to property owners.
- 6.6 The Seven Sisters Ward also reported on the good work of its Sergeant in relation to Anti-Social issues.
- 6.7 The Chair asked if Youth Anti-Social Behaviour, Violent Gun and Knife Crime would become the next two over-arching Borough-wide priorities.
- 6.8 More than one Ward felt that Alcohol and Drug abuse were key areas that were linked to crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 6.9 The Chair suggested that the three Borough-Wide priorities be Youth Anti-Social Behaviour, Violent Gun and Knife Crime and Alcohol and Drug abuse
- 6.10 **Question:** One Ward asked what would happen if an urgent issue arose and C/Insp De Souza Brady said that it would be dealt immediately and that in any case there was an opportunity every 6 months to change priorities.
- 6.11 The Chair asked for recommendations to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the police to meet these priorities.
- 6.12 One person said it was difficult to get through to some Council offices and to encourage representatives to attend local meetings especially enforcement officers.
- 6.13 The Chair explained that a management team is associated with each Assembly but that the various Assemblies in Haringey did not all have the same number of Wards - some had 2, some had 3 or even 4. Consequently some management teams were more stretched than others because in larger Ward Assemblies there could be 28 meetings a year to attend.
- 6.14 C/Insp De Souza Brady said that front line services got together outside Ward Panels to help inform what action needs to be taken in crime reduction. The Sergeants and Neighbourhood Management Team then feed back to the Ward Panel following their own meeting.
- 6.15 The Chair said that despite this, it was important for Council Officers to hear feedback first hand from Ward Panels and asked that the Neighbourhood Management Team attend meetings.
- 6.16 Jean Croot from the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team explained there were 6 officers in the team and that each time they attend a meeting, that was time not spent dealing with anti-social behaviour. She said that there were 5 people in the Enforcement Team and the same situation applied.
- 6.17 She added that the Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeants were good at contacting her and her team.
- 6.18 **ACTION:** Jean Croot said that she would act as a go-between between Wards and other parts of the Council.
- 6.19 Insp Craig Middleton informed the meeting that emphasis was on the 3 priority areas and asked the Wards to help the police service find out what was really happening and how to fill the gaps in each of the Wards. He suggested a small working group to talk about what was happening across the Borough and also said that it might be time to look at the constitution of the Ward Panels so that they consisted of people who can help, offer support and come up with some solutions.
- 6.20 The Chair asked if there were volunteers for such a working group which would meet 2-3 times a year. He received positive responses from Bounds Green and Alexandra Wards. He said they would be contacted at a later date to move forward.

- 6.21 Another Ward Chair identified the need for training on what support was available within the local authority and how to access it.
- 6.22 Angie Buzzacott said she could provide the HP&CPG with access to a training package for Chairing meetings.
- 6.23 The Crouch End Ward Chair reported a good relationship with his Sergeant and PCSOs and advised the meeting that his Ward took action on matters that were brought to their attention straight away. He added that Crouch End was a very safe area with no robbery for 2 months. He also reported active Councillors participation.
- 6.24 The Chair of a large Ward group reported that the Local Neighbourhood Management team in St Anne's attended every one of the Ward's meetings and had been very helpful. He added that there was continuity in his Neighbourhood Team with the same Sergeant and PCSOs.
- 6.25 Another Ward Chair pointed out that crime figures meant nothing without a comparison and suggested that the crime figures chart should have a comparison with last year, both for the Borough and for the Met. He also requested percentage figures taking into account the population of Haringey and London and said that although he felt that he had a good cross-section sitting on his Ward Panel, he would like to see who sits on other panels so that he could ensure broad representation.
- 6.26 **ACTION:** A Ward representative asked that documents be dated in order to know whether we have the most up-to-date information.
- 6.27 When the Chair asked for feedback on the draft Feedback Form some representatives had not realised it was a draft and had completed the document.
- 6.28 Another Ward Representative said that there was good representation from Council officers but that additional youth workers and unattached youth workers in particular were needed to tackle youth issues on a long-term basis. She felt it was important to press for more and better funding and pointed out that Youth Opportunity Funding – up to £15k per project – was not being accessed because young people did not know how to apply.
- 6.29 The Chair said that young people were not only the perpetrators of crime but its most frequent victims. **ACTION:** He proposed a special meeting in the Autumn with youth issues as the theme. This proposal was approved.
- 6.30 It was suggested that some young people be invited to the meeting to communicate directly to the Forum what they want.
- 6.31 **Question:** A Ward Chair asked if it was right for a member of the Management Team to be chairing a Ward meeting and was told that although there was potentially a problem with Councillors chairing such meetings, council officers presented no problem.
- 6.32 Bruce Grove Ward reported that it was proactive in its consultation process and said that Wards in the west of the Borough seemed to be better catered for with teams more prepared to go the extra mile; this suggestion was refuted by Insp Craig Middleton.
- 6.33 In response to a statement by Insp Craig Middleton that all schools had a police officer attached to them, a Ward Chair asked when Fortismere, the biggest school in the Borough, would have a police officer on site.
- 6.34 **Question:** A Ward Chair asked when the street drinking ban would be extended to St John's and Lloyds Road. **ACTION:** C/Insp De Souza Brady said that he thought this had already taken place but that if not, he would fast track it. He advised the meeting that Muswell Hill Broadway would be included in December.
- 6.35 **ACTION:** A Ward Chair said he would like the contact details of the partners with whom the police service works to be placed on the website along with a list of Ward members who they represent.
- 6.36 **ACTION:** He also asked for a presentation on reporting of crime.
- 6.37 **ACTION:** A Ward Chair asked for a hard copy map of each Ward to be circulated and for an up to date chart of Ward priorities.
- 6.38 C/Insp John Williams said that he thought it was important for Jean Croot to have a seat at these meetings in order to provide valuable information. He agreed with the comments made in relation to the need for Safer Neighbourhood Teams to be out and about rather than in doing administration work and said that he would seek funding for a range of administrative support.
- 6.39 After discussion it was decided that it was not appropriate for the press to attend this Forum of Ward Chairs and Vice Chairs.

6.40 The meeting welcomed the new C/Insp Jon Williams and offered its thanks to C/Insp Shaun De-Souza Brady who was leaving to take on a new role.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 There was no other business.

8 Date of Next Meeting

8.1 The Chair advised that the next meeting will be held on Monday **19 January 2009**, 7.00pm at Wood Green Civic Centre, N22. The MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10pm