

Notes of the Haringey Community & Police Consultative Group

Ward Chairs/Vice Chairs and Partnership Forum Meeting Monday 14 January 2008, 7.00pm

Civic Centre, Wood Green, London N22

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair Fred Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Panel members Inspector Craig Middleton Metropolitan Police, Lynn Cobbett MPS, Christopher Enti CPCG, Enid Ledgister CPCG and Mike Bagnal, Anti-Social Team, Haringey introduced themselves after which members of the audience introduced themselves to one another.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from David Singh, Insp Eric Monk, Caroline Simpson, and Shaun deSouza-Brady, Stephen Whittle, Sgt David Bird, Beth Thomas and Gerard McGrath.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 2.3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3 September 2007 were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.4 In respect of item 3.2 a member of the audience asked if there had been a Safer Communities Board meeting and if so, its outcomes. Enid Ledgister responded saying that the Forum's views had been included in the Safer Communities Strategic Plan. Inspector Craig Middleton added that the views would be carried through in a number of different policing areas.

4. PRESENTATION FROM HARINGEY'S ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TEAM ON HOW TO RECOGNISE AND DETECT POTENTIAL ASB – MIKE BAGNAL

- 4.5 Mr Bagnal illustrated the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASBT) by presenting a Case Study involving 20 youths who had been terrorising an estate for some years. He distributed a handout which summarised the repeated anti-social behaviour of this gang which included daily harassment of an elderly person; throwing of paint at windows and doors; smashing up of property; physical violence to business-owners and shop-keepers.
- 4.6 He explained that the ASBT was involved in civil actions and acted on behalf of individuals, going to Court in the place of individuals who are often afraid to take this action.
- 4.7 The ASBT works with other agencies – such as youth workers, Connexions and Springboard who encourage these young people to return to education and to become involved in youth clubs. When such measures do not work, the ASBT takes other action to protect the community.
- 4.8 The ASBT works with residents and in the case study shown, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team Worker met with them in "secret", in cafes, to build confidence. The Worker also offered her personal mobile number. CCTV was installed around the homes of those people who were constantly being attacked. Any breaches of ASBOs were dealt with very quickly. Residents were encouraged to go to Court. The ASBT Worker built a small team of residents who were prepared to work with her to effect change. A case was made to Highgate Magistrates' Court for interim ASBOs prior to a full application being made. The ASBT fought any appeals and made sure that maximum press coverage was achieved.
- 4.9 Feedback from residents showed that the ASBT's measures had worked. Residents said that they felt safe, that the place was quiet and the estate clean and tidy.
- 4.10 The ASBT's enforcement figures for Haringey show that the Team has closed 139 crack houses, effected 20 ASBOs; issued 123 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts; obtained 120 Injunctions and achieved 28 Possession Orders/Evictions.
- 4.11 **Question:** A member of the audience asked what support was given to victims.
- 4.12 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal explained that because the residents were so frightened they would not give evidence and the police could not help. The ASBT stepped in and took enforcement

action. For the residents, the ASBT Worker gave a lot of support to help them feel and be safer.

- 4.13 **Question:** A member of the audience asked if the Worker stayed in touch with the residents and what happened when the ASBOs were breached.
- 4.14 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal reported that the Worker stayed in touch and court action was taken when the ASBOs were breached.
- 4.15 **Question:** A member of the audience asked firstly how long it took between complaints being received and an ASBO being issued and secondly, as Chair of a Ward, how could he find out what youth problems there were in his Ward.
- 4.16 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal said that it took 4 to 5 months to gather sufficient evidence to take the matter to Court. Regarding youth issues in each Ward, data is collected and held by the Partnership and a report is prepared about certain ASB and Crime in certain Wards. Inspector Craig Middleton added that someone from the ASBT could come and give a presentation to the Ward on the broad picture without giving out specific details.
- 4.17 **Question:** A member of the audience asked how many of the 20 issues in the case study related to young people. He said that there was often a perception that crime is linked mainly to young people and that might not really be the case.
- 4.18 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal agreed and said that 44% of issues were attributable to young people and the remainder to adults.
- 4.19 **Question:** A member of the audience asked if victims were compensated in any way for loss of property.
- 4.20 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal said that monetary compensation was the responsibility of insurance companies but that some residents were moved to other properties.
- 4.21 A member of the audience informed the meeting that at the time of the anti-social behaviour illustrated in the case study, the ASBT had funding for a dedicated worker in the area and the Police also had additional funding.
- 4.22 Mr Bagnal reported that the ASBT's case load was increasing year on year which could be due to the fact that residents now know how to make reports and have more confidence in the Team to take action.
- 4.23 **Question:** A member of the audience asked what observations are kept on individuals when their ASBOs have finished.
- 4.24 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal reported that two of the individuals now lived in Westminster and the third had not been heard of since.
- 4.25 **Question:** A member of the audience asked at what stage the ASBT decides if issues are a civil or police matter.
- 4.26 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal said that often the behaviour was criminal, but reiterated that because no-one is prepared to come forward as a witness, the ASBT encouraged people to be witnesses and assist the police in taking action.
- 4.27 **Question:** A member of the audience asked what action could be taken to encourage the cleaning up of dog excrement.
- 4.28 **Answer:** Mr Bagnal said the ASBT could only take action if it was given the names of the owner(s) of the dog(s).
- 4.29 **Question:** A member of the audience asked if Chairs of Panels could be notified of the actions being taken by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team – eg eg X number of crack houses closed, X number of ASBOs issues, suggesting that this information could be disseminated by the Safer Neighbourhood Sergeants.
- 4.30 **Answer:** Both Inspector Craig Middleton and Enid Ledgister said that this was achievable.

5. MPS ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – LYNN COBBETT

- 5.1 Ms Cobbett introduced herself and talked through a consultation document which included a Questionnaire, also downloadable from the internet, for completion and return by mail or via the internet by 11 March 2008. She brought the Meeting's attention to a Consultation Meeting being held on 19 February 2008 and informed the meeting that her work included improving the MPS's service to the public and improving accommodation for the police.
- 5.2 In response to a number of questions, Ms Cobbett confirmed that Wood Green Police Station would be knocked down and rebuilt as a response centre and custody centre. Planning permission had been submitted. The Centre was scheduled to open in approximately 5 years'

time and would provide 40 custody cells which would mean that people could be processed within Haringey rather than taken outside the Borough which in turn took officers out of the Borough. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams would then be based within their communities and more bases provided for them.

- 5.3 Ms Cobbett also confirmed that a review of the Muswell Hill Station was part of the 3-year Strategy. She said that the main difficulty was finding suitable premises and asked members of the audience to let her know if they had any ideas. She gave her assurance that no stations would be disposed of until there was a front office to take its place although she acknowledged that many of the buildings in the Borough were not longer fit for the purpose of 21st century policing.
- 5.4 In response to a question relating to the re-opening of the Front Office at St Anne's Ms Cobbett informed the meeting that funding was awaited.
- 5.5 **Question:** A member of the audience asked why private security firms could not be used to process arrests and a discussion ensued with Inspector Craig Middleton explaining that this would require a nationwide change of process and procedures
- 5.6 In response to a question regarding Hornsey, Ms Cobbett said that Hornsey was not part of the 3-year strategy but it would be considered once the initial strategy had been implementing.
- 5.7 A member of the audience reminded everyone that it was not necessary to physically go to the Police Station to report crimes.

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENTAL WORK OF THE FORUM - CHRIS ENTI

- 6.1 Mr Enti introduced himself and brought the meeting's attention to the Proposed Recommendations detailed in his handout. He read through each Recommendation providing additional comments as detailed below.
- 6.2 Recommendation 1: Relates to the positioning of external reports at Forum Meetings in particular having them at the beginning of meetings so that they can report and leave.
- 6.3 Recommendation 2: 6 People had come forward to be part of the Forum Board, Ralph Crisp, Angie Buzzacott, Andrea Holden, Fred Ellis, Fred Williams and Clifford Rhodes.
- 6.4 Recommendation 3: Regular meetings on emerging issues would be useful so that nothing falls through the system.
- 6.5 Recommendation 4: Training accessed via the website. Chairs do not have to go on training and they can offer the training to anyone who is part of their Ward Panel.
- 6.6 Recommendation 5: The website to have a members area which as well as enabling the sharing information, knowledge and best practice outside of these formal meetings, will also enable Ward Panel Members to access a range of information and Ward Panels to upload information such as Minutes of meetings.
- 6.7 A member of the audience commented that the document was excellent but that there was prioritising and suggested that the website was a key priority.
- 6.8 In response to a question about the purpose of the Directors' Board, Mr Enti said that the Board of Directors of the Police Consultative Group was elected at the Annual Meeting; the Management Board was nominated from this Forum.
- 6.9 **Question:** A member of the audience asked how many members each Ward Panel should have and what external organisations should they represent.
- 6.10 **Answer:** Inspector Craig Middleton explained that when Ward Panels were set up, it was recognised that the problems in one Ward were different from other Wards, therefore the membership will change from Ward to Ward and from time to time because different people can help solve the Ward's priorities which themselves will change as time progresses. For this reason specific recommendations as to who should or might be on the Panel were not made.
- 6.11 **Question:** A member of the audience asked the purpose of having Minutes online.
- 6.12 **Answer:** Mr Enti said that the Group's Administrator could pick up on certain issues and take them forward to, for example, the Anti-Social Behaviour Board. In addition, if ideas come up at one Ward Panel those ideas can be shared across the Borough.
- 6.13 **Question:** A member of the audience said that there was a need to be clear about the duties of the Management Board and the length of time Members serve and whether they are

elected. He also suggested that funding was needed for newsletters as not everyone had access to the internet, the elderly in particular.

- 6.14 **Answer:** Inspector Craig Middleton informed the meeting that the police issue a monthly letter and that an aim was to have a key person on every street/block of flats who receives a copy and then disseminates to the rest of the street/flats.
- 6.15 In response, the questioner said that he thought this ambitious and you would need at least 10 people on any Panel to cover the various constituents of any Ward eg immigrants, the young, the elderly.
- 6.16 Mr Enti suggested that information could piggy back on what Haringey sends out whilst another member of the audience suggested that Wards develop partnerships with other groups who could distribute on their behalf. It was also suggested that the Ward Panels needed something concise eg headline information with a link to the website for more detail.
- 6.17 In response to a question relating to the translation of documents into different languages Inspector Craig Middleton said that it was both costly and difficult to know which languages to do and that the current trend was not to translate material. He added that although Ward Panels were only two years old, they were successful and there was no point in being too critical. He accepted, however, that it was important to keep ideas coming forward so that there was constant development.
- 6.18 **Question:** A member of the audience who met 4 times a year with his Ward's police sergeant asked how often Chairs should meet with the police sergeants.
- 6.19 **Answer:** Inspector Craig Middleton said that this was a matter for each Chair and sergeant and that the frequency depended on circumstances and needs.
- 6.20 A Fortis Green Ward Panel member said that communication took place on an as-and-when needs basis either phone, email, in person.
- 6.21 The Chair asked for and received approval of these Recommendations.
- 6.22 A member of the public suggested that half the people on the Management Board step down each year and this also received approval.

7. OVERARCHING POLICING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

- 7.1 It was highlighted that there was some confusion about what the Police actually want from the Ward Panels in respect of their contributions.
- 7.2 Inspector Craig Middleton said that the police were inviting Ward Panels to think outside of their Ward to help determine the Haringey-wide priorities.
- 7.3 Enid Ledgister said that this issue would be a topic of discussion at the June meeting.
- 7.4 **Question:** A member of the audience said that if Wards were to make decisions about the whole of Haringey they would need more information about what issues were coming up most consistently across the Wards.
- 7.5 **Answer:** Inspector Craig Middleton said that the purpose of involving the Wards was to help perceptions (qualitative information) rather than statistics (quantitative information) influence decisions.
- 7.6 **Question:** A member of the audience suggested that this approach could be dangerous.
- 7.7 Enid Ledgister said that more clarification was needed and would be sought.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 **Question:** A member of the audience asked firstly for contact details of current Ward Chairs and secondly why the meeting began 7.00pm when the rest started at 7.30pm.
- 8.2 **Answer:** Enid Ledgister said that people had asked for a 7.00pm start.
- 8.3 A discussion about the twice-yearly questionnaire took place during which Inspector Craig Middleton said that although the questions changed every 6 months, it was important that the same questionnaire was issued Borough wide and that Ward Panel Members could speak to him individually if there was any confusion over a particular questionnaire.
- 8.4 **In response to a question for** more information about the 2 mobile youth buses that are addressing youth crime Inspector Craig Middleton said that they were part of the outreach work being carried out in the Borough with detached youth workers going into problem areas – estates, outside schools - to offer advice and help to young people. One bus had been funded by the MDC and worked in the MDC area.

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 The Chair advised that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 23 June**, 7.00pm at Wood Green Civic Centre, N22.

9.2 The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Ward Area	Ward Chair	Vice Chair/Secretary
Woodside	Ms. Angie Buzzacott	Vice Chair: Vivian Rodgers
St. Ann's	Mr. Gordon Keenan	Vice Chair: Debbie Greenhill
Muswell Hill	Mr. Chris Hannington	Vice Chair: None appointed
Hornsey	Mr. Quincey Prescott	Vice Chair: None appointed
Bounds Green	Ms. Caroline Simpson	Vice Chair: None appointed
Highgate	Mr. Ralph Crisp	Vice Chair: None appointed
Northumberland Park	Ms. Sue Grant	Vice Chair: None appointed
Harringay	Mr. Ian Sygrave	Vice Chair: Karen Alexander
Crouch End	Mr. Fred Williams	Vice Chair: Blair Greaves
Fortis Green	Mr. John Hajdu	Vice Chair: Terry Rushton
Bruce Grove Ward	Dr. Mohammad Ali	Secretary: Clifford Rhodes
Noel Park	Mr. Gerard McGrath	Vice Chair: Sue Brown
Alexandra Ward	Mr. Lauritz Hansen Bay	Vice Chair: None appointed
White Hart Lane	Sue Grant	Vice Chair: None appointed
Stroud Green	Sally Billot	Vice Chair: None appointed
West Green	Stephen Whittle	Pauline Lighterwood
Seven Sisters	Andrea Holden	Clare Koban
Tottenham Green	Beth Thomas	Vice Chair: None appointed
Tottenham Hale	Ron Dalliday	Vice Chair: None appointed