

KINGSTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD MEETING AND AGM

Monday 4 March 2019

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jude Noronha, Victim Support
Emma Cheetham
Sue Salter
Councillor Rowena Bass (ex-officio)
Francis Arokiasamy, RBK
Prabha Shetty
Jeffrey Nakar, Community Member

3. DECISIONS/ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Noted that:

- No issues or comments from previous meeting.
- Update requested on use of Spit guards. Front line officers can use them outside the station, Safer Neighbourhood Board support contributed to this decision. Spit guards will be rolled out asap.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Noted that:

- Nominations requested
- Recommendation for both Nicola Duffey and Alison McWhinnie to stand again as Chair and Vice Chair. Both are happy to do so.
- There were more than 7 voting members present at the meeting.
- Votes were cast. It was unanimously decided that Nicola Duffey would remain as Chair with Alison McWhinnie as Vice Chair.

5. MOPAC PERFORMANCE DATA: KINGSTON UPON THAMES AND BOROUGH COMMANDER'S REPORT

i) Crime data for Kingston, compared with Richmond, Merton and Wandsworth Boroughs

Noted that:

- Dashboard without looking at numbers concern about pinks/reds for Wandsworth. Kingston has more greens. The same colour coding is used across boroughs. Sally Benatar it is more useful to look at the numbers and increments.
- Do percentage increases prompt any action? Yes, to decide the priorities of different areas and task officers based on where crime is happening. There is a

monthly task meeting to decide where to focus resources. Some of this is longer term planning.

- The figures are rolling 12 month figures and are compared with same time a year ago.
- Kingston figures for non-domestic abuse and burglary for the rolling year are down. Burglary is down 14%, whereas in Merton it is increasing.
- Domestic Abuse figures are up. Robbery and knife crime is up in Kingston around the town centre.
- Inspector Nick Miller – Safer Neighbourhood teams carried out a lot of Domestic Abuse warrants in early December. Perpetrators are repeat offenders. Over 50 arrests made to try and nip it in the bud before Christmas to make it clear Kingston will not tolerate Domestic Abuse.
- Safer Transport to work with the Grove Ward to improve safety.
- ASB has fallen slightly.
- Low numbers of officers in place – only 9 officers recently across whole of Kingston town centre. Figures are small in terms of entire Met Police but sufficient for people to feel safe in town centre.
- Patrols are cancelling rest days and changing shifts so more officers on duty than usual. Policing efforts in Kingston are making a difference.
- John Turner Domestic Abuse/Hate crime encompasses greater than the general perception (see notelet for clarification).
- Juveniles – could board see a breakdown of statistics for faith hate crime? Is there a programme to go into the schools in relation to faith hate crime? Schools police team are active talking about faith hate crime and knife crime aimed at a young age. Could look at trends of victims of hate crimes.
- Are there restrictions to limit purchase of weapons? Crime prevention team works with the industry and follows avenues to prevent items being sold. Should follow up under 18s trying to buy knives.
- Would council consider CCTV cameras in Kingston Vale? It is considered a safe area, but not so much recently. Some residents have evidence from their private CCTV footage, but cannot prosecute. Feel that public CCTV footage is needed.
- Inspector Nick Milton advised contact with the local Safer Neighbourhood team. He also advised referring people to join local Neighbourhood Watch as it is excellent for crime prevention and information. Alison McWhinnie is the contact for Neighbourhood Watch and people can sign up by emailing kingston.nhw@met.police.uk.
- Nicola Duffey mentioned schemes that we have done in the past help to empower residents, without doing a police officer's job.
- Travelling burglars are monitored on approach roads into Kingston.
- John Turner asked about "Next Door" being used by Police? It is, but not to collate crime figures. Neighbourhood Watch is private and secure and it doesn't publicly identify where you live.
- Social media is good to promote new stories, but not to promote safer neighbourhood info.
- Sally Benatar reported on police response times. Kingston and Richmond times have improved. Immediate calls are reached within 15 mins.
- For Feb up to 79% which is an improvement on 76% in January. Due to positioning response cars from start of shift into south of borough so that they are closer for those calling in that area.
- Have not yet reached target of 90%.

Action:

- Nicola Duffey flagged up that charitable organisations exist to raise awareness of knife crime. Any organisation who would like funding for this to let board know.

Stop and Search Data

Noted that:

- More Stop and Search is taking place and more weapons sweeps in schools etc.
- Spread of knife crime is worrying, especially in areas where there is knife crime. Need to tackle public perception of knife crime.
- Stop and Search for February figures have increased but still lowest across all 12 BCUs. The numbers in Kingston higher than BCUs in the west. Not increasing as quickly as others. Richmond isn't progressing as quickly as Kingston.
- 43 searches carried out in Kingston Borough, more than in Wandsworth.
- Carry out specific patrols for knives. Level of crime in Wandsworth is higher.
- 2 Officers per ward for Stop and Search and no option for more.
- Rolled out the Met's plan 11-17 March which includes weapon patrols.
- Officers who use social media don't put out images but state when they find weapons.
- It would be great if Councillors and SNB members came out on patrol with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to get a flavour of what is going on.
- Drugs warrants have been issued preventing cultivation and supply of drugs. Officers often find weapons at the same time.

Action:

- Nicola Duffey can provide more stats to next meeting on Stop and Search.

Public Perceptions Data

Noted that:

- Public has good level of confidence.
- One problem is how to get into contact with local ward officers.
- Neighbourhood Watch already taking steps to rectify this and it will be updated on monthly newsletter.
- Referred back to request from December 2018 SNB meeting for officer contact details which have not yet been received.
- It would be useful to list on website contact numbers for the most relevant person.
- All officers shall put it out on social media, to get telephone numbers out amongst wider community.
- What about older members of community who aren't using modern technology?
- Telephone number 101 isn't always answered. Feels more needs to be done. Sally says calls should be answered within 1 min.
- Suggestion put forward to circulate the officer contact information in large print for those who are visually impaired and board agreed that this would be a good idea.
- Telephone numbers don't change very often. 3 teams have moved from Millbank house to YMCA. Have just moved in and phones aren't working, but this should be rectified.

- Millbank House one of few Safer Neighbourhood bases is now closed. Looking to try to move police offices into the community.
- YMCA is a useful location as it is an area with a higher crime rate.

Satisfaction Data

Noted that:

- In general Kingston residents are more satisfied.
- Crimes are not always investigated as satisfactorily as possible.
- Have to be realistic as Police cannot always solve crimes.
- Have had better results with burglary and robbery.

- ii) **John Turner raised issue of Domestic Abuse and the fact that the more it is reported the more it could deter perpetrators.**

Noted that:

- How can we best disseminate the statistics? Could tweak report so that the council - would give comfort to those who have raised it.
- Neighbourhood Watch may be able to do something by indicating the signs of Domestic Abuse.
- It is very difficult for outsiders to know when Domestic Abuse is taking place.
- Nick Milton: we have a big safeguarding team now.
- Men are often the sufferers who will not come forward.
- Controlling behaviour is also an issue.
- John Turner: issue of being a victim of Domestic Violence and realising that this is Domestic Abuse.
- On the dashboard the Domestic Violence terminology seems wrong i.e. abuse is not always physical violence.
- John Turner feels report figures imply Domestic Violence relates to females rather than males.
- Mayor's report should recognise that boys are affected too.
- Sally Benatar message is that it does affect boys/girls can be victims and perpetrators. Still need to educate victims to report coercive and manipulative behaviour to help make early arrests.
- Police do what they can if victim doesn't want to go to court – use video links.
- Try to put safeguarding in place for men/women – victims often go through 17 incidents of abuse before they come forward.
- Stats are used for key performance indicators by the police.
- If police do intervene at a very early stage it could lead to prevention of other crime therefore leads to a positive outcome.

Action:

- Detective Superintendent Message to put together some Domestic Abuse indicators to circulate via Neighbourhood Watch.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Noted that:

- Neighbourhood Watch is a two way communication system; reports come in from the public every week.
- Pathway is a good sign.
- Agreed that links between CID and Neighbourhood Watch would be established.
- Simon de Pinna would like to deliver flyers about the Neighbourhood Watch. Available from the Safer Neighbourhood team.
- Update on Smartwater: in Berrylands 600 kits were distributed including amongst burglary victims.
- Need to source other areas for Smartwater. Possible funding for Chessington.
- Alison McWhinnie had secured funding for 40 Smartwater kits. Safer Neighbourhood Board has a repeat bid for kits.
- Residents in the Alpha Estate, Surbiton complaining about drug dealing.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Noted that:

- A Met Police community together day is coming up in the Easter holidays at Norbiton football club #together. It will be publicised in the next Neighbourhood Watch newsletter.
- Knife crime incident occurred in North Kingston - Nicola Duffey wants to encourage youngsters to attend a Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting to share their perceptions/experiences. This would give another insight/level of understanding.
- Sally Benatar reiterated that Kingston is one of the safest boroughs but knife crime can happen anywhere.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as Monday 10 June 2019 in the Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall Kingston upon Thames.

Upcoming SNB meeting dates: 09/09/2019, 02/12/2019 and 02/03/2020

KINGSTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD MEETING

ATTENDEES

Nicola Duffy, Chair of SNB, Chair of Canbury and Tudor Panel
Alison McWhinnie, Vice-Chair
Councillor Sushila Abraham (ex-officio)
Lamyae Bennanz, Kingston Vale What's App Founder
John Briggs, Berrylands NHW
Rupert Cox, Co-Chair, Malden and Coombe Residents Association
Flavian D'Souza, Past Master, Hon Co of Master Mariners (HCMM)
Francis Brannan, Community Member, Chair of Chessington Wards
Simon de Pinna, Norbiton SNP/NHW
Ian Wilson, Community Representative
Phil Greasley, Victim Support
Keith Mann, sitting in for Jeffrey Nakar
Ian Roscow, Chair of St Marks SNP
John Turner, Norbiton SNP/NHW
Barbara Smith, Community Member
Sally Benatar, BCU Commander, Metropolitan Police (ex-officio)
Nick Milton, Inspector, Metropolitan Police (ex-officio)
Marion Todd, Relationship Manager, Safer Kingston Partnership (ex-officio)
Laura Nye, Royal Borough of Kingston – Minute taker