

**Whitton and Heathfield Wards  
Community Conversation**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Time: 6.30pm - 8.00pm**

**Venue: Zoom**

**Ward members in attendance:**

Cllr. Coombs: (Heathfield) Vice-chair of the Planning Committee, Spokesperson for Arts

Cllr. Pollesche: (Heathfield)

Cllr. Wilson: (Heathfield) Vice-chair, Finance, Policy and Resources Services Committee (Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector)

Cllr. Humphreys: (Whitton)

Cllr. Jaeger: (Whitton) Deputy Leader and Vice-chair of Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Services Committee (Spokesperson for Housing)

Cllr. O'Carroll: (Whitton) Disability Champion

**Chair: Martin Peace – Manager of Whitton Community Centre**

**PLG Chair:** Wendy Kyle Pope (Safer Neighbourhood Board), John Evans (Police Liaison Group – Whitton and Heathfield)

**Police present:** Insp. Rebecca Robinson, PC Mark Smith, PC Sam Parkinson

**Agenda Item One: Achievements**

<b>Headline Topic: Ward Achievements</b>	
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Cllr Jaeger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Aware of more ASB during lockdown. High St and Murray Park especially. At the end of August there was a serious incident in the Park which we raised in a full council meeting. Pursuing CCTV in or near the park.</li><li>- Murray Hall roof being used by young people to gather socially. Dangerous for young people and passers-by.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fly tipping there has increased during lockdown. Leaving bags outside charity shops when closed is treated as fly tipping as well.</li> <li>- Working with landlords/ social housing landlords on Britannia Lane in relation to fly tipping.</li> <li>- Road safety: Hospital bridge road as safe as possible, double white lines, no overtaking on the bridge. Speeding on Hospital Bridge Rd continues to be an issue. Police is aware of hotspots, in order to increase enforcement. More traffic calming beyond bridge. Funding needed</li> <li>- Whitton Business Association, Love Whitton, offers in Whitton Wednesdays and Festive Fridays to follow in December. Council supporting the High St. with shopping with local traders encouraged</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cllr Wilson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heathfield Rec – ASB during Summer, Friends Group working to improve and report issues. The Chair is having noise reduction material added.</li> <li>- Heathfield Rec has been awarded a green flag and Friends Group is working with Parks Team on further improvements.</li> <li>- Motorcycles going into Crane Park from Hounslow side of the river. Cllr. John Coombs working with neighbouring ward and Police</li> <li>- Vehicles on Hanworth Rd slip road, abandoned vehicles or for sale, fly tipping around the vehicles. Trucks abandoned – to advertise a company. Residents encouraged to petition for parking restrictions on this road</li> <li>- School streets – Wycombe estate – Heathfield School now has no stopping on three adjoining streets, where residents were previously blocked in by parents dropping off and picking up.</li> <li>- Turing House School – construction planning enforcement involved – section 278 by Jan 2021 – crossing to be completed and checking deliveries. Bowman Kirkland letter to residents apologising</li> <li>- Hounslow Heath Estate – RHP safety works on the tower blocks fire safety work. A show flat on the estate shows how the sprinkler system will work in flats.</li> <li>- Zebra crossing by Whitton station repainted. Bishop Perrin School crossing still to be done.</li> <li>- A316 cleared pathway/cyclist path by TFL</li> <li>- Free school meals provided by the Council over half term</li> <li>- 6 month postponement of charged under 18 travel on TFL and congestion zone extension</li> </ul>

**Headline Topic: Police and PLG report back**

<p><b>Jon Evans</b> Chair of Whitton and Heathfield Police Liaison Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2004 PLG set up for each ward. Heathfield ward PLG and Whitton combined including 20,000 residents, 4 meetings a year, SS Phillip and James give hall for meetings.</li> <li>○ Safer Neighbourhood Board has a scrutiny role of the Police. Each ward has a PLG to encourage community engagement with the Police.</li> <li>○ Police resources overstretched. Residents need to look out for each other and report crime.</li> <li>○ Latest trends: unlocked cars, theft from motor vehicles showing no damage to cars, CAT converter theft, 26 in last 3 months for Whitton and Heathfield, especially the Toyoto range.</li> <li>○ Whitton PLG post on social media updates of crimes committed. (Whitton Village, Whitton and Heathfield and Nextdoor)</li> <li>○ Noisy motorbikes in Crane park</li> <li>○ Need for provision of traffic light-controlled crossing between Montrose Ave and Turing House School on Hospital Bridge Road</li> <li>○ Safer Neighbourhood Team need keys for Murray Park Hall to use as base</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wendy Kyle-Pope</b> Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whitton and Heathfield PLG is one of the most successful and well run. Join if you have concerns. Work together with the Police to find solutions with the councillor's support. Need to look out for each other and communicate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Insp Rebecca Robinson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inspector in charge of all Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Richmond Borough. 18 wards now in clusters managed by 5 sergeants and 2 PC's, 1 PCSO for each cluster.</li> <li>○ Spike in crime in the Borough when London came out of lockdown, in line with London generally, but no less of a service to be expected for the Borough despite it being one of the safest boroughs.</li> <li>○ Cat convertors: aware of issue, looking into this, linking with Hounslow in operational work. Safer Neighbourhood Board looking at preventative measures for cars to help secure the cat convertor.</li> <li>○ New senior leadership, Liz Chappell Borough Commander, very supportive of community engagement.</li> <li>○ Probationary officers attached to the ward in the future and some overtime during lockdown for patrols. Also making use of special constables</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sergt. Paul James</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cat convertors: liaising with Hounslow and Thames Valley Police, St Margaret's and Whitton SNT to help with night shifts to pick up on overnight crime.</li> <li>○ ASB: secured rapid deploy camera for Prospect Crescent and Murray Park CCTV to be erected.</li> <li>○ New keys for Murray hall to be transferred from the Council soon for the SNT base in Murray Hall.</li> <li>○ ASB in Murray Park: emergency response team involved, Violent Suppression Unit deployed to Murray Park and regular patrols taking place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PC Mark Smith</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heathfield – cat convertors, move in waves around the area, Police trying to identify pattern.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise complaints about motorbikes in Crane park. Contacting Hanworth Team to liaise on an operation. Sound control on the chair in Heathfield Recreation Ground</li> </ul>
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## Agenda Item Two – open floor questions

<b>Headline Topic ASB in Murray Park</b>	
<b>Question 1</b>	<b>Lynda Hance</b> (Friends of Murray Park) How long will CCTV be in place? Regular car drug dealing in Kneller Rd reported to SNT. Also, there is a house next door to Murray Park which is a derelict property, sold to developers recently, where many young people meet in an old shed as a hide out. Residents have taken action and wedged shut the shed door and padlocked the area. We need the Council to clear up the land.
<b>Response</b>	<b>Sgt James:</b> camera deployment will be reviewed over time Drug dealing: community intel really helpful, and neighbourhood Watch very effective. There is an operation in place in relation to the drug dealing. Recent drugs stop on Prospect Road. <b>Cllr Jaeger:</b> reported empty property, and council did visit the site as Whitton Manor Road residents experience problems. Empty Property Officer to be employed to follow up on derelict properties and bring them back into use.
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Bob:</b> Location of CCTV camera and Police resource in Whitton – PCSO part time only? 80% time only.
<b>Supplementary comment</b>	<b>Sgt James:</b> CCTV will be at the end of alley way at Prospect Cres. <b>Cllr Humphries:</b> several contacts about Prospect Cres, esp. the alley way. Issues in the alleyway over spill onto Prospect Cres including egg throwing. Resident's CCTV footage has been shared with the Police.
<b>Headline Topic Motorbike Nuisance in Crane Park</b>	
<b>Question 2</b>	<b>Liz Allen:</b> Motorbike noise in Crane park. If approached, there is a threat of violence from the motorbike riders, very intimidating.
<b>Response</b>	<b>PC Smith:</b> Need intel from residents – times/locations, don't put yourself at risk – call 999 if threatened. The SNT are working with Hounslow Police which is key to finding a solution.
<b>Supplementary comment</b>	<b>Cllr Humphries:</b> Had meeting with Police Sgt Burke and Mandy Smith from Whitton Youth Zone, in relation to enforcement and work with young people to enjoy parks responsibly. Youth bus going around open spaces ie Murray Park. PLG, Friends of Parks can work with youth programme as well. <b>Wendy SNB:</b> Youth engagement funding for youth bus and other ways to get the best out of local area, diversion from ASB.

	<p><b>Cllr Lesley Pollesche:</b> Meeting with Hounslow Police is an urgent need for the motorbike situation, already have good relations with councillors and Police, but the Police is restricted in pursuing them. Officer can't set chase due to serious incident in from a chase in the past. So how can Police apprehend these motorcycle riders?</p> <p><b>Insp Robinson:</b> Officer's safety first, officer would risk assess the situation.</p> <p><b>Cllr Coombs:</b> Established contact with Hounslow councillors, Hounslow park management have also been in touch in relation to the Hounslow side of the river, A316 and Butts Farm. If the SNT could join together on this that would be ideal. Hanworth team regularly check that area. Regular occurrence in the past as well.</p>
<b>Headline Topic Road safety</b>	
<b>Question 3</b>	<p><b>Barbara Lee:</b> Rodney Rd and Nelson Rd junction traffic issues. Since lockdown traffic on Nelson Rd from the bridge using Rodney Rd cut through causes traffic to accumulate around the Green.</p> <p><b>Jagruiti Roy:</b> Nelson Rd, accident occurred from the bridge, cars speed from the bridge into a blind spot for side roads. Speed bumps in Collingwood Close junction where cars hit speed bump at speed as they are unaware of them there.</p> <p><b>Eric Gilston:</b> e-scooters, (resident Montrose Ave) 3 incidents with e-scooter riding on pavements, riding down the middle of the road, mother and child on same scooter. What is the view of councillors and the Police?</p>
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Insp Robinson:</b> Government initiative that Police should be supportive of e-scooters, but they are mechanically propelled vehicles which do have to accord with the Road Traffic Act. Please report issues to the Police.</p> <p><b>Cllr Jaeger:</b> Understand the issue of Collingwood/Rodney Rd junctions. Council looking at speeding hot spots will check if Nelson Rd is on the list for the Speed Watch programme. Issues of speed raised can be addressed by this programme.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Cllr Jaeger to highlight to officers Nelson Rd issues</b>
<b>Headline Topic: Road traffic problems Hospital Bridge Road</b>	
<b>Question 4</b>	<b>Jeremy Keats:</b> There has been more cycling around the area on Percy Rd, Nelson Rd, Warren Road, Whitton Rd, but the volume of careless driving has made it unsafe for cyclist. Do the SNT enforce laws against bad driving. On the 12 <sup>th</sup> June there was a serious cycle accident with a car.
<b>Response</b>	<p><b>Insp Robinson:</b> Police Transport Team manage speeding traffic. There are also community speed watches.</p> <p><b>Cllr Humphries:</b> There is the London Met community Road Watch scheme where residents can nominate roads to be speed checked and Richmond's '20's Plenty Scheme' do speed watches. The Principal Traffic Engineer can review other traffic calming measures, residents need to feed back – put on email</p> <p>Road traffic incidents</p> <p><b>PC Parkinson:</b> Road Traffic Police working on an operation with SNT to look at problem from traffic point of view.</p>
<b>Headline Topic: Turing House – shared road space</b>	
<b>Statement</b>	<b>Cllr Wilson:</b> Final design of crossing by Montrose Ave and A316 works to be completed before school opens. Network Rail unlikely to do works on the bridge due to cost, but widening pavement in the future on Nelson Rd to Hospital Bridge Rd and will cut back vegetation. Bridge footway is very narrow, but path leading to bridge from Nelson Rd could be widened.

<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Anne Lahiffe:</b> Will Montrose Ave residents be consulted?
<b>Response</b>	<b>Cllr Wilson:</b> It has to go through planning so requires consultation as part of planning process
<b>Headline Topic: Drug dealing on Chester Avenue</b>	
<b>Question 6</b>	<b>George Dryger:</b> Used to be a CCTV, increase in drug dealing in Chester Ave and behind alleyway at Stella's restaurant. Bring back CCTV.
<b>Response</b>	<b>Insp. Robinson:</b> Will look into evidence on ASB/drug dealing, need to make business case for CCTV based on reports around Powder Mill Lane and alleyway behind the shops. Stop and search has been exercised. Identified as drug hot spot. Intelligence gathered. Report to the Police any observations to help build a picture. <b>Cllr Pollesche:</b> keep informed. <b>Question to PC Smith:</b> No Heathfield Police community contact sessions
<b>Supplementary question</b>	<b>PC Smith:</b> Currently in conversation with the Community Centre. New idea to have online q and a sessions. Looking at best way to make contact with residents during lockdown, street briefings perhaps? <b>Cllr Pollesche:</b> do something outside, for non-digital, previously had weekly session at the community centre in the garden space.
<b>Headline Topic: Getting in touch with the Police, Police station closures – face to face contact sessions</b>	
<b>Statement</b>	<b>Jon Evans:</b> Police contact sessions in Murray park outside on Sunday mornings <b>Insp Robinson:</b> Risk of violence ring 999, 101 reporting of evidence. <b>Linda Hance:</b> Could the Whitton and Heathfield PLG be on Zoom? How can you join the PLG online? <b>Cllr Humphries:</b> How can one attend on virtual platform? Regular members get invitation, but how can we open it up to more residents?
<b>Statement</b>	<b>Cllr Wilson:</b> Reason for community safety Community Conversations, due to rise of ASB and PLG's not being able to meet .