

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday 23 January 2024 starting at 7pm
Terrace Room, York House, Twickenham

M I N U T E S

SNB MEMBERS ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
PBS Peter Burrows-Smith	SNB Chair and Royal Parks Link
CA Carole Atkinson MBE	Hampton Hill Association and S&S CMG
JM John Murray	NHW Hamptons/Met Volunteer/PLG Chair
AC Avril Coelho	Business
AJ Anne Johnstone BEM	PLG Chair Mortlake & Barnes Common/Met Volunteer
PM Pam Mcmillen	SNB Minutes Secretary
LP Cllr Lesley Pollesche	Community
SL Stephen Lloyd	Vice SNB Chair, PLG Chair St Margarets & N Twickenham
RM Roger Metcalfe	Met CC
BP Beverley Picton	NHW South Richmond
JP Jeff Picton	SNB Treasurer
RE Richard Eason	LGBTQ
PF Pamela Fleming	Housing RHP
WKP Wendy Kyrle-Pope	MPS Link advisor & LCP2, IAG Richmond, IAG Frontline Policing, BTP link
MS Martin Sands	Hampton Wick / Teddington Community

POLICE ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
CS Chris Scammell	A/Supt Richmond Neighbourhoods SW BCU
JMc Jon Mcloughlin	Inspector Richmond Neighbourhoods SW BCU
CJ Chris Jackson	Inspector Richmond Neighbourhoods SW BCU

COUNCIL ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
NC Cllr N Crookdake	Mortlake & Barnes Common
LS Lee Spear	Community Safety Service, LBRUT

ORGANISATIONS / PUBLIC	REPRESENTING
Eric Afiakwa Owusu	Public
JTE John T Evans	PLG Chair Whitton & Heathfield

APOLOGIES	REPRESENTING
John Dodds	PLG Chair North Richmond
Jock Lennox	PLG Chair South Richmond
AP Cllr A Patterson	Mortlake & Barnes Common
FS Cllr F Sacks	Barnes
Robert Blakebrough	PLG Chair Teddington and Hampton Wick

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Peter Burrows-Smith (PBS) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Superintendent Chris Scammell introduced Inspector Chris Jackson who will be looking after the Richmond wards, working alongside Inspector Jon M.

Apologies were noted.

Members of the public will be able to ask questions on current policing/issues at item 4.

2. BOARD MEETING

2.1. Minutes of the last meeting (25.7.23)

These were approved as being a true record and will be placed on the council website.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

MS – we don't see success or failure rate of police clear up rate. There is no indication of how successful police are. RA – convictions are now called positive outcomes.

*WKP – can we have access to those figures? RA – you can have them. **ACTION RA***

CS – it is a complicated process outside of the local neighbourhood re positive outcome figures. Not really representative, should judge SNT on reductions in neighbourhood crime, and impact on trust and confidence. Rates can be low, and can have a negative impact, but CPS, courts etc all affect clear up rates. Data is on the Met website.

MS – the clear up rate for burglary is about 5%, so there must be figures. CS – yes figures are available, but to discuss here, there are so many complicating factors, which do not reflect work local police do. CS – need to be judged on effectiveness at reducing crime.

RE – success rate – is it sanctioned detections? CS this has been renamed to positive outcomes. RE feels we should see and comment on positive outcomes rates, taking into account other factors. Info is in public domain, would like to see it included for these meetings, with a comparison against London average or comparable Boroughs. If we are out of line, we need to have CPS in to explain. If police cannot provide data, we can probably source it. CS - Burglary team does not just operate in Richmond, work across the full BCU. CA – interest is in local crime re increase or decrease. Can look up sanctioned detections on the Met website.

Cllr NC – drugs figures are not shown on the sheet - are they causing theft and public order offence figures? PBS - if members want a breakdown of figures, please let us know – given preparation resource, it is a balance of providing figures you really need, what you want and what would be nice to have.

CS – have set up a 'combating drugs' project with probation, service providers, housing charities to support vulnerable people, how to refer them, also how to enforce. New unit has been set up to target drug dealing, draw resources together, use intel, use pro-active crime teams. Lot of work going on, also on wards re ASB, closure notices etc. Richmond is not immune from drug crime, but difficult to map the drugs. Multi agency approach leading to reductions in ASB figures, work on shoplifting, arrest offenders, then courts release them, so police put notices on them, fighting a 'revolving door'. Drugs is a driver for lots of burglaries, eg sheds, bikes. Theft of motor vehicles can be organised crime.

RE – should drug offences be included in the priority crime figures? RE – which partners bring knowledge re impact on LGBTQ community, chem sex drugs.

RM – range of specific groups which can be adversely affected by crimes, recognise impact, please write in with specifics to be answered.

JM – drugs is not counted as a priority crime in the stats.

WKP – often use violence to get the drugs covered in priorities.

*Cllr from Barnes – talked about working with Hammersmith, perception is a lot of crime comes from Hammersmith. Would like a Hammersmith contact to come to the next PLG meeting, can police make this happen? **ACTION RA** **Ongoing***

WKP – crime has changed in Barnes due to the Bridge closure, residents feel vulnerable, lots of people coming over the Bridge from Hammersmith and Wandsworth. Need to establish links with Hammersmith police team / council. Chris Jackson is working on this. PBS – there is also a new dedicated sergeant for Barnes. JM – problems from people coming over from Wandsworth, so work is taking place on this. WKP – outlying parts of Boroughs seem less protected. SK – if Hammersmith person is convicted where is crime recorded? It's recorded in Richmond.

*LS - Wandsworth produce a pack of statistics - LS to share with PBS. **ACTION LS/PBS***
CSP and CA, SL had a discussion with Wandsworth re CSP and NHW re how they operate. Wandsworth have moved to NHW website, Richmond will learn from Wandsworth. CA and LS to put together an action plan.

*FM - raised a question about urination/ASB at a recent international rugby match at Twickenham. The matter had already been discussed at length locally and JMc said that it was a very unusual fixture and in future they would take appropriate action for any similar fixture. SL to contact the RFU and Jon Mc to discuss. **ACTION/SL & JMc***
Lineout is running a piece about the value of PLGs to local residents in the area.

PBS – Arms Fair at RFU this week. This year, protesters have targeted the RFU, have spray painted the building, and more have come to protest. 1 arrest has been made. Over next 4 days, police plan is using local and London officers. Police are also in contact with CSP re a plan to work with the council to remove banners etc. Trying to minimise effect of the community.

RE – another Arms Fair is coming up in Feb at RFU, so may also have protests. From LGBTQ community concerns specific. PBS – please write in with concerns.

2.2 Presentation by MPS (previously circulated)

Crime Data (key points) October to December 2023

Public confidence and satisfaction still key (see figures previously supplied)

“Confidence figure” – a couple of results are down, although this Borough has the least number of crimes. Lot of unhappy victims, police are aware of this and are trying to communicate more effectively.

Still a low figure, 12% in ‘knows how to contact ward officer’ and want to get this figure up, through better engagement. Communications and officers on the street will dominate this year for police and PLGs. Still need to do a lot of work on this, still not moving up, consistent figures. Lower than the MPS average.

WKP – shall we try an experiment and put up posters around the wards with contact details, and see if it makes a difference. JM we are trying this on some wards. **ACTION WKP**

Trust figure is down at 64%, JM and CS are working on this daily, getting results but figures are still low.

2542 offences down 3%. Per ward biggest increase in North Richmond 35%, Ham & Petersham 21% and West Twickenham 18%.

JP – are the figures measured year on year or are they seasonal changes?

RE – what can you say re the % increase on these wards? JM - % change is on low offence numbers, but compare to the rest of London, need to go onto the Met website and compare – not able to do in this meeting, this is an overview, then each PLG will break down their own figures. Rog – really important points, but the executive want to leave the detail to the PLGS.

CA - %s can be frightening on low crime figures. JM - Richmond has very low crime levels, people come into the Borough to commit crime, there are hotspot areas, eg car parks, train station. Officers are targeted to the hot spot areas.

CS each month there is a crime fighting board, look at all the wards, will target officers to the area where needed. Every ward sergeant has to set their ward priority and show how they are problem solving.

Priority offences slide compares to last quarter.

Burglary 206 are residential, 72 are businesses, increase overall to last quarter, but down on last year figures.

Vehicle crime, one of the highest figures for Borough, 21% decrease on quarter and compared to last year. 117 theft of, 246 theft from m/v, 51 offences of interference.

MS – last year, lots of concern re mv crime, what accounts for decrease. CS main reason is the value of catalytic convertors has dropped, less value to theft, also cars are using steering locks and faraday cases. Rog, poster campaign is having effect in Kew, re not leaving valuables on show.

AC can understand increase in burglary business over Xmas, what change has caused this.

CS – couple of key individuals have been arrested, which helps figures. JM - Business Whats app group has really helped eg in Whitton, offender was arrested, has helped shops.

Robbery increase in commercial figures, and personal.

Criminal damage down.

Theft – all figures are down apart from shoplifting. MS – shoplifting has been given lots of prominence in media. What is Richmond doing to counter this? CJ working closely with TMI and the Bid, using intel to find top shoplifters, then how to deal with this.

ASB – lots of calls to do with noise. Increase by 18%. MS – are there groups who distort the figures? CS – yes.

Stop & Search

S&S – total 174 stops, 28 arrests. Top search is for drugs, then weapons. Mainly adults, 18-24, white, males.

RE – 25% positive outcome, congratulations to the police for this.

Stop and Search Dashboard which can be found at <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/stop-and-search-dashboard>.

MS – is there any update re the Strawberry Hill stabbing? JM – BTP are controlling this investigation, and it is ongoing so cannot release information.

2.3 SNB Report (last quarter)

PBS introduced the regular quarterly report and, assuming it had been read, asked for any questions.

PBS has resigned as Chair, there has been total uncertainty re the future of SNB for the last 5 years. Hoping that MOPAC will clarify the position. Roger Metcalfe will be taking over as interim Chair. Steve Lloyd will be the lead for PLG Operations and NHW. Jeff Picton is taking over as Treasurer. MOPAC have queried funding procedure, this needs to be resolved. Used to get funding via council, speaking to LS. PBS will still be around to help new board members.

2.4 Priority Setting

After some discussion, Priorities for the next quarter were agreed as:

VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls)
Motor Vehicle crime
Burglary

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CS to finalise and circulate a MPS Action Plan - more visibility, communication and engagement etc.

Themes that came up from the recent meetings were:

Communication

Visibility of officers

Plan reflects this, need to improve trust and confidence figures, especially with specific groups, need to get a local feel again. Thanks to Jeff and Felicity for their help, need to improve metrics, crime reduction and trust and confidence will be the measures.

Getting gazebos, crime prevention, foot patrols. Communication – first Borough to run the specific Whats App group for everyone to join, GDPR compliant. X and Nextdoor are not positive for communication, so have chosen Whats app to post stories, put on stats. Each ward will have a whats app, each month, each ward will have a newsletter. Need partners to push this out. Officers are to be within 20 mins walk of the ward, trying to find council offices that could be used, there is no budget for a police station in Richmond.

Next meeting to engage youth will be at the Wetlands centre to east side of the Borough. Other Boroughs are looking at the template.

PBS – did have SNB plans that were shelved to wait for police report. Major thing is communications.

BP – why are SNB not behind this and promoting it? CS, JM and CSP are working on this and are supportive of this. SL – it has not been fully rolled out yet, and does not work across all formats.

RE – Richmond & Twickenham Times, opportunity to put stories into the local paper and local magazines eg the launch of the Whats App channels. Launch of young reporters competition, could use them to do some reports.

PF – put this out in the last Richmond Society newsletter, keep supplying info.

MS – put info in the TW11 magazine.

4. PUBLIC Q & A

JTE – there is a 1 man crime wave in the area, what is happening about him, as he is generating massive bad publicity for the police. JM – he was arrested, but court has bailed him until February. Police are working with Surrey and Hounslow, he is a habitual offender. SL – re the offender, Nextdoor reactions are very strong about him, he could be threatened.

Cllr NC – can the ASB ward leaflets be posted out with council tax letters? ASB figures for Barnes surprised the figures are so low, as the run up to Xmas there were massive problems. JM – the figures are correct, but if people don't report, it won't show in the figures.

PBS – any comments re reducing time of SNB meeting:

CA – put matters arising actions onto the agenda rather than discuss at meeting.

JP – circulate crime figures earlier and take them as read at the meeting, so that only questions are asked.

5. AOB

17 Feb – White Ribbon walk

29 Jan - Holocaust memorial day

RE - Feb – LGBTQ History month – may do a quiz, but nothing specific planned, theme is Health History

RM – would like to propose a vote of thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith for all the work down the years as the Chair and Treasurer, supporting smooth running of PLGs, working with all the partner agencies, attending all the local issue meetings. PBS has made the meetings effective, smooth and is the embodiment of public service. Will carry on with various agencies and to oversee the smooth handover of the SNB. What an incredibly successful period you have overseen.

PBS – thank you for that, and thank you for the great support I have had from those around.

6. Dates of Next Meetings 2024

NB note changes to April, July and October dates:

Thursday 18 April, Thursday 18 July, Thursday 24 October

Thanks to everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm