

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday 31 October 2023 starting at 7pm
Salon 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
TL Anthony Lindsay	NHW Whitton
RM Roger Metcalfe	Met CC
BP Beverley Picton	NHW South Richmond
JP Jeff Picton	SNB Treasurer
SNB MEMBER APOLOGIES	
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

COUNCIL ATTENDING	REPRESENTING
FS Cllr F Sacks	Barnes
AP Cllr A Patterson	Mortlake & Barnes Common
NC Cllr N Crookdake	Mortlake & Barnes Common
LS Lee Spears	Community Safety Service, LBRUT

ORGANISATIONS / PUBLIC	REPRESENTING
FM Francis McInerny	Heatham Alliance
Eric Afiakwa Owusu	Public
Christina Gore	Public
JTE John T Evans	PLG Chair Whitton & Heathfield
Robert Blakebrough	PLG Chair Teddington and Hampton Wick

APOLOGIES	REPRESENTING
Helen Page	Secretary Teddington and Hampton Wick PLG
John Dodds	PLG Chair North Richmond
Jock Lennox	PLG Chair South Richmond

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Peter Burrows-Smith (PBS) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Richmond Acting Superintendent Christopher Scammell. CS explained that Roger Arditti has been seconded away to work on Community Engagement across the Met.

CS explained his background and experience in neighbourhood policing and SNB liaison. As part of the new program we have a new Inspector Chris Jackson, who will be covering more of the Richmond side, Jon M will cover Twickenham.

CS said that 3 new Sergeants will be joining the Richmond team, allowing an increase in SNT clusters from 5 to 8. Most clusters will therefore be for just two SNTs with two covering 3 SNTs. This will mean more attention to detail on the wards, better support and supervision of officers to drive performance and be more responsive to demands.

Question asked - is this taking officers from other areas? CS – No, this is an uplift we currently have 5 sergeants, we will move to 8.

Question asked – will there also be more PCs? CS - Not yet, but this is good news with more sergeants, less backfilling; there is a new IT system coming in as well, so everyone will need to be trained.

PBS introduced Roger Metcalfe who is taking over the Met CC role from Carole Atkinson. Roger has a police and army background and is very experienced and will be working on various SNB projects including Met CC.

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. TL raised a couple of small points (re filming of meetings, interim timeframe figs)

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 – we want to spread good news via community contact, councillors, newsletter etc. Looking at ward and Borough newsletters, improving communications, use of a standard template, monthly report etc. Jon M – comms need to be addressed and good news needs to be put out, eg suspects arrested, closure notices, must inform relevant councillors and PLGs, get news out to the community, eg travellers being moved on. BP – praised the good news circulation to her and to the ward re travellers being moved on from Richmond Green.

*RE – re school gate engagement with parents, residents, very important area where police could engage. RA – has responsibility for schools' officers across Borough, review across 4 Boroughs, has come back with an action plan. Will update at next meeting. **ACTION RA***

*As an example, in Wandsworth, police have a project to work with SEND children to be police cadets, very positive response and project. **Ongoing***

*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***

2.2 Presentation by MPS (previously circulated)

Crime Data (key points) July to September 2023

Total crime incidents increased by 4.6% compared with the previous quarter.

Top increase robbery by 50% - measured by reporting standards, when investigated some of the figures will not be robberies. Spike in figures 6 weeks ago, but then drop off in figures as main offenders have been identified. Massive priority. Many offenders are from outside Borough.

Increase in vehicle crime (theft of, and theft from) by 1%, which is one of the police key priorities.

Decrease in violence by 2%, proactive work by police response teams and SNTs

Burglary has decreased by 15% - especially commercial properties. Usually a small number of offenders, cause a lot of crimes, so arrests, reduce figures.

Public order offences figure has gone down by 3%.

ASB figures are up, a lot happens around school closing time, and between midnight and 1am. Police work in partnership with council, CSP.

Q asked about breaking down theft figures eg shoplifting figures?

Q asked re difference between burglary and robbery? Jon M - burglary is a person entering a house, robbery is committing an offence using force.

CS – will break down specific figures for areas and the ward PLGs, target hotspots. Jon M – wards will have special ops covering Halloween nights across specific wards.

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.

LS - Wandsworth produce a pack of statistics - LS to share with PBS. **ACTION LS/PBS**

JP – can the information re hotspots be shared out to residents?

TL – Ourwatch website, how up to date are the incidents on it?

Cllr TS – re drugs and Mortlake estate, there are 4 dealers on an estate, cllr has been reporting on this for over a year, and still nothing seems to happen.

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.

Still a low figure 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.

BP – police visibility is important as there is no police station in Richmond, recently a pop up gazebo was put up in Richmond. Police have gazebos they can put up, and hope public come and engage. Need to advertise in advance

Low figure for ‘agree the police are dealing with the things that matter to this community’ – CS concerned about this figure. CA – this is a question asked at PLGs and is generally good. CS need to understand why figure is low in Richmond, do we suffer from being a ‘safe’ Borough.

RM – key points made by CA, effective policing needs increase in resources to increase confidence.

CS have mapped out where wards teams can’t walk within 20 mins. Trying to identify premises that police could use, having a meeting with council re buildings.

Stop & Search

S&S – Top search is for drugs, then weapons. Mainly adults, 18-24, white, males.

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

2.3 SNB Report (last quarter)

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NH Alert – SL aiming to try and get NHW Coordinators onto the new system, SL has been testing it, but it has a long way to go. CA – system is beginning to be used. BP – it is a tech intensive system, and then you are bombarded by general not local emails. BP has a very large network and not everyone will sign up, so will keep 2 systems, also sponsorships are popping up on the system. SL also working on defining filters, if possible, which will allow residents to block the sponsored/national NW mails they may not want.

LS - in Wandsworth a committee of volunteers has been established, happy to have a meeting with Richmond volunteers. BP, SL and LS to follow up meeting. **ACTION LS/SL**

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

Questions raised included:

TL - do the figures for VAWG in our Borough enable it to be a priority? Jon M - yes it does merit it and it is a Borough priority.

RM – what are the feeds from the PLGs re priorities, also fear of crime. Shoplifting is a key issue in run up to Christmas and violence against retail staff, SNB should support retail staff.

AC – don’t forget lead up to Christmas, increases thefts from shops. AC big retailers tell staff not to intervene, just to report the incidents and use CCTV. VAWG should stay as a priority.

CS – Drugs – this will be much more important as a priority on some wards than others.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Development Plan updates – PBS apologised as there had been delays and his initial timing hopes have had to be put back.

CS – the next MPS community event will be held at Heatham House on 29 Nov with focus on young people - at the last event (July) there were no young people. Police also to hold an event at St Marys in November - will focus on VAWG. More events to run next year, need to map out the community and reach into it. Need more diverse voices, part of a wider community plan.

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

PBS – as regards the SNB work, communication is key, reaching out to the community. PF will be working on Outreach. SL is working on an improved PLG template.

4. PUBLIC Q & A

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**

Cllr TP - commented on Specials, the time taken to prosecute “bad apple” officers, council support with local comms and police community engagement work

Cllr NS – asked a question on drugs. She had attended the New London event – biggest issue being discussed was drugs - it is **not** just a local Mortlake or Barnes issue - impact is seen in increased borough crime figures. Do low figures in confidence, relate to lack of mention of drugs in crime figs?

CS – drugs is a priority within Borough, involving closure of addresses, county line interventions etc, there is a lot of work being done.

JTE – are Richmond police having to spend money to police ULEZ vandalism? CS – no, unless it is vandalism eg of cameras.

Cllr FS – has hate crime increased in Borough, is extra safety leading to withdrawals of officers? CS – police have been reassuring various groups, no extra officers are being abstracted.

5. AOB – none raised

6. Proposed Dates of Next Meetings 2024 – 23 January, 23 April, 30 July, 29 October

Thanks to everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 9pm