

Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board

Wednesday, 25 April 2018

@ 7.00pm

Liz Cantell Room, Ground Floor, Ealing Town Hall, W5

Attendance:

PRESENT:

Richard Chilton

Don Tanswell

William Hardman

James Guest

Jags Sanghera

Martin Mallam

Alan Murray

Andy Oliver

Anu Khela

Beata Felinczak

James Lawley-Barrett

Rajat Nath

REPRESENTING

Chair of ESNB - Community Member / ECPCG Rep

Acton Ward Cluster

Chamber of Commerce

Central Ealing Ward Cluster

Southall Ward Cluster

Greenford Cluster Lead / NW Sector

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Victim Support

Community Member

Community Member

COUNCILLORS

Ranjit Dheer - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio holder- 'Community Services and Safety' (Member of ESNB)

Councillor Joanna Dabrowska

Also Present:

Jess Murray -Head of Regulatory Services, LBE

Paula Portas - Democratic Services Officer, LBE

Aaron Clark -Met Police

Ricky Kandohla - Superintendent, Met Police

Natalie Morris - Met Police

Items for consideration

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Councillor Seema Kumar, Sara Kumar, Suzanne Fernandes, Jamila B. Sawar, Wendy Starkie, Mohamed Ali and Susan Lindo sent their apologies. Apologies were also presumed from Sarah Constable and Andrew Rollings.

Rajat Nath was welcomed to the Board as a new Community Member.

2. Minutes of the Meetings Held on 17 January 2018.

In item 6, Ward Panel Review, (page 5) of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018, the presentation by Don Tanswell should be amended to read as follows:

- “Southfield Ward Panel: Things progressing well. The constitution had been rewritten emphasizing recruitment and publicity with 5 new recruits.
- Other ward panels: 3 working well in different ways, with regular meetings, showing positive attitude to recruiting new members.
- One Panel is rumored not to be functioning.
- There were different approaches to constitutions and Panel’s meetings. Meetings and other general assemblies had not all been made public”

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meetings held on 17 January 2018 be agreed as a true and correct record.

3. Minutes of the Meetings Held on 14 March 2018 and 25 April 2018.

The following project update to be added to Sara Kumar presentation recorded in the minutes of the public meeting held on 14 March 2018. The reasons for the slower progression of Neighbourhood Watch Reinvigoration Action weren’t covered at the public meeting (for reasons of brevity), but were pursued at this meeting on 25th April.

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meetings held on 14 March 2018 and 25 April 2018 be agreed as a true and correct record.

4. Lovebox Festival (additional item)

The Chair said that the Lovebox festival due to take place in Gunnersbury Park on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 July 2018 had been generating concern from local

residents, as approximately 40,000 attendees were expected and the crime statistics associated with it at its previous location, in East London Victoria Park, had reflected spikes in crime.

The Chair invited Ricky Kandohla, MET police Superintendent, to address the Panel about the Lovebox festival. Ricky Kandohla made the following points in relation to the Lovebox:

- He would be responsible for overseeing the police management of the event and had first-hand knowledge of the issues pertaining to it.
- It was still early in terms of police management planning for the event, but he could confirm that the dynamics at play for the organisation this year were different to previous years.
- It was a new event coming to West London, different to the London Mela.
- There would be enough stewards present to take care of any possible trouble arising.
- All drinks would be bought within the premises (inside the event).
- It would not be a burden on local police resources.
- Organisers would shepherd people from the Acton Town tube station into the Festival venue.
- Organisers would be managing the internal perimeter of the event.
- Event organisers would be publishing clear messages and communicating to attendees to make clear that no drinks, including bottles of water, should be brought from outside.
- Police officers would ensure there would be a managed dispersal from the event. Jess Murray noted that the area surrounding Gunnersbury Park was not populated by many bars and clubs, which would help with the dispersal of attendees. Ealing Council officers would hold conversations with pub/club owners about how to manage festival attendees on that weekend.
- Police were considering the possibility of imposing restrictions to known trouble makers with conditions issued for them not to be allowed to attend the event.

The Chair invited Cllr Joanna Dabrowska to express her concerns about the Lovebox festival.

Cllr Joanna Dabrowska said that she was concerned about organisers looking at Acton Town station as the only route to the event. Articles and publicity about the festival named different alternative ways for attendees to arrive other than via Acton Town station. Besides, the roads around the station were narrow. Despite assurances from the organisation that there would be enough Marshals on site, the number of attendees was going to be too high to be easily managed. The crossing times at the North Circular would present a problem. Neighbours were concerned about antisocial behaviour (ASB) from attendees. They had not been impressed with the Lovebox management at a presentation on the event.

Questions and comments:

- How would the police deal with ASB on the weekend of the event, when unlike in the Mela, there would be alcohol consumed and potentially twice the number of attendees.

Response: There was concern about ASB in residential areas because of this event. However, whilst ASB would be a focus for the police, it could not be the sole consideration when planning how people were to arrive at the festival. Transport police would be contacted to find out about possible extra services. Gunnersbury Park was a new location for the festival, but with the resources available in place the police would be able to manage it. To achieve orderly behaviour, the event would have staggered start and finishing times. It would steer people off to travel by tube and train. Staff would work until the early hours of the morning to avoid problems happening, not only at the site but in the perimeter/proximity. The police would have recourse to powers to make people leave the site. However, the use of this powers would be evaluated at a later stage.

- How would people be managed in and out of the event space via gates.
Response: There would be separate gates for coming in and out of the event managed by the event's security staff. The venue would occupy only a restricted area within the park.
- Would OWL be used in the policing of this event?
Response: It was clarified that if OWL was live it would be used.
- Would face recognition capabilities be used to manage the event.
Response: It was clarified that face recognition would not be used.
- Could the event be prevented from happening?
Response: The only way to prevent the event from happening would be going to Court. The local authority decision to allow the festival was taken in February 2018.
- Who would be paying for policing the event
Response: it was clarified that the Met Police would be paying for the policing of the event. There will not be PCs inside the event.
- Could the licensing authority impose the payment of the policing of the event on the organisers.
Response: it was clarified that the licensing process does not allow for the imposition of such costs.

The following suggestions were made in relation to the event. It should:

- Allow the use of plastic containers only.
- Carry out knife searches and identification of known trouble makers.

- Do not leave security for the event to the organisation's Marshalls to deal with.
- Locate event stewards at South Ealing Station and monitor other routes to arrive/leave the event
- Use super-recognisers, as in other events in London such as the Notting Hill Carnival.
- As the event had been licenced by Hounslow, ask that local authority to use powers to limit the numbers of attendees.
- Examine possibility of closing lanes of the North Circular Road during the festival.
- Ensure sufficient number of stewards manage the departure from the event to prevent frustration from festival goers and ASB.

Ricky Kandohla said that he would bring the questions and suggestions made by members to the organisers.

Action Points Not Covered Elsewhere;

- *Possibility of requesting that Ealing Council buys Central Ealing Police Station in exchange for the police keeping it open.*

Cllr Dheer informed that he had maintained informal discussions about this proposal. It had become clear that Met police had not accepted the proposal originally made by Hillingdon, and therefore there was no basis to proceed with the initiative.

Ricky Kandohla said that this decision had not been made locally, and that local Met police had been keen on this proposal going forward.

- *Volunteer required to follow up restructuring and interactions with British Transport Police.*

James Lawley-Barrett, ESNB community member, volunteered.

- *Volunteer required to provide crime statistics for next meeting.*

James Guest, Central Ealing Ward Cluster, volunteered. Rajat Nath offered to use the capabilities of his company, which produced statistical analysis and data analysis, to examine geographical crime distribution. He said that such an effort would require access to meaningful data.

Jess Murray said that it could be difficult to obtain meaningful data that was publicly available. Access to non-public data would be problematic. Ealing Council already had analytical systems in place. Officers were very busy to offer collaboration to such endeavour. The Met police at the moment did not have borough capabilities in that respect. He said that ESNB members needed to consider what they intended to achieve and whether they were overstepping their role.

Ricky Kandohla added that with the new BCU system some of those analytical capabilities would be recovered. But for now they had relied on data provided by Ealing Council.

The Chair said that the purpose of such an initiative would be to better understand the nature of crime in the borough. It was suggested that such analysis could be fed into the work of Ward Panels and Neighbourhood Watches.

It was agreed that ESNB members to seek publicly available data and then decide what data would be needed.

5. Domestic Violence (MPS)

The Chair welcomed Detective Inspector Natalie Norris and invited her to present to the panel about the Community Safety Unit and Domestic Violence in Ealing.

Natalie Norris noted the following points:

- The West Area Community Safety Unit comprised three sites supported by three Detective Inspectors, and four teams each with one sergeant and eight police officers based in Ealing (Acton police station), Hillingdon (Uxbridge) and Hounslow.
- Their duties comprised, among others, the investigation of all allegations of hate crime, domestic abuse and crimes against vulnerable adults. They refer high risk domestic abuse victims to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- In supporting victims of domestic abuse there was access to a range of services, such as those provided, in Ealing, by Hestia, Southall Black Sisters, EE and Victim Support-based at Acton Police station.
- Domestic Abuse was defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercing or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender and sexuality. Abuse could be psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.
- One woman in four experienced domestic violence in her lifetime and two women a week were killed by a current/former partner in England and Wales.
- Offences varied and comprised common assault, murder, threatening behaviour kidnap, coercive and controlling behaviour, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, child cruelty, malicious communications, harassment, rape etc.
- The initial police response to such crimes would encompass a duty to arrest (if reasonable and appropriate) and to protect the victim, an investigation should proceed whose outcomes should result on the effective protection of victims and children, criminal proceedings where appropriate or effective perpetrator management.

- The barriers and challenges for the future in the West Area were a reduction in funding, front counter closures and the diversity of communities and cultural/familial beliefs.

Comments:

- From the crime statistics figures circulated to the panel it appeared that there had been a large increase in the number of domestic violence crimes but the sanction rate had dropped. What would be the reason for this?
Response: It was advised that effective partnership work had encouraged higher levels of reporting. There had been a surge in victims reporting from different sites. The probable reason for the sanction drop was the difficulty in finding sufficient evidence.
- It was noted that as most Domestic Abuse was classified under the actual offence committed, and therefore it was difficult to gain an overarching view of the prevalence of this problem.
- It was suggested that the ESNB should try to find a way to devote a portion of its budget to dealing with domestic abuse crimes.
- It was noted that it seemed critical to improve early reporting of these crimes, involving schools, GP surgeries and other relevant public services as much as appropriate and possible.
Response: It was noted that early reporting and awareness raising were of critical importance. Over 30 per cent of these crimes were reported by third parties. Jess Murray noted that a Scrutiny Panel 2017/18 had dealt with Violence to Women and Girls and had found that schools were efficient in reporting these crimes.
- It was noted that awareness raising should be extended to sporting institutions, such as football clubs.
- It was queried whether third party reporting had been developed.
Response: It was clarified that third party reporting already was in place in different ways. An example provided was that of Noise Team Officers looking at Domestic Violence as possible cause of domestic noise complaints.

6. Knife Crime (MPS)

The Chair invited Ricky Kandohla to address the Board on the issue of knife crime. Ricky Kandohla made the following comments:

- There was a considerable level of MET police activity on this area, and currently they were leading a localised operation. This operation targeted under-25s but was not targeted at any ethnic group in particular.
- The West Area Knife Crime Strategy to be shared with the ESNB.

- The four key areas of operation for the police in regards to knife crime were prevention, diversion, communication and information.
- Meetings had taken place with local community leaders, particularly Somali communities, as Somali youngsters were disproportionately affected both as victim and as perpetrators.
- Action was being directed at countering perceptions of 'glamorous lifestyles' by those committing knife crimes.
- There had been two stabbings in early April in Ealing Broadway.
- The MET was looking at making more comprehensive use of Stop and Search powers following the string of knife stabbing incidents and the rise in this type of crime. Care was needed when using Stop and Search powers. However, the Met had gathered support for its use among community members particularly among the worst affected communities.
- Under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, if a senior officer (Assistant Chief Constable or above) believed people may be carrying weapons or causing serious violence in a particular area, temporary powers may be authorised under section 60 (S60) to stop and search people for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments, without having to have reasonable grounds.
- The BCU considered prevention and diversion from knife crime were the key interventions. Additional officers had been made available to tackle knife crime.
- The Met needed community support to tackle knife crime and it was key to have proactive public communication to avoid fears.
- Ealing did not have a knife crime problem comparable to that of other London boroughs.
- There was proactive work on knife crime being carried out in schools under the slogan 'Your life you choose', and in football clubs to divert youngsters from the crime.

Comments and questions:

- It was noted that Ealing Council was also proactively tackling knife crime. A plurality of teams in the Safer Communities department were aware of the connection between their remit and knife crimes and were tackling it transversally (Noise and Nuisance, Trading Standards, etc.). Test purchases of knives were being carried out.
- It would be useful to have a conversation about the use of Section 60 stop and Search powers and its results on the basis of existing intelligence, hotspots, data etc.
- Police needed to make their case for more Stop and Search powers. It was unhelpful of the police to focus on victims of crime at the expense of tackling perpetrators and pursuing crime. The police's first responsibility was to protect the public.

- It was enquired whether missing fathers in youngsters' family backgrounds could be a factor in becoming involved in knife crime. Ricky Kandohla noted that it could be a factor affecting some of those involved, particularly among the Somali community. He advised that the Somali Community Centre was carrying out positive interventions in regards to knife crime, as 22% of victims of knife crime were of Somali origins, when this community made up only 2% of the London population.

7. Police Update on Any Other Issues (MPS).

The Chair invited Ricky Kandohla to update the board on any other matters, including the progress of their organisational changes.

Ricky Kandohla noted that:

- Superintendent Paul Martin had been the BCU Commander since 19 March 2018.
- There would be new hydrogen cars added to the police fleet.
- Following the ESNB public meeting there had been a follow up meeting between the Met police and Hanwell residents in relation to their concerns as expressed in that meeting.
- Mark Hughes was the new cluster inspector for Ealing.
- The Met was undertaking a 'divert' operation with youngsters focusing on fitness.

Comments and questions:

- It was queried what would be the ward allocation of sergeants in Ealing.
Response: Ricky Kandohla responded that there would be eight sergeants across Ealing. The names of these sergeants and areas they would be responsible for would be shared with ESNB in due course. (*Chair's note: Now done and sent out to ward cluster representatives.*)
- It was enquired whether sergeants would have borough wide responsibilities.
Response: Ricky Kandohla responded affirmatively. He clarified that a borough wide response would be a last resort.

8. Crime Statistics.

The Chair noted that the key statistics of interest to this meeting had been dealt in items 5 and 6.

9. Progress report on ESNB projects.

The Chair noted that Sara Kumar had distributed a report on project progress to members. He asked that any questions be sent to her.

Discontent and frustration were noted about the slow progress on the Neighbourhood Watch project, and the difficulty to retain volunteers, due to inaction from Ealing Council.

Officers explained that, at the moment, Ealing Council had no funding for crime prevention. It was struggling to support crime prevention activities. Crime prevention officers were working on high risk work. As a result, more mundane, administrative tasks receive less attention and take longer. The Highways Team also lost track of the need to produce the signs for the project. There were now sixty signs in stock, one per road, and would be going up from 30 April 2018.

10. Any other Matters.

Councillor Dheer said that after the elections on 3 May 2018 he would be standing down from his position as deputy Leader and community services and safety portfolio holder. He thanked ESNB Chair and members for their work, courtesy and kindness over the years.

The need for a feedback mechanism for the ESNB public meeting was raised. It was noted that the communication mechanisms between ward panels and ESNB was not working properly.

It was noted that there seemed to be illegal traders appearing in the Southall area and it was asked where responsibilities for that matter lied within Ealing Council. It was clarified that the Street Trading and Health and Safety Teams in Environmental Services would be responsible for those matters.

The Chair drew the meeting to a close.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Richard Chilton, Chair