

EALING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD (ESNB)
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, 18th October, 2017 @ 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Richard Chilton
Chris Carrington
Victoria Harding
William Hardman
Sara Kumar
James Lawley-Barrett
Martin Mallam
Alan Murray
Andy Oliver
Wendy Starkie
Tracy Strathdee

REPRESENTING

Chair of ESNB - Community Member / ECPCG Rep
Acton Cluster
Victim Support
Chamber of Commerce
Community Member
Community Member
Greenford Cluster Lead / NW Sector
Community Member
Community Member
Ealing Independent Advisory Group
Interpreter

COUNCILLORS

Ranjit Dheer - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio holder-
'Community Services and Safety,'
Seema Kumar - Opposition Spokesperson.

Also Present:

Liam Cahill - Ealing Police
Laurie Lyle - Democratic Services Officer, LBE
Paul Murphy - Safer Communities, LBE
Duncan Slade - Ealing Police

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
(Agenda Item 1)

The Chair welcomed all those in attendance, and asked that each Member present formally introduce themselves.

Following the round of introductions, the Chair advised that apologies for absence had been received in advance of the meeting, from those listed below:

- Susan Doran
- Suzanne Fernandes
- Neil Fretwell
- James Guest
- Anu Khelja
- Susan Lindo
- Jags Sanghera
- Sarah Constable
- Jamila Bibi Sawar

The Chair confirmed the following recent appointments to the Board (listed below), and advised that there remains one Board vacancy to be filled, therefore the current advertisement on the website relating to the vacancy will remain, until the vacancy has been filled:

- Jamil Bibi-Sawar
- Anu Khela
- James Lawley-Barrett

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
(Agenda Item 2)

It was agreed that Sara Kumar be elected as Vice-Chair of the ESNB, and Richard Chilton be re-elected as Chair of the ESNB for the remainder of the year.

The Chair advised that Sara Kumar will also assume future responsibility for processing ESNB projects, in place of Chris Carrington.

It was also agreed that in future Lay Members would be renamed 'Community Members.'

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th July, 2017
(Agenda Item 3)

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the 'ESNB' held on 26th July, 2017 be agreed as a true and correct record.

4. Action Points (not covered elsewhere)
(Agenda Item 4)

The Chair confirmed that he had written to MOPAC asking them to provide him with information explaining the circumstances in which the public are justified in going to a Police station to report a crime.

The Chair said that to date he has received no response from MOPAC on this issue, however, he would report back to the Board when he is in a position to update them further.

5. Victim Support
(Agenda Item 5)

Victoria Harding, representing Victim Support, addressed the Board and spoke about the services that the Victim Support organisation provides, and current victim related issues.

She said that Victim Support is an independent charity organisation that has been in existence for over 40 years.

She said that Victim Support has a number of specialist teams that provide tailored support including; individual, independent, emotional and practical help, in order to enable people who have been the victims of crime to cope, and recover from the effects of crime, and any associated traumatic events.

She said that Victim Support also has numerous specialist teams that deliver tailored support and speak up on behalf of victims' rights, ensuring that their needs are met in the criminal justice system.

She said that Victim Support not only offers help to anyone directly affected by crime, but they also provide assistance to their friends, family and any other people who may also be involved.

She said that anyone affected by crime can talk to Victim Support whether or not the person has reported the crime to the Police. She said that the support offered is free from charge and is confidential, and happens irrespective of where the crime took place.

She said that Victim Support currently undertake a number of different projects, including; the 'Hate Crime Project' which is MOPAC funded, the 'Homicide Support Unit,' where emotional support is offered to families who require it, a 'Children and Young Persons Unit,' which incorporates visits to local schools, an 'Anti-Social Behaviour Unit' and a 'Domestic Violence Unit,' which provides advice, emotional support, risk assessments and referrals to other organisations.

The Chair thanked Victoria Harding for her presentation and invited Board Members to comment and ask questions.

In response to a question from Alan Murray, who raised the issue concerning a recent increase in burglaries to homes in Ealing, in particular the West Ealing area of the borough, Victoria Harding said that Victim Support provides a variety of services to people who have been burgled, including; emotional support, advice on keeping the home secure and supplying burglar alarms and door locks.

She said in reply to a supplementary question concerning the provision of services to victims of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), that whilst ASB is not a core service provided by Victim Support, nonetheless Victim Support do help victims of anti-social behaviour by providing a dedicated ASB support service, which gives support and reassurance to victims, and helps them deal with any problems they are facing in the aftermath of ASB.

She said that Victim Support often carry out home visits, and invite the victim to the Victim Support office, or they can arrange to meet the victim in a mutually agreed location.

She added that some ASB cases can be very complex, and that whilst Victim Support cannot hope to solve every problem, they can do their best to try and mitigate it, and provide victims with adequate coping strategies, and/or refer them on to other organisations where appropriate.

In response to a question from James Lawley-Barrett, Victoria Harding advised that VS Ealing have a commissioners team that assist victims of burglaries, and they provide further assistance to victims of burglary, by virtue of supplying external contractors to install security locks and burglary alarms in their homes.

In response to a question from Councillor Dheer, Victoria Harding advised that these security locks and burglar alarms are provided and fitted free of charge to the victim.

In response to a question from Chris Carrington, Victoria Harding confirmed that Victim Support do work closely with the Police, and that the majority of referrals that Victim Support receives, comes directly from the Police. She said that in each case the person concerned is asked whether or not they wish to utilise the Victim Support service.

With no further questions or comments forthcoming from Board Members, the Chair thanked Victoria Harding for presenting the item.

Resolved: That the Board note the verbal report concerning the work and services provided by Ealing Victim Support.

6. Update from the Police (including Digital Reporting) (Agenda Item 6)

The Chair invited Duncan Slade and Liam Cahill from the Ealing Police to update the Board on the recent developments, concerning digital crime reporting.

Liam Cahill said that a major part of his current role with Ealing Police concerns social media operations and digital reporting.

He said that it is accurate to say that from browsing the internet, to accessing social media, banking and shopping online, that these days, the world is becoming a largely digital experience.

He said that there have been many advances in technology that have accrued significant benefits in how people choose to communicate with each other, for example; mobile phones, smartphones and tablets, and commensurately there has also been an increase in digital or 'cyber' crimes, particularly in recent years.

He said that policing has therefore been forced to adapt, and respond to the digital environment, to ensure that it can pursue criminals, protect the vulnerable, and reduce crime, wherever it occurs.

He said that it is intended that the concept of digital policing will enable the Police to communicate easier, and more quickly with the general public, and improve digital investigations and intelligence by:

- Reporting and tracking crime online – as this will help to improve the Police response to crime and improve the quality of victim support
- Improve the knowledge and skills of frontline officers and staff to address digital crime

- Ensure that there is a specialist capability to respond to cyber-crime.
- Building and maintaining capabilities in the fast moving digital environment

He said that the Police are currently in the process of updating their websites in order that traffic incidents/accidents, fraud, missing people and general crimes can easily be reported.

He said that social media has a big part to play in reporting crime, and this has been evidenced by over 85,000 tweets being recently received by Ealing Police, as well as over 9,000 e-mails.

He said that an 'App' called 'Self-Evident' has also recently been created to report crime, and a video has been produced to promote its use.

He said that the app, which is free of charge, allows users to report the crime without making a call, and allows information; such as the location of the crime, when it happened and the victim's personal details, to be passed on to the Police.

He said that the Police in conjunction with a company called 'True Vision' have also recently launched a 'Hate Crime' app, for smartphones.

He said that the app is free, and provides basic information about what a hate crime is, and provides links to an online facility in which to report hate crime. Such incidents can then be directly reported to the Police force, stating where the crime/incident took place.

He said that each of these apps makes it very easy for the public to report crime, and to make statements and file evidence with the Police in a way that is both simple and secure.

The Chair thanked the Police for their presentation, and invited Members of the Board to comment and ask questions.

In response to a question from James Lawley-Barrett, Liam Cahill said that the Police were currently looking into the possibility of making provisions for live streaming, and uploading video footage for the purposes of reporting crime

Councillor Dheer said that whilst there were a lot of people, especially younger people, who use smartphones and tablets. There were also a lot of people, in particular those who are older, who have fears and concerns about not being able to see Police officers on their local streets, so whilst it is accepted that it makes good sense to innovate and use technology, traditional policing still has its place in modern society, and its significance should not be overlooked or indeed be diminished in any way.

Liam Cahill responded to Councillor Dheer's point by saying that traditional methods of reporting crime such as telephone calls to emergency numbers like; 999, non-emergency numbers like 101 and the use of newsletters will still be available.

Wendy Starkie said that she believes that a lot of people are far more confident of reporting crimes in the traditional way, therefore more needs to be done to provide people with the proper instruction on how to report crimes using modern digital methods.

Councillor Seema Kumar said that she thought it was also important that efforts are made to keep the public aware of the digital reporting methods, and that the general public are kept fully apprised and updated wherever possible.

The Chair said that he understands that the Police are planning a soft launch of digital reporting, and it is anticipated that they will do a bigger launch of digital reporting in due course.

In response to a question from the Chair concerning proposed Police station closures, Duncan Slade said that there has been recent MOPAC consultation on Police station closures, however there has been no clear response back from the Police Property Services department.

He said that this remains a considerable area of work, and all sides are being engaged internally in a complex and ongoing debate.

He added that he was frustrated that Ealing Police station remains in a current state of disrepair, and there have been a number of internal issues with Property Services Division that are still to be resolved. He said he was disappointed to report that generally, the situation is a source of frustration for all concerned.

The Chair requested that Duncan Slade keep him updated of any progress made, and the Chair said that if necessary he would attempt to lobby MOPAC on the Police's behalf, by writing a letter to MOPAC raising the relevant concerns.

In response to a question from the Chair, Paul Murphy advised the Board of the recent events that had taken place at an Ealing Council meeting recently on 10th October, 2017, where Members considered a petition that had been submitted containing 3,500 signatures, and which requested that the Council discuss options to prevent the daily disruption and intimidation of the users of 'Marie Stopes' clinic in Mattock Lane, Ealing.

Paul Murphy said that the Council at that meeting, agreed to look into the creation of a buffer zone around the practice, that would see protesters banned from being within a certain distance of the entrance, and prevent campaigners approaching people as they enter Marie Stopes clinic.

He said that in essence, this is an issue which concerns women being allowed to access a legal service in a safe manner, without being harassed or intimidated.

Councillor Dheer said that whilst he appreciated the Police trying their best to work within the current legislative framework, it is not right that people should congregate outside the clinic, and basically seek to deny women their right to access the clinics services.

Councillor Dheer said that this issue has been on-going for a number of years, and as a result it was now necessary for the Council to take action so that this intimidation and bullying will cease, and to that end **the Council are currently exploring all reasonable options.**

7. Crime Statistics
(Agenda Item 7)

The Chair advised that Neil Fretwell was unable to attend the meeting and present the report. However Neil had submitted the crime statistics for the current period to the Board prior to meeting, in a written format, and the information provided gives Members the opportunity to pick up on any areas of concern.

The Chair said that Neil had commented that crime appeared to be fairly steady across the Borough with no large spikes in any particular area.

The Chair said that in the absence of Neil Fretwell, if there any Members that had any points they wished to raise regarding the crime statistics, they could do so outside of the meeting via e-mail.

8. Disability Access at Police Stations
(Agenda Item 6)

William Hardman reported back to the Board on a recent meeting that had been set up to look at the issue of disability access at Acton Police station.

He said that most of the ground floor of Acton Police station was currently accessible, except for one or two areas of the station, largely for operational reasons.

William Hardman said that there was however one area of Acton Police station that people with hearing/deaf issues do need to be able to access, that probably doesn't comply with current equality law legislation, and this area needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Duncan Slade gave an undertaking to pass this information on to Inspector Clarke to look into more detail.

The Chair requested that Duncan Slade report back on the latest findings and feed these back to the next meeting of the Board in January, 2018.

9. Progress Report 'ESNB' Projects
(Agenda Item 9)

Chris Carrington informed the Board of the following developments made in relation to the projects listed below:

On-going Projects from 2016/2017:

ESNB 2/16 - Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Reinvigoration - Acton Cluster (£4,000).

Activity to expand NW is progressing successfully, with reported growth in the number of street co-ordinators across all wards in the Cluster. In addition, work is underway to try and establish business watches in the commercial areas of Acton.

The latest position is that over 100 co-ordinators have been recruited across the 5 Acton Cluster Wards, and NW information is being disseminated across a wide network of; homes, schools, nurseries, residents associations, and places of worship.

In addition 500 SmartWater kits have been distributed and registered, as well as 1000 NW window stickers that have also been distributed. Lamp-post signs have been erected on local streets with active NW coverage.

Current Projects for 2017/2018:

Ealing Street Pastors (£2,400). This project seeks to protect vulnerable people, and prevent town centre night-time crime and ASB, through seeking to increase the number of 'Street Pastors' available to patrol local streets.

The recruitment of 5 new Street Pastors has commenced, and training for the first set of recruits has now taken place. In addition a further two recruits have been signed up to start training on the next course, which is being held in March 2018.

ESNB 3/17 - Youth Diversion / Build-a-Bike (£3,861). This project seeks to address issues of youth crime and ASB in the Acton area of the borough, by encouraging at risk young people to engage with the police at 'Build-a-Bike' sessions.

The project is now in its third week at Acton High School, and the project has been very positively received, with 13 young people taking part to date.

ESNB 4/17 - Safe Places Ealing (£2,720). This project aims to establish safe havens across the borough, where vulnerable people and those with learning disabilities, can seek help if they feel frightened or threatened.

The project was finally approved by MOPAC in August 2017, and discussions have been taking place between the Police and the Council's Safer Communities Team to agree the finer details of the scheme.

These discussions have now been concluded.

The next phase of the project will be to identify a suitable location for the safe havens.

ESNB 5/17 – Kick it Out (£8,500) - This is a community engagement project aimed at tackling gun and knife crime in the Southall area.

The outreach delivery phase of the project will start in November and should be concluded within 2 months.

A community safety survey is also being prepared, and local Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be involved in a number of events taking place across Southall.

ESNB 6/17 - Hard of Hearing Outreach (£1,350). This is a project which aims to facilitate engagement between the 'Hard of Hearing Community' and the Police.

The first of the 2 planned meetings to improve mutual understanding and communication between the Police, and the hard of hearing community who do not use British Sign Language (BSL), will be held on Tuesday, 7th November 2017.

ESNB 1/17 - Personal Safety & Self Defence (£7,900). This project involves two 8-week courses for women and girls aged 13 and over, and concerns self-defence, personal safety and confidence building.

MOPAC had previously rejected this project, because of the reservations they had relating to the costs associated with the project.

However, justification for the costs have since been submitted to MOPAC, and MOPAC's response is that they are satisfied with the justification provided, and they are likely to give their final approval by Friday, 21st October 2017.

Chris Carrington further advised that MOPAC have allocated £27,354 to Ealing for project funding in 2017/18.

He said that the total cost of the above projects is £26,731 and if all of these projects are approved by MOPAC, there will remain £623 unclaimed, which can potentially be made available for a further small project, provided MOPAC allow supplementary claims.

The Chair said that if any Members had any ideas for a small project they should let Chris Carrington know as soon as it is practicable.

The Chair thanked Chris Carrington for his efforts in processing ESNB projects over the last three years, during which he had done an excellent job.

10. Any Other Business

(Agenda Item 9)

ESNB Recruitment

Martin Mallam said that he was pleased to inform the Board that interviews have now been carried out for prospective ESNB members, and following these interviews three new members have now been appointed to the Board.

Councillor Seema Kumar said that she was pleased to see that the Board has successfully recruited some very able people to take up positions on the Board, and this augurs well for the Boards future.

Stop and Search - report to the ESNB

Councillor Seema Kumar said that she would like to see a further report submitted to the Board updating Members on ‘Stop and search’ powers in the borough, as this is a very topical issue, and one which requires a greater profile.

Replacement for Ann Hunter - Ealing BID

Councillor Seema Kumar requested that a replacement representative from Ealing ‘BID be found for Ann Hunter as soon as practicable.

Operation Bottle-top

Sara Kumar said that during her twitter interactions with local residents, ‘ the subject of Operation Bottle-top’ had featured prominently, with local people wanting to know the current status of the operation, and whether or not it is to continue.

Duncan Slade said that he was pleased to confirm that Operation Bottle-top, which has been very successful to date in deterring street drinking and combating a range of associated anti-social behaviour, remains an on-going Police operation.

London Policy Forum on Crime

Chris Carrington advised that Alan Murray is to attend the ‘Policy Forum for London Keynote Seminar,’ in Whitehall, London, on Thursday, 19th October 2017. He added that the seminar will discuss issues such as: crime trends, crime prevention and how to improve Police performance in London.

Richard Chilton, Chair.
Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.
