

EALING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD (ESNB)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, 20th July, 2016 @ 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Richard Chilton
Chris Carrington
Arwel Davies
Neil Fretwell
John Gallagher
James Guest
Jags Sanghera
William Hardman
Andy Oliver
Sara Kumar
Bob Mahoney
Graham Durn

REPRESENTING

Chair of ESNB - Lay Member / ECPCG Representative
Vice-Chair & Acton Ward Panel Lead
Lay Member
Lay Member
Ealing Independent Advisory Group (IAG)
Ealing Ward Panel Lead
Southall Cluster Group
Ealing Chamber of Commerce Representative
Lay Member
Lay Member
DCI, Ealing Police (substitute for Paul Martin)
Ealing Police Inspector

Cllr Ranjit Dheer
Cllr Seema Kumar

Cabinet Portfolio Holder, LBE

Also Present:

Laurie Lyle - Democratic Services Officer, LBE
Nick Massey - Safer Communities, LBE
Paul Murphy - Safer Communities, LBE
Jess Murray - Safer Communities, LBE (part)
Paula Portas - Democratic Services Officer, LBE

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Agenda Item 1)

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

2. Apologies for Absence

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received in advance of the meeting, from the following:

- Suzanne Fernandes
- Ann Hunter
- Ravi Kurup
- Martin Mallam

- Alan Murray
- Brenda Otto
- Jess Murray (part)
- John Gallagher

3. Minutes of Meeting (27th April, 2016) (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the previous meeting of the 'ESNB' which took place on 27th April, 2016 were agreed as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- Minute No. 6, page 5: Item: 'Police Patrols.' Delete the words "breaking red lights," and replace with the words: "jumping red lights."
- Minute No. 12, page 8, Item: 'Questions to Borough Commander,' fifth paragraph. It was agreed to change the expression 'body armour' for 'body cameras.'
- Minute No. 12, page 8, Item: 'Questions to Borough Commander' second paragraph. Delete the words "new police base," and replace with the words: "additional base."

4. Review of Action Points (Agenda Item 4)

(iii) Paul Martin to report back on the outcome of the disability review of police stations.

Bob Mahoney advised that the report on the outcome of the Disability Review was still pending. He gave an undertaking to follow this matter up and report back to the ESNB at a future meeting.

The Chair proposed, and it was agreed, that the report back by the Borough Commander on the Disability Review, and the review of the Police 'Basic Command Unit (BCU),' stock, be carried forward to the next meeting.

(iv) Paul Martin to look at providing a link from the Ealing Police to the ESNB website.

Bob Mahoney said that providing the link from the Ealing Police website to the ESNB website, was feasible, however it had not been possible to complete this action as yet, as the entire Met website was currently being overhauled.

Bob Mahoney assured members that he was confident that this action would be completed once the new MET website was up and running.

(v) Ealing Police to circulate to all Members of the ESNB - A list of all current active Neighbourhood Watches (NW) in the borough.

Bob Mahoney advised that work on compiling the list of NW's in the borough remains on going, due to the changing nature of the NW's.

In response to a question by Arwel Davis concerning the effectiveness of the NWs, Graham Durn replied that NWs could still be effective in their work, however they would be even more effective if the Police was cognisant of their activities.

The Chair asked Ealing Police representatives if the NW list they had was as up to date as possible, and if it could be delivered to the ESNB in its current form.

Graham Durn replied that the list was currently up to date and could be delivered with the caveat that, the list is unlikely to ever be totally complete due to its changing nature.

Councillor Dheer requested that Ealing Police send the neighbourhood watch list to all 23 Ward Forums, via the Council's Ward Co-ordinators.

Councillor Dheer said that he believed that by making this list available to all 23 ward forums, this could assist in the development of, and provide future motivation to local Ward Forum members.

Graham Durn expressed concern that sharing the list too widely could be problematical, due the fact that the list contained information of a personal and sensitive nature.

The Chair proposed that the neighbourhood watch list be given to the Committee Administrator, and the issue of its wider distribution be determined by Councillors and Ealing Police at a later stage.

(vi) Paul Martin to discuss inconsistencies across the borough of neighbourhood Watch schemes and co-ordinators with Sharon Hayes and report back to the next meeting of the ESNB.

Graham Durn said that he believed that the inconsistencies in the NW schemes were due to variety of reasons developing over time. He said that it was important that a way is found in which to reinvigorate NW's.

He said that at present the Southfield Ward NW provides perhaps the best practice model of a NW, in the borough.

The Chair proposed, and the Board agreed, that consideration of this matter be now concluded.

(vii) Chris Carrington and James Guest to get together to see how Neighbourhood watch can be developed in Ealing Council.

Chris Carrington reported that MOPAC had agreed to fund an ESNB project to reinvigorate NWS in the four remaining wards in the Acton Cluster, along the lines of the Southfield model. He said that if the initiative proves successful, it is likely that it will be rolled out in all wards across the borough.

The Chair proposed, and the Board agreed, that in light of the progress being made with regards to this project, that consideration of this matter be now concluded.

(viii) Chris Carrington and James Guest to get together in order to approach other local authorities who have set up a successful NW schemes to learn from them.

Chris Carrington advised Members that he had spoken to the Secretary of the Hounslow Neighbourhood Watch Association to find out how the NWA had developed there. , It appears that in Hounslow, the NWA had access to some funding which enabled them to set-up a website and a database of members, and hire a support worker, but this funding has now gone as has the support worker, so the NWA is now run by volunteers.

Apart from the use of free meetings rooms provided by the Council, they receive no outside support. They think they have about 500 members, of which about 300 are on email, but as they have to rely on members to keep them informed of any changes in their circumstances, the NWA has not great faith in the accuracy of its database. They have little capacity to do anything proactive, and support and interest in the NWA by the Council and the Police varies depending on the individuals in post at the time.

The Chair thanked Chris Carrington for his efforts, and the Chair said that it would appear that there was little point in progressing this matter, therefore consideration of this matter be now concluded.

5. Community Payback
(Agenda Item 5)

The Chair advised that one of the main roles of the ESNB is to play a part in the Community Payback (CP) scheme, and the Chair invited Nick Massey, from the Safer Communities Team LBE, to present his report on Community Payback in Ealing.

Nick Massey duly presented a report to the Board which provided details of the Council's 'Community Payback Scheme.' He said that each year in London, around 15,000 offenders receive Community Payback sentences.

He said that the scheme requires offenders to undertake unpaid work for the community, which gives the courts a sentencing option which is robust, cost-effective and constructive.

He said that to be considered for community payback, a project must meet the following criteria:

- It must benefit the local community
- It must not take paid work away from others
- No one must make a profit from the work
- It must be challenging and demanding
- It must be worthwhile and constructive
- Offenders must be seen to be putting something back into the community.

He said that each nominated project is agreed at a local level between the beneficiary and the Probation Service, and thereafter the project is managed through to completion by the Council's Safer Communities Team.

Nick Massey said that between March 2015 and February 2016, nineteen such Community Payback schemes have been completed in Ealing, and the majority of these schemes have included work such as; extensive clearance of vegetation and fly-tipping, pruning of trees and removal of obstructions from non-council owned land.

He said that the schemes have been used primarily to enhance the local environment, whilst increasing confidence in tackling criminality and anti-social behaviour.

He said that it is expected that future schemes will also include projects such as applying anti-climb paint to a park boundary's, which will help the police with policing that area.

Nick Massey said that he was pleased to report that the use of Community Payback in Ealing is growing, and the Council's Enviro-Crime and Parks teams are currently looking at other areas in which they can make similar use of Community Payback.

Nick Massey concluded his presentation of the report by stating that he considered one of his main aims of his posts as a crime prevention officer is to train and empower professionals and community members, in order that they may be able to identify environmental solutions to crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Chair thanked Nick Massey for his presentation of the report, and invited Members of the ESNB to comment.

In response to a point raised by Arwel Davies, Nick Massey said that the Safer Communities Team were always looking for more creative uses of community payback, and said that he welcomed Arwel Davies' suggestion to seek new ideas for community payback projects on the ESNB website.

Jags Sanghera said that he was disappointed to learn that a previously earmarked community payback project to paint Southall Bridge, now appears not to be going ahead as planned.

Nick Massey replied that there had been health and safety issues connected with the Southall Bridge project, which prevented it from going ahead.

In response to a question from Arwel Davies, Nick Massey replied that community payback projects concerning litter picking were being considered, where it is felt that litter picking plays a supporting role to longer term plans to solve a problem in a specific area.

James Guest said that he felt strongly that community payback projects, should not be seen as an alternative to the provision of Council services.

Councillor Seema Kumar said that she felt that community payback projects based on clearing litter could be effective for the community, only if undertaken in those areas where there exists persistent and wider issues concerning littering.

On a separate topic, Bob Mahoney informed the Board of a number of disorders that had taken place in London recently. He said that illegal parties had been held in parks in Hackney and Southwark, and that the Met police had concerns about such disorders in parks continuing throughout the weekend.

Bob Mahoney asked Members to inform Ealing police if they knew of any similar events either taking place, or scheduled to take place in the Borough, by calling 101 or 999 if urgent.

6. Ward Panel Review (Agenda Item 6)

The Chair invited the Ealing Police representatives present to review the current operations concerning Ward Panels in the Borough.

Graham Durn said that he was not in a position to review the working of all the Panels throughout Ealing as he was only familiar with those based in Acton.

The Chair invited Ealing Police representatives to outline the Met's thinking on the Ward Panels.

Graham Durn advised that Ward Panels were not Met institutions, however they were supported by the Met. He said that there was no intention to change them, as they are seen as fundamental building blocks of the Met's relationship with the community.

He said that there were however, issues in relation to the Ward Panels currently being staffed by volunteers, and it had proved increasingly difficult to recruit new members.

James Guest said that he believed that Ward Panels were just one component in the overall engagement with local residents. He said that he thought that Neighbourhood Forums were another component, as they also had Police presence.

James Guest said that together with NWs, there was a need to think of all these as complementary fora.

James Guest said that in his view, the two key issues for the effective working of these fora are:

(i) that they are predominantly staffed by older people, thus not necessarily reflecting the views and needs of diverse borough residents, and (ii) that Ealing's population was becoming increasingly more diverse, and transient.

The Chair said that he was concerned that on occasions it seemed that there were not enough agenda items to maintain Ward Panels regular meetings.

The Chair also suggested that ad hoc meetings with residents were sometimes more appropriate.

Neil Fretwell said he thought that the aforementioned fora would be ineffective if they did not sufficiently engage with the latest mobile communication technologies such as facebook and twitter.

Neil Fretwell added that with Ward Forum meetings' now reduced to just two a year, it was inevitable that Ward Panels would in time become more relevant.

Graham Durn said that information on Ward Panels could be found on the Safer Neighbourhood Team's website.

He said that he was pleased to report that Ealing Police now had social media presence, in particular, twitter and facebook pages.

He said that he was concerned that the use of social media also posed risks, and it requires the Police to monitor potential inappropriate comments from the public.

The Chair suggested that the relevant officers and/or Board Members get together to compile a list of the various communication (face to face and digital) fora existing at present in the Borough.

Andy Oliver and Sara Kumar gave an undertaking to compile this list and to report back to the ESNB on the progress made.

7. Southall Issues: (Agenda Item 7)

Jags Sanghera updated the Board on the following matters concerning the Southall area:

Motorbike Crime

Jags Sanghera said that he was concerned that increasingly motorbikes were being used to commit a variety of crimes in Southall, these crimes ranged from theft from persons, to drug dealing. He requested that the Police urgently address this matter.

Officers in the Borough

Jags Sanghera said he was concerned at the number of specific incidents reported, with evidence, by Southall neighbours to Ealing Police, where it was felt that the Police response had been inadequate.

Traffic Infractions

Jags Sanghera said he had received reports of Police officers ignoring Highway Code infractions by drivers in Perivale. He said that he thought this was unacceptable practice by the Police and needed to be addressed urgently.

He said that overall, policing in Southall had significantly improved in recent months, and he wished to place on record his appreciation to Ealing Police for their efforts in this regard.

In response to Jags Sanghera's comments regarding the perceived Police inaction relating to traffic offences, Graham Durn said that it was important to note that whilst the Met was responsible for most traffic offences, there were exceptions.

In response to Jags Sanghera's comments concerning crimes using motorbike and mopeds, Bob Mahoney said that this was an issue right across the London area.

Bob Mahoney said that the Police were currently actively addressing this matter, and were looking at a variety of measures in which to tackle this growing problem, including target hardening of motor bikes and mopeds

He said that the majority of these types of crime are committed using stolen mopeds, and fortunately for Ealing, stolen mopeds had a more significant incidence in other Boroughs. He said that comparatively speaking, Ealing has less of a problem with this particular crime than most other London borough's.

8. MOPAC data pack

(Agenda Item 8)

The Board received the latest recorded crime data for the rolling year to March 2016 from 'MOPAC'.

Neil Fretwell said he was concerned that the 'MOPAC' figures appeared to be at least three months out of date. He went on to highlight that Ealing had a 15% drop in theft of small motorcycles (mopeds). However other crime in the borough had increased, in particular hate crimes, which he said could be attributed to fallout following the recent 'Brexit' referendum result.

Bob Mahoney said that Ealing Police were monitoring the increase of hate crime in the borough. He said that the early indications are that it is likely that hate crimes will subside over a relatively short period of time.

He added that whilst the MOPAC figures have recorded an increase in gun crime in the borough, this should not be seen that Ealing has a particular problem with gun crime, as the incidents concerned were of a specific nature. For example of the 8 gun discharges recorded in the borough, 5 of those discharges had occurred in one single incident.

He said that he was also pleased to report that the most recent figures show that there has been a decrease in burglary, robbery in the borough, and a significant decrease in the theft of vehicles, including motorbikes and mopeds which is welcome.

He said that unfortunately the latest figures show an increase in violence against women and girls. However, the increase should also be seen as a sign that this crime is being reported more than in the past, and is being taken very seriously by the Police.

In response to a question from Neil Fretwell on the issue of discrepancy between MOPAC and Ealing Police figures, Bob Mahoney said that it was possible that the

two sets of figures could vary significantly depending on what dataset has been used to compile the figures.

9. Progress report on 'ESNB' Projects (Agenda Item 9)

Chris Carrington advised that four new projects had been agreed this year, in addition to those continuing from last year.

The new projects were:

- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Engagement - £1,200
- Neighbourhood Watch Re-invigoration – Acton Cluster - £4,000
- Rolling Base – Ealing Cluster - £9,988
- Build-a-Bike - £4,922

He said that currently, there remains up to £7000 of MOPAC funds for which there had been no bids.

He said that he welcomed ideas for further bids from Members.

10. Recruitment to ESNB (Agenda Item 10)

The Chair advised that the following new members; Suzanne Fernandes, Andy Oliver and Sara Kumar had recently been recruited to the Board.

The Chair said that there was still a need to recruit two more community members as well as a youth member.

The Chair said that the recruitment process on the website would remain open, and Arwel Davies would be tasked with assessing new applicants.

11. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 15)

Bob Mahoney asked to be added to the ESNB distribution list, and following a request to the Board, he said that he would distribute an email on the Police use of 'Taser's' in the borough.

Sara Kumar gave an undertaking to run a twitter forum to collect questions from residents that could be submitted to future ESNB meetings.

Richard Chilton, Chair.
Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.