

EALING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD (ESNB)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, 26th July, 2017 @ 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Richard Chilton
Victoria Harding
William Hardman
Sara Kumar
Martin Mallam
Jags Sanghera

REPRESENTING

Chair of ESNB - Lay Member / ECPCG Representative
'Victim Support'
Chamber of Commerce
Lay Member
Greenford Cluster Lead
Southall Cluster Lead

COUNCILLORS

Ranjit Dheer - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio holder-
'Community Services and Safety,'

Seema Kumar - Opposition Spokesperson.

Also Present:

Vlod Barchuk - 'Stop and Search' CMG
Adrian Cooke - Ealing Police
Laura Flowers - Ealing Police
Laurie Lyle - Democratic Services Officer, LBE
Bob Mahoney - Ealing Police
Jess Murray - Safer Communities, LBE

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.

After the round of introductions, the Chair advised that apologies for absence had been received in advance of the meeting, from the following:

- Chris Carrington
- Sarah Constable
- Susan Doran
- Susanne Fernandes
- Neil Fretwell
- James Guest
- Susan Lindo
- Paul Martin
- Alan Murray
- Andy Oliver

2. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 15th March 2017 & 26th April 2017**
(Agenda Item 2)

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meetings of the 'ESNB' held on 15th March 2017 and 26th April, 2017 respectively, be agreed as a true and correct record.

3. **Action Points** (not covered elsewhere)
(Agenda Item 3)

The Chair informed Members of the following actions and developments since the last meeting:

- **'Safer Ealing Partnership Plan and Borough Policing Priorities'** - The Chair advised that Jess Murray has now circulated this document to all ESNB Members.
- **'Police 101 – Telephone Emergency Number'** - The Chair noted that currently there is a charge of 15p a minute for calls to the '101' emergency telephone number. The Chair said that the issue of pricing had been raised a number of times at the Met CC Forum, where they were advised that it is a national contract, not under the control of the MPS.
- **'Southall Family Fun Day'** - The Chair advised that Jags Sanghera, Ealing Police and a host of other agencies had got together to organise the very successful 'Family Fun Day Event,' which recently took place in Southall Park on Sunday, 23rd July 2017.
- **'ESNB Terms of Reference (ToR)'** - The Chair said that all Board Members had been invited to comment on the ESNB draft terms of reference, and that some Members had made comments which were duly noted.

4. **Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group**
(Agenda Item 4)

The Board received a powerpoint presentation by Vlod Barchuk, Chair of the 'Stop and Search' Community Monitoring Group (CMG), which provided Members with information pertaining to the workings of the group, and other relevant issues.

His presentation focussed on the following:

- **What is 'Stop and Search'** – Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 allows a police officer to stop and search a person without suspicion in an area which has been authorised by a senior officer of Commander rank.

This power can only be authorised where there is a reasonably held belief that serious violence will take place.

Using stop and search powers a policeman can stop an individual and ask them their name? what are doing in the area? where are they going? However the individual is not obliged to answer these questions.

A policeman also has powers to search someone if they believe that there are 'reasonable grounds' to suspect that a person maybe carrying; illegal drugs, a weapon, stolen property, or something which could be used to commit a crime.

Prior to any search taking place, the police officer must tell the person concerned: the police officer's name and police station, what the Police expect to find, for example drugs, or a weapon of some sort, the reason they want to conduct the search and why the Police are legally allowed to search.

This is so that the person concerned can obtain a record of the search and if this is not possible at the time, how they can later get a copy.

- **Stop and Search numbers** - Between June 2016 and May 2017, 442 searches using Section 60 were conducted by the Met Police across London.
- **The role of the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group** – The role of the CMG's is to act as an independent overseer of local police functions at a borough level.

In so doing they will seek to:

Ask questions about use of Stop and Search

Review stop and search data in Ealing

Review instances of Stop and Search (written records and body worn video)

Contribute to London wide discussions relating to stop and search

Organise public engagement sessions on Stop and Search.

:

The Chair thanked the Vlod Barchuk for his presentation, and invited Members to comment, and ask questions.

Jags Sanghera said that he would have liked to have seen the figures used in the presentation, broken down by post-code.

The Chair said that stop and search is perceived by many in the community as a tool of harassment, and he was therefore concerned that any support for the use of stop and search will be lost if the recorded figures of stop and search in the borough are considered too high.

Councillor Dheer said that currently there are a huge amount of problems in the borough associated with 'anti-social behaviour (ASB)', caused in the main by young people congregating in local streets, car parks and public toilets; who are making mischief and both using and selling drugs.

Councillor Dheer said he believed that a tough approach is required to combat these problems effectively, and that the use of stop and search if applied sensibly, and with the correct degree of sensitivity, could prove a useful tool in the prevention or deterrence of ASB.

Martin Mallam said that it should also be noted that many of the problems associated with ASB in the borough are in fact caused by mature adults, many of whom are in their 30's and above.

He said that in Horsenden Hill for example, there have been numerous reports of adult males who have been seen congregating in public toilets around the borough, seeking to engage in improper behaviour.

In response to a question from the Chair, Vlod Barchuk said that it was difficult to determine yet just how successful the work of the group has been. He said that the group would continue to maintain dialogue with the police, and will continue to monitor issues such as how feedback from the group positively impacts upon the training of Police officers.

In response to a question from Councillor Seema Kumar, Bob Mahoney confirmed that currently stop and search does not extend to people who the Police suspect may be engaged in the solicitation of prostitutes.

In response to a question from Jags Sanghera, Bob Mahoney advised that regular Police officers and CID officers have exactly the same powers with regards to the application and use of stop and search.

With no further comments and questions forthcoming from Members, the Chair thanked Vlod Barchuk for attending the meeting and for delivering his presentation which Members had found interesting and informative.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

5. Crime Statistics (Agenda Item 5)

The Chair advised that Neil Fretwell had given his apologies in advance of the meeting, and was therefore unable to present the item to Members.

The Chair asked Members to note the report, and he invited Members to comment and ask questions.

Councillor Dheer said that several residents had expressed to him and other Ealing Councillors their concerns at the rising levels of serious crimes in the borough, in particular; knife crime, gun crime and drug related crimes.

The Chair said that he would seek to relay these concerns to the Police, as well as concerns raised by Members regarding the corresponding drop in Police manpower in the borough.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

6. Update from the Police (Agenda Item 6)

The Chair invited the Police to appraise the Board of any developments and any areas of concern in the borough, with particular emphasis on issues relating to gangs and knife crime within the borough.

Adrian Cooke from Ealing Police said that the highlights of the current crime trends of the past year are as follows:

Gun discharges in the borough have reduced from 18 to 12, which are very low, the 4th lowest in fact in the Met police area.

The figures recorded in the borough in respect of knife crime for under 25's with injury are roughly the same as last year, however South Acton and Southall Broadway remain borough trouble spots.

The figures recorded in the borough in respect of knife crime for over 25's has been reduced. Whereas knife crime overall in the Met area has gone up significantly by 24%.

22% of knife victims in the borough are gang related.

Adrian Cooke said that one of the biggest problems currently facing Ealing Police is the spectre of cross border gangs operating in the area.

In particular gangs from Hammersmith and Fulham, as well as Harrow.

He said that the Police have made a concerted effort to address gang related crime in the borough, and actions they have taken include: hosting special gang meetings every 2 weeks, seeking to actively engage with young people, parents, gang members, and wherever possible combine their efforts with local partnership agencies.

Bob Mahoney said that fortunately Ealing does not currently have a serious gang problem. He said that gang activity in the borough remains relatively low in comparison to other boroughs across London, and Ealing is rated 27 out of 32 London boroughs in terms of numbers of active street gang membership.

He said that there were however various nebulous groups operating in the Ealing area, who come together sporadically, and this can at times make it more difficult for the Police to effectively target their operations.

Bob Mahoney said that the Council and local partner agencies should be congratulated on their engagement policies, and for assisting the Police in effectively combating gang activity in the borough.

The Chair thanked Adrian Cooke and Bob Mahoney for their verbal feedback and invited Members to comment and ask questions.

Councillor Seema Kumar said that she was concerned at the recorded increase in domestic violence incidents in the borough, and that she feared that there may still be some women victims who are still not coming forward to report due to reasons to do with culture or family.

In response Bob Mahoney said that the Police have at their disposal domestic violence protection orders, which to date have proved very useful in tackling domestic violence incidents.

He said that in addition body worn cameras are proving to be a very useful tool. He added that the biggest challenge currently to the Police in matters concerning domestic violence is getting the trust of the victim.

In response to a question from Jags Sanghera, Bob Mahoney said that the increase in crime figures are commensurate with the recent improved lines of reporting, and a lot of the crimes that have seen increases are those traditionally considered lower level crimes, such as common assault and/or actual bodily harm (ABH).

Jags Sanghera said that the Police and the Council should be congratulated for their joint efforts and partnership in effectively combating crime in the borough.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

7. Progress Report 'ESNB' Projects (Agenda Item 7)

In the absence of the Vice-Chair, the Chair informed the Board of the following developments made in relation to the projects listed below, some of which have since been approved by MOPAC:

ESNB 2/17 - Ealing Street Pastors (£2,400). This project seeks to protect vulnerable people and prevent town centre night-time crime and ASB through increasing the number of Street Pastors available to patrol local streets. The recruitment of 5 new Street Pastors is underway, and it is expected that training for the first set of recruits will take place in early September 2017.

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 sessions are scheduled to commence at Acton High School on 22 September, 2017.

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.

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. This project awaits MOPAC approval.

ESNB 1/17 - Personal Safety & Self Defence (£7,900). This project involves two 8-week courses for women and girls aged 13 and over (no upper age limit) and concerns self-defence, personal safety and confidence building.

The Chair informed Members that MOPAC had previously rejected this project because they had reservations over some of the costs associated with this project. The Chair added that justification for the costs have since been submitted to MOPAC, and their response is awaited.

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 are frightened or feel threatened.

The Chair advised that MOPAC have given their approval to this project in principle, subject to clarification of the need to register with a national database. Justification for this has now been provided to MOPAC, and their response is awaited.

The Chair 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 the projects listed above are approved by MOPAC, there will remain £623 unclaimed which is potentially available for a further small project.

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.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

8. ESNB Terms of Reference and Succession Planning (Agenda Item 8)

The Chair advised that he had been liaising with MOPAC regarding any stipulations concerning a maximum fixed term of Membership for ESNB representatives, however nothing conclusive has yet been determined with regards to this matter.

The Chair said that Martin Mallam had previously suggested that Membership of the Board be extended for a fixed term from 3 years as it is at present, to 4 years.

The Chair said that MOPAC have recently shown some resistance to formally changing the tenure of Board members, although they do appear to acknowledge that some form of interim arrangement will be required.

The Chair said that he would like to propose that the term of office of the current Board members is extended by another year, with the exception of Ravi Kurup with whom there had been no contact with for some time. However, those Members who do not wish to have their term extended should let him know as soon as possible.

The Chair added that those Members who are currently on the Board on a “as appointed” basis, and are not affected by the fixed term proposals.

The Chair further advised that Chris Carrington’s term of office as a ward panel chair ends in September 2017, and this effectively ends not only his Board membership, but also his position as vice chair of the ESNB.

The Chair asked that if there was anybody who was interested in taking up this role then they should let him know. He added that previously it had been customary for the vice-chair to take on the administration of ESNB projects, although it is possible that this role could be performed by any Member of the Board, subject to their ability and their willingness to commit to the role.

The Chair said that he would also like to vacate his current role in the not too distant future, and if there was anyone interested in taking on the role of Chair they should let him know as soon as possible.

The Chair invited Members to comment.

Councillor Seema Kumar said that given the scale of the task at hand, it would prove expedient for more than one ESNB Member to take on the responsibility for administering ESNB projects.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9. Any Other Business

(Agenda Item 9)

Public Access and Engagement Strategy

The Chair advised that a draft ‘Public Access and Engagement Strategy’ has recently been published which sets out a number of proposed changes to the way the Police seek to engage with the public, and amongst these proposals are changes to the way in which front counters in Police stations across London will operate in future.

The Chair said that he was concerned that the likelihood of these changes will be that there will be further closures of police stations in London.

The Chair said that as a consequence, he was considering writing to MOPAC to ask them to advise on what they deem to be the reasons Members of the public should seek to go to a Police station, as this would provide a measure of clarity, as well as a basis for meaningful debate on the practicalities of the future functions of Police stations in London.

Pavement Cycling/Cyclists

Sara Kumar informed Members that she had recently been tweeting residents and requesting that they submit questions for the Police. She said that one of the recurring issues raised by local residents had been problems relating to pavement cyclists in the borough.

Bob Mahoney said that the Police do not currently have resources available in which to apprehend pavement cyclists, however, where the Police do encounter pavement cyclists they have been instructed to tackle the issue accordingly.

Bob Mahoney said that where residents perceive a persistent problem with pavement cyclists in their respective areas, they should alert their local 'DWO's.

Door-step scams

Bob Mahoney said that this issue was proving an increasing problem throughout the borough and to counteract this information relating to door step scams can be found on-line on the 'Home Office' website, 'as well as on the website of popular high street banks.

Bob Mahoney said that 'Operation Falcon,' is a further tool that can be used by the Police to counter act fraud and door step scams, and he wished to assure the Board that the Police will seek to use all the necessary legislation, tactics and lawful tricks at their disposal in order to tackle these crimes.

Jess Murray said that the Council have also done a lot of work to counteract door-step scams, namely its sheltered housing prevention of crime initiatives.

Public spaces protection orders (PSPO)

Jags Sanghera said that it was his understanding that a public consultation process is underway for creating a public spaces protection order (PSPO), in Southall.

Bob Mahoney gave an undertaking to check on the status of all current PSPO's in the borough, including any that are being proposed, and report back his findings to the next meeting of the Board.

Southall Broadway

Jags Sanghera said that he was concerned that the area of Southall Broadway was being under resourced from a Police manpower perspective, and this had resulted in yet more crime taking place in the area recently.

In response Bob Mahoney said that the Police currently have several huge commitments that they are being urgently required address, and that their resources were being severely stretched, the latest being the ‘Grenfell Tower’ tragedy, and other counter terrorism initiatives.

Bob Mahoney said that the Police are acutely aware of the problems that affect Southall, and they will continue to prioritise Southall as a borough crime spot.

Met Police Funday - Southall

Jags Sanghera advised that the Met Police Funday in Southall had taken place on Sunday, 23rd July, 2017 and he was pleased to report that the event had been an unqualified success.

Jags Sanghera said that he wished to thank all those local businesses who had taken part and supported the event, as well as Ealing Council who too had been very supportive.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Richard Chilton, Chair.
Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

