

## **EALING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at 7:00 pm, Elizabeth Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall.

### **MINUTES**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Chilton	Chair
Jamila Bibi-Sawar	Community Member
James Guest	Ealing Ward Cluster Representative
William Hardman	London Chamber of Commerce Representative
Anu Khela	Community Member
Martin Mallam	Greenford Ward Cluster Representative
Alan Murray	Community Member
Jags Sanghera	Southall Ward Cluster Representative
Andy Oliver	Community Member
Wendy Starkie	Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

#### **EALING COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Joanna Dabrowska	Ward Councillor (Ealing Common) (Not on ESNB)
Councillor Seema Kumar	Shadow Cabinet Portfolio Holder — Council Services and Safer Communities

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the following ESNB Members: Sara Kumar (Vice-Chair), Councillor Joanna Camadoo, Sarah Constable, Andrew Rollings, Beata Felinczak, Don Tanswell, Suzanne Fernandes, James Lawley-Barrett, Mohamed Ali, Susan Lindo and Rajat Nath.

#### **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES**

Charlotte Brand	Constable (PC)
Ricky Kandohla	Superintendent
Richard Watkinson	Chief Inspector

#### **IN ATTENDANCE — EALING COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Mwim Chellah	Democratic Services Officer
Jess Murray	Head of Community Safety, Tenancies and Regulatory Operations

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and introduced Ealing Safety Neighbourhood Board (ESNB) Members who were present. There were 30 members of the public in attendance.

## **2. Presentation by ESNB – Role, Achievements and Projects**

The Chair gave a presentation on the Board's role, achievements and projects. Presentation slides were appended to the agenda. The role of the ESNB was to provide local challenge to the Police, however, it did not have any formal powers. All members were volunteers and comprised: Ward Councillors; Ward panel representatives from each cluster in the borough; young people representative; victim support; business representatives; and community representatives.

Board Meetings were held every three months. Members of the public who wished to join the Board could apply online, via the ESNB website.

The Board had recently updated its Terms of Reference to bring them up-to-date and reflect changes to legislation, particularly on data protection.

Two projects were being undertaken. The first was on “personal safety and self-defence” (targeting vulnerable abused women and girls, which aimed at empowering them take control of their lives). The second was on “crossing boundaries” (to enable some in the community to access appropriate support to meet their needs). The former had been funded to the tune of £17 948, while the latter received £3 790.

Members of the public with ideas for possible funding could channel them to the Board.

## **3. Questions to ESNB from the Public**

There were no questions from the public on the ESNB's role, achievements and projects.

## **4. Presentation by the Police (Metropolitan Police Service)**

Superintendent Ricky Kandohla gave a presentation on the West Area policing services. This covered three boroughs – Ealing, Hounslow and Hillingdon. The West Basic Command Unit (BCU) was one of the most diverse in the MPS, and the UK. The BCU wanted to optimise service delivery to residents of the West Area through collaboration with partners and communities by putting “safeguarding” at the centre. Furthermore, in times of austerity, it was important to work collaboratively and identify economies of scale, where responsibilities and resources could be shared. There was a national crisis involving youth violence – particularly knife crime. There was also a spike in anti-social behaviour. Therefore, it was paramount that safeguarding needs permeated through the policing agenda and remained high on priorities.

It was for that reason that “Section 60” measures had recently been instituted in Ealing. (Under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice Act, this can be issued for a specified time and area. During that period Police Officers do not need reasonable grounds to “stop and search” any individual.) In Ealing the notice had been “intelligence-led” due to some “groups” intending to “settle differences” in the borough. This had resulted in some arrests and confiscation of knives and other dangerous weapons – possibly saving lives in the process.

Neighbourhood policing, with its dedicated Ward Police Officers, would be ring-fenced from abstractions as much as possible. However, with the imminent withdrawal of the UK from the EU (“Brexit”), it was envisaged that some Officers could be affected by abstractions. It was not yet clear how the Brexit debate in London would impact local policing, and if further resources would be required to deal with any unrest.

The Police would focus on community engagement, particularly to improve communication. This would better identify vulnerability and risk among the youth and other groups, so as to provide them with better service. This would be achieved through local consultation – a “virtual front door” that would offer more efficient referral, support, information sharing and partnership engagement.

## **5. Questions to the Police from the Public**

A member of the public requested that their unanimous appreciation of the work of the MPS in the borough, under Superintendent Ricky Kandohla, be noted.

A member of the public queried whether there was a correlation between Police numbers and the rise in crime, particularly anti-social behaviour. The Commissioner of the MPS was quoted in press reports linking the “rise in violent crime” to Police numbers. What was the BCU in Ealing doing to ensure that Police numbers were adequate to effectively police the borough?

Superintendent Kandohla noted that, whilst there could be a link between Police numbers and the rise in violent crime, the Police in the borough would receive 32 new staff who would be joining in the coming few weeks. Furthermore, the BCU had established a flexible team that could be deployed quickly across the borough if required. The team received regular feeds from the communications room to respond swiftly to incidents.

Moreover, abstractions may be necessitated because of the current “Brexit” debate in the country. Thus, Police resources could be called upon to deal with public safety concerns. However, any abstractions would be kept to a minimum, wherever possible.

Another member of the public remarked that communication between the Police and the public could be improved.

Superintendent Kandohla informed the meeting that the Police were working on improving issues with the current IT problems affecting tablets, and wireless connection in Police

Stations. Communication with the public was also being reviewed. This was constantly improving through regular updates on social media, such as Twitter, Facebook and OWL. Furthermore, Police attendance at Ward Forums was being reviewed to make it more regular, and represented by more senior Officers.

There were also a lot of information on the Police website, which members of the public could access.

There was concern from a Hanger Hill resident that the area had lost the local police station, and Officers were travelling “up to an hour” to set up a presence in the area.

Superintendent Kandohla stated that the Hanger Hill station had been closed because of issues with the landlord. However, the Police was considering setting up a “hub”. Residents in Hanger Hill that had opportunities to facilitate it were encouraged to get in touch with the Police. Furthermore, with the use of modern technology, it was envisaged that policing in the area could be just as effective because the Police would still be able to carry out their duties without visiting a base so often.

Councillor Joanna Dabrowska, Ward Councillor for Ealing Common, observed that the previous Lovebox Festival had “disproportionate policing” with minimal presence “outside the venue” but more inside. She advised the Police to liaise with the community, including Ward Councillors, on how best to police such events.

Furthermore, she was concerned that some stores on South Ealing Road were constantly being broken into. There was CCTV surveillance on that street. However, it seemed the perpetrators were undeterred, as they were constantly raiding the same place.

Superintendent Kandohla reported that the Lovebox Festival was not necessarily a “policing event” but was one that the Police “managed”. It was a local event that impacted on residents. Last year, there were around 40,000 people each day attending the event. Lessons had been learned from 2018. The Police would feedback to event organisers on how best the Police could assist in making the event in 2019 more incident free. This year there would be more “visible” Police presence both inside and outside, in uniforms, unlike last year, when some were in plain clothes.

There had been 4 recorded incidents involving stores on South Ealing Road. The Police were studying CCTV images. The alleged offences were still at “investigative” stage.

Councillor Seema Kumar, Shadow Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Council Services and Safer Communities, queried how long Section 60 would remain in force in the borough. She observed that “stop and search” episodes had increased due to Section 60.

Chief Inspector Richard Watkinson reported that Section 60, had, indeed, led to more “stop and search” in the borough. These were often “intelligence-led”, particularly relating to “gang violence” that was being planned in the borough. However, that did not happen in Ealing because of the Police were proactive. Instead, there was an incident in

Kensington, which had “originally” been planned for Ealing, where a murder occurred that was allegedly gang-related.

With the introduction of Section 60, the Police would obtain extra resources and put in place “preventative” measures to reduce violent crime in Ealing.

Furthermore, Section 60 resources would also assist the Police effectively manage the Lovebox Festival.

There was a question from a Southall resident about anti-social behaviour near a named garage. The site was being used by fly-tippers to dump waste. What was the Police doing to stop that?

Superintendent Kandohla advised that the site in question was on private property. As such, the Police would consult the landlord to see how the problem could be resolved.

ESNB Member Jags Sanghera, representative of the Southall Ward Cluster, enquired when the borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), similar to the one in Southall, would be implemented.

Jess Murray, Head of Community Safety, Tenancies and Regulatory Operations, informed the meeting that it was envisaged that the statutory eight-week public consultation would start in April 2019. Thereafter, Cabinet would consider it. The public would be kept regularly updated using all available channels of communication, including social media.

Two residents on the same road in Ealing expressed concern about a rise in “criminal activity” on their street, particularly from parked motor vehicles. What was “causing” this rise in thefts from motor-vehicles? There was “useful” evidence from household CCTVs which could assist the Police apprehend suspects. Could residents on their street install CCTV surveillance cameras covering the “whole” street?

Superintendent Kandohla advised that most thefts from motor-vehicles were sporadic and opportunistic. These usually occurred when car owners left valuables in visible sight. Furthermore, thefts from motor-vehicles were common near “transport hubs”. Once the *modus operandi* was discovered, it was possible to identify persons behind such crimes.

He further advised that residents could install domestic CCTV but needed to be mindful not to invade the “privacy” of others. However, if considering street-wide CCTV, it was prudent to seek professional guidance, as well as permission from the Council.

ESNB Member James Guest, the representative of the Ealing Ward Cluster, asked for how long OWL would be available. Some residents were not receiving OWL messages.

Superintendent Kandohla reported that OWL would be available for the next 12 months. Residents could still register to receive OWL updates via email, telephone or SMS.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the ESNB was scheduled for Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, at 7:00 pm. This would be a regular meeting for Board members, although members of the public could attend.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9 pm.

**RICHARD CHILTON (CHAIR)**