

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board

Date: Monday, 16 March 2020

Time: 19:00

Venue: Atrium - Perceval House

Attendees:

[no attendance published]

1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence will be completed at a later date, due to the effects on attendance resultant of the outbreak of COVID-19.

2 Urgent Matters

There were none.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4 Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 15 January 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting on 15 January 2020 were discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the 15 January 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6 Projects Update

The Chair explained progress regarding projects.

The Chair noted that there had been significant progress regarding the disability hate crime project, and invited Annamarie Braganza-Hawkins of Ealing Mencap to introduce the project work. It was explained by the Mencap representative that there had been £15,000 of funding to combat disability hate crime. It was noted that it had been co-designed and will be co-delivered

in a way that was inclusive and would upskill those involved with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It was noted that the workshops were currently on hold as a result of COVID-19, but that it was planned to reach out to 500 people initially.

The Chair updated the Board on the project for a self-defence training course for women suffering from domestic abuse. It was noted that it was well attended and that it had a waiting list of people wishing to attend in future. It was also explained that the project had been undertaken in partnership with Ealing Council, police and other key actors. That Chair noted that there was an ambition to expand this programme to other boroughs and that the project lead was seeking support from other Safer Neighbourhood Boards.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board noted the update.

7 Police Update

Richard Watkinson, Chief Inspector for the West Area, and Leigh Ballard, Inspector and Community Officer provided an update. Jess Murray, Head of Safer Communities and Residents Services, also provided comments.

The Chief Inspector noted that it was considered business as usual for policing despite the current COVID-19 pandemic. It was explained that Police Officers were considered essential staff and that there was no option for working from home to avoid COVID-19. It was also noted that, as of 16 March 2020, there were 11 officers of 1100 who had self-isolated, which was considered a manageable number.

Police representatives noted that there was changing guidance on attending public meetings by officers as a result of COVID-19, which may affect attendance in future.

Following questions from Members, the Police representatives and officers confirmed:

- Relating to Policing matters relating to COVID-19, it was not expected that there would be an increase in theft and burglary, noting that reduced footfall on streets made burglary more obvious and less likely. It was noted that there may be an increase in domestic violence due to isolation. It was, however, noted that there would be increased policing around Automated Transaction Machines (ATMs) to ensure that there were no ram raids or thefts on these during the reduced footfall.

- That the Police were continuing to work on reducing core offenses, such as theft and burglary. It was explained that the rate of increase in burglary had dropped as a result of police work. It was noted that there had been an increase in aggravated burglary, which was a target of future tasking groups.
- That there had been positive work regarding tasking operations, and that there had positive impact on the community. It was explained that there would also be a fully staffed tasking operations team. It was noted that there would be a future tasking operation to limit child anti-social behaviour, following school closures as a result of COVID-19.
- That there were new officers being recruited for the area, noting that the borough would receive approximately 90 to 100 new officers.
- It was explained that there was refurbishment planned in Acton Police Station, and that the service was looking to maintain Southall, with an expectation that Ealing Station would close.
- The Head of Safer Communities and Residents Services explained that there had been significant numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for Public Space Protection Orders in the Borough. It was additionally noted that there were signs being made available for the Borough-Wide which would be in operation soon.
- That there was guidance from Central Government regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and homelessness which was being utilised.

RESOLVED:

That the Board noted the update.

8 Neighbourhood Watch Update

The Chair noted that the Neighbourhood Watch Update formed part of the Projects update and there were no further points to update on.

RESOLVED:

That the Board noted the update.

9 ESNB forward planning session proposal

Richard Plummer, Democratic Services Officer, explained that, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the lower attendance of members as a result of the Prime Minister's request to avoid larger gatherings, this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

It was requested by officers that the Board consider the proposal for the forward planning session and that any feedback should be sent to the Democratic Services Officer.

RESOLVED:

1. That the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

10 Public Questions to the Police

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there were limited numbers of public, therefore there were no questions for the Police from the Public. The Chair noted that this would be undertaken at the next meeting of the Board when restrictions were lifted.

RESOLVED:

1. That public participation would be included in the next meeting of the Board.

11 Questions to the ESNB from members of the Public

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there were limited numbers of public, therefore there were no questions for the Board from the Public. The Chair noted that this would be undertaken at the next meeting of the Board when restrictions were lifted.

RESOLVED:

1. That public participation would be included in the next meeting of the Board.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 27 April 2020.

Following the low attendance at this meeting resultant of the COVID-19 quarantine issued by the Prime Minister, it was determined that this will be a public meeting of the Board.

Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided that, as a result of the guidance from central government regarding COVID-19, that the April meeting would be postponed until a later date.

The meeting concluded at 7.47pm