

The Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

Held at the Civic Centre, Wood Green

25th Sep 2012

Present:

Richard Gardner (Vice Chair)	Ryan Burton-King
Jennifer Bell	Andrew Cheal
Simon Farrow (Guest Speaker Council's Parks & Leisure)	Anthony Constanti
Maurice Hutchinson (Guest Speaker - Police Inspector)	Anna Crow
Joseph Roche (Guest Speaker - British Transport Police BTP)	Amal Datta
Elizabeth Adams	Simon Fedida
Pamela Beck	Cllr Gibson
Celia Bower	Lauritz Hansen-Bay
Joseph Boyle	Martin Iles
Pat Bromley	Eric Jury
Ulla Lefmann	Catherine MacArthur
Susan Mears	Cllr Peacock
Harris Sanhye	Jacqueline Servat
R.L. Sharma	Pauline Syddell
Peter Thompson	Cllr Waters
Rosie Yarrow	

1. Introductions & Apologies:

The Chair welcomed all & introduced panel of guest speakers.

Apologies received from:

Councillors: Winskill, Bull, Bevan, Vanier, Strickland, Weber and Canver,

Public: Lesley Flynn, Dorothy and Denzil Rose, Allyson Able, Jimmy Athanassiou, Christine Barnwell Mike Dark, Peter Droussiotis, Richard Green, Mary Hatch, Wendy Hill, Tony Hopkins, Joan Lindeman, Ron Lock, Joan Morrison, Christine Nickles, Dott Peterson-Quashie, Dorothy and Isidore Rhynold, Vivian Rogers, Cyril Sheridan, Ian Sygrave, Reg White, Alan Whitehouse, Ann Bronkhorst, Mary Rawitzer, Arthur Leigh, Cary Miller, Gwen Looker.

2. Minutes of the Previous meeting 13th June 2012.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Association Meeting and AGM (13th June 2012) were accepted.

Proposed: Lauritz Hansen-Bay. **Seconded:** Eric Jury.

3. Guest Speaker – Simon Farrow, Council's Parks & Leisure Department

- 3.1 Head of Client Services lead to Partnerships with i) Met Police ii) TCV and iii) Grounds Works
- 3.2 Thanked all present for 'being bothered' and for caring about our streets.
- 3.3 308 Neighbourhood Watches (NW) in Haringey – something to be proud of. Two thirds of them have responded and have adopted their local Park. One hundred and seventy (170) of them now do.
- 3.4 Local Intelligence leads to 'Tasking' and building cases for action. Regarding low level issues, due to resource issue, it's good that NW is involved.
- 3.5 We value NWs on a number of fronts - namely;
 - i) Issues of concern to the Council e.g. Dogs
 - ii) Police incidents (Parkland Walk and Bruce Castle)

- iii) Information from and to NW via Pauline and thanks to Pauline.
- 3.6 Asked all to remain vigilant. Small incidents to be reported to Pauline as she is adept at getting a resolve.
- 3.7 We are to continue NW signage and Dog Control Orders.
- 3.8 RG asked about Dogs and Rubbish. On Dogs, SF said some of the orders are new, some replaced.
- i) Pooper scooper replaced by another
- ii) Number of dogs people are allowed to walk is limited
- iii) Order regarding Dogs on Leads, on Highways, in Car Parks and in Smaller Parks.
- iv) Dog exclusion zone in children's playgrounds.
- Re Rubbish; SF said it remains an issue but not a tremendous one.
- 3.9 Cllr P asked if we could have designated areas to walk dogs. SF replied this was not in pipeline yet. We are working with Waltham Forest regarding sharing Dog Wardens.
- 3.10 L H-B suggested liaising with Friends of Parks, Nature Groups, Ornithological Groups. SF said using these wider ranging groups could be taken on board.
- 3.11 Issue raised regarding ownership of part of New River. Council or Thames Water. SF said let Pauline know of any issues regarding the areas along the river so that responsibility can be allocated appropriately.
- 3.12 Issues raised on **i)** rough sleepers and **ii)** providing wardens to ensure safety if people are hiding in branches of trees waiting to ambush passers by (occurred in Alexandra Palace) and **iii)** cyclists not respecting grassed areas.
- SF replied to **i)** that they are working with the MET on this. It is an issue mainly in Parkland Walk, Chestnuts, Woodside and Chapman's Green. If there is criminal activity, Police will respond swiftly. Using space as toilets is of particular concern to local residents.
- 3.13 Issue raised that clearing up areas of their cardboard boxes used as shelters as they appear, may not be the best solution to reduce the problem as they are soon replaced in a much appreciated cleaner space. SF said this was managed by Parks.
- 3.14 SF in reply to **ii)** said they resolve issues as and when they are told about them.
- 3.15 'Safer by Design' methods such as more lighting is generally more desirable.
- 3.16 SF in reply to **iii)** There are tensions between walkers and cyclists, especially those cyclists who cut shortest route from A to B regardless of terrain. Could consider railings and better signage.
- As no more questions from public - Chair closed by thanking SF.

4. Guest Speaker Sergeant Joe Roche (British Transport Police Crime Reduction & the Problem Solving Team – (BTP)) on 'Theft Awareness and General Safety on the London Transport Network'.

- 4.1 This was his 'Swan Song' as he is moving to another branch of the BTP
- 4.2 Deals mainly with thefts on trains – peak times morning and evening rush hours. NW to promote personal awareness.
- 4.3 'Operation Spiders Web' (Pan London) is part of Mayor's push to reduce crime by 10% by the end of 2012. We work with MET and target has been met at 10.4%.
- 4.4 20,000 victims last year – but few of these are repeat victims! We seem to learn when we get stung.
- 1.5 billion tube, and DLR journeys last year
 - 1.8 billion bus journeys
 - 9.6 crimes/million passenger rail journeys
 - 3.3 crimes/million passenger bus journeys
 - These are mostly pick pockets by people who do it as a living.
 - Main items stolen are; phones, wallets, purses, cameras and tablets
 - Most offences occur on crowded trains
 - They use distractions, but often knives to cut straps

Who are the victims?

- Anyone – people watch us!
- 70% of victims live in the Greater London Area
- 56% are female (21 – 25yrs)

- 44% are male (24 – 30yrs)

4.5 During the Olympics theft was low because of the high numbers of police so the dippers went away.

4.6 The Eastern European dippers work in 2s – 4s. They can be men, women and children. Home grown dippers mostly work alone.

How can we spot a bag thief?

- Mostly in restaurants – targeting bags on floor

What are the BTP doing to reduce Bag theft?

- Project 'Spiders Web' Pan London initiative
- Raising awareness in places like hotels who do not like to pass onto guests as they don't like to raise fear in punters.
- Localised Police operations at hotspots for time and location
- There are dedicated 'Dip' squads
- Work with other agencies to identify and prosecute offenders
- Apply for stringent court and banning orders
- Deportation of worst cases

What can people do to reduce risk of theft?

- Place items in zipped pockets in bags
- Place items out of sight
- If in a group – be aware of your surroundings and look out for each other
- Avoid falling asleep on trains/buses so leaving bags vulnerable
- Plan journeys ahead to be more assured
- Wait in well lit areas
- Travel close to driver
- Go with gut feeling if uneasy

Question: i) Can we estimate numbers of dippers? Answer: Probably hundreds
 ii) How do we compare with Europe? Answer: Barcelona has much higher rate

4.7 Watched the video of examples of people being dipped.

4.8 To report a theft, report it at the station as soon as possible with station supervisor, or Help button. Literature to be linked to our website.

4.9 Pauline showed her 'Key Chain with Clip' device to attach purses/phones/wallets etc firmly to clothing or inside a bag to prevent it being moved out. She was able to distributed some to those who wanted, but she has very few!

End – Chair thanked all – and time for refreshments.

5. Feedback from Workshop at Previous Meeting – 13th JUNE 2012. Jennifer Bell

5.1 Looking at revamping constitution as many people including councilors had not heard of N.W. We need a clear mantra of what our broad remit is.

5.2 We will ask HAVCO if they can help

5.3 Guest Speakers should come with notes to leave us for future reference

5.4 Fundraising is an issue

5.5 Share Case Studies. Networking (longer breaks and workshops).

5.6 We intend to put together a survey this winter if possible (paper and electronic)

5.7 We need the organization reflecting and ensure it keeps going

End – Chair thanked JB

6. Police Inspector Maurice Hutchinson (MH): Update on Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams & Q & A Session

- 6.1 MH is one of four Inspectors in the Borough who manages Safer Neighbourhood Wards. There are 5 of these. Bruce Grove, West Green, Seven Sisters, St Annes and Tottenham Green.
- 6.2 Thanked all for being involved and for looking out for our communities.
- 6.3 Operation HAWK – is community Intelligence. Very effective at gathering info from the public.
- 6.4 Is mindful that they don't always get through to the Wards. They are looking at ways to deal with this better.
- 6.5 They are able to place Officers in hot spot areas.
- 6.6 They map the borough by looking at Statistical Information – and PCs are moved to where the crimes are occurring. The system responds to crime as it happens.
- 6.7 Commissioner wants "Policing at Local Level" Where changes are happening in the force, this is at Management level. Sharing of Commissioners/Superintendents between 2 (not 3 probably). Cuts at top end – resources to remain on the streets.
- Q Concern about the numbers of extra police. 50 was mentioned.
- A PCSOs have joined the West Green/Bruce Grove (4 members)
- Q Concerns about the numbers of Police Officers in Wood Green.
- A Reassured that now Olympics are over – numbers would return to normal after leave has been taken etc.
- Q Issue regarding Sergeant Numbers.
- A There is consultation on this for April 2013
- Q PCSOs more effective. Need for more CCTVs in designated areas. Possible use of St Anne's Police Station as monitoring Station?
- A There are no plans to reopen front counter at St Anne's.
- A There are mobile CCTVs Units that could be used. MH & AC to meet after.
- Q Could G4S be asked to sponsor CCTV cameras?

There were no more questions so Chair thanked all who came and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Next meeting i) Committee Meeting 25th October
 ii) Quarterly Meeting 22nd November