



HARINGEY ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES

MINUTES OF THE HANHW Quarterly Meeting & AGM Tuesday 10th July 2018 Civic Centre, Wood Green at 7pm

Present:

Ian Sygrave (A/Chair)

Guest speakers: DCI Fareed Mirza, CI Neil Billany

Martin Ball, Jennifer Bell, Cllr. John Bevan, Paul Boylan, Pat Bromley, Angelina Burke, Jenny Buzzard, Natalie Crewe, Cllr. Eldridge Culverwell, Friedrich Ernst, Renee Fletcher, Margaret Fowler, Pranabesh Ganguly, Richard Green, Lauritz Hansen-Bay, Trevor Harrison, Sarah Hayes, Ryan King, Arthur Leigh, Susan Mears, Anna Muller, Roldolph, Hitesh Oza, Cllr. Sheila Peacock, Vivien Rodgers, Las Roman, Adrienne Rudkin, Irene Rybuska, Jacqueline Servat, Viv Sharma, Jeremy Somers, Gail Stean, Pauline Syddell, Peter Thompson, Julie Vanstone, John Walters, Michael Williams, Simon Zachariou.

Apologies received from:

Andy Craven, Annie Faulkner, Jackie and Phil Goodwin, Martin Iles, Tony Jackson, Silke Lange, Brian Livingstone, Olivia Montuschi, Joan Morrison, Sally Mustoe.

1 Welcome and Introductions from the A/Chair: Ian Sygrave Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- o Welcome to new Watches
- o Update for members on topics covered in the last meeting:
 - New rough sleepers' strategy is now up and running
 - Concerning property licensing, there has been a consultation which has favoured property licensing of HMOs of whatever size as well as licensing the private sector (homing in the troublesome areas)
 - Ian has been contacted by a Green Lanes café; they have a surplus of food and would like to find a charity that can take the surplus off their hands e.g. homeless charity, or else food (bread and pastries) will go in the bin

- The café wants someone to come at 10:45pm every evening (7 days a week) to collect surplus
- The collection timing is problematic for the charities that have already been contacted
- If members have contacts in their wards who would be available to help, please let the Ian know, contact via Pauline.
- A member suggested that Ian ask the refugee centre that is nearby, however Ian has already visited with no luck

2 AGM Formalities: Chair and Treasurer's Report + Election of new Committee

Chair Report

- As Acting Chair, Ian encouraged Neighbourhood Watch coordinators to join the committee. Committee meetings take place every 6-8 weeks with a focus on funding and putting Neighbourhood Watch in the media spotlight
- Ian thanked Christine who has been the Treasurer; and Fredrick who has recently replaced her in this role
- Also, Jennifer Bell will be standing down from the committee, but will be remaining a coordinator. Our thanks for all her work
- Ian also shared thanks to Arthur Leigh, and other Committee members, and thanked the support of coordinators and Friends of Parks Coordinators
- 322 Watches now in Haringey
- Ian thanked volunteers Simon Zachariou, Alex Stroia and Renee Fletcher for all their help at committee meetings.

Treasurer Report

- Frederick, as Treasurer, gave a summary of the monies in the account – total £250.42; cash total £27.09.
- No expenses made yet, however there will be some expected for running the website
- Ian asked members to see Pauline if they would like to see/have a copy of the account figures
- Ian noted that the HANHW relies on donations from members; any donations are welcome, especially for refreshments at the meeting

The committee stood down and Pauline took over the election of the new committee.

Committee Election

- There is one new committee member standing – NHW coordinator Hitash Oza
- All standing for election stood and shared their names, and what Watches/Wards they were from.
- Pauline requested election agreement by a show of hands from members.
- The new Committee was unanimously elected:

Jenny Buzzard	Lauritz Hansen-Bay	Fred Williams
Friedrich Ernst	Arthur Leigh	
Margaret Fowler	Ian Sygrave	

3 Guest Speaker: Detective Chief Inspector Fareed Mirza, Haringey Gangs Unit: Gangs and violent crime in Haringey

- DCI Mirza thanked members for their hard work and shared that Neighbourhood Watch has traditionally been overlooked in terms of recognising the work they do to help tackle violent crime
- In future the Gangs Unit will be working more closely with Neighbourhood Watch communities
- DI Mirza shared that as we move forward, there are increasing demands on his unit, thus they will be relying more on members' help assistance/support in future
- DI Mirza has been a police officer for 25 years, born and bred in Haringey (Muswell Hill); was involved in the serious and organised crime agency which targeted drugs
- DI Mirza joined Haringey Borough almost two years ago - running two low profile, covert teams
- The teams engage in long-term developments of covert operations targeted to remove people who pose a risk to the neighbourhood
- Team one – gangs unit, 12 officers who work to maximize intelligence gathering
- Team two – a proactive team, 15 officers who undertake patrols of hot spot areas (e.g. of robberies)
- Where there might be a lot of knife crime, DI Mirza may respond to intelligence and ask for stops & searches to take place
- DI Mizra shared a story – Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch relayed that a discount store was attracting lots of visits from various people
- The team carried out surveillance and discovered that the shop was a front for individuals to buy drugs, between 150 – 200 people attended the premise to buy drugs
- The team made enquiries within the shop where they saw first-hand that the products on display were simply a façade/tat, with the shop having a heavily fortified security area in the back
- A raid was conducted using specialist counter terrorist and firearms officers to manage the risk
- Multiple kilos of drugs were confiscated, and 7 people were arrested
- Similarly, a launderette connected to the premises was linked to the illegal activity and was simultaneously raided
- Since 2016, Haringey has attracted a lot of media attention – in the past, stabbings rarely took place, now stabbing rates are high – recently three members of the community were stabbed because of gang-related activity
- Kwabena Nelson was one of those stabbed, he sorted through his problems and dedicated himself to helping others
- Nelson founded an intervention type charity that helped people exit gangs
- He was targeted because of his gang history, the perpetrators were not aware of the work he was doing in the community
- A memorial was erected in Nelson's memory
- DI Mizra recounted a related incident whereby there were a couple of men loitering near Nelson's memorial
- Officers approached the men as part of intelligence gathering and immediately the men's behaviour changed, with the officers ending up giving chase to the two individuals

- Upon interception, it was discovered that the men were wearing bullet proof vests and disguises/costumes as well as carrying weapons
- Officers suspected that the men were up to something when they were intercepted, and both pleaded guilty to possession of firearms
- A bit more about gangs – are gangs a cultural issue? Are people drawn to gangs because they are black?
- Traditionally, men have been more prevalent in gang activity
- Within Haringey the most high-risk/prolific gangs, most members are black (Afro-Caribbean)
- In other boroughs the most dangerous gangs are members of Asian ethnicity; in Sunderland there is a prevalence of 18-45 white gang members
- Thus, gangs are made up of different ethnicities which depend on several factors such as geographical location
- Is matrix on gang activity used by the police to target male, black men? (This is the media assertion)
- DI Mizra spent a lot of time campaigning for Amnesty International which published a press release on their website that the police were using a tool to target black men
- DI Mizra detailed that the tool is an automatic diagnostic tool which uses a formula based on intelligence collected from the last six months and creates a matrix which allows the police to see details against the most dangerous gang members
- There are two ways of verifying information in the matrix (i.e. there are only two ways that individuals can be on the matrix)
 1. Through actual word of mouth, e.g. someone says that this person is involved in dangerous gang activity
 2. Covert and specific intelligence is evidence of dangerous gang activity
- What is a gang? A group of individuals who are drawn together for the purpose of associating as one unit
- They engage in low level criminal activity e.g. drugs/robbery, occupy a specific geographical location, and share an item of clothing that distinguishes them from other gangs – each gang will know what distinguishes **their** gang
- Gangs make up a small percentage of people, mostly acting to harm rival gang members as opposed to members of the public
- What a gang is **not**: groups of people engaged in money-laundering, cross-border criminality (e.g. organised criminal networks)
- Two separate things – gangs and organised criminal networks
- DI Mirza's team works on low-level gang activity – the drug squad, customs and excise
- The National Crime Agency is responsible for more serious and organised crime that threatens national security – important to distinguish
- Gangs are not new, they regenerate (old gangs take over new gangs)
- People become involved in gangs mostly because of:
 - Lack of role models e.g. a community, youth or church group that would challenge or scrutinize gang affiliation
 - Poverty, socioeconomic dependencies
 - Poor opportunities (e.g. education)
- Young, vulnerable boys are groomed and in turn identify with gang leaders/other members as role models, psychologically this impacts heavily on these boys as they become adults

- DI Mizra suggested that another factor which can corrupt young, vulnerable minds is music
 - If a young boy considers a musician a role model, they might act out what is detailed in the lyrics of a song
 - DI Mizra goes to briefings with Scotland Yard and tells them what is happening in Haringey – task forces have been assigned to help where needed
 - The teams work with gang units/patrols and share intelligence
 - This not only sends a message to the gangs that it's not safe for them to carry out their gang activity, but it also helps to assert the neighbourhood that they will not tolerate this activity
 - Since April 2018, it's been quiet on the gang activity front
 - DI Mizra requested that members continue to share any intelligence which can help his team do their job – this type of intelligence can provide independent corroboration
 - Lastly, DI Mizra shared that he is “policed” by an amazing team of Sr Leadership and is “grilled” by his supervisors on a regular (weekly) basis about what is happening on the streets
 - He also attends gang crime fighter's meetings where each Borough is represented and presents updates
 - Such checks and balances take place to ensure that his team not only help to reduce gang violence but work ethically and morally in doing so to safeguard the neighbourhood
- Q:** Since April, no gang related deaths? What about the Ducketts Common stabbing?
- A:** This stabbing lead to a number of arrests, but was not gang affiliated
- Q:** This presentation centred on men in gangs, what about women in gangs?
- A:** The gang's matrix mentioned earlier targets the most dangerous gang members - those at the highest level are men. Women can be affiliated with gangs (e.g. through a boyfriend/brother), but not necessarily a gang member. Women can be exploited by male gang members to participate in gang activity which is why, wherever possible, intervention teams/social services (a multi-level approach) is used to help females exit these scenarios. Every month there is a meeting called “Girls in Gangs” to discuss these issues.
- Q:** Did you find Kwabena Nelson's killer?
- A:** One man was charged who we believe was responsible, and other men who colluded have been investigated

4 Guest Speaker: Chief Inspector Neil Billany: Neighbourhood Policing update / merger of Haringey and Enfield Boroughs

- Chief Inspector Neil Billany works for Superintendent Nigel Brookes and is responsible for the new area after merger
- The merger should be final early next year
- CI Billany came to Haringey in 2006 as a response team Sergeant and did several years of police and inspector work out of Haringey, ultimately returning to Haringey
- His specialisation is in Neighbourhood Policing, which he feels is the bedrock of everything that goes on around us
- This is where his teams interact with Neighbourhood Watch groups and the community
- CI Billany and his team sit down with community members to understand how they should police the community, the sensitive areas that need a little extra care, and where priorities should be focussed

- Currently the Safer Neighbourhood Teams have 2 PCs, 1 PCSO and 1 Sergeant responsible for 2, 3 or 4 Wards
- There has been a reduction in Safer Neighbourhood police, which affects what the team does and where they will rely on help from Neighbourhood Watch
- Merging Haringey with Enfield will provide somewhat of an enhancement in terms of resources which may allow for a Borough tasking team who can focus on priorities and provide some additional care e.g. when there has been a burglary, this team would:
 - Offer support
 - Share “target hardening” skills (to prevent future incidents)
 - Knock on doors to alert the community
- CI Billany shared that a health research, government backed initiative identified people aged 65 or over were vulnerable to crime, but also had a higher rate of dying six months after an incident
- These statistics were compiled via a psychological assessment/evaluation and provides support for an enhanced service
- The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) established a strategy whereby some stations needed to close
- Worryingly, the community lost several front counters, including Hornsey Police station
- Teams are now looking at where to base officers
- Some of the teams who work at Hornsey are based far away from their Wards, so this is a good opportunity to re-locate officer near to their wards
- CI Billany requested members to share with him any ideas of where the officers can establish a base e.g. utilising buildings in the public sector, as cheaply as possible

Q: How do we communicate any suggestions to you?

A: Through email please

Q: Ally Pally for a space?

A: Yes, there is a space there; however lighting and security were an issue

Q: What about looking into the effectiveness of the Ward panels? It could be advantageous to check how representative they are and the quality of panels themselves. Somebody ought to audit and verify they are efficient. Also, they ought to be run more consistently.

A: We are in the process of doing just this. A quarterly panel would be ideal so that the most up to date information can be discussed – we can review an issue and have three months to do something about it. Also, training has already been provided in Enfield on how to run Ward panels, but it all depends on who makes up the panels.

Q: The panels need to be more proactive. Is this being considered?

A: Yes, we will be looking into this

Q: A lot of people ask me, what services do the police offer and how can I connect with them? E.g. if you suspect something

A: The website lists out the services (links to social media and other feeds) and how to access them, and details point of contacts. The best way to contact the teams is through Neighbourhood policing. We’re looking at ways for the public to be able to speak with officers in person (e.g. in areas where stations have closed) at a defined place and a defined time.

Q: It would be good to better consider date/time – if officers are at a place at the same time every day, it’s possible some people may not have the opportunity to connect

- A:** At the moment, details of “contact sessions” are on the website, <https://www.met.police.uk> - the public can vote on their priorities
- Ian suggested that every Neighbourhood Watch should be a contact and also that:
 - Communication channels are not the best, not everyone knows about the contact sessions
 - The sessions should be held at the weekends and evenings too to be more inclusive
- Q:** A member relayed that her Ward does hold contact sessions; however the officers feel that putting reference material on the website is sufficient. There are those people who may not have access to Twitter or indeed internet. Are we looking into the different ways on how information is shared?
- A:** Communications do need to be enhanced. We’ll investigate.
- Q:** The number of police teams seems to be shifting all the time. They’re here and then they disappear which causes distress.
- A:** It can be frustrating for officers themselves too. It would be beneficial to have continuity within the Wards, yes. As part of the merge with Enfield, the teams are being looked at with this perspective (of continuity/high turnover). A lot of officers tend to learn the trade and then move on. It is a commitment, however, that each Ward will have 2 PCs, 1 PCSO, 1 Sergeant
- Q:** Why can’t the police pursue individuals on Mopeds?
- A:** Officers need to make a risk assessment decision (do not want a member of the public to be inadvertently hurt), and they must protect their own safety
- Q:** How will the merge of Haringey and Enfield take place?
- A:** CI Billany will keep members updated. There will still be response out of the Boroughs, and oversight by officers, officers will remain Ward-based, operational policing will come together (e.g. Criminal Investigation Department – CID)
- Q:** I’m not particularly concerned about continuity of faces, what concerns me is how these changes make it easier for the police to keep their priorities
- A:** Contact your community policing point of contacts if there are any issues with how priorities are being achieved/fulfilled

5 AoB

- Sarah Hayes of “CleanUp UK” shared details on this community clean-up initiative
- A correlation has been found between litter and crime such as burglary
- Sarah can help community groups organise local/street litter picks which not only make an area look nice but also brings the community together
- Pauline shared that Sarah helped her Neighbourhood Watch with a community clean-up project which was a great success
- Contact Pauline for more information

NEXT MEETING
Thursday 1st November 2018
7pm
Civic Centre, Wood Green, N22