Minutes of High Street Ward SNT Meeting Held on 17th November 2015

At The Mall – Walthamstow

Present: Apologies:

Philip Herlihy - Chair (PH)
Sergeant Jay Champion (JC)
PC Matt Fletcher (MF)
Sandra de Costa (SdC)
Themi Kyprianou - Ascham Homes (TK)
Andre Henry (AH)
Tommy Anderson (TA)
Hassan (H)

Jeff Fernandez (JF)
Pauline Leeder (PL)
Frances Shoesmith (FS)
Councillor Mahmood Hussain (MH)

	Details	Action
1.	The Chair opened the meeting by reporting on Apologies and reminding members of the guidelines which need to be observed by all.	
2.	Minutes were agreed	
3.	Updates from Previous Meeting	
	Burglary Figures MF reported that out of 14 Burglaries only one resulted to a charge; this was mainly due to lack of evidence. MF added that whenever a burglary occurs victims always move things and touch things so their own finger prints are on the items and this has an impact on forensics. JC advised that the police will be changing the way they investigate burglaries in the future to make investigations more effective. PH reported that he is very impressed with the New Borough Commander who promised that all Burglaries will be attended in Waltham Forest.	
	Actions Carried Forward	
	Councillor Liaquat Ali to report back to Panel how many	
	CCTV cameras are there in the High StreetCouncillor Raja Anwar to provide information about	LA RA
	youth provision in the Ward.	

CCTV

(AH) stated that he was very disappointed that information from Cllr. (LA) was not submitted to the Panel.

TA raised his concerns about the importance of CCTV in the High Street and urged the Panel to put pressure on the Councillors to ensure that CCTV's are working as they are pivotal in capturing crucial evidence. He reported that there was a nasty incident over the weekend which he reported to the police but by the time police arrived on the scene the perpetrators disbursed. The Public need extra security to make them feel safer.

Walthamstow Marshes

Following a series of sexual offences in Walthamstow Marshes PH asked JC what mechanism is in place to ensure public safety awareness?

JC reported that information is put on Social Media such as Twitter.

PH said that Good News and Bad News should be communicated to the Public so they are more aware of problems in their area and are more prepared.

SdC said that people still welcome police presence as this gives them more confidence and reassurance.

JC reported that some police work is Preventative and some Reactive, in an ideal world he would have a police presence on every corner but under the current climate, police work is prioritised.

SdC asked whether there was any CCTV by the Boundary Fence to the Marshes.

JC reported that as this area is a Nature Reserve the use of CCTV is prohibited.

High Street Newsletter

MF reported that the Newsletter focuses on Community Safety and is circulated in Local Primary Schools and the Mill in Coppermill Lane and currently looking at Media Communications.

PH stated that to get maximum audience it has to be interesting. Twitter feeds are sometimes not that interesting. More effective Twitter should raise awareness.

4. Report from Jay Champion

JC handed Crime Figures for the for 12 week period to the Panel.

JP reported that there had been a spike in Dipping and some covert monitoring had been carried out. Currently in a process of putting a police plan in place to tackle this problem.

SdC asked whether it would be a good idea to do a Public Broadcast coming up to the Xmas Period to alert Public to be more vigilant.

JC reported that machine is currently out of order but the police have been proactive by talking to shoppers about preventative measures and working together with Managers of "Hot Spot" areas such as Card Factory and Deichmann Shoes.

Twightlight Market – No problems reported.

Police Recruitment – Full quota of Officers. The Ward has 7 Training Constables which is less than the Ward had previously.

Arrests

JC reported that for the period of 12 months, The Town Centre Team made 409 arrests and Safer Neighbourhood Team arrested 222

SdC asked whether JC had any figures on any convictions and No Further Actions in relation to the arrests.

JC reported that he did not have the figures as he will need to obtain this information from the Courts and that would take a while. He also added that the police have no control over the end result. JC reported on the following:

- Three Albanian men were arrested for GBH of two males and one female in the Goose Pub. Following further investigations one Albanian man is due to be deported.
- A known St. James Drug's Dealer got arrested and convicted at Snaresbrook Crown Court and currently serving 2 and a half years.
- A male was arrested whilst trying to sell mobile phones in the Market Office Police Station. Due to the quick thinking of the offices on duty the male was arrested for Trade Mark offences.

- A male was arrested and charged on Halloween for carrying a knife.
- A man was arrested for shop lifting in High Street and had to be handcuffed to a door whilst officers helped rescue people from a fire incident in Hoe Street.
- A section 1 search was carried out on a vehicle in Hoe Street which was found to be in possession of credit cards and statements in various names further investigations linked the men to a gang conducting fraudulent transactions to a total of £500,000.

JC reported that his team work extremely hard every day currently the team have been concentrated on weapon sweeps in the High Street area as Violence with Injuries is one of the priorities of the ward.

5. St James Issues

(H) reported that he was extremely concerned about a group of youths who regularly congregate around the Snooker Hall area and are intimidating and terrorising local residents. He believes that the youths are involved in drugs and other criminal activities and is concerned about his children being exposed to such negative behaviour.

He has asked what can be done about this and what action can the police take to resolve the problem which has been ongoing for a while now and has had a huge impact on his life.

JC reported that the gangs are very switched onto the police and they very rarely carry drugs on them. Gathering evidence for gangs is a long term plan but some Covert work has been done and sniffer dogs have been used. Police Patrols have been carried out and some arrests have been made.

A group of youths hanging about does not constitute criminal activity. We must have solid evidence of ASB activity before any action can be taken.

A lot of work has gone into policing St. James' Strip and more work needs to be done. Police are targeting the parents and addresses and will be looking into Eviction Orders if enough evidence is obtained.

JC urged (H) to encourage his neighbours to report incidents

TA stated that pressure needs to be put on Councillors to tackle issues on St. James. Reporting incidents regularly will highlight the problem and hopefully more resources can be put in place.

SdC asked who owns the CCTV on St.James/Coppermill **JC** stated that it was the Local Authority and any activity caught on the camera is reported to the police. (H) reported that he is concerned for his personal safety as he has been harassed and intimidated by the youths and his son assaulted. His car has been vandalised and feels that he is being targeted. **JC** reiterated the importance of reporting incidents and urged **H** not to get involved in any confrontations. PH asked whether there was any risk of violence **JC** reported that there is no history of offences and need to gather evidence. **PH** What are the Harms? People selling drugs and making noise. Are police getting enough resources to deal with problem? These are significant problems. Would shift pattern changes have any impact? **JC** reported that resources ok but can always use more to tackle problems. Regular meetings with business who reported positive improvements. PH reported that he remains cautiously optimistic that this problem will be tackled and sustainably tackled. People need to work closely with the police and hopefully some improvement will be achieved. PH assured the Panel that he will be discussing this issue with Councillors. 6. **Promises and Update from Previous meeting** Ward Promises: Drug Dealing Street Drinkers/ASB Violence Against the Person 7. **Any Other Business** PH reported that the Panel must find another Chair as he has Chaired this Meeting for ten years, and was expecting to move out of the ward before long.

	TA suggested for PH to stay on for now until the New Year	
	and will consider options then.	
	Panel agreed.	
В.	Date of Next Meeting	
	January 2016	