

# High Street Safer Neighbourhoods Ward Panel

Meeting notes: 3rd July 2018

## Attendees:

- PC Terry Smart
- **Andre Henry (Chair)**
- Sandra DaCosta
- Helen Jackson (CPRA)
- Roy Messenger (CPRA)
- Valerie Robertson
- Mohammed Yusuf
- Philip Herlihy

## Apologies received:

- (None)

Not a huge turnout – but it was the England/Colombia match at exactly the same time...

## Staffing Updates:

The merger with Newham to form the North-East “BCU” (Basic Command Unit) is due to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018; the WF Borough Commander, CS Richard Tucker, is already also the Borough Commander of Newham. As part of the restructuring three new Dedicated Ward Officer PCs will join the High Street team.

The **High Street Team** currently consists of:

- Sgt Stuart Doyle (also responsible for two other wards)
- PC Steve Bragg
- PCSO Dennis Morgan
- (PC Vacancy: *Scott Defreitas has moved to the Violence task force – we wish him well.*)

## News & Updates:

*Crime statistics:*

### April:

Total recorded crimes (High St ward)	207
Antisocial Behaviour (including Public Order)	21
Drug offences, including <i>pwits</i> **	11
Violence against the person (including robbery)	30

\*\* *pwit* = Possession With Intent To Supply

### May:

Total recorded crimes (High St ward)	228
Antisocial Behaviour (including Public Order)	18

Drug offences, including pwits**	5
Violence against the person (including robbery)	17

**June:**

Total recorded crimes (High St ward)	173
Antisocial Behaviour (including Public Order)	13
Drug offences (all Class B)	7
Violence against the person (including robbery)	11

PC Smart shared photos showing WF Cadets on a day of action handing out warning leaflets about the risk of personal theft – no thefts were reported all that day. Other photos showed a haul of drugs from two suspects, and weapons seized.

Numbers of Special Constables working the High St ward have reduced in recent years. However, special commendation goes to SC John Ayres who has served as a ‘Special’ for 42 years; much of that in High St Ward. John recently identified and arrested a fraudster who had targeted a local bank using false ID documents. Terry will be escalating a request to have more Special Constables working High Street on Saturdays.

An operation against moped-related offences resulted in the seizure of 9 uninsured mopeds. Some of these appeared to be used by ‘freelance’ takeaway delivery drivers.

Rough sleepers (using tents) have been reported near the Central station – British Transport Police have been asked to deal, as this is on land which is their responsibility.

**Discussion:**

- A question was asked: who supervises the images captured by the body-worn cameras of Council enforcement officers? (No-one knew!).
- It emerged that many summonses were generated in the early days of the Public Space Protection Order and that judicial throughput had been identified as a limitation.
- It is likely that at least one DWO will be ‘abstracted’ to cover possible demonstrations during the visit of President Trump this month.
- The Mall Car Park is expected to extend to 24-hour operation soon.
- Vehicles have been reported with occupants behaving in a suspicious way (possible drug distribution) at the barrier between Cleveland Park Avenue and High Street – residents are encouraged to keep a detailed diary of observations, while avoiding personal risk.
- Levels of drug-related activity seem to be increasing at Essex Close.

**Actions:**

- Terry will request the attendance of ward Councillors and Neighbourhood Officers at future meetings.

**Ward Priorities:**

Priorities set at the last meeting were

- Antisocial behaviour
- Drugs/gangs

- Violence to the person

After discussion, it was agreed to leave these unchanged.

#### Ward Panel Officers:

There will soon be a vacancy for the Ward Panel **Chair**. This is a great opportunity for another member of the panel to step up to what has always been an interesting, rewarding, and (thankfully) relatively light responsibility in terms of the work involved. Anyone interested is encouraged to talk to any of the team's officers, or to Philip Herlihy, who was chair for many years – all of these will be glad to offer continuing support as needed. The website (<http://www.walthamsoft.com/high-st-snt>) has a link to a summary of what the role involves. It would also be helpful to have a **deputy chair**, and the same applies. Do get in touch if you'd like an informal discussion, without obligation!

Residents are invited to join the **Facebook** group "High Street E17 Ward Panel" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HighStSNT>).

#### Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** at 7pm, at the Mall Offices.