

High Street Safer Neighbourhood Team - Ward Panel Notes of meeting on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 7pm, The Mall Offices

Attendees: Phil Herlihy (Co-chair), Vicky te Velde (Councillor), James King (Anti Social Behaviour Officer), Frankie Johnson (PC), Steve Newland (PC), Alexander Milas (Cleveland Park Crescent), Jacqueline Sheehy (Stoneydown Park), Mo Yusuf and Kerry Walkiden (Essex Close), Sandra DaCosta (Cassiobury Road), Maya (Cassiobury Road)

Apologies: Malcolm Patten, Councillor Ahsan Khan, Tommy Anderson, Hinnah Gill (Connecting Communities)

Minutes taken by Maya

Minutes: No objections to minutes from the meeting on 7 May.

Action Points:

Street harassment of women and girls

It has been noticed that there are some patterns in terms of where this activity happens such as certain cafes, however it is much more wide spread and difficult to tackle by the police, particularly as it is often not reported and when it is reported it is difficult to evidence. The conclusion was that more data is needed to be reported by the victims.

Vicky updated us that an app is being developed to enable victims to log with ease when that happens so that a map of frequent occurrences of harassment can be identified. She also pointed out that there are other sections of the community being harassed also, such as LGBTQ+ community.

Amongst the discussion it was mentioned that there is a similar app for flytipping called 'WFTellWalt'. PH expressed reservations about how suitable a "dialogue-based" app would be for use in potentially threatening situations.

Essex Close

Mo reported that criminal activity continues to affect the area. There have been two shootings and drug dealing, gang activity and grooming have not stopped. It feels as though nothing has been done about it. There are sections where you can continue to see bullet holes, which is visible to children and young people. Young boys continue to be brought to the area and are exploited to sell drugs, which is concerning. Several sections have been damaged so the area has become easier accessible. It has been mentioned that the layout of the estate, having several exits is making it difficult to control. The police officers mentioned that there had been more patrols to the area and it was suggested that they can be contacted directly. Part of the issues has also been that some residents are not showing any interest to tackle the problem and some are actively involved on various levels.

There have been monthly inspections.

James (ASB officer) has visited the place and has made some recommendations around the changes to the environment such as cutting back bushes so the certain areas are more exposed. He will also report to his seniors about the ongoing issues.

There was a discussion on what more needs to happen in order to achieve some changes in tackling this issue:

There needs to be evidence gathering by any witnesses, as without formal reports the police are unable to make tangible changes, such as performing arrests and prosecuting.

There could be more use of sanctions.

One Forest Housing who is responsible should be contacted by the residents with support from the ASB team and the councillors responsible for the area. Vicky suggested that she will arrange a visit.

[Action] They should make the necessary repairs and review the design of the area to see whether

any changes to the current multiple exits could be made.

The residents have been highlighting the issues, however in order for the reporting to be more effective this should be done as much as possible through 101, so that the crime is logged which may help with getting more resources for the police.

There was a call for a more coordinated approach where the council, police and the residents work together.

Stoneydown Park and Pretoria Avenue are also affected so it was suggested that as the Essex Close is considered, the police support should be provided in the wider area. The police officers reported that their presence has already increased in particular when there are events happening in that area, but see that there might need to be police presence on school days 3.30-5pm.

Task Force has been approved to patrol Waltham Forest alongside Newham.

St James Street - The gang activity is resuming at the bottom of the market – it is believed there are as many as five gangs locally selling drugs. Business Forum was mentioned and it was suggested that the chair of the forum attends these meetings, as they are likely affected by the gang activity.

Police Report

Please see attached

The officers particularly pointed out a gentleman who is involved in the campaign “More Police! Less Knives!” and is actively encouraging that the knives be brought to him. The MET Police has not approved of this activity and it is unlawful.

Officers circulated photos of drugs, weapons and counterfeit goods seized locally.

Street Watch

This has been authorised and it means that individuals who are part of Street Watch will be patrolling the area in high-viz jackets and report if they witness inappropriate/unlawful activities.

Cleveland Park Crescent

There had been a lot of burglaries recently and there was a question if any arrests have been made. It was shared that residents of the area have a WhatsApp group and this has been helpful in terms of keeping a better eye on what is happening in the area. There was a person walking around on the street checking if the car doors were opened and the question was asked how best to deal with that. It was reiterated that the best way to report it would be through 101 or online.

Contacts:

MOPEX (High Street Ward Police) – 07843291115

Neighbourhood Officer – named person George Pringle – usually monitoring Envirocrime issues such Fly-tipping, Dirty front gardens, Abandoned cars, Graffiti, Street cleansing etc:

George.Pringle@walthamforest.gov.uk or for the Neighbourhoods team:
neighbourhoods@walthamforest.gov.uk

Councillor Claire Coghill contact leader@walthamforest.gov.uk with “Ward Issue” in the Subject line.

Next meeting: 7pm on 10th September at Selborne Shopping May

Ward Panel Meeting 2ND JULY 2019.

1 Action for Steve Bragg (meeting with Essex Close)

10th May meeting took place with the lead from the council Chloe Bernard.

Crime Figures for May & June.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Theft Person	22	20	28	21	33	34
Public Order/ASB	3	2	1	1	4	3
Assaults	4	20	11	11	8	7
Drugs	6	12	11	19	7	15
Mall Crimes	37	42	32	41	22	32
WARD CRIMES 2018	169	215	236	213	202	180
WARD CRIMES 2019	171	210	177	206	181	207

Current Operations.

(NE-BCU) North East Borough Command Ran an operation CONCHO

This was a two day operation using 27 search warrants under section 23MDA targeting drug dealers who have been selling drugs to plain clothes officers on the borough, also knife carriers.

On Wednesday 19th June 2019 23 search warrants were executed across the borough with drugs & knives being found & suspects arrested.

On Thursday 20th 2019 another 14 Warrants were executed again more drugs & firearms were found & suspects arrested.

In total there was 27 persons arrested on the Borough & a further 2 in south Yorkshire.

The High Street Team had a 0430am start as part of this operation targeting an address in Hoe Street E17.

As this is an ongoing Op we will try to update you at the next meeting.

News in brief.

The officers continue to work hard around (op Langdale Mali boys) Pictures showing drugs & knives taken of your local streets by Ward Officers. We have also had a knife amnesty around Walthamstow Central Station where knives shown were handed in. Along with Perfume from non-market traders.

Stop and Search

NEBCU total Stop & Search figures for May 2019 are extremely impressive with a total of 2748 carried which we are pleased to announce are the highest in MPS. It works out between 650 and 700 a week.

This is a continued and consistent improvement, which can only add to the reduction in knife enabled crime and drugs across the NE.

Over 60% of the stop and search are carried out by you, the rest are by other units either passing through the BCU

Officers from the North Neighbourhood Tasking Team carried out a proactive stop and search on a young male who they stopped on the High Street, E17.

The male was found with a quantity of cocaine for which he was arrested. He was taken into custody and interviewed.

He was charged with possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs and remanded into custody.

