

**High Street Safer Neighbourhood Team - Ward Panel Notes of meeting on
Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 7pm, Blackhorse Baptist Church**

<p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malcolm Patten (Chair),• Phil Herlihy (Co-chair),• Raja Anwar (Councillor),• James King (Anti Social Behaviour Officer),• Frankie Johnson (PC),• Steve Newland (PC),• Dennis Morgan (PCSO)• Mo Yusuf and Kerry Walkiden (Essex Close),• Sandra DaCosta (Cassiobury Road),• Hinnah Gill (Connecting Communities)• Tommy Anderson (Resident)• Maya Walker (Resident)• Alice Taylor (Resident)	<p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Ahsan Khan,• Tommy Anderson,• Councillor Vicky te Velde,• Louisa Bergese,• Martin Griffiths,• Jacqie Sheehy,• Ahsan Khan.
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Minutes taken by Philip Herlihy

Minutes:

No objections to minutes from the meeting on 7 July.

Action Points:

No outstanding Action Points.

Essex Close

Mo and Kerry reported to the meeting that the situation at Essex Close was very much improved since the visit by senior Councillors (Ahsan Khan – Community Safety, Vicky te Velde – Connecting Communities, Louise Mitchell – Housing) and subsequent works to make the buildings less amenable to intruders. Residents report a substantial reduction in antisocial behaviour and a restored sense of community – clearly a success story for joint Police and Council working.

Police Report

Crime Figures for July – Sep 2019:

- July 196 crimes reported.
- Aug 124 crimes reported.
- Down 6% on the following months.

Current operations.

Work continues in & around the Mali boys after we saw an increase of youths hanging about outside Bim's causing problems to the residents of the flats above.

The police along with LBWF have been issuing Community protection orders & Public space protection orders on a number of the regulars who attend this location along with a few arrests for mainly small drug offences.

Op Langdale.

Op Langdale is in its last few months of operation.

Essex Close.

Police continue to patrol the area along with Stoneydown park the main problem was with youths

smoking weed & ASB issues. One of the youths was leaving his moped in the hallways & other areas of Essex Close. This male was targeted by police using road traffic act & Public space protection orders to fine this male. The result was that his driving licence was revoked & once caught riding his moped he was stopped & arrested for various drug related offences & driving offences where we saw his moped taken from him. The male was also charged with these drug offences & awaits his day in court.

An increase in bicycle theft has been noticed – residents are advised to consider registering their bikes on www.bikeregister.com. Meanwhile, the bike shed at Blackhorse Road is to be upgraded. There is considerable development going on around Blackhorse Road which will change the character of the area.

Brexit precautions have meant officers have been extracted on “aid”, with one office diverted to fill a shortage on the Response team. Otherwise the team have often worked until 10pm and sometimes until midnight.

Sandra asked about a noisy and presumed-vulnerable person, often shouting and swearing, and seen bare-chested and barefoot. Police have an internal Mental Health referral number which they can call.

Network Rail have been persuaded to cut back the vegetation in the Alley leading down to the Firs Health Centre.

The London Mayor has proposed a “Night-time Enterprise Zone” for Walthamstow High Street, encouraging late opening of businesses, later this year.

It was noted that PCSO Dennis Morgan has received a (rare) [Judges Commendation](#) for his “brave work in detaining an burglar” who was armed with a metal pole – eventually sentenced to 8 years’ custody. The meeting expressed its congratulations and appreciation of PCSO Morgan’s sterling efforts.

Discussion:

Once again, the subject of drug dealing and the “Mali” boys came up. PH read out an account from local resident Hassan Nadif, describing blatant drug dealing around the bottom of Pretoria Avenue despite police patrols. PC Newland reported that things appeared to have improved recently, though TA questioned this. PC Newland also reported a reduction in incidents at Tenby Court. It was emphasised again that it’s important to report any sightings or incidents formally via 101 or the Met website so that police can devote appropriate resources.

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 26th November at Blackhorse Baptist Church