

High Street Ward panel Meeting
Held at Blackhorse Road Baptist Church
Date: 18/02/2020

Attendance: Malcolm Patten (Chair), James King (ASB, WF), Terry Smart (SNT), & Residents: Alice Taylor-Rugman, Maya Walker, Jacqui Sheehy, B Ebsworth, Sandra DaCosta, Mo Yusuf & Kerry Walkiden.

1. Meeting guidelines noted.
2. Kerry Walkiden agreed to take minutes.
3. Apologies: Philip Herlihy
4. Minutes/ Review actions:
 - a. Malcom noted that the September ward panel meeting minutes are still to be completed by Philip. Update: completed.
 - b. CCTV on Essex Close – As an action from the last ward panel meeting Philip emailed Councillor Vicky de Velde to find out whether it would become permanent, and was subsequently forwarded onto the CCTV team - awaiting reply. One of the residents within attendance contacted the local councillors and the understanding of response received was that they shall be permanent. Philip will follow up on this.
 - c. The question of why councillors don't attend arose. The response usually met is that their schedule doesn't allow. It was brought up by James King (ASB) that so long as they are informed in advance, then attendance should be possible. The idea of having the councillors on rotation could be put forward. It was mentioned that councillors attend other ward panel meetings (Markhouse Road & Lea Bridge Road) Malcolm to email and invite them.
5. Police update - they have a new system which means they are unable to give accurate crime figures on this occasion but indications are of general improvement. Issues raised:
 - a) McDonalds (Hoe St) varying times during the day and night, it was believed that there were drugs being sold out of this establishment. It was mentioned that there has been Uber motorbikes parked inside. A drugs sale was witnessed the previous week, and members of the public offered drugs by an Uber motorbike driver. The police confirmed that McDonalds have a policy that if someone turns up with a bike and has a helmet, they will not be served. Terry to consult with McDonalds managers regarding the concerns.
 - b) Bottom of market/ Pretoria Rd/ St James St – Email read by Malcolm from a resident on Pretoria Rd, asking to push for CCTV at the bottom of the market by International Supermarket & an additional door by Bims. Terry said operations were ongoing in the area. The entrance by Bims was being looked into but not a simple fix. Improved security behind Well Pharmacy was helping. The group dealing drugs had moved to around Sainsburys but a recent purge there (inc. using Public Space Protection Orders) had moved them on again. Someone asked how often females are stopped and searched in connection with this, and the police have said it isn't happening very often.
 - c) Essex Close: not as bad as before, congregations have now moved from door entrance 12, to door Exit 1 and entrance 2. It is believed that the "Leaders" of the gang are now slowly bringing new members. Access tactics are the same – following residents in, buzzing tenants to gain access, leaving rocks and bottles in doors to keep them open. Reported that door in Exit 1 is

broken. James said that Parkguard have attended a number of times and found the door broken but no issues. Terry asked for SNT email address to be copied into all ASB reports relating to Essex Close.

- d) Possible drug dealing within Edward Road – Tenants were advised to report this via 101 and the local police.

6. AOB:

- a. Tasers: Malcolm & Philip both attended a briefing, anticipating the roll out of more tasers to officers. Terry noted it would probably be a couple of years before the SNT would have one. Issues are costs and training. They usually have one or two response cars in the borough carrying Taser. Considered to be useful particularly when being challenged by knives/ machetes and with a good safety record.
 - b. Facial recognition- had been used in Stratford recently. Malcolm had received a briefing at the 'Chairs' meeting and Acting CI Nixon was keen to have feedback. So long as it was achieving a high degree of accuracy no objections were raised.
 - c. It was noted that the council was running a 6 month trial with a private security firm called Parkguard. They respond to requests from council and police to deal with ASB.
7. Appointment of the Chair and Vice chair – it was noted that Malcolm & Philip had been acting as co-chairs and the meeting agreed for them to carry on for the next year.
8. Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 28th April 2020, Blackhorse Rd Baptist Church.