

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board**

**Date:** Tuesday, 14 November 2023

**Venue:** The Atrium - Perceval House

**Attendees (in person):**

Sa Kumar (Chair), J Martin, J Sanghera, L Ballard, J Murray and Cllr J Anand

**Attendees (virtual):**

J Guest, R Sohi, K Gupta, C Brown and E Benoit

**Apologies:**

C Hersch, A Oliver, G Langston, A Rollings

### **1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Rollings, Cllr Hersch, Andy Oliver and Gita Langston.

### **2 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting which took place on 3 October 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.

### **3 Projects Update**

The Vice Chair reminded the board of the four projects that the board had previously reviewed and funded. He noted that the police were impressed with one of the projects and they continued to fund it themselves.

The Chair noted that he intended to visit one project in December and the Chair also planned on visiting. He noted that he had been in communication with MOPAC to see if funds could be vired from projects into funding venues for ward panel meetings and ESNB meetings.

The board has received a funding of £22,787 for projects each year. Last year there was a previous underspend of £14,310.51 which can be used on other projects. Suggested a new item under a forthcoming meeting to discuss new funding.

- Councillor Anand asked if the criteria for the funding could be loosened to include a broader selection of projects.
- The Vice Chair stated that he wanted the board to stick to the 4 criteria set out already, as there was quite a lot of scope for projects. He noted that the maximum level of funding each project could receive was £5,000.

The chair noted that the projects could be very creative within the criteria that had been agreed by MOPAC.

Jags Sanghera joined part way through this item.

## 4 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

### *Clear Hold Build*

Superintendent Lynch introduced the item. He stated that Clear, Hold, Build was a concept that had been linked to other work that had already started, such as the stronger 7 towns programme. He stated that this project was linked with the Home Office. He noted that this project had already had pilot sites within London and it was a place-based project: Other key points were that:

- This project would dock with other Ealing forums.
- The match funded police officers, from the council, to tackle ASB were linked to the growth of this project.
- The work would be closely twinned with the Local Authority (LA) to target individuals that were causing harm.
- A pilot site in Barnet had used closure notices, which were council powers. These tactics would be overlaid with care boards for adult and child safeguarding.
- The tactics used would deter ongoing behaviours.
- A mapping programme had already begun in the borough to see what gaps there were in Ealing's current policing.
- It has been made clear that this approach is wanted to be brought to Ealing, following engagement with the project in Brent. Authority was being requested to initiate this project.
- A hybrid version of Clear, Hold, Build had been designed if the rollout of the whole project had to wait.
- The crime and disorder scrutiny panel had been invited to visit Hendon to view police training.

In Response to the board, Superintendent Lynch noted that:

- The pilot had been running since January and had started in earnest in April.
- He was happy to try to involve more groups, to have a more unified

idea of the project.

- The improvement with this model was that the police in local areas could draw upon more specialised police forces. It would be more effective at tackling county lines and serious and organised crime.
- When an evaluation was able to be shared with the board, it would be.
- The teams already existed within the police force, so when the project was rolled out, they could draw on already formed teams of specialised police.

Jess Murray added that the council already had programmes such as the contextual safeguarding programme that aligned with the clear hold build project, and discussions were underway in regard to reallocating funds to help with the project. The project would help tackle issues, such as young adults leaving home to seek safety in public places and how the council and police could improve the safety of vulnerable people and make it easier for police to manage ASB.

## **5 Business Engagement**

### *Shoplifting in Highstreets*

Inspector Ballard introduced the item stating that shoplifting was endemic across the whole country, and that high streets were suffering especially. He noted that the police could not investigate all shoplifting cases, due to the quantity of shoplifting. The police would still record the shoplifting and would investigate any crime over the value of £200 or if the suspect is still on the scene or if it was aggravated: Other key points were that:

- He was looking to trial a business engagement day in 2024. Officers in all 7 town centres would visit business over the course of 1 or 2 days offering business crime safety information packs.
- The pack was designed for businesses to keep themselves safe from crime.
- The police would ask what issues business were having, see if there are any trends and hoped to reassure the businesses during the visit.

Superintendent Lynch stated that the news about the quantity of shoplifting offences was unpalatable. He stated this he supported this initiative, but this would not be the only thing that the police will do to help protect businesses. He noted that he and the commissioner were happy to innovate with CCTV and he had been lobbying to create town centre teams to help with town centre crime. He stated that town centres were great places for officers to train and that there would be 20-30 police officers operating out of Ealing Broadway Police Station.

In response to the board, Inspector Ballard noted that:

- This initiative would hopefully strengthen retail businesses resilience to crime.

- He would be grateful to utilise business network contact lists to support this initiative.
- He understood that shoplifting was a contentious priority in Ealing Broadway, as had been discussed in previous ward panels.
- He was happy to be contacted to facilitate Ealing Broadway Police Station being used as a venue for ward panels.
- Any aggravated shoplifts should be reported to the police so that they can be investigated further.

## 6 Ward Panels

Inspector Ballard introduced the item stating that there were challenges with ward panel attendance in some areas of the borough. He noted that he would be trialling the merging of two ward panels to see if there was greater engagement, in wards that were not well engaged with. Other key points were that:

- He had committed to attending 2 meetings per ward panel per year, totalling 48 ward panels a year.
- The key aspect of ward panels were the structure. They needed to be places for honest opinion to be shared with the police.
- The ward panels needed to set priorities for the police. The first out of 3 was set by MOPAC and it was violent crime.
- The other 2 priorities were set by the ward panels themselves.
- The police provided the data to help decide the priorities and they monitored the police activities compared to the priorities and would always explain why the priorities were not met, if they had not been.
- The ward panels should be inclusive, albeit at the discretion of the chair.
- The social media app, Nextdoor, would be utilised to advertise the ward panels, as they managed to get an extra 6 people attend the ward panel in Acton recently in a trial.
- Ward panels should be held quarterly and should have recording of the meeting in minutes.
- The police were evaluating community contact sessions with initiatives such as coffee with a copper or chai with a copper in Southall.
- Ward panels were a vital tool between police and the community and they were being underutilised.

In response to the board, Inspector Ballard noted that:

- The merger of ward panels had not happened yet, and consultation would take place between chairs and interested parties.
- The police would be happy for councillors to help advertise the panels and send invites for the chairs, if the chairs wished.
- In winter months it was harder to get people to attend ward panels, due to the shorter days and colder weather.

Jess Murray noted that the Local Authority would try to support the police in ward panels to try to drive trust and confidence that the police were trying to improve. Young people did not seem to want to join this kind of forum and alternative forms of engagement needed to be trialled.

Superintendent Lynch thanked everyone for an enriching discussion on ward panels.

## **7 Police Update and Q&A**

In Response to the board, Superintendent Lynch noted that:

- The police were working hard nationally to form a united front in regard to civil unrest, in regard to events in the Middle East. The police were working hard everywhere to increase engagement.
- The police were working hard to protect communities all across London.
- The police were focusing on hate crime.
- High visibility police patrols had been increased to tackle this kind of crime.
- He recognised how emotional and challenging this issue was and all criminals who had committed hate crimes would be brought to justice.

Inspector Ballard introduced the item, stating that there was a dedicated faith officer in Ealing and the police had worked hard to reassure communities during this period of unrest. Other key points were that:

- The police had managed several events over the past few weeks, including Halloween, Diwali, 5 November, and Armistice Day.
- New tactics were trialled on Halloween in Greenford to curb fireworks, and it had worked well there on that night.
- The police also attended a festival of 40,000 in Southall to engage with the residents. 1 Crime had been committed and the police helped return 4 missing children on that day.
- The police were going to investigate the quantity and volume of fireworks that had been used on Diwali, as some of them had sounded too loud to have been safe.

Superintendent Lynch noted that other operations had been underway as well as these events. A male violence against women and girls (VAWAG) event had taken place on Ealing Broadway with a lot of community engagement. The police were generally working on business as usual, regardless of the vents in the Middle East.

There had been a lot of projects around tackling crime around transport hubs. The police had started to employ behavioural police officers that operated in plain clothes. He also noted that operation sceptre that targeted habitual knife crime was still underway.

Inspector Ballard gave a brief overview of crime statistics, the highlighted statistic was that personal robbery had gone up 69% since last year. He also noted that crime levels tended to increase during the darker months.

Jess Murray suggested that the personal robbery statistic could be discussed after the meeting, as that was a significant increase. He stated that it would be good to see where and why that had picked up.

Inspector Ballard noted that he attended meetings about violent crimes monthly and noted that crime had increased around ealing Broadway. He noted that resources had been allocated to respond to that.

Superintendent Lynch stated that the police had been discussing nationally with phone companies to deter and support with crimes involving mobile phones.

In response to the board, Superintendent Lynch noted that:

Advice and communications were already produced about protecting yourself against personal robbery. But he encouraged more communication around that.

## **8 Any Other Business**

There was none

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 30 January 2024.

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting finished: 21:00

Signed:

Dated: Tuesday, 30 January 2024