

**WALTHAM FOREST COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD****25th June 2008****Committee Room 3 Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road**  
**Walthamstow****Present**

Leyton and Whipps Cross Community Council	Steve Williams ( <b>SW</b> )
Race and Equality Group	Afzal Malik ( <b>AM</b> )
Borough Commander	Chief Supt. Mark Benbow ( <b>MB</b> )
Asst Director Safe & Strong Communities	Robin Tuddenham ( <b>RT</b> )
MPA Representative	Natasha Plummer ( <b>NP</b> )
LBWF	Cllr. Richard Sweden ( <b>RS</b> )
LBWF	Cllr. M Davis ( <b>MD</b> )
North Chingford community Council	Kevin Wyatt – Lown ( <b>KWL</b> )
Community Representative	Roger Desouches ( <b>RD</b> )
South Chingford and Highams Park Community Council	Peter Jaggs ( <b>PJ</b> )
WALB Community Council	Mike Cave ( <b>MC</b> )
Community Group Representative	Neil Collins (VAWF) ( <b>NC</b> )
Faith Forum	Faisal Raja ( <b>FJ</b> )
Community Group Representative	Brian Wilkes ( <b>BW</b> )
Disability Group Representative	Ruth Bashall ( <b>RB</b> )
Youth Group Representative	Matt Perry ( <b>MP</b> )

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from

MPA Representative	Jennette Arnold
LBWF	Cllr A. Akram
LBWF	Cllr E. Philips
Walthamstow West Community Council	Abid Hussain
Stop and Search Monitoring Group	Sandra Da Costa
Leytonstone Community Council	Jane Brueseke
Victim Support Group	Chris Casey
SLADA	Phillip Dundon
Crown Prosecution Service	Antony Salmon
Probation Service	Mary Pilgrim
Disability Group Representative	Pat Bhabra

ELOP/LGBT  
Elderly Group Representative  
Faith Forum  
Community Group Representative

Teresa Sharpe  
Edith Poulsen  
Alison Mackay  
Bill Ravenscroft

**Also Present**

Faye Williamson (**FW**)  
Narinder Matharoo (**NM**)  
Mariana Bojang  
J Bennett  
Godfrey Goddard  
Margaret Wilkes  
Gwen Williams  
Helen Nolan  
Diana Tamaseushaite  
Lynn Pearce  
Sylvia King  
Lyndsey Buchanan  
Rabi Salassnik  
Irene Yeow  
Raymond Swingler  
A Khundkar  
Councillor Masood Ahmad  
Brian Whyte

ClearSprings  
Gudwara Sikh Sangat  
Resident  
Resident  
Resident  
Resident  
Resident  
MPS  
Resident  
Resident  
Resident  
LBWF  
Resident  
Resident  
Resident  
Bengali International  
LBWF  
Resident

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Steve Williams the Chair of the Board welcomed all those present. The Chair also apologised for the fact that the despatch of the Agenda for the meeting had been unacceptably delayed due to technical problems with the printing process.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were agreed as a correct record subject to the addition of Kevin Wyatt – Lown to the list of those present.

**Matters Arising:**

**Item 7 Mental Health Briefing / Report**

It was noted that this will be presented to a future CSB meeting and agreed that Neil Collins would be involved in the preparation of the item.

### **Item 3 Appointment of New Members**

Narinder Matharoo enquired why the application to join the CSB by the Gudwara had not appeared in the Minutes of the meeting and why membership had not been granted to such a large group.

It was explained that in the last year there were many structural discussions led by Jennette Arnold of the MPA relating to the change from the PCCG to the Community Safety Board. A new structure was approved and elections held for Community Representation.

The Faith groups were now represented by the faith forum, and that body will bring any issues raised at its six weekly meeting to the CSB for consideration.

It was also suggested that the Gudwara could attend CSB meetings as an associate member and raise issues at the appropriate time.

The Chair proposed that, rather than spend further time discussing this matter, an informal meeting be convened with members of the Faith Forum, the Gudwara and Officers to discuss this issue.

### **Item 5 Borough Commander's Report**

Ruth Bashall queried the fact that there were no statistics collected relating to hate crime being perpetrated against persons with disabilities. Mr Benbow clarified that there were statistics held relating to hate crime but these were not specifically available relating to persons with disabilities.

## **3. ClearSprings**

The Community Safety Board received a presentation on the work of ClearSprings (Management) Ltd from Faye Williamson, the Company Regional Manager.

ClearSprings provide managed accommodation for offenders considered eligible for Bail and for those on Home Detention Curfew (HDC). Currently ClearSprings has one property in the Borough.

Members asked the following questions about the scheme.

**Comment RT** This scheme aims to reduce prison numbers by use of community placements and support. It results in people with problems from across the country to be placed in Waltham Forest and to bring all their associated problems with them. The current property was sited without any consultation with or knowledge of the Authority.

**Response FW** We have a policy of consultation both with the Police Service and Local Authority before any new property is opened, however I cannot comment on this particular property as it was opened before I started in post. However we do keep in contact with the MPS via their

- common point of contact.
- Question /Comment NC** I was pleased to see that certain categories of offender are not placed in your properties but was a little concerned that “alleged “ sex offenders are excluded – this is both dangerous and discriminatory. Can you explain how people with psychological /psychiatric problems are dealt with?
- Answer FW** These are flagged up by the prison service and we will carry out further investigations prior to any placement.
- Question BW** Are people convicted of offences against children excluded?
- Answer FW** Yes.
- Question MD** Is planning permission required to site one of your properties?
- Response FW** No, but we do consult with neighbouring property, the MPS and the Local Authority.
- Question MD** Are properties monitored to check for nuisance?
- Answer FW** Each neighbour is given a contact number and if there are problems we will visit to check on residents’ behaviour. However as the alternative is a return to prison our residents are generally well behaved. We also do have contacts with the MPS and they will flag up any problems they find out about.
- Question FR** How are potential properties identified and purchased?
- Answer FW** The Department of Justice identify properties which we purchase using government funding. We manage the properties and deal with any problems that arise.

The Chair terminated the discussion at this point and asked that any further questions be submitted to Fay Williamson by email.

The Chair thanked Ms Williamson for her presentation.

#### **4. MPA Report**

In the absence of Jennette Arnold a short report on the work of the MPA was submitted by Natasha Plummer an officer of the MPA.

Some concern was expressed that the report did not contain sufficient detail and a breakdown of statistics into equality groupings. Additionally it was noted that this was the second consecutive meeting to which Ms Arnold had

submitted apologies for absence and the Chair agreed to follow this up with her.

Ms Plummer responded that she would ensure that future reports were more detailed, and that other comments were passed to Ms Arnold.

## **5. Borough Commander's Report**

Chief Superintendent Mark Benbow reported that the Borough has been set some very challenging targets for 2008 both for reduction targets and Sanctioned Detection targets.

### **Crime Reduction Targets for 2008 /9**

Gun crime - 5%  
Knife offences - 5.7%  
Youth Violence - 5.2%  
Serious Acquisitive Crime - 3.7%  
Residential Burglary - 1%  
Robbery - 0.8%  
Theft of Vehicle - 6.9%  
Theft from Vehicle - 5.2%

With regard to performance targets Mr Benbow reported the following statistics:

<b>Crime</b>	<b>Reduction Target</b>	<b>Reduction Achieved</b>
Knife crime	5.7%	9.5%
Youth violence	5.2%	24.1%
Gun Enabled Crime	5.0%	38.9%
Theft of MV	6.9%	20.0%
Theft from vehicle	5.2%	13.8%

### **Sanctioned Detections**

Mr Benbow reported that the format for targets for sanctioned detections has changed somewhat, with individual crime areas now being identified, and that some targets had not been finalised. He informed the Board that the targets set will be very taxing in certain areas such as Robbery, Burglary Residential and Vehicle Crime, which will require maximum effort by the Borough. But in areas such as Murder, GBH, Rape, Sexual assault and Other the Borough stand a good chance of performing well, taking into account previous years detection rates.

The following table sets out the targets and results achieved so far.

	Tier ONE				Tier TWO					Tier THREE
DATE	Murder	GBH (38%)	Rape (41%)	Sex Ass. (32%)	Robbery (17%)	Burg.Res (16%)	ABH	TDA (8%)	Theft from (8%)	Other (30%)
April'08	200%	47.37%	33.33%	7.69%	11.11%	5.65%	32.12%	4.00%	0.00%	27.14%
May'08	0.00%	53.85%	0.00%	15.38%	5.71%	7.11%	21.93%	5.66%	1.24%	28.41%
June'08	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	58.33%	24.39%	3.77%	32.79%	17.65%	1.01%	38.19%
	66.67%	67.07%	11.11%	27.13%	13.74%	5.51%	28.95%	9.10%	0.75%	31.25%

Mr Benbow also reported on the implementation of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy – CONTEST which currently has 4 strands.

1. Prepare - Civil contingencies etc;
2. Protect - Target harden businesses against attack;
3. Pursue - Criminal investigation;
4. Prevent - Countering the terrorist catalyst, by changing attitudes.

In particular he highlighted progress made on the 'PREVENT Strategy & Delivery Plan'. This is a partnership process between police and the local authority (LBWF), with additional partners being engaged where necessary to achieve specific tasks or targets. Many of the tasks do not need specialist training; rather the use of common sense policing and everyday communication skills. The ultimate aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism by engaging and winning support from all communities, partners and agencies.

Additionally members were informed about Operation Blunt, which commenced on 19 May 2008 and is being run in the MPS to tackle the issue of Knife Enabled Crime (KEC) and serious youth violence. Operation Blunt has been set up to reduce the risk of incidence of serious youth violence, and to safeguard young people at risk and/or in fear of serious violence

Mr Benbow reported a number of significant operations in the borough that had resulted in arrests and seizures.

### **Drugs Searches**

- a) On Tuesday 10<sup>TH</sup> June 2008, officers from the Leytonstone Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT), with the assistance of Waltham Forest Borough Task Unit and Dog Section successfully executed a search warrant at an address in High Road Leytonstone E11.

The search warrant followed recent concerns from local residents about the frequent visitors to the address and the anti-social behaviour they caused.

Officers gathered evidence to support a search warrant and when officers attended the property they found quantities of Class A paraphernalia.

Five people were on the premises at the time the warrant was executed and were questioned about drug use at the address. Two arrests were made for breach of court order and public order. Other persons were removed from the premises.

b) Eight men have been charged in connection with the sale of class A drugs following raids carried out in Waltham Forest on 15 April and 17 April 2008.

Officers from Waltham Forest, working closely with their colleagues from the Territorial Support Group (TSG) and the Specialist Crime Directorate (Trident and Trafalgar) carried out raids on six addresses in the areas of Chingford, Walthamstow and Leyton, following intelligence to suggest the sale of class A drugs.

Following weeks of meticulous planning, the intelligence led operation saw officers execute search warrants as part of an operation designed to clamp down on the sale of class A drugs being bought and sold in the targeted areas.

As part of the operation, officers seized quantities of cash; class A drugs a knife and firearms.

Three other men have been arrested in connection with the raids. They have been bailed to return to an east London police station in June pending further enquiries.

### **Dispersal Zone.**

A Dispersal Zone has been active in Raglan Road, E17 since the 9th of May and will remain in place for six months. So far Wood Street SNT have seen a drastic reduction in the number of youths congregating in this area and also a decrease in the number of reported crimes.

The SNT have also received positive feedback from other residents of Raglan Road.

There has been one arrest so far for breaching the Dispersal Zone. A male of 17yrs was charged and (joined to multiple other charges) on 28th May 2008 at WF Magistrates Court he was imprisoned for 22 months.

Letters are being sent to the youths' parents from the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, detailing their behaviour and our intention to pursue ASBO's should the behaviour persist.

Youth Services are also in liaison with The Soul Project on Wood Street and will be engaging with youths in the area and advertising diversion activities.

Wood Street SNT are in contact with Ascham Homes as we have identified various problematic addresses within Raglan Road. We are in the process of issuing Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and seeking eviction proceedings against them - this obviously takes time and is ongoing.

### **Armed Kidnap**

Officers from Waltham Forest CID mounted an investigation alongside Sheffield Police in connection with the armed kidnap on a Chingford man on 3rd October 2007. After lengthy investigations three men were arrested. One male was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for kidnapping and six years for possession of a handgun. Two others were sentenced to nine years for kidnapping and six years for possession of a hand gun.

### **Operation Athena**

Operation Athena took place on Waltham Forest Borough on 21st May 2008. Twelve people were arrested. In total three of the twelve people arrested were charged or cautioned with the remaining bailed to return to Chingford Police pending further enquiries.

### **Charity Event**

Mr Benbow reported on a charity event undertaken by Police Cadets. Waltham Forest Schools officers organised a "lock in" on 25th May 2008. 33 Cadets presented themselves to be arrested as part of a role play at Wood Green Crown Court all in the name of charity. They were searched, had all personal effects taken which were sealed in evidence bags and placed in cells. The cadets also had a tour of the Court House. Prisoner meals were also provided! The cadets received certificates in order that they were able to collect their sponsorship money.

Finally Mr Benbow reiterated that his priorities remained as Knife crime, Youth crime, Robbery, Burglary, and of course Terrorism

The following questions were asked:

**Question MD** What percentage of people stopped are actually charged and convicted.

**Answer MB** This is around 10% - the statistics are reported to the Stop and Search meetings.

**Question MP** There is confusion amongst young people about their rights relating to stop and search. I understand that an MPS leaflet is available, where can I obtain a supply, and what is

being done on the ground to raise awareness?

**Answer MB** I can arrange for a supply of the leaflets to be made available to you by my staff officer. Safer neighbourhood teams are working on the ground to raise awareness with local groups.

**Question PJ** Can you identify occasions where a number of crimes are being committed by a single perpetrator?

**Answer MB** Such crimes can be identified by looking at the *modus operandi* employed, and the drop in crime numbers when a particular person is apprehended. A breakdown of crime by area is mapped and is available on a ward by ward basis on the MPS web site.

**Question MC** What will the implications be for the MPS of  
a) the recent ruling that anonymous witnesses are not legal; and  
b) the recommendations in the Youth and Police report.

**Answer MB** Obviously the ruling made will have implications for a number of past cases where these witnesses were used and may affect people's willingness to come forward in future cases. The recommendations in the youth and Police report should not impact on my Officers at all.

**Comment MD** Congratulations on the residential burglary reduction figures, I understand that this relates to access being obtained through uPVC windows. Is the problem being publicized?

**Response MB** I have included advice to householders in my column in the local Guardian, but it could also be publicized in the Waltham Forest Magazine.

**Comment RB** Locking uPVC window and doors can be problematic for people with disabilities.

**Question RB** What training do officers receive for dealing with people with disabilities, such as those with Asperger's Syndrome, and I have been experiencing difficulty with the removal of offensive graffiti, can somebody help with this?

**Answer MB** Officers are trained to deal with all types of people especially those who are behaving in an unusual manner.

**Answer RT** Offensive graffiti should be removed within 24 hours and I will endeavour to ensure that this is removed.

**Comment** While there has been a rash of burglaries, we should not

**SW** lose sight of the fact that with some 83000 residences you are very unlucky to be one of the 400 that were burgled.

## 6. SafetyNet Report

Robin Tuddenham introduced a concise progress report on work undertaken by SafetyNet the Borough's Crime, Drugs and Disorder Reduction Partnership in the period 1 April to 13 June 2008.

Members agreed to note this report.

In addition members considered the final draft of a report commissioned by the Community Safety Board - Young People and the Police. The report investigated the perceptions held by young people about the Police, crime and community safety issues.

The consultation project was delivered by a partnership involving the police and Waltham Forest Council, with the Council's Community Engagement Unit managing the project.

The project was partly a response to the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) request for all London Boroughs to contribute to the MPA's Youth Scrutiny Panel. An interim report, following a first stage of the project, was submitted to the MPA on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

A key outcome of the project has been to secure funding and support from the Community Safety Board to form a Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) to inform the Police, the Council and their Partners on community safety issues. This represents an acknowledgement of the value provided by actively engaging with young people on key community safety issues.

The following questions were asked

**Comment MD** I was surprised at the findings in the report, and am concerned at the reasons why young people are being criminalised, there is no fear of incarceration as prison is seen as an easy number, and the young people have a poverty of aspiration.

**Response LB** Young people need credible role models and these seem to be lacking.

**Comment SW** It is apparent that Members have not had sufficient time to read and digest the report. I proposed that any comments and questions should be passed to Lindsey Buchanan by Wednesday 10 July and an action plan will be prepared for submission to our next meeting.

Members approved this suggestion. Additionally it was agreed that the Community Safety Board formally agreed to the establishment and support of a Youth Independent Advisory Group.

**7. Borough Criminal Justice Group**

It was reported that although Mary Pilgrim had submitted apologies for this meeting she had also undertaken to report to our September meeting on the community Pay Back Scheme.

**8. Suspension of Constitution – Extension of Meeting**

At 8.30 pm Members agreed to suspend the provisions of the Constitution and extend the meeting by 15 minutes to allow further business to be transacted.

**9. Member Feedback**

Community Representatives raised the following issues that had been bring to the Board's attention by their respective Groups.

Afzal Malik asked for a brief explanation of the MPS Community Engagement Team.

Mr Benbow reported that this was a small team (6 Officers and 2 civilian staff) set up to work in the community to foster better relations between community groups and the MPS

Roger Desouches asked why his local SNT had lost its Sergeant and when the Officer would be replaced.

Mr Benbow reported that the officer concerned had moved into an intelligence role and that he was currently recruiting a replacement. However he agreed that there was a difficult balance to be struck as it was necessary to let officers develop their skills and then generally seek promotion and thus the process would start again. Currently the Safer Neighbourhoods teams were 8 officers short and recruitment was underway.

With regard to those queries relating to the resources relating to Neighbourhood Watch Members were asked to direct their questions to Sian Hasler or Bill Nesbitt in Community Safety.

It was noted that a written question on knife crime had been submitted by Mr Brian Whyte and Robin Tuddenham undertook to respond to this in writing.

**10. Future Meeting Dates**

Members noted the following schedule of meetings for the remainder of the Year.

24 September 2008  
19 November 2008  
28 January 2009  
25 March 2009

**11. Public Questions**

There were no questions submitted.

The Meeting closed at 9.10