

**WALTHAM FOREST COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD****27th March 2008****Council Chamber, Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road Walthamstow****Present**

Borough Commander	Chief Supt. Mark Benbow
MPA Representative	Nathan Olley (alternate for Jennette Arnold)
HM Court Service	Huw Richards
Community Representative	Roger Desouches
South Chingford and Highams Park Community Council	Peter Jaggs
WALB Community Council	Mike Cave
Leytonstone Community Council	Jane Brueseke
Leyton and Whipps Cross Community Council	Steve Williams
Community Group Representative	Neil Collins (VAWF)
Community Group Representative	Bill Ravenscroft
	Carmela Crute- Jones
Race and Equality Group	Afzal Malik
Community Group Representative	Brian Wilkes
Disability Group Representative	Pat Bhabha
Youth Group Representative	Matt Perry
South Leytonstone Area Development Association (SLADA)	Phillip Dundon
Head of Community Safety	Alastair Macorkindale (alternate for Robin Tuddenham)
Community Safety Portfolio Lead Member	Afzal Akram

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from

MPA Representative	Jennette Arnold
Head of Community Safety	Robin Tuddenham
Walthamstow West Community Council	Abid Hussain
Committee Manager	David J. Knight

## **Also Present**

Sasha White	Resident
Edward Upcraft	Resident
Mr & Mrs K. Wadman	Residents
Godfrey Goddard	Resident
Margaret Wilkes	Resident
Gwen Williams	Resident
Gulam Thakor	Resident
Helen Nolan	MPS
Dee Francis	Resident
Edward Gold	Resident
Khalir Mian	Resident
D. Frales	Resident
M. Jervis	Resident
Nazir A. Butt	Resident

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Steve Williams the Chair of the Board welcomed all those present. Two specific Board members were acknowledged:

- Huw Richards retires on 28<sup>th</sup> March and both the Chair and Borough Commander Benbow expressed their thanks for his contribution to the Board and wished him a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement.
- Darren Dovey is leaving Waltham Forest at the end of March to take up another post within the London Fire Service and the Chair expressed thanks for his contribution to the Board.

## **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

Question AM	Item 20: Any further information regarding the MPA inquiry regarding the Stockwell incident?
Answer SW	As Jennette Arnold is not at tonight's meeting it isn't possible to receive an update from her.
Question GT	Can there be additional Board membership places for Faith Groups?
Answer SW	No, only one representative is allowed – those selected are expected to represent that specific community group. Details of the restructuring were circulated last year.

- Comment AA The Board encourages public attendance at it's' meetings to allow non-members to participate – need to have a manageable group.
- Question KM Why weren't the Asian Community Action Group included in that circulation?
- Answer SW We'll respond to this to you.
- Comment AA Board membership is renewed annually – please apply next year.
- Comment DF I didn't receive notice of any elections – no black members, no 'Stop and Search' representation.
- Response SW Last year there were many structural discussions led by Jennette Arnold of the MPA. If people don't put themselves forward we cannot elect them. We'll ask Jennette to explain at the next meeting why the previous Police Community Consultative Group had to change to the Community Safety Board.  
**ACTION: AGENDA ITEM AT NEXT MEETING.**
- Comment DF We need an emergency meeting to discuss membership.
- Response SW I'll take this back for consideration / review.

### 3. Appointment of New Member

By a show of hands members approved the application for membership by the WF Somali Bravanese Action Group to be represented by Jeilani Sufi Mudhir. It was further noted that Mr James Cooke of East Thames Housing Group has joined the Board as a representative of the local Registered Social Landlords.

### 4. MPA Link Member's Report

In the absence of Jennette Arnold this item was postponed (however, see later item 7b in these Minutes).

### 5. Borough Commander's Report

Borough Commander Mark Benbow identified that the data shown on the circulated report was as at end-January 2008. He noted that the figures generally represented good news (e.g. Violent Crime down 12.4%).

#### Performance Data

It was noted that Police have been set some challenging targets this year, both reduction targets and Sanctioned Detection targets. Amongst the most challenging are the targets for Personal Robbery and Residential Burglary.

#### Reduction Targets

Superintendent Williams reported that for Personal Robbery - the Police had been set a reduction Target of 1.0%, and that they were currently achieving a 25.6% reduction.

In terms of Residential Burglary the Police had been set a target of a reduction of 6.0% and currently they were achieving a reduction of 4.3%

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

<b>Crime</b>	<b>Reduction Target</b>	<b>Reduction Achieved</b>
Theft person	10%	12.6%
Gun Enabled Crime	5.0%	+ 6.3% (decreased from 8.8% reported at last meeting)
Common Assault	5.0%	8.1%
Violent Crime	7.0%	12.4%
Theft of MV	9.9%	5.0%
Theft from vehicle	7.5%	22.3%

### **Sanctioned Detections**

With regard to sanctioned detections the Police have been set a very challenging target of 24%. Currently the Police are achieving 24.8%

Other Sanctioned Detection targets and achievements are:

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Domestic Violence	40%	42.3%
Racist Crime	31%	32.6%
Homophobic Crime	33%	33.3%
Rape	30%	35.6%

### **Performance in relation to this year's and next year's targets**

In 2008/9 there will be major changes in data reporting methodology, as well as segregating targets into Tiers 1, 2 and 3. The circulated paper shows proposed Sanctioned Detection targets for 08/09 as well as equivalent 07/08 targets for comparison purposes. Tier 1 08/09 targets are all significantly higher.

Mr Benbow also updated the Board on the following:

**Critical Incident:** collision between an on-duty police constable and a moped in Lea Bridge Road – the officer's leg was broken in seven places; he was taken to Whipps Cross Hospital where he still remains.

**Integration Prosecution team:** the project has been signed off – of the three current pilot schemes Waltham Forest was the last to start but the first to achieve sign off.

**Other news:** the new Partnership Liaison officer is now in post; the recent amnesty on imitation firearms resulted in 46 being taken off the streets of which 7 were real (best result in London); the Kickz football project has been launched in the Borough with a further athletics based project, Met Track, to follow in the Summer.

**Operation Overt Trial:** the trial of the eight (four residing on WF Borough) Operation Overt defendants begins on 2<sup>nd</sup> April – the biggest ever terrorist trial. Mr Benbow noted that this could again bring a heightened media focus on the Borough, to be dealt with centrally but with Jane Connors as the local contact. He'll try to brief the Group as the trial situation evolves.

The following questions were asked:

**Questions MC** Action on pirated DVD sellers, participants in 3-card trick scams and position on SNT move to Marlow Road?

**Answers MB** DVD sellers – a piece of work has been commissioned with other Boro' Commanders across NE London; 3-card trick – SNT to deal with this; Marlow Road – was infested with cockroaches, now cleaned, SNT moving in imminently.

**Response AA** DVD's – we have a huge stock of recovered DVDs; asking about existing / new bye-laws to assist dealing with the sellers; legislative change in April – no guidance yet but we're poised to review / implement if possible; ASDA are looking at paying for a PCSO to patrol their store area.

**Questions BR** Could Marker stalls be numbered to better identify those selling pirated DVDs / why can't Police in the Market be in plain clothes to prevent identification when dealing with 3-card trick scams and related pick pocketing?

**Answers AA/MB** AA – stall i/d's – difficult to number pitches but some form of i/d could be used by residents to assist; MB – plain clothes police – only detectives can be in plain clothes.

**Question BR** Why no comment by MB on incident of man slashing himself in Selborne Walk?

**Answer MB** The incident wasn't life threatening.

**Comment JB** Market stallholders as well as Temple Mill security guards are involved with selling of pirate DVDs.

**Response AA** We're aware of both.

<b>Questions PB</b>	Do you have any figures for Hate Crime involving disabilities; are you aware of difficulties faced by some disabled residents regarding problems of accessibility to information caused by small print size used on documents?
<b>Answers MB</b>	Such figures aren't currently recorded; I'll look at the print size issue, particularly regarding information we are responsible for distributing.
<b>Comment AA</b>	Hate Crime figures – could liaise with Diane Andrews.
<b>Comment NC</b>	All disabilities need to be covered regarding ease of access to information (e.g. use of Braille / talking books).
<b>Comment SW</b>	There are a variety of groups for the disabled in WF – they would be prepared to work with all agencies assisting with the relevant preparation of material.
<b>Question BR</b>	Would MB comment on the 'A Safer Community' paper made available to attendees covering a survey done by the William Morris Student Council across the school?
<b>Answer MB</b>	There are currently 5 CPOs attached to WF schools – to be 10 in the near future, hope to have 20 by 2009. Need the right people.
<b>Comment AA</b>	This school has a large number of disabled students and as such needs special attention.
<b>Response MB</b>	I'll check to see if it has been designated for special attention – will be raised with the relevant officer.
<b>Question RD</b>	A machine used to detect knives / weapons has recently been seen being used in Notting Hill – when will there be such a machine for use in WF?
<b>Answer MB</b>	We now have such a machine – you'll soon see it being deployed in the Borough.

## 6. SafetyNet Report

The Board received and noted a report from Alastair Macorkindale Drugs and Crime Strategy Manager. Alastair gave the following additional comments verbally:

- Cutting crime isn't just about policing – SafetyNet seeks to add value to Police activities, reduce crimes but also concentrate locally.
- Focus is on early / situation prevention, civil enforcement and offender management.

- Recently undertook a strategic assessment – ‘most costly’ crimes include Anti-Social Behaviour (a key concern for residents), consumption of alcohol and drugs are key drivers of increased crime.
- Hate Crime – a greater focus this year, next year the aim is to establish effective and robust 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting places – looking to increase the amount of Hate Crime reporting with more cases being brought to justice.
- Recently introduced a specialist agency for residents to go to when seeking advice / assistance regarding civil / criminal redress.
- Key priority – fully accessible information delivery platforms.
- Next year – a greater focus on young people both as perpetrators and victims; need to improve the feeling of safety in the Borough (needs joint efforts by all agencies); more robust approach to civil enforcement (recently introduced in one Ward via Street Wardens); more localised approach – working more closely with Safer Neighbourhood officers in priority Wards to develop / ensure Community Safety plans applicable specifically to them.
- Suggest that at future Board meetings a series of more detailed presentations are given covering specific issues.

Arising from this the following questions were asked:

**Questions JB** Following the launch of Prof Pitts ‘Gang’ report last year we had anticipated a Gang Strategy but not a lot more has been heard – why not? Your reference to a more localised approach is to be recommended – could you use the Cathall Ward local Community Safety group as a model?

**Answers AM** More localised approach – ‘we’ll build on what works!’ Gangs – Robin Tuddenham and Leora Cruddas have done an interim piece of work to put some short-term measures mainly into the South of the Borough. There isn’t going to be a Gang Strategy specifically – a draft Strategic Assessment will be ready by the end of March, with a final version published by the end of April, focussing on early intervention (working with schools on neutral ground and registered local landlords on key estates), 2 key areas in the Borough with high gang related activities to have new programmes (via the YISP and a new agency ‘Crime Concern’), continued targeted enforcement (in association with the Police) and looking at exit from gang related activities through initiatives such as the City Strategy (a Council programme to increase economic opportunities).

**Comment AA** Increased funding is now available to improve opportunities for young people.

**Question JB** Which Community Groups participated in the consultation process for the Strategic Assessment?

- Answer AM** No really specific consultation – input was possible via the Council website.
- Question DF** What’s the name of the new advice / assistance agency referred to previously?
- Answer AM** After a tendering process a new contract is to be signed soon with the Refugee Advice Centre – 2 offices in Leyton.
- Question NC** Bill Ravenscroft is to be thanked for his excellent work with the ‘A Safer Community’ paper – young people need to be more involved in discussing such initiatives – can we recommend similar work to all schools in WF?
- Comment JB** Both Cathall and Jenny Hammond schools have done similar consultations / reports.
- Comment SW**
1. Future consultation exercises must be publicised via this Group.
  2. Members of the CSB are encouraged to both participate in and promote consultation in schools.

## **7. Borough Criminal Justice Group**

Huw Richards gave a verbal overview of the activities and responsibilities of the BCJG including the following:

- Pirate DVD sellers – byelaws are being used but new rules coming soon should further assist. Market stallholders have licences so any complaints of involvement that can be upheld could jeopardise renewal of those licences.
- Criminal Justice Act 1998 – new national identity pilot regarding immigration – contact between the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service strengthened via the BCJG.
- Meets monthly – work primarily very technical – forum to ensure joined-up response to technical issues.
- Cases that don’t progress through the Court can be very traumatic for those involved – figure now down to 9% of all cases (previously as high as 30/40%), very good improvement.
- Cases that don’t come to Court at all – figure is also decreasing to avoid waste of time for the general public.
- Nearly 50% of those arrested have some involvement with drugs – now much better programmes to assist.
- Family domestic violence – 150 cases per year – the BCJG have put in a bid to be more involved working within such situations – have a great deal of related experience.
- 50/60 cases a week where the BCJG is involved ensuring cases are properly pre-worked.

- Advisory service for those in custody.
- Persistent Youth Offending targets – no more than 60 days should elapse between offending and cases coming to Court – this target isn't always met. Where it's not met there's a follow-up tracking system.
- The WF Victim Support group is very involved with the BCJG and support its' work tremendously.
- Staff of 17 people, approx 50 Court sessions per week, 112 JPs and 2 Judges sitting every 4 weeks. Difficult to recruit new JPs – 130 are allowed for the Borough so looking for new volunteers.

Arising from this the following questions were asked:

**Question MC** Who to contact regarding possible JP volunteers?

**Answer HR** WF Magistrates Court – an information pack will then be sent out.

**Questions NC**

1. Are there any age limits for JPs?
2. Is there a proper diversion scheme for mentally ill individuals who shouldn't really be brought to trial?

**Answers HR**

1. By statute all JPs must retire at 70 – due to the length of time required for proper training / gaining experience people over 60 generally speaking aren't taken on.
2. An agreement with NELMHT is in place; you cannot try somebody who doesn't have the ability to make proper decisions.

**Question NC** Can we have a session on 2.above at a future meeting?

**Answer HR** Yes – we'll take that forward.

**Question PJ** Is there a minimum age for JPs?

**Answer HR** Early 20's in some parts of England, in London it's rare to have a JP under 30. In London generally some 90% of JPs are over 50 – would very much like to bring this proportion down. JPs are totally unpaid, although expenses can be claimed including loss of earnings.

**Comment SW** Further information is available from David Knight.

## **7b. MPA Link Member's Report**

Nathan Olley apologised for Jennette Arnold's absence, referred to the circulated Report and added the following further comments:

- Recommendations – the Report gives an update of funding decisions – WF successful, others still in doubt.
- Supporting Information – Jennette wanted specifically to draw the Board's attention to the Reform programme (item 3), the 4 R's (item 8), the Community Engagement Conference (item 15 – all members are invited), the Innovations Fund (item 16 – to be similar initiatives in 08/09) and the Cross-Borough Community Engagement Fund (item 17 – to be set up).
- If Board members have any matters for JA to raise with the Commissioner they should be passed on to Nathan for a response.

## **8. Member Feedback**

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

- Brian Wilkes noted that Police activity isn't being seen on the Beaumont Estate, causing concern particularly to elderly residents there. Cllr Akram asked BW to drop him a line and he'll respond.
- An attendee noted that the mainly Chinese DVD sellers were almost slaves and were being exploited. Mr Benbow responded that this was organised crime – a real issue. The same attendee noted that it had recently taken an hour to enter through the front door of Francis Road Police Station. Mr Benbow said this was the very reason he wished to close that Station – the required remedial work would be too expensive, particularly concerning disabled access – the building was no longer 'fit for purpose'.
- Neil Collins noted that a number of member places weren't taken up at this meeting – should be '3 strikes and you're out' – either identify alternates or vacate membership to allow others to be elected who will attend. When asked by Bill Ravenscroft if the Board can refuse to accept apologies and force non-attending members to resign, the Chair agreed it was possible to do so.

## **9. Future Meeting Dates**

Item not discussed.

## **10. Public Questions**

There were no questions submitted.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 June 2008 at Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road E17 4JF