

**WALTHAM FOREST COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD****24<sup>th</sup> September 2008****Chestnuts Hall, Waltham Forest Town Hall Complex, Forest Road  
Walthamstow E17 4JF****Present**

Leyton and Whipps Cross Community Council	Steve Williams ( <b>CHAIR</b> )
Race and Equality Group	Afzal Malik ( <b>VICE CHAIR</b> )
MPA Representative	Jennette Arnold)
Community Safety Portfolio Lead Member	Afzal Akram
Borough Commander	Chief Supt. Mark Benbow
Asst. Director Safer and Stronger Communities	Robin Tuddenham
HM Court Service	Susan Cangle
Waltham Forest Council	Councillor Bob Carey
Community Representative	Roger Desouches
Crime Prosecution Service	Antony Salmon
South Chingford and Hingham's Park Community Council	Peter Jaggs
WALB Community Council	Mike Cave
Leytonstone Community Council	Jane Brueseke
Community Group Representative	Neil Collins (VAWF)
Community Group Representative	Bill Ravenscroft
North Chingford Community Council	Kevin Wyatt Lown
Community Group Representative	Brian Wilkes
Voluntary Action Waltham Forest	Neil Collins
Older Persons Representative	Edith Poulsen

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from

Resident	Gulam Thakor
Resident	Gwen Williams
Walthamstow West Community Council	Abid Hussein

Resident	Edward Gold
Resident	A. Khundkar
South Leytonstone Area Development Association (SLADA)	Phillip Dundon
Resident	N. Butt

### **Also Present**

Narinder Matharoo	Gudwara
Godfrey Goddard	Resident
Jenny Richardson	Resident
Sylvia Sullivan	Resident
Edward Upcraft	Resident
Bill Nisbet	ASB / Neighbourhood Watch / Crime Prevention Officer

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Steve Williams the Chair of the Board welcomed all those present.

## **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes the following issues were discussed.

- i) The Chair reported that despite several attempts it had not been possible to arrange a meeting with the Gudwara to discuss representation on the Board; however this matter was still being pursued.
- ii) Councillor Akram stressed the need to ensure that the Public Questions part of the meeting was maintained and suggested that this item should be placed higher on the Agenda to ensure that sufficient time was allowed for it.
- iii) Kevin White Lown (KWL) raised the matter of promotion of the CSB and it was noted that a meeting is to be arranged with the Chair, KWL,

the Administrator and the Borough Corporate communications division to investigate this.

### **3. Young People and the Police Report – Update**

The Community Safety board received an update on the progress of the Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG), a project funded by the Community Safety Board (CSB) designed to inform the Police, the Council and their Partners on community safety issues. It was noted that much of this work had been undertaken on the project by Inspector Mike Hamer and Lyndsay Buchannan the Borough Youth Participation Officer.

Members were reminded that a report was presented to the CSB on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 on the consultation funded by the Community Safety Board about the perceptions young people have of the Police and community safety issues. This consultation provided the drive for the establishment of the YIAG.

The YIAG was launched in July 2008 and since then has proved itself to be fully functional in a variety of ways, undertaking a number of planned and ad hoc projects. The 14 members of YIAG held its first meeting in July 2008 and has continued to meet on a monthly basis.

The following represents the discussion on this item

**Comment RT** It must be realized that some of the 14 members of the YIAG have challenging backgrounds, and that the project is attracting national media attention.

**Comment SW** It is possible that we will invite some of the YIAG members to a future meeting to make a presentation on the work of their Group

**Question BR** Have we involved people with disabilities or the under 14's in the Group?

**Answer MY** We have a couple of young people with disabilities in the group but have limited membership to 14 + as there is a need to engage in a mature way, based on experience and under 14's do not often have that.

**Comment BR** Children over 7 years can be sensitive and intelligent and should be involved.

**Response RT** The level of support that is required is different. This group is not just about talking to young people but it is involved in running a project.

**Comment MY** I would be happy to hear about any extra funding to run an U14 group, however I believe we should be trying to get this group right first.

**Question MC** How can the CSB specifically support you?

**Answer MY** We need support from our strategic partners so that this is a

- joined up piece of work.
- Comment MB** The Chair of the Independent Advisory Group, Michael Verrier, proposes to take a more proactive role in the development and function of the YIAG.
- Question TS** What involvement has there been from the LGBT community?
- Answer MY** At first we have concentrated on the usual minority groups but are looking to expand this.
- Response RT** Lyndsey Buchanan the Youth Engagement Officer can provide details of LGBT engagement.
- Comment AM** This seems to be a positive start to the process.
- Comment NC** I am unhappy that some groups of young people seem to have been excluded but this is a good project and we need more of it's like in the borough. I see that some young people regard prison as a type of holiday. Has this view been benchmarked in other Boroughs?
- Response MY** This was an informed perspective based upon the experience of families and their neighbourhoods.
- Comment JA** We have to see this in context with other developments going on. It will take time to discern real results from the group - say six months – and we can then judge if they require additional support to enable young people to speak on their own terms and in their own words.
- Comment RT** The YIAG is working directly with key partners – it is involved in training for 20 police recruits relating to stop and search and also is looking at work in schools.
- Comment JA** I think we need to see the YIAG report direct to the CSB.
- Response MY** The YIAG is more than happy to report back direct to the CSB.
- Comment MB** It is important that if this happens we must be prepared to listen to what they say.
- Comment MY** It is also important that young people see outcomes arising from their comments.
- Comment JB** The Cathall Community Safety Group has received a presentation on this and was very impressed.
- Comment BR** I would like to see a progress report in six months time.
- Response SW** I will enquire when the group is able to attend.  
The discussion closed at this point.

#### 4. MPA Link Member's Report

The Community Safety Board was informed that the Metropolitan Police Authority had met in June 2008 and approved the findings and recommendations of the MPA Youth Scrutiny.

The report contained the following four recommendations that specifically relate to the MPA and the Board were apprised of the progress made in implementing these.

- Recommendation 4: that MPA link members should ensure that Community Police Engagement Groups (CPEGs) actively engage with young people in their activities
- Recommendation 5: that the MPA should mainstream the engagement and participation of young people throughout its work.
- Recommendation 36: that the MPA should provide clear information on how London-wide policing priorities are developed and set.
- Recommendation 53: that all service providers should consider the language they use when speaking to or about young people.

Jennette Arnold also informed the Board on structural changes taking place at the MPA and on the impact that these changes could have on the CSB.

It was noted that Boris Johnson the new Mayor for London had taken over the Chair of the MPA and had placed the safety of London as one of his top three priorities.

The Waltham Forest CSB is seen as an example of good practice for CSB and provides a strategic forum for debate on local policing issues.

The following Questions were asked

**Comment AA** I have written to the new Chair and asked for indications regarding Community Safety Budgets.

**Question AM** Can you give us an update on the suspension of a number of senior MPS Officers

**Response JA** With regard to the budget I do not believe that we will see major reductions and there may be additional resources for specific projects.

Regarding the suspension of Officers, this is standard practice when allegations are being investigated. Whether

the allegations are true will of course be a matter for the investigation to decide.

**Comment MB** I can say that the two suspensions are not linked although possibly the media is suggesting that they are.

**Question NC** Can you explain the criteria used when calculating the CSB budget?

**Answer JA** The budget is based on a basket of criteria, some socio – economic, some age profile related some educational.

**Comment MB** I can report that DAC Williams has commissioned an in depth analysis of the borough and this may result in a review of work.

The discussion closed at this point.

## 5. Borough Commander's Report

Mr Benbow reported on performance, Safer Neighbourhoods, critical incidents and good police work. He informed the Board that it has been an exceptionally busy two months and that officers had responded magnificently to the pressures placed upon them in that time.

The main issues related to:

### Performance

The information relates to the period from the beginning of the 08/09 financial year to 7th September 2008.

Gun Enabled Crime -30.2% (target is - 5%)

Knife Crime -10.5% (target is - 5.7%)

Youth Violence -24.6% (target is - 5.2%)

### Serious Acquisitive Crime:

Residential Burglary is up by 33.6%, compared to the same period last year.

The sanction detection (SD) rate is 19.7%. (Target is 16%)

There has been a 4.2% increase in robbery, year on year. The SD rate is currently at 11.2%. Target set for SD's is 17%.

Theft of MV -15.4% (target - 6.9%)

Theft from MV -12.4% (target is- 5.2%)

**Domestic Violence:**

DV Offences +25.4% (target not set)

DV SD Rate 43.6% (target is 43%)

DV Arrest Rate 72% (target is 67%)

**Hate Crime:**

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Racist Offences +28.4%

Homophobic Offences -16.7%

He also reported on the following issues relating to policing in the Borough

**Operation Casper**

Which culminated in the arrest of 13 persons for offences ranging from being wanted on warrant to possession of a Section 1 firearm?

**Airline plot**

This is still the subject of ongoing proceedings and the prosecution is intending to apply to the court for a retrial for all 7 accused in respect of a plot to blow up airliners.

**Operation Blunt 2**

Operation Gladiator (in support of Blunt 2) ran from 4 to 17 August 2008

Seventy-six persons were arrested by central units for a variety of offences. Twenty-one arrests were for violence or weapon related offences. A further thirty-five who were arrested for other offences have previous convictions or are known for weapons or violence.

In addition, a further twenty - one subjects were arrested by local borough units dedicated to the support of this operation.

Six-hundred and twenty-nine searches were undertaken by TSG units during this operation.

Two-hundred and forty-two stops were conducted by local borough units.

### **Safer Neighbourhoods**

Inspector Dave Partridge will join Safer Neighbourhoods team on 29.9.08 as the 3rd Inspector. The 20 wards will have greater supervision and support with an emphasis around youth initiatives.

The Marlowe Road Safer Neighbourhood base opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. A similar facility in Sewardstone Road is complete but awaits gas repairs.

On Saturday the 13th September Officers and Councillors opened a multi-use games area just behind Marlowe Road that safer neighbourhood officers, supported by councillors and partners have transformed into a bespoke area for local youth. Other areas are being sought to provide similar facilities.

### **Youth issues**

Superintendent Benbow also reported that the Youth IAG had now met with the police on four occasions and that work areas and priorities had been identified.

One of these was to be proactive in raising the issue of "youth awareness" among police officers. Often police and young people are brought together in potentially confrontational situations (stop and search being the most common) and it is important that police are aware of how this can make young people feel. The YIAG felt that it could help in the training of police officers in this regard.

As a result of this, the YIAG:

- Have been invited to monitor search operations (two monitored a recent search arch operation and fed their observations into the organisers);
- Have been invited to attend stop and search training of new police recruits;
- Have been invited to participate in stop and search role-play training.

The MPS has also linked with the Diversity Directorate, and Police Training to organise a Key Encounter Workshop on 24th September. This workshop will bring the latest Waltham Forest/Redbridge recruits together with 20 young people, who predominantly represent those groups who are disproportionately represented in stop and search.

This workshop will take place at Norlington School and will be independently facilitated. The stop and search monitoring group will attend and also participate.

It is hoped that, through evaluation, to raise youth awareness training as a Service-wide issue and would like to make a case for it to become part of police training.

The following questions were asked:

**Comment SW** The work of the Stop and Search team is important. Should CSB Members need any further information on it they should contact myself or the Administrator

**Comment NC** Congratulations are due for the good work undertaken, but there is concern surrounding Anti social behaviour in the Town Square E17 and High Road E11, both related to drunkenness.

**Comment RD** This is true also of Station Road E4.

**Response AA** I am taking proposals to Council relating to the introduction of an alcohol free zone in the Town Square and High Road areas, with regard to Station Road E4 this should be raised with the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team. We are also the first Borough to use ASBO against illegal street traders and as a result have seen a fall in the numbers of DVD salesman and other questionable traders.

**Comment BR** I must agree I have not seen the "three card Trick" man for a while – but I am concerned at the window display of "The Military Hardware Shop" as this contains swords knives etc.

**Response AA** This shop is forbidden to sell to underage people but we do not have the necessary powers to prevent the display of such items.

**Question NC** Is it possible to draft By Laws to forbid DVD Sales and similar illegal traders?

**Response AK** While it is now easier to introduce new by laws there is a problem in that we have to prove that we cannot deal with issues under existing legislation.

**Comment JB** While these traders have moved away from Walthamstow market they are still appearing at Leyton Mills.

**Response AA** We are currently seeking funding for 2 Officers to work at this site to combat the problem.

The discussion on this item closed at this point

## 6. Race Equality Council

Members noted the terms of the resolution passed by the Race Equality Council relating to the increase in knife Crime.

## 7. Jean De Mendezes

Members noted that an update on the Jean De Mendezes shooting was now available.

## 8. Safety Net Report

The Board received and noted a report on the progress made on a number of projects currently being run by Safetynet the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Additionally Members received a presentation on the crime risks associated with Halloween and Fireworks, the Management of the risks, and work being undertaken with community to reduce them

Arising from this the following questions were asked:

**Comment BN** The CSB will be pleased to note that the firework shop in Sewardstone Road will not be reopening.

**Question NC** Are resources available to Neighbourhood Watch organisers to support activities and promote the work undertaken on firework and Halloween issues?

**Response BN** Resources can be provided if Watches need them.

**Comment AA** The Council is to run a number of events to take stock and inform the public about the issues.

**Question NC** What is the position regarding support to local Tenants' and residents association (TRA).

**Answer BN** We would like to link these to the Neighbourhood Watches.

**Comment SW** It would be possible for TRA to prepare bids to their

respective Community Council for funding.  
The discussion closed at this point.

## 7. **CPEG Handbook**

Members were informed that the MPA have been developing a guide for the operation of CSBs. The aim has been to use the findings of the MPA's earlier review of Boards and good practice from across London to provide a basic handbook.

It was noted that the MPA was now at the stage where the draft handbook was ready and that they were inviting comments on the draft from CSB Members. Accordingly a copy of the draft was presented to Members.

In order to comply with the deadline for the consultation on 30 September 2008, Members agreed to pass any comment on the draft to the CSB Administrator in order that they may be collated and forwarded to the MPA by the requisite date.

## 8. **Member Feedback**

Community Representatives raised the following issues raised by their respective Groups, in order that they could be brought to the attention of the Board.

- a) It was reported that a very successful event had been held on the held yesterday, hosted by Abid Hussein that sought to develop positive relationships between the local community and the MPS. It was agreed that more of these type of events were needed to foster better relations between the public and the MPS.
- b) BR reported that Mission Grove school had received a very informative presentation on Stop and Search
- c) MC asked if he could receive and update on the current situation relating to Marlow Road.

## 9. **Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**10. Dates of Future Meetings**

Members noted the following schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year. It was also noted that the meetings will be held at Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road E17 4JF at 6.30 on those dates.

- 19 November 2008
- 28 January 2009
- 25 March 2009

**11. Extraordinary Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee Meeting - 14th Oct 2008 (7.30pm) - Knife Crime**

Members were informed that the Council was hosting an extraordinary joint Scrutiny sub-committee meeting to consider issues surrounding knife crime in the borough.

The Community Safety Board noted that an invitation had been extended by the Sub-Committee Chairs to all Board members to attend this meeting.