

HAMPTON WICK AND SOUTH TEDDINGTON/TEDDINGTON

POLICE LIAISON GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING,

St Mary's Hall, Teddington, Thursday 29th February 2024

PRESENT: Robert Blakebrough (Chair), Helen Page (Secretary), Sgt. Tim Yates, PC Colin Wills, (Hampton Wick), PC Leah Lovett Sasse (Teddington), PC Chris Baughurst (Teddington), Councillor Jim Millard, Mark Merrington, (Chair, Hampton Wick Association), Mike Woods & Denise Woods (Teddington Society), Christina Gore, Pippa Skippage, Debbie Marfleet, Helen Stoddard, Martin Sands, Andrew Stanley and Peter van der Kooy (Wick Road & Schoolhouse Lane Neighbourhood Watch), Mary Bishop, Susan Alexander, Laura Ball, Karen Hepworth, Patricia Bertram, Cheryl Belcher, Aidan Parisi (NCRA), Fiona Cryle (Normansfield Court Residents), Peter Holland, O Kasolewsky

Apologies from Councillors Robin Brown, Petra Fleming, Richard Baker, and Phil Giesler; Roger Goodier, Admiralty Way Residents

1. Sgt Tim Yates was welcomed as the replacement to Sgt. Paul Rogers.
2. Notes of the Meeting Thursday 19th October 2023 were approved.
3. Matters Arising.
 - (i) There has been an increased police presence in Queens Road and Sandy Lane, to deter speeding. Speed guns continue to be used. The initiative is to be continued in the wards.
 - (ii) Councillor Millard reported that the council is considering the enforcement of parking Lime Bikes only in marked bays. There has been a meeting with Lime, discussing how easy it is to break the bike locks. Stolen bikes are more of a problem, especially where they are abandoned and dumped.
 - (iii) Following serious dog attacks, new guidelines are expected. The local issue has been dealt with and the owner is due in court.
 - (iv) The resident in Munster Road, who experienced a hit and run accident to her car, while it was unattended and parked in Munster Road, was given advice by police outside the meeting.
 - (v) The resident in Fulwell Road, concerned about speeding cars, was referred to Hampton Hill, as it is outside Teddington borough.
 - (vi) Concern about the frequency and speed of police response cars was raised at the last meeting. Since then, there was an accident in Hampton Wick in February, involving police response cars. There were no injuries but the A310 Kingston Road was closed for several hours and buses had to divert causing inconvenience to travelers. Chair asked what the response cars were doing when the accident occurred. Officers present said the cars were responding to a call. No further details were given. There was discussion about the response units as all local response cars to Kingston and other local areas now, (generally), have to come from Twickenham Police Station. Councillor Millard is in discussions to have some response car presence in Kingston and is making it an election issue. Twickenham MP, Munira Wilson is also following-up on this issue in Parliament and locally. It was observed that the increased frequency of speeding police cars through Teddington and Hampton Wick has the effect of making the public assume there is an increase in serious crime, which is probably not the case. When asked about the possibility of a change to procedures, P.C. Baughurst advised that the response procedures are set via a national grading system e.g. I= immediate (response within 11 minutes), S= Significant (response within the hour). Local police have no control over

this. However, through elected representation and lobbying, it is possible a review of existing procedure by MPS will be carried-out with a view to get a better balance between necessary response time and potential motor accident resulting in personal injury or fatality, as well as reducing the noise and light nuisance which many residents find disturbing, (and reportedly traumatizing in some cases). It was noted that the noise and light nuisance from ambulances is also disturbing to some residents.

- (vii) There is no update on Hampton Wick Cricket Club, since it burnt down. It is still under investigation. An attendee had heard that the insurance company has now accepted liability.

4. Police Matters and Briefing by Safer Neighbourhood Team

- (i) A new system for reporting crime statistics is being introduced, but there have been teething problems. As a result, Hampton Wick figures are available, (attached), but not Teddington.
- (ii) There was a recent spike in shoplifting. This was identified and dealt with. It was mainly due to one person, who is now in custody. The attendees expressed their appreciation of the police team's work. Chair asked if shoplifting and burglary related to drug users.
- (iii) Police resources are limited as there are now only two officers and one PCSO per ward, (in times gone by there were up to five officers inc. "specials") They are trying to increase visibility by having an event per week, when possible, e.g. bike marking. The events are advertised via WhatsApp, Twitter and Nextdoor. These are broadcast channels i.e. not 2-way, but there is a common telephone contact number. They are useful for alerting residents about e.g. an increase in burglary.
- (iv) A question was asked whether the police support the use of Household CCTV. Sgt Yates replied they have no issue with the use of camera doorbells, but if the public are using CCTV which might capture local residents, they should make that known e.g. an attached notice, and be aware of the General Data Protection Regulations.
- (v) In answer to a question from the floor, the Police clarified that the mobile phone number on the cards handed out by officers to the public, (and which give the e-mail contact and mobile phone contact for the Ward SNT, (Safer Neighbourhood Team)), is in effect a connecting number linked to the "Flextel" system which will connect to the first available officer, switching from one officers number to another officers number automatically, if number not answered in a defined period.

5. Matters Raised by the Public

- i. In response to a spate of burglaries, a Neighbourhood Watch has been set up for Wick Road, Bushy Park Road and Schoolhouse Lane for over 170 residents. Peter van der Kooy, Co-ordinator, thanked the police for their support as it has had a positive effect. He is also concerned about blatant drug dealing in the area, during the day. Sgt Wills is aware of this and monitoring. There was similar concern about Albert Road and Langdon Down Park and Normansfield Court Car Park. He stressed that community policing is not 24-hour, but they try to adjust their presence in an area if they are made aware. It is important that the public continue to report to them. They can only request support from a wider drug team if the problem is severe. They agreed to continue the discussion after the meeting. Sgt. Yates said he will enquire about, and possibly bid for, extra resource so that a local clamp-down on street dealing of drugs, in daylight, can be made. As always, reporting of crime is vital.
- ii. There was discussion about the abstraction of local police to support elsewhere e.g. demonstrations and football/rugby matches. Both the police and councillor acknowledged the problem. Attendees were not unanimous. One person supported the deployment of MPS staff to wherever necessary. Sgt Yates advised that, due to new ways of working, staff

would be asked to assist the response teams in March, so more abstraction is likely. This will result in lower visibility. Chair tabled the suggestion that Army personnel might be used to assist in escorting and keeping order at these major events, as was the case for the King's Coronation. This would allow SNTs to remain within their allocated purpose to prevent crime in local areas and also satisfy the need to maintain law and order at an event or in an area.

- iii. The Chair asked about the sale in shops of goods to underage children. The police are aware and deploy plain-clothed cadets to try and buy cigarettes from suspected shops. This can result in the revocation of a shop's license. The police stressed the importance of reporting by the public.
- iv. Asked about an attempted burglary in Sandy Lane, Teddington, PC Baughurst was aware and had attended the day following the day of the crime. The female householder was visited by two uniformed, male police late evening day of the crime, and she had not opened the door as afraid. Police do not offer a 24 hour service so have to visit when they can. The Police Team present acknowledged that sensitivity is required, particularly when visiting a lone woman who is feeling threatened after an attempted burglary, which had been seen on householder video. It is believed the householder CCTV is now uploaded to police evidence. No other properties were affected.

6. Questions and Discussion

- i. There was a question from Laura Ball, resident in Victoria Road, Teddington, about two burglaries and recurring graffiti and littering in the adjoining alley near Teddington station. She had requested the installation of CCTV in the alley by LBRuT but was told the area was too dark, due to overhanging vegetation. The police advised cutting back the plants and contacting the council to help. The graffiti tags of offenders were easily identifiable. The resident asked what they could do. There is an app for reporting graffiti to the LBRuT Council, which has a unit for dealing with graffiti and its removal. "Doing Graffiti" is a crime and should be reported so that police can then officially investigate specific instances. Cllr. Millard noted that the footpath accommodation bridge over the railway is railway property and dealt with by the railway people, i.e. Railway Police and Railway Property Dept.
- ii. A question was asked whether, due to financial pressures, the council would, like other boroughs, be reducing street lighting. Councillor Millard replied that efficiency savings had been found elsewhere so this could be avoided and was not LBRuT current policy.
- iii. Due to a perception of a general relaxation of licencing laws, one resident was concerned about the late opening of pubs, (an instance of a pub in Teddington High Street being opened until 1:00am was cited), and associated anti-social behaviour around Teddington. The Police and Councillor Millard confirmed that in order to stay open late a publican must apply for a licence extension. They were advised to contact the council and Councillor Millard offered to discuss outside the meeting.
- iv. The new NWS in Hampton Wick asked for more direct contact with the SNT.

7. Priorities for next four months

The main priority is Burglary, (which is also a MPS Priority alongside VAWG)

Drug Dealing on local streets

Vehicle Crime

Shoplifting

Lastly, Sergeant Yates encouraged attendance at the borough-wide police liaison event Tuesday 19th March, from 6 to 9pm at The Wetlands Centre, Queen Elizabeth Walk London SW13 9WT.

Date and time of Next meeting: 7:30 pm on Thursday 27th June 2024, Bullen Hall, Hampton Wick