

HAMPTON WICK AND SOUTH TEDDINGTON/TEDDINGTON

POLICE LIAISON GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING,

St Mary's Hall, Teddington Thursday 7th November 2024

PRESENT: Robert Blakebrough (Chair), Helen Page (Secretary), Roger Metcalfe (Chair Richmond SNB), PS Philip Ross Martyn, PC Colin Wills, PC Lex Powell, PCSO David Auld (Hampton Wick), PC Leah Lovett Sasse (Teddington), Councillors Charlie Engel and Jim Millard, Christina Gore, Debbie Marfleet, Helen Stoddard, Peter van der Kooy (Wick Road & Schoolhouse Lane Neighbourhood Watch), Odile Kasolewsy, Carol Sands (St. Winifred's Rd. NW), Peter Holland, Martin Sands, Hannah O'Gorman, Cheryl Belcher, Maria McManus, Mike Woods (Teddington Society), Myra Boag and Fiona Cryle (Normansfield Court), Alex Skinner & Lynda Cadlin (Old Station Gardens)

Apologies from Councillors Robin Brown & Phil Giesler; Martyn Kingsford, Carol Dukes, Mark Buckley (HWA), Brian Holder

1. The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. He introduced Roger Metcalfe, Chair of Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board. Police Sergeant (PS) Philip Ross-Martyn introduced himself as replacement for Sergeant Tim Yates, who has transferred away from the borough. Councillor Jim Millard introduced himself as deputy leader of LBRuT.
2. Notes of the Meeting Thursday 27th June 2024 were approved.
3. Matters Arising.
 - I) The drug related crime in the Crieff Court area had a successful outcome, leading to an arrest, and is now closed.
 - II) The break-in at Medco Pharmacy in Park Road, Teddington is an on-going investigation. There may be progress to report at the next PLG Meeting
 - III) Following a report of cars being tampered with in Monmouth Avenue, Hampton Wick, there have also been incidents in Broom Road area, with parts ? being taken. The police are liaising with nearby wards. Cars most affected are BMW and luxury models. Attendees were encouraged to use Faraday pouches for keyless cars and ensure they lock them properly. CCTV door bell video can be used as helpful evidence.
 - IV) PCs continue to be abstracted for services elsewhere. PS Ross Martyn said the target is a maximum of 6 times a year. He is compiling a list of occurrences and will report back. Councillor Millard would like to see a guaranteed minimum service but PS Ross Martyn said this is not within the gift of the ward. LBRuT will continue to press for higher levels of safer neighbourhood teams above minimum

- V) At the last meeting, Peter Corriveau introduced a film about knife crime. He arranged a screening for local police and interested parties, particularly the Safer Community Partnership LBRuT, but it was not known whether this happened. PC Lex Powell will report back. (Post Meeting Note: Unfortunately Peter Corriveau of 'Celebrate Life' missed the meeting due to change of date but has sent an e-mail to say that Sgt. Ross-Martyn has been in touch with him and that with the help of the good offices of Sgt. Ross Martyn hopes to give a screening of their film 'Power of Change').

4. Police Matters and Briefing

- I) The rest of the police present introduced themselves. PC Leah Lovett Sasse will be moving to Sutton in the New Year and PC Chris Baughurst has already moved to another police role. The Chair wished them well and offered community thanks for their work over recent years. Senior Police Officers responsible for Community Policing are currently succession planning to fill these gaps, which are both in the Teddington ward.
- II) There has been a drop in the number of anti-social incidents. Although burglary has reduced a little, shoplifting has increased. Roger Metcalfe reported that retailers are beginning to empower security staff. Police are encouraging retailers to update CCTV systems so footage can be sent to them online, rather than creating a physical copy. PC Lex Powell reported that numbers in Hampton Wick are lower than Teddington. There has been effective use of anti-social behavior warnings.
- III) There was concern about the impact of the proposed Sainsbury's in Hampton Wick, especially as there are no barriers at the station, encouraging anti-social visitors from out of ward. At the recent licensing hearing, Sainsbury's said that security was not a priority for this store. PS Ross Martyn will discuss with the Licensing Officer.
- IV) Abandoned, badly parked, and dumped Lime Units continue to be an issue. Residents can report badly parked Lime bicycles at London-ops@li.me Police have a good success with bikes being removed within 2 hours of reporting. One attendee had less success and had to pursue with Lime. This has been an agenda item for at least 2 years and is a London-wide issue. Although little progress is visible, Councillor Millard reported that work is being done, with a plan expected in place February 2025.
- V) There continue to be teething problems in the new computer system for reporting crime statistics. The table issued at the last meeting is not easy to understand. Helen Stoddard had volunteered to manipulate the data into an easy-to-understand format. This was presented as a coloured graph, highlighting trends in the main crime categories over the last 2 years. It was agreed to be a significant improvement. (An example is attached to these notes) Helen was thanked for her initiative and she agreed to continue. Recent stats will be provided by PC Lex Powell in the next week or so.

5. Matters Raised by the Public

- I) Local MP Munira Wilson has written to the Police Commissioner for MPS, Mark Rowley, about the frequency and speed of police response cars driving through Teddington and Hampton Wick, as Twickenham is now the base for Richmond and Kingston. This has been an agenda item at previous meetings but as operational procedures for response

cars are set centrally by MPS, they cannot be changed locally by officers and need to be the subject of change to MPS procedures.

- II) She has also written to MOPAC (Mayor's Office), to accelerate a decision about the future of the former Teddington Police Station and received a reply in February 2024 saying that there is an "increased likelihood that the Police will need to retain more buildings than previously thought" meaning the possibility that the currently derelict police station at Teddington might be re-opened as a police station! Police present at the Meeting had no further information to report on Teddington Police Station..
- III) Following on from the Lime bike issue, clarification was requested about when electric assisted pedal bikes, scooters etc. should be assessed as mopeds requiring helmets, insurance and registration plates. Police target and seize such vehicles when they are operated illegally. Unfortunately, it is time consuming. Each arrest takes the police off the beat for, perhaps up to five hours. Operations are planned to carry out mass seizures across the borough, in association with the police compound at Perivale. This makes better use of police time. PS Ross-Martyn will report at the next meeting.
- IV) The local authority policy now is to leave the King's Field, adjacent to Bushy Park, and the memorial garden in Hampton Wick, unlocked at night. There was concern this has increased anti-social behaviour. The police officers for Hampton Wick carry-out late night checks and have not seen an increase in problems. One resident reported a man sleeping in the memorial garden. PCSO David Auld is aware of this and it is being dealt with. It was suggested that regular liaison with Peter Burrows Smith, the SNB Parks link, would help, but as he covers several wards which adjoin the park, his availability is limited.
- V) Cyclists continue to cause problems and possible actual harm, due to collision with small children and elderly adults, for residents of Old Station Gardens, and Victoria Road, (near Teddington Station), in the alleyway leading from Victoria Road to Clarence Road and Station Rd., via the railway footbridge. No Cycling signage is only at the Station and Clarence Road ends of the footpath and facing the footbridge over the railway on the footpath. Councillors are concerned fixing bollards would prevent access for mobility scooters, prams, pushchairs etc. Some of the undergrowth along the alleyway has been cut back and the situation regarding visibility and light improved slightly. Councillors present have said they will action official notices requiring properties adjacent to the footpath to cut back vegetation from the footpath to their own property lines. Neighbourhood police now patrol the passageway regularly. It was noted the substation is also accessed by trespassers, and anti-social behaviour such as drinking and possible drug dealing occurs in the alleyway. Councillor Charlie Engel offered to liaise at an on-site meeting with OSG Residents. The Chair asked if more on-the-spot fines would act as a deterrent to cyclists. However, police are reluctant to do so for a first offence and felt a warning was sufficient. Chair insisted that fines would be effective as word got out and offenders are hit in the pocket. The alley should be considered a security "hotspot", especially for VAWG, and Chair asked Councillor Millard to, please, liaise with SW Railways in this respect and ask for adequate lighting on the footbridge over the railway.
- VI) Residents in Sydney Road, Teddington were concerned about speeding vans, since the introduction of double yellow lines. There is no signage about speed limits. The police will monitor and, if necessary, target the road with speed guns.

- VII) The MPS WhatsApp group is welcome. It has superseded "Owl." Nothing has been reported on the Hampton Wick app. since the summer. This will be looked at by PC Lex Powell.
- VIII) The police were praised for their community engagements over the summer. They were thought to be effective.

6. Questions and Discussion

Covered in previous sections of the agenda.

7. Priorities for next four months

The main priorities continue to be burglary, shoplifting, and anti-social behavior, (ASB). There is also a focus on violence against women and girls, especially on Friday and Saturday nights.

- 8. **Date and time of Next meeting:** 7:30 pm on Thursday 20th February 2025, Bullen Hall, Hampton Wick.