

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF EDGWARE WARD PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009
AT LONDON ACADEMY, EDGWARE.
DRAFT COPY**

Present: MC (In the Chair) Sgt Reid, SK, ADF, HL, PWD, MW, JJJ, AMCL, SM, AR, CB, DC, NL, DC, LC, DMCK, AB*

Apologies: NG, PM, CLLR Y, IB, SR, AG, AQ, HI

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

Amendments to Previous Minutes.

The reference to the JFS bus should have been in relation to the re-routing of the 107.

It was noted that IB (IB was not present at either the September meeting or the current 11th November meeting) had sent a note to the Secretary, after IB had received an early draft copy of the 9th September meeting Minutes, questioning whether it had been agreed at the September EWP meeting that the Chairman would attend the Barnet Planning Committee Meeting, as she felt that this had not been spelt out in the draft Minutes.

Those Ward Panel members who had been present at the September EWP meeting confirmed that the draft minutes clearly spelt out what had been agreed, namely that a letter should be sent to the Barnet Planning Committee raising the EWP's concerns in respect of aspects of the Stonegrove and Spur Road Regeneration Plan. They confirmed that they had also agreed that the Chairman should endeavour to attend the Planning Committee meeting and speak on their behalf to the Planning Committee if possible. Those present at the 11th November meeting felt that the September Minutes tabled for approval spelt this out clearly.

There being no further amendments, the Minutes of the meeting were signed and adopted.

Chairman's Comments.

The Chairman informed the EWP that it had been drawn to his attention, shortly after the last meeting that a retail outlet in Station Road, Edgware had applied for a new licence to serve liquor until 3am seven days a week. The Chairman had taken the liberty of writing on behalf of the Ward Panel to protest to the Barnet Licensing Department as he had understood that the Police were not happy about this application and clearly it was not likely to be in the interest of the residents. Apparently the Council received some 45 letters of objection to this application and as a result the retail outlet had severely modified its application to serve liquor until midnight five days a week and 1pm Friday and Saturday.

Zone 6 Planning Application

MC reiterated that the concern with regard to this planning application were primarily with regard to the underground parking aspect in relation to security and also to a lack of parking planning in certain roads, in the area under planning review, which were already experiencing parking difficulties even before the redevelopment had begun.

The Barnet Planning Committee noted at the planning meeting that the Zone 6 planning application consultation period had been rushed and that the time allowed for consultation had been significantly reduced below the legal minimum. The contractors, Barratts apologised that this situation had occurred. They explained that this was in order to meet a deadline to obtain a substantial Government Grant for the regeneration scheme. The deadline for the Grant Application closed before the legal planning consultation period ended.

However as a result of the EWP intervention, the Council has now sent a letter, confirming that two particular aspects of the scheme are being reviewed.

1) The plan for the road layout, where the proposed access road joins Penniwell Close needs to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Committee, prior to the commencement of the development in Zone 6.

Reason: In order that the development does not prejudice highway and pedestrian safety or the free flow of traffic.

2) The development shall not commence until a Parking Management Plan detailing the allocation of car parking spaces, on site parking controls and the enforcement of unauthorised parking has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that parking spaces are managed appropriately in the interests of pedestrian and highway safety and in order to protect the amenities of the area.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Chairman for his attendance at the Planning Meeting and the fact that by being there in person had helped LBB realise that it must acknowledge local residents' interests.

Sgt. Reid then briefed those present on the following matters.

Policing Pledge.

This again was on the Agenda as now required at each meeting.

A new item of Phone Feedback Surveys is on the agenda.

Hub Team (Sgt. Campbell)

Again the Hub Team gave a comprehensive update on how their work was progressing. They are organising various surgeries within the areas they cover. The request for the small bag and purse 'bells', to deter pickpockets has been so high that more had to be ordered.

The HUB team shifts are being changed during school time. Their latest shift has to finish at midnight.

There are regular bus station surgeries.

The Police team was followed around by the Press.

The Bluetooth system is up and running and seems to be successful.

A Youth forum is being started.

What's been happening in Edgware.

Halloween went off quite quietly except for a couple of minor incidents.

Burglary levels are still causing concern across the borough.

Arrests are up and the PCSOs are doing a terrific job.

Remembrance Sunday went very well and grateful thanks to the Royal British Legion for the Wreath we were asked to lay at the memorial.

There were no incidents during the recent High Holy Day celebrations.

Fireworks are a problem and become more so every year as there are more organisations and individuals using them.

Burglary EVA on 3 roads. This is a scheme whereby the SNT evaluates each residential property in the roads selected with regard to security. They then advise the residents of any security weaknesses which might make their properties vulnerable to burglary.

Edgware Infants School had a walk with members of the Safer Neighbourhood team.

The SNT attended the Stonegrove Residents Association AGM.

More emphasis is being placed by the SNT on advising the elderly regarding personal safety.

Team Update

PC Rose Shepherd is on loan to the Edgware SNT, whilst PC Steve Lucas has joined on a permanent basis. They replace PC's Steve Garty and Aki Akiwumi who have transferred recently.

ASB during Halloween quite bad but dealt with.

PCSO Mason has continued to assist youth projects on the ward.

There have been a fair number of arrests for burglary and other offences by the team.

Priority Updates

Road Safety in the Spur Road area.

The car boot sale which has been causing parking problems has now moved to Elstree Hill and out of the Barnet area.

There is an application in process to move the bus stop from outside the Tesco Garage on Spur Road to Brockley Hill in an attempt to stop students running across a very busy road with the risk of serious injury.

Adjustment need to be made to the existing bus shelter which is badly sited. This results in children blocking the pavement and verge. At times pedestrians trying to get past have to walk on the road.

However Sgt Reid felt that overall this situation in Edgware is improving.

Pickpocketing Issues in Station Road area

Pick-pocketing is being tackled and plain clothed officers have been drafted in to help. This has resulted in a drop in pickpocketing in Edgware but this has simply exported the problem to Golders Green where they have seen a rise in this problem.

Thefts of items left in prams and shopping trolleys is still an issue which is being addressed. Mostly due to people not thinking and being careless.

There will be an increase in police patrols in banking halls as there have been problems with people collecting cash being targeted.

Youth Diversion

E2G4 on 26th September was a terrific success and DB gave us a wonderful review of the event as well as showing stills of how well it was enjoyed by those present. Approximately 600 young people attended the event and there were thanks all round. The Home Office is funding Nutmeg which is a marvellous achievement for this young team.

Drug supply and ASB in Stonegrove Estate area

Still ongoing problems in this area. The team are providing patrols here every tour of duty as well as targeting those presenting issues. Stop and search has been increased in area also as well as plain clothes patrols. Halloween period has proven challenging but ASB down on previous years through this period. One particular group of youths congregating in the estate have been moved on successfully.

New Issues

Youths congregating again on Glengall Road are being moved on successfully, however it is apparent we are displacing the issue into Hale Ward.

MW explained the problems she has experienced, trying to discuss the issue of loitering youth's, with a very concerned resident in Hale who is quite distressed by the youths hanging around outside their property. Despite trying to encourage these young people to move to the park they cannot be forced to do so and so the problem will continue. If the young people are not actually doing anything illegal there are limits to what the Police are empowered to do in such situations.

There is a parking problem in Fernhurst Gardens which shows little signs of improving.

Youths are continuing to congregate in Brook Avenue 'green space'. The Police are aware of the situation and monitoring it.

There is a problem with one of the privately rented properties in Sterling Avenue as there is strong evidence that this is being used as a brothel. The Police are aware of the situation and are monitoring. There is concern for the welfare of a 3 year old child living in the property.

PSPs

A vote taken confirmed that these should remain unchanged.

Draft Constitution

MC is co-ordinating the updating of the Draft Constitution and two specific issues were tabled for discussion.

It was agreed by vote that there should be 30 people on the panel.

It was agreed by vote that, in order to encourage the involvement of young people on the Ward Panel, anyone 14 years old or more, should be entitled to vote as a member of the Ward Panel.

Bank Account

It was agreed by vote to set up a bank account. The motion to do so was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by SK.

It was agreed that the EWP needed to raise funds to support some aspects of SNT work and also the running of the EWP. JJ suggested each attendee make a £1 donation at each meeting to start the ball rolling. This was agreed unanimously.

It was discussed that we might need to raise £5000-£10,000 per annum for mail shots to all the houses in the Edgware Ward several times a year and to pay for such things as the 'bells' which were being distributed to residents to ward off pickpockets.

It was agreed that a provisional budget be prepared and some thought given as to how we might raise the funds.

AOB

It was confirmed that the EWP AGM will be held on 13th January 2010 at 7.30pm .

The venue is yet to be confirmed.

Notice of the AGM will be placed on the EWP website to encourage public attendance.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 9.pm.

***The names of members of the ward panel can be made available via the SNT.**