

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF EDGWARE WARD PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2010 AT
THE MASORTI SYNAGOGUE, BAKERY PATH, EDGWARE
DRAFT COPY**

Present: M.C (Chairman), Sgt Reid,SK, INSP.C, CB, JJJ, PWD, CS, DB, REV.R, AG, MW, MC, SM, AR, DMCK, PM, HI, CLLR.Y, HL, NG, AB, E, DC, LC *

Apologies: AT, AF, FM, SB, CF

Chairman's Comments.

The Chairman welcomed all those present. MC advised the meeting any non EWP members were welcome to stay to the general meeting but would not be allowed to vote on any matters.

Minutes of the previous meeting

RR referred to the 3rd para, 3rd sentence at which point it was explained that a slot for his observations will be available to him under AOB.

There being no further amendments the Minutes were approved and signed and adopted.

The Chairman passed the meeting to Insp.Carver for his report.

Inspector Carver's Report

Inspector Carver thanked the EWP for the enormous strides it had taken and how pleased he was to be back with us after an absence to other places for the past 8 months, he felt we were a shining example to other wards and our Panel is used as such when questions are raised by other Wards.

He advised that there are a number of vacancies across the borough for new recruits, however despite this the numbers will be kept up and we will not fall foul of a shortage of resources.

He thanked Nutmeg on their amazing achievements and said how impress Neil Basu is with everything that has been achieved throughout this year. There have been bureaucratic problems in obtaining the funding from the Home Office but this is being dealt with and LC is currently working with Sgt. Reid on the necessary paperwork.

He also went on to explain briefly about the Policing Pledge and the basic workings of it. He also emphasised that if there are any problems then people should advise the police as soon as possible as they need to know about them to enable them to deal with matters.

He advised on general matters concerning response times to various types of problems and attempted to give a breakdown of what sort of crimes are under the local area or

under the general remit of 999 calls. The SNT will also be taking on further responsibilities which they do not currently have.

Officers will be patrolling on their own rather than in pairs except in obvious problem areas where there would be a need for safety reasons for pairs rather than singles.

He stated that the Police are measured by the way they deal with things with the local authority, which is not an easy task and is time consuming but he felt communication levels were improving.

Sincere thanks to Insp. Carver for his report.

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

Policing Pledge.

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

What's been happening in Edgware.

ASB is getting greater focus, some response times are not always possible to achieve but they are in the main quite good.

Burglary levels are still causing concern across the borough. There are now websites available and more advertising needs to be done to make people more aware and how much more they need to take care of their personal possessions whilst out and about.

More emphasis is being placed by the SNT on advising the elderly regarding personal safety. However MW brought up the extremely serious problems regarding pestering of certain local residents by a particular 'builder' and his co-ercers who are actually putting total fear into these residents who are in their 80s and 90s and will not leave their own homes, they have also been made to pay up for up to £12,000 of work which was never carried out. This is extremely serious and the police will do all they can to assist.

There is an EWP kiosk in the Broadwalk, the only one outside of London, and we are being encouraged to go and look at it and use it, it is positioned by M&S if you are entering from the bus station.

There are now 2 websites, 1 for the Metropolitan Police and 1 for EWP.

Hub Team: As we did not have a representative present Sgt. Reid gave a resume on their behalf showing us a map of the area they cover and also explaining how they are improving their work within the area. They are also holding regular surgeries from 11-1pm weekly.

There have been school talks to youngsters on general matters.

Ongoing youth engagement is taking place.

EWP now have a weekly surgery during 12-4, apologies for the time changes but it was necessary due to shift patterns. Other wards are coming to EWP to see how we operate which is most encouraging and rather a feather in our cap.

Halloween was very busy with a high patrol but no serious incidents.

Burglaries were very high in November particularly with properties behind the shops. However burglaries are now dropping back again.

The Stonegrove regeneration is ongoing and causing the usual headaches.

The Sparrow has been turned into a Gentlemen's club but due to non attendance except for Chinese this has now closed and one of the rooms is being used for functions, however there is no license so the owners are not able to do too much at the moment.

Sgt.Reid advised that we obtained an Xbox and 20 games which had been given to Stonegrove Youth Club.

Street briefings will be held every Sunday at 2.pm, this week is in Hillside Gardens.

Crime statistics were shown on the screen so we could see the breakdown of various types of crimes and percentages. Sgt.Reid gave a brief breakdown as well. Overall we are lower in Barnet regarding homes and cars.

We have 2 new Police Officers, Steve Lucas and April Mcallister. The PCSO team is the same, this will remain for the next 2 years.

Problem Updates

There are problems in Stonegrove, more on the Stonegrove side than Spur Road.

Graham Park problem group has been moved on.

There are issues in surrounding roads which are being attended to.

Road safety at Spur Road regarding the 107 and 142 is still ongoing with getting the school kids on to the buses and stopping them running across the main Spur Road but this will always be an ongoing problem and will be dealt with by the police and PCSOs.

Youth Diversion

There is a concert to be held on March 19-21.

Nutmeg are helping in taking part in Sports Relief DB is very active with many of the organisations involved.

The Home Office funding work is still ongoing as there is much more involved than had been thought or realised at the beginning. The team will persevere as they have achieved so much as a youth group.

Pickpocketing increased for a while.

General incidents are down but there have been 4 arrests regarding incidents aimed at retailers as well as shoppers.

New Issues

The pub watch scheme covers Edgware, Burnt Oak, Mill Hill and other local areas.

JFS have regularly reported assaults and incidents of anti-Semitism. LC felt that this should be a HUB team matter to deal with.

ASBOs on Stonegrove increasing in particular with regard to drugs but this is being monitored.

There has been a generally disgraceful amount of behaviour towards the public by con merchants and MW gave a comprehensive speech on the problem and it is felt that this has to be addressed quickly. One possible way of dealing with this could be to involve the local press.

It was agreed by a vote that we should take out the Spur Road PSP and make the part of the area affected by bogus con merchants a PSP for the time being.

AOB

MC brought up the problems which will come from the Zone 6 section of the regeneration and certain people felt that this is a matter which should be dealt with by attending the planning meeting, purely on the safety aspect of the traffic going in and out of the new blocks will be from Green Lane/Spur Road. However some members of the EWP felt that we should not get involved in such matters as this is not what the panel was set up for. It was set up to look after the day-to-day policing not day-to-day planning and this is something individuals should take up with the local authority.

However a vote was taken that a letter would be written by the EWP opposing the safety aspect of an unacceptable further amount of traffic flowing onto the already congested Green Lane/Spur Road section. It has to be emphasised that it is being written to advise the local authority that "in principal we are not against the regeneration as such but purely on the safety and traffic aspects". This was agreed and it was further agreed that it would be minuted as such.

RR stated that the Partnership Board was set up to oversee the regeneration, the EWP is not there for that according to the old constitution.

JJJ mentioned that at the previous meeting concerning planning details he abstained.

Vote to send was unanimous with 1 vote against. However we will not be present.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting terminated at 10.05pm.

Future meetings 10th March, 12th May, 14th July, 8th September, 10th November, AGM/General Meeting 12th January 2011.

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