

**SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 starting at 7pm**  
**Terrace Room, York House, Twickenham**

**MINUTES**

<b>SNB MEMBERS ATTENDING</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
CA Carole Atkinson MBE	Hampton Hill Association and S&S CMG
JM John Murray	NHW Hamptons/Met Volunteer/PLG Chair
AC Avril Coelho	Business
AJ Anne Johnstone BEM	PLG Chair Mortlake & Barnes Common / Met Volunteer
LP Cllr Lesley Pollesche	Community
AL Antony Lindsey	NHW Whitton
RM Roger Metcalfe	Acting Chair SNB Met CC
JP Jeff Picton	SNB Treasurer
PF Pamela Fleming	Housing RHP
WKP Wendy Kyrle-Pope	MPS Link advisor & LCP2, IAG Richmond, IAG Frontline Policing, BTP link

<b>POLICE ATTENDING</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
CS Chris Scammell	A/Supt Richmond Neighbourhoods SW BCU
JMc Jon Mcloughlin	Inspector Richmond Neighbourhoods SW BCU
CJ Chris Jackson	Inspector Richmond Neighbourhoods SW BCU

<b>COUNCIL OFFICERS ATTENDING</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
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<b>ORGANISATIONS / PUBLIC</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
JTE John T Evans	PLG Chair Whitton & Heathfield
SL Steve Lloyd	
FM Francis McInerney	Heatham Alliance

<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
RA Ravi Arora	Multi-Cultural Richmond
PBS Peter Burrows-Smith	Royal Parks Link
PM Pam Mcmillen	SNB Secretary
BP Beverley Picton	NHW South Richmond
MS Martin Sands	Hampton Wick / Teddington Community
LS Lee Spear	Community Safety Service, LBRUT

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Roger Metcalfe welcomed everyone to the meeting saying that since Peter Burrows-Smith had stepped down as chair, he would be acting on an interim basis until the AGM. Peter would remain as an adviser to the Board.

Apologies were noted.

WKP informed the meeting of the recent death of John Bell a former chair of the forerunners to this group, reminding us of the dedicated service he had put in over many years, finishing with the comment that he was a 'thoroughbred in the arena of public service'

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising (23.01.24)**

These were approved as being a true record and will be placed on the council website.

Matters arising from the last meeting:

- Figures are available for sanctioned detections on the Met Police website
- Consideration of representative from Hammersmith to PLG meeting in Barnes this was a PLG matter rather than an SNB matter ACTION JMcl & CJ
- CA was setting up the NHW Focus Group and would speak to LS ACTION CA
- The police are putting in appropriate actions for 'unusual' rugby fixtures which may cause issues.

## **3. Update on the selection of the next chair of the SNB**

RM outlined the procedure for appointing a permanent Chair for the SNB:

- As the SNB is a community-lead organisation, the election will be an internal matter without any police or council involvement.
- Applications will only be considered from current SNB members and PLG chairs.
- A Nomination Committee will be appointed in due course.
- The whole procedure will be managed and coordinated by Peter Burrows-Smith.
- Potential applicants to be notified of procedure on 7 May
- Applications to be submitted by 21 May
- Decision on Chair by 7 June, to be ratified at the AGM in July, in accordance with SNB Constitution.

AL asked whether the constitution was on the Council website. This would happen as soon as the constitution had been updated following decisions by MOPAC on the future of SNBs. The PLG handbook, updated at the same time, would also be placed there.

## **4. Interim Chairman's Update including reminder, purpose and function of the SNB**

RM said that this was his first SNB as Chairman, having taken on the appointment on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 following PB-S resignation, to whom he paid tribute for his leadership and dedication. RM referred to the PLG Chairs Handbook, Version 7, and the Constitution written in 2017 as being the guidance to Chairs of the SNB and PLGs. The role of the SNB was to bring together the police and communities to establish local policing and crime priorities, make sure SNB Minutes 18.04.24

the public was involved in community safety decisions, monitored police performance and confidence, and fulfilled a range of important specific functions. One of the most important was to ensure every ward had a functioning Police Liaison Group.

The SNB also provided crime prevention advice, supported youth projects and encouraged dialogue between the police and hard-to-reach or vulnerable groups. The main functions were to ensure communities were involved in problem solving and crime prevention, reflecting MOPAC's broader responsibilities whilst respecting the local people knew best what was needed at local level. Ideas and views needed to be refreshed and coherence between all the engagement mechanisms should provide greater public accountability in policing and crime reduction. Use of resources would be more efficient in delivering value for money and tackling local crime and prevention issues.

The board had nine functions, five of which were directly linked to policing, the other four linked to oversight and engagement mechanisms:

- Ensure all wards have a Police Liaison Group and support them.
- Monitor crime performance and community confidence.
- Establish policing priorities in the borough.
- Support Neighbourhood Watch.
- Monitor complaints against borough officers.
- Hear and monitor complaints from victims of crime.
- Provide assurance on custody visiting.
- Engage with Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs).
- Ensure the Stop and Search community monitoring function is delivered.
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The most important functions were the local ones, to ensure that all Wards had a functioning PLG; and to support NHW. The Board would also take updates from senior MPS leaders on Borough level crime performance and Trust and Confidence. The Board met quarterly.

In response to an enquiry from Wandsworth and Richmond Council, RM felt that the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the SNB together with the PLG Handbook would provide reassurance. RM said that we had support from the Richmond upon Thames Council as the meeting room was provided free of charge.

CS said that it was difficult to get complaints data for the borough as it was provided on a BCU basis, but WK-P confirmed that complaints arising in the SW BCU were looked at, mentioning also that SW BCU had least complaints in the Met.

##### **5. Plan for 2024/5 including community engagement, supporting outreach and projects.**

GP acknowledged that the borough should have a plan, and that a good relationship should be established with the CSP, provided comments on the MOPAC budget and projects. Funding was at the same level as the previous year and he was preparing the application for this including details of the proposed projects including safe spaces, mothers against mugging, and crime prevention advice. GP was building a rapport with MOPAC and was hoping that the release time for the money would be shorted this year.

Responding to a question from AL, CS informed that the safe space project was a partnership of many including BTP, street pastors a charity soup kitchen and others at Richmond station. As people, especially women and girls, arrived for a night out in Richmond, they could receive advice on drink spiking, protection, crime prevention. The pastors were available to speak to anyone on an individual basis. This activity was resource intensive, and it was unlikely to be undertaken at Twickenham Station which was not so busy as Richmond. However, there were other means of engaging with the public such as the roving gazebos acting as contact points in targeted areas with high crime or ASB or at big events, and the use of all forms of social media. There was some discussion about providing chairs/tables for the safe space for people in distress, but this discussion be continued outside of the meeting. ACTION CS/GP

## **6. PLGs: Review and ward priorities**

11 PLGs had submitted minutes which detailed their ward priorities and at the next meeting of the SNB there would be a summary of priorities from all 18 wards (15 PLGs). ACTION PMcM/CA AL suggested that PLG minutes should be on the council website. This was not supported unanimously, and SL reported that his PLG did publish minutes with no issues. This would be considered when the constitution, terms of reference and PLG handbook were updated.

## **7. Police performance**

CS informed the meeting that the police had moved to a new reporting system and there were some teething issues. February stats (the changeover month) were unavailable, but those for March were on the new system. CS then talked through the presented stats concentrating on the major crimes.

Burglary continued to be an issue with hotspots in South Richmond and East Sheen and Hampton Wick. Kew, Teddington and Barnes also affected. There had been one arrest for Hampton Wick. This information was used to task the officers to appropriate areas.

There had been a significant reduction in robbery, but there had been a peak around Christmas and the New Year. Twickenham was the hot spot, but with just two offences. Robberies were impactful on young people. There tended to be an influx of people at Barnes Stations where there was no need to tap in/out and the Met were working with BTP to address any concerns there.

There had been a year on year reduction in theft from motor vehicles with officers targeting hot spots such as South Richmond and more recently in Fulwell and Hampton Hill at the David Lloyd car park. Crime prevention advice had been given out as many people still leave articles on show in their vehicles.

Theft of motor vehicles had risen up to January but there had been a slight reduction recently. Keyless car theft presents a problem, and residents are reminded to use Faraday wallets for their keys. There may be some Faraday wallets at the May fair. There appears to be a correlation between burglaries and car theft in Kew and Barnes. Motorbikes are the target in the west

of the borough whilst expensive cars are the target in the east. AL had noted that more cars have steering wheel locks.

There had been peaks and troughs in numbers of violence with injury, which does include domestic violence, with a peak before Christmas – possibly relating to the night time economy. Richmond has the lowest rate of this crime in the Met.

## 8. Police trust and confidence

The public attitude survey run by MOPAC reveals that we are improving overall and in two areas in particular. We are higher than the Met average for agreeing that the police listen to the concerns of local people and that we are well informed about local police activities over the last 12 months. It is disappointing to see that residents of LBRuT as in other boroughs still do not know how to contact their local ward officer. Richmond is the safest borough in London with respect to violent crime and does not see the Territorial Support Group, Dog Units or Firearms officers, but residents may be influenced by what is happening in the wider arena.

ASB calls have seen a reduction of just over 10% with most reports coming from St Margaret's, Ham and Twickenham (all increased) and least from Kew, Barnes and Hampton (all decreased).

LBRuT undertakes fewer searches than any other London borough and of the 185 searches in the last 3 months 63 (34.1%) had positive outcomes. More information is available on the Stop and Search Dashboard which can be found at <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/stop-and-search-dashboard>.

In response to questions CS informed:

- that the BCUs were set up on call demand not on population.
- stop and search was intelligence led
- Some areas in the borough eg Windermere often do not report crimes
- Other areas eg Chertsey Court do report crimes.#
- There is a major review of vetting and revetting MPS officers
- A culture and values board look at teams with a number of criteria in mind eg complaints, overtime.

## 9. Cyber awareness update

A monthly bulletin on cyber crime is sent out by the City of London police. For January 2024 there were 87 recorded offences with a total loss of nearly £825,000, for February there were 92 but with a loss of nearly £2m and March had 65 offences with a loss of nearly £909 thousand. It is thought that this loss was around half a billion pounds nationally. It must be remembered that these statistics are based on recorded crimes and many crimes go unrecorded. A recent scams session impressed upon the attendees to be wary about casual callers offering to do jobs but instead listen to personal recommendations. The most important point about these stats is that they are recorded crimes. JM with ward officers will speak to groups on this subject, and there are booklets on scams that can be provided. The Met Commissioner recently said, "You are more likely to be a victim of fraud rather than any other crime". After some discussion it was agreed that the monthly bulleting should be sent to SNB members and to all PLG chairs who could disseminate this information. ACTION JM/PM

## 10. Public questions and answers

FM asked whether police would prioritise the increase of reporting crimes involving VAWG. CS informed the meeting that a VAWG strategy had been launched recently with an increased number of units working in the domestic violence (DV) arena. The positive outcome rate for these crimes has gone down for various reasons, one being the time taken by the CPS to progress, leading to people dropping out of the system. The Met Centres (999 calls) attach importance to DV calls and the police should attend within 15 minutes. Response teams cannot be diverted away from DV calls. Officers as first responders will all have had training. The Public Protection Unit is based in Kingston.

FM raised a question about recent minutes from St Margaret's PLG and RM said that would be dealt with outside of the meeting.

## 11. Borough level assessment and review of priorities and forward view

It was questioned whether priorities need to be set for the borough separate to those set by the PLGs at their meetings. After discussion it was recognised that PLG set very local priorities and that borough wide priorities were still needed. Two more priorities were added to those set at the last meeting: Road traffic behaviour and ASB added to VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls), Motor Vehicle crime and burglary. A vote was taken leading to the following priorities:

VAWG

Burglary

ASB

## 12. AOB

In response to a question from AL, the police follow the requirements that a 'dangerous dog' be chipped and registered and they seize those that are not. An explanatory note was being updated and could be sent to appropriate people. ACTION CS  
22<sup>nd</sup> May Hate crime event run by Multi Cultural Richmond – Ravi Arora.

RM – would like to propose a vote of thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith for all the work down the years as the Chair and Treasurer, supporting smooth running of PLGs, working with all the partner agencies, attending all the local issue meetings. PBS has made the meetings effective, smooth and is the embodiment of public service. Will carry on with various agencies and to oversee the smooth handover of the SNB. What an incredibly successful period you have overseen.

In the absence of any further business, RM closed the meeting at 21.12.

## Dates of Next Meetings 2024

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July (including the AGM)
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October