



Darwin Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Minutes of meeting - 22nd October 2008 7pm

Held at The Baptist Church Hall, Downe

Attendees

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| Judith Cross, <i>Chair, Berrys Green</i> | (JC) |
| Allan White | (AW) |
| Bernard Waine, <i>Beechwood</i> | (BW) |
| Chris Cadzow, <i>Cudham</i> | (CC) |
| David Witherspoon, <i>Downe</i> | (DW) |
| James Wehrle <i>PCSO 7203PY</i> | (JW) |
| Joe Kerr, <i>Edward Rd</i> | (JK) |
| Keith Heffer, <i>Old Hill</i> | (KH) |
| Neil Holloway <i>Layhams Road</i> | (NH) |
| Sarah Qizilbash, <i>Leavesden</i> | (SQ) |
| Sue McVicker <i>LBB</i> | (SM) |
| Val Bowley, <i>Hazelwood</i> | (VB) |
| Mark Cockbain <i>PC 452PY</i> | (MC) |
| Tim Garlick <i>PC 211PY</i> | (TG) |
| Dave Dennington <i>PCSO 7100PY</i> | (DD) |
| Michele Perrin <i>PCSO 7101PY</i> | (MP) |

Guests

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Colin Bloom, <i>Councillor</i> | (Cllr B) |
| Rob Vale <i>Trading Standards</i> | (RV) |
| Neill Tully & Police Cadets | (NT) |

Apologies

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Annabel Griffiths, <i>MOD Estate</i> | (AG) |
| Katey Martin <i>PS 86PY</i> | (KM) |
| Kevin Smith <i>Inspector</i> | (KS) |
| Peter Bloomfield, <i>Councillor</i> | (PB) |
| Peter Osborne, <i>Leaves Green</i> | (PO) |
| Sheila Brooks, <i>Restavon</i> | (SB) |

1. Introduction

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd August 08 were passed as a true record.

(JC) Welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Sarah Qizilbash. Sarah is the new representative for the Leavesden Estate.

2. Presentation by Rob Vale Trading Standards

The head of Bromley Trading Standards Mr Rob Vale informed the Panel that Trading Standards have been working on key inputs in the area of rogue traders, underage sales of alcohol, fire works, counterfeits. The team do routine inspections on pumps, pricing and weighing machines etc

Mr Vale thanked the Darwin PSCOs on the detection of rogue traders in Edward Road, Biggin Hill. Because of their prompt actions there were two arrests made and the elderly female they had targeted did not

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loose any money. The case has been passed on to Scam Busters who investigate organised crime and counterfeiting.

It was pointed out that not only has the good work of Safer Neighbourhoods Team helped in stopping rogue traders but banks have also come on board too. Should the banks counter staff become suspicious of any large transactions they will ring trading standards, which has helped to raise our profile.

(JK) Asked had the neighbours of the victim been spoken to and made aware rogue traders had been operating in the area.

(MP) Stated that the elderly lady had been visited the next day and was very grateful for the officer's intervention. Leaflets were to be delivered Thursday with adjacent neighbours being spoken to as well.

(NH) Asked what constitutes a rogue trader.

(RV) Replied, generally it is elderly residents that are targeted, the traders do not pay tax, they don't comply with the 7 days notice to change your mind and cancel the contract. By law the trader must give you a written notice detailing your rights to cancel the contract. Should they be shown something in writing the occupier is not given a chance to read it. The price will start of low and then more things are found to do and the price will go up.

Councillor Bloom pointed out that Bromley has the oldest population; there is approximately 40% elderly, which tend to be wealthier and easy pickings. It was noted that Trading Standards have the best relationship with police on Bromley Borough.

Presentation by PC Neill Tully Police Cadet coordinator

Neil Tully said there are 51 police cadets on Bromley borough, with another 86 waiting to join. Bromley has the second largest cadet membership and generally the youths tend to represent good kids. It is a small number of youths that commit problems.

The cadets meet every Monday for 2 hours. The first hour is spent on legislation based on the police-training package used at Hendon as the cadets intend to join the police service. The other hour is used on physical activities such as drill, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, erecting tents, cooking, attending meetings like this, Bromley awards, stewarding duties such as Downe Scouts Camp and anything police orientated but not confrontational.

There are also drill competitions against other boroughs. The cadets march in on parade to music and receive bronze, silver or gold awards sometimes awarded by Graham Cole.

Cadets can join between the ages of 14 –19 but due to the large numbers do have to leave at the age of 19. The three cadets that attended the panel meeting were asked what they liked doing most; two said they like drill and the other said he liked doing aid events.

(DW) Asked what is the ratio of males & females.

(NT) Replied 50/50, and this was the first panel meeting the cadets had been invited to.

Update Layhams Road

(JC) Said that there wasn't much to report back at this time. The planning department still have things on going and had declined any further information.

(MC) Informed the meeting that there was going to be an operation along Layhams Farm Road with several other agencies, DVLA, VOSA, Trading Standards and the MET traffic Division in November.

It had also been noted that there were not many complaints about off road motorbikes, since the 7th September. Bill Lines had been in contact with the liquidators and in conjunction with the council it had been agreed the Council could take whatever steps it requires to stop the off road bikes. The liquidators just want to see what the Council plan to do first.

The case of the traveller's site had been adjourned until January. It had been heard for a day and a half but the barrister could not provide the information quick enough, so now the 3 sites will be joined with another one and all 4 heard together.

There were new activities on Willies Chicken Farm by a scaffolding company. They had erected a huge structure at the location.

(NH) Reported that he had also reported to the Council the one that was next to him.

The motorbike climate at Holmshaw Farm still continues. Peter Johnson had called Police, as an Old Ambulance had pulled up at the location off loading off road motorbikes. A unit attended and the vehicle was confiscated. (NH) Asked how often should the residents be reporting off road bikes.

(JC) Replied every single time.

(MC) Stated that there was a problem at Aperfield Road and the team had received several reports of off road bikes in the adjacent field. The residents were given the Bromley Environmental Services telephone number to contact to report the bikes.

The waste site on Layhams Road still has enquires going on. It appears the travellers are trying to clear the site.

(JC) Reported at one stage a proposal was put forward for a ski slope to be built in the area but it was declined because there were concerns it would interfere with the water pipes, which supply Bromley. Therefore it didn't go ahead.

(NH) Said the noise from the racetrack is getting worse. He also went onto say that planning applications had been submitted for 2 plots on the showmen's site. A showman had told him that the council were going to ignore it, as they are too busy to deal with it at the moment.

(Cllr B) Said the council are dealing with it and are also still doing investigations.

(JC) Stated for the record that police had taken aerial photographs of the area, as the photographs available from the council were out of date.

(Cllr B) Replied that the council cannot use the police aerial photographs. They have to take their own pictures.

(VB) Reported that there is raw sewage on the bridle way that runs along the site. It now cannot be used.

(SM) Reported on the findings of the speed riser that was put up in Cudham Lane North.

Site Location: Cudham Lane

Study Period: Wed 16 April 08 to Tue 22 April 08 total 7 days.

**Operator: During the survey at the above location 12468 vehicles events were recorded
Of which 6619 Travelled North Bound
5849 Travelled South Bound**

Speed of Vehicles

Cudham Lane North has a posted speed limit (PSL) of 30 Mph

North Bound

Mean Speed 31

85%ile Speed 36

15%ile Speed 27

South Bound

Mean Speed 30

85%ile Speed 34

15%ile Speed 26

(JC) Asked (SM) were the council likely to putting any more speed risers up on Darwin Ward.

(SM) Said it's up for grabs, but was unaware of any more to be put up on the ward.

(MC) Was unable to update the members of the panel on the crime figures due to the computers going down. But went onto say that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. High Elms car park had suffered vehicle type thefts, and other than that there was nothing Crime wise.

(JC) Asked had we heard that Buckhurst Stables had been broken into last week.

(MC) Replied no.

(JK) Asked had the team planned to do reassurance visits in Edward Road due to the Rogue Traders being caught in the area.

(MP) Stated that the resident who suffered the callers had been visited and was more than happy with police intervention. She also stated that Trading Standards leaflets were going to be handed out in the morning.

(JW) Handed out the Darwin SNT Events list. An operation, along Main Road targeting speed, use of mobile phones, not wearing a seat belt and other offences was carried out. 46 Stops completed, Stops re-phones 11, Stopped and verbally warned for speeding 26, stopped seatbelts 9.

The team have now marked over 200 saddles with another 3 more events planned. All the main stables on Darwin have been contacted.

The Met have now released a non emergency contact telephone number 0300 123 1212 you can still use 01689 891212

(DD) Reported that the Leavesden representative had changed to Kevin Moody and had nothing to report other than speeding outside the estate on Main Road. It was also noted that once the hoarding is removed it would greatly improve visibility.

Sgt Martin was back on the 1st October 08 but has taken leave and will be back in on Wednesday and Thursday.

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(MP) Reported that the Safer Bromley Van had visited a repeat victim of crime and installed a door chain, mirror and voice reminder to not open the door without using the door chain. The resident was very happy with the service.

(TG) reported on the youth panel stating that they attended the BCEF. The youths gave a presentation on how they enjoyed the Biggin Hill air fair and handed out leaflets advertising the Darwin Youth Panel. With the success of the Youth Panel other SNTs have asked for advice on the success of setting them up and running. Funding has been awarded for the young advisor programme. This allows the youth panel members to be consulted by councils, government bodies etc to get the opinion of young people.

SNP Priorities:

- 1) **Layhams Road**
- 2) **Traffic Operations:** *Monthly Ops/Mobiles etc*

3. Any other business:

(BW) Reported that Cleave Avenue seemed to be being targeted as a car bumper, catalytic converter had been stolen recently.

(MC) We are aware of these thefts and we are making extra patrols in the area. Catalytic thefts at the moment are a problem.

(JW) Informed the panel there would be a Street Briefing in Edward Road on the 1st November 08 at 11am. He also stated that he was leaving on the 14th November 2008 to begin his training as a Police Officer.

(MC & JC) Thanked him for all his help.

(DW) Stated five dogs had been dumped in High Elms. They were emaciated and in a bad way. He then went on to say that it is the council who now deal with stray dogs and members of the public should contact them to deal with.

(Cllr B) Said that the priorities across the Borough are to make sure that crime is reported. They want to see residents reporting crime and speaking to their SNTs. He also would like to be personally to be informed of any rough sleepers in the area. He wants to make sure they are getting support and help.

(Cllr B) Also stated that the council have purchased covert CCTV vehicles and are available to the police, fire service etc. They can be used to help combat inviro-crime, fly tipping etc.

4. Next meeting:

The next panel meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December 2008 7pm at Downe Baptist Church Hall.