

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28 October 2024
Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7 NX at 6pm

Chaired by: Ruth Daniel
Minutes taken by: Zina Serageldin

1	Welcome, Apologies and Introductions	Action
	<p>1.1 Chair Ruth Daniel opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and read out apologies from Andrew Wylie, Victoria Blair and Caryl Harris.</p> <p>1.2 New Chief Inspector for RBKC John Hine who has been in post for six weeks introduced himself and shared updates on the transition following the departure of his predecessor, Elise Gellately.</p>	
2	MET Update (Chief Inspector John Hine)	
	<p>2.1 Chief Inspector John Hine (JH) provided updates on security measures and investigations post-Notting Hill Carnival. Two tragic deaths occurred during carnival, one through stabbing when they got in the way of a fight, and the other from a head injury following an altercation, suspects in both cases have been arrested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns were raised regarding gang-related incidents extending from East London into the borough and being attributed to Carnival. <p>The fatal shooting that took place outside a nightclub is ongoing. Community safety measures are in place until the Police and Council are satisfied all processes are being adhered to.</p> <p>Arrests have been made in connection with the tragic shooting of Rene Graham. At this time no charges have been made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shock was expressed about the number of shootings that are taking place in the city and an emerging tendency for some young people to brag about being shot. <p>2.2 Significant crime reductions were highlighted, including burglary, motor vehicle crime, and robbery, which have all decreased in RBKC.</p> <p>JH also touched on the results of the public attitudes survey in which RBKC scored highly. He thanked police, community partners and colleagues for their contribution in achieving this.</p> <p>2.3 Challenges were discussed, including resource allocation due to borough-wide priorities, recruitment shortfalls across the service, and funding shortfall issues. Abstraction rates are a concern as officers are needed for public order events. This will be an ongoing challenge. JH and Inspector Charlie Legg (CL) are working on minimising the impact.</p>	

	<p>Crime statistics were shared. Burglary and robbery are down. Gun crime has risen.</p> <p>The reasons for these reductions have included targeting exercises that disrupt criminal operations leading to arrest in the local area. One day a month is used to target known offenders. Portobello area has seen a reduction in pickpocketing crimes as gangs have been disrupted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An enquiry was made about incidents of online racism and cyber bullying following the Summer riots. No specific numbers for incidents emanating from the borough were available. - A request for advice and statistics on phone theft was made. Most of the incidents have taken place in Westminster. Not having your phone out was recommended. There is also an option to place a sticker on your phone that registers an individual as the owner. <p>Average response time across RBKC is 9.5 minutes.</p> <p>81% response times.</p> <p>Stop and Search is down with 128,000 in the last 12 months with a positive outcome rate of 31%.</p> <p>A request was made for the stop and search rate over carnival which will be provided.</p> <p>A comment was made about the sad number of children involved in crime. The process for dealing with children during stop and search was clarified. JH noted that working with all partners was vital.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>JH</p>
3	Council Community Safety Update (Stuart Priestly)	
	<p>3.1 Recent violent incidents particularly against children were addressed, including the shooting of two children at Verity Close and the shooting of Rene Graham. Collaborative community support has been provided to affected families and neighbourhoods. This model was used again following the stabbing of a young person in Sloane Square.</p> <p>Council worked with police and the voluntary and community sector going out to communities affected by the violence from far right. Effective links into faith communities, hotels networks and refugee and asylum-seeking communities allowed the team to offer reassurance.</p> <p>3.2 Outcomes of the Cleaner Safer Streets Pilot that has now been concluded were shared. The project has been integrated into routine operations, resulting in an increased uniformed presence in each ward to tackle environmental antisocial behaviour (ASB) and safety concerns.</p> <p>Wardens are now added to the Street Enforcement Team. There are now 26 Street Enforcement Officers an increase from the previous 14 wardens. An officer is assigned to each ward (currently two vacancies).</p> <p>3.3 Community Safety Survey was highlighted with a request for comments and view building on work done so far to be more community based and resident lead. The aim is to be more aligned to what resident want the Council to focus on.</p> <p>Ideas and suggestions on how to do things differently and how to connect with residents would be welcome. A trial of ballot style boxes in selected fixed locations is being carried out. This will allow anonymity with comments.</p>	

	<p>Suggestions will be sent to the Council or the Police. If successful it will be rolled out across all wards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A request was made to consider the smaller voices not only the majority with comments left. 	
4	Open Discussion and Questions	
	<p>4.1 Topics raised included the under-reporting of hate crimes and challenges in fostering trust within affected communities, as well as concerns regarding emergency response times and follow-up actions after reports are made. Everyone was encouraged to report and encourage others to report all crimes.</p> <p>4.2 The effects of full prisons and mental health issues being dealt with by the police we mentioned.</p> <p>4.3 Suggestions for improvement included increased public engagement through anonymous reporting tools and partnerships.</p>	
5	Election of New Vice-Chair and Executive Board Member	
	<p>5.1 The floor was open to any member of the RBKC SNB to express interest in the Vice Chair role. There was only one expression of interest submitted from Lucy Smith-Ryland who was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair. She introduced herself and highlighted her experience on the Executive and with the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group, focusing on youth engagement. She also serves on the IAG, Youth Offending Panel and is a trustee. Her nomination was supported by the Chair and Stuart Priestly. No objections or abstentions were received during the vote.</p> <p>5.2 A vacancy on the executive was also open to members. One application was received from Sonali Mittal who was elected as an Executive Board Member. She expressed her passion for inclusivity and her work with Kensington & Chelsea Art Week. No objections or abstentions were received during the vote.</p>	
6	Closing Remarks	
	<p>6.1 Chair Ruth Daniel thanked all attendees for their participation and contributions.</p> <p>6.2 Attendees were encouraged to continue collaborating to address neighbourhood safety and community concerns.</p>	
7	Close	
	The meeting closed at 8pm	

In attendance

Abdurrahman Elguerbouzi
 Anthea Hudson
 Charlotte Legg
 Chris Griffiths
 Cllr Addenbroke
 Harry Singer
 Joe Batty

John Hine
Lucy Smith-Ryland
Ruth Daniel
Sonali Mittal
Vasiliki Stavrou
Zina Serageldin

UPDATE

The RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) are looking for members to join the Executive team. Please contact Ruth Daniel, Chair, Kensington & Chelsea Safer Neighbourhood Board to express your interest.

E-mail: chair.snb.rbkc@gmail.com

The date of the next SNB Public meeting will be confirmed soon.
