

# Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

**Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 29 February 2024  
Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX at 6pm**

**Co-Chaired by: Ruth Daniel and Roger Baresel  
Minutes taken by: Zina Serageldin**

1	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Introductions</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Roger Baresel (RB), Vice Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>He noted the apologies received from: Kim Howell, Lucy Smith-Ryland, Chief Inspector Elise Gellately, Caroline Arnold, Cynthia Dize, Deborah Gehm, Georgina Colridge, Beverley Lord and Gigi Yacoub.</p> <p>RB then introduced Ruth Daniel (RD) the newly appointed SNB Chair.</p> <p>RD thanked everyone for attending despite the challenging weather.</p> <p>RD explained that her background was in community engagement and explained that she worked at the Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea providing support services to individuals with disabilities and mental health challenges. RD thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.</p>	
2	<b>Council Community Safety updates</b>	
	<p>Stuart Priestley (SP), Safer Kensington and Chelsea Manger, RBKC presented an update on the Council's Community Safety Services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council's new street enforcement team is a small but perfectly formed group of officers, support the Council to deliver statutory functions to ensure the Council works efficiently with police and other statutory services to tackle anti-social behaviour.</li> </ol> <p>There are a number of priority areas including tackling: Violence against Women and Girls Youth Violence and exploitation Anti-Social Behaviour by supporting all Council services Drug related offences</p> <p>The team's broad remit also covers tackling hate crime, modern slavery, working with adult offenders, supporting those vulnerable to crime, managing the public realm CCTV system, counter terrorism and parks police. This is in partnership with residents, police and other services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The Warden Service was established six years ago in 2019 when investment was shifted from 41 police officers to the community warden service. This has now been merged with Waste and Street Scene to form a single newly launched Street Enforcement team to tackle all types of anti-social issues from bin bags to graffiti.</li> </ol>	

There are 14 wardens and 26 street officers. There will be more visibility on the street, more engaging with residents and police and tackling issues of concern.

Since its launch in November officers have dealt with 3310 different issues including dumped bags, bulky waste, bicycles. They have enforced 132 fixed penalty notices including littering. The expectation is to see more of them in distinct uniforms across the borough. When promotional materials are issued they will be shared with the SNB.

3. Cleaner Safer Pilot. Police and wardens worked to tackle street-based issues and found focusing on specific wards has had an impact by having an enhanced level of wardens concentration on graffiti and the general cleaning of a ward. The focus being over a 12 month period. Since July last year the ward Brompton and Hans Town saw 149 stickers removed and 30 meters square of graffiti removed over and above the business as usual service.

4. Public spaces protection order pilot in Earls Court. Seeking to provide swifter powers of enforcement to tackle drugs, urination and defecation, alcohol, aggressive begging and scooters on the pavement. A consultant saw 500 responses received with 90% supporting the proposals. The next step is to process responses and produce a document that will be available to view summarising the responses. Public space protection orders will then go before the Council with the aim to go live in mid-April.

Points raised following the presentation:

- Recruiting wardens – This has not been easy. Other boroughs have experienced similar issues. The Council continues to recruit wardens. They have partnered with My Local Bobby until they fill the spaces. The hours worked are between 7am and 11pm.
- Powers officers possess – They cannot arrest but have the ability to issue community protection notices or warnings and can issue fixed penalties.
- Numbers of fixed penalty notices issued – 132 since November. The fixed penalty is £100. If not paid the Council will pursue payment. The Council is unlikely to take this to court.
- Effect of the national demonstrations – There has only been one large scale demonstration in the borough since November. The Police have primacy in these cases.
- Bicycles on pavements – Street enforcement will try to intervene and ask them to stop where able and safe to do so.
- Concern over fly tipping, dog faeces and rubbish, what can residents do to help? - The service wants to engage with residents. Telephone 020 7361 3001 or e-mail [streetline@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:streetline@rbkc.gov.uk). A request was made to make the number and method of reporting as clear as possible. SP acknowledged that this still needed to be developed.
- Allocation of officers across the wards – In Stanley ward no wardens were seen. Queensgate ward wardens have not met the Police. SP explained that following the merger there was a dip in numbers. The Council is committed to having a named officer in each ward.

3	<b>Met update</b>	
	<p>Chief Superintendent Owen Renowden (OR) and via Microsoft Teams Inspector Greig Baker-Doyle (GBD)</p> <p>OR shared updates on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Angelini Report that was released that morning. The report looked at the murder of Sarah Everard. It was an impactful report with a lot to reflect on and improve on. <p>Dame Angelini has made recommendation on the findings so community members can have trust in the Police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– On how police respond to triggers that have been identified, talking about indecent exposure and how police respond.</li> <li>– About vetting for police and how regular checks are needed for serving officers.</li> <li>– To address this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 22 million has been invested on the vetting process</li> <li>– 3000 applications were refused</li> <li>– There is a 1500 officer shortage across the Met but new recruits have to meet standards</li> <li>– There are enhanced checks for firearms officers</li> <li>– Investigations in corruption</li> <li>– Investment in serious sexual offence investigation and identification</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Right Care Right Person – Reduced the number of calls to 999 that police were going to for people in a health crisis. The police have felt that they were plugging a gap in the health service not helping ensure that someone in a health crisis get the right help. This went live in November 2023 and has reduced the calls that they got to. Other services are now meeting the obligation e.g. mental health trust. This means more officers are free to respond to criminality. 30,000 officer hours have been saved by reducing this. <p>A Section 136 order can section a member of the public. 4000 officer hours have been freed up. Provided that there are no risks this has been a positive thing.</p> </li> <li>3. Stop and Search Charter – Trust can be undermined by overuse. An online survey is open to feedback on stop and search.</li> <li>4. Proactivity in the borough – Statistically RBKC is a safe place. Review undertaken meaning more resource will be available to the borough. Results from December 2024 – tackling cycling on pavements, scooter use and has resulted in taking scooters off people. A cycle operation on High Street Kensington stopped 33 cyclists cycling on the pavement. This can only be done one day but sets a tone in the area for what is not accepted. Arrests and robbery – Operation on the border with Hammersmith and Fulham identified a sexual assault offender. Trying to put officers into the right places to make a difference.</li> </ol> <p>While the sound for the connection with Inspector Greig Baker-Doyle (GBD) was sorted out OR responded to an earlier question about the effect of the national demonstrations in the Borough. OR explained that condition of the march was</p>	

	<p>the participants could not go near the embassy on High Street Kensington. This was the first time it has been allowed near the embassy. There have been challenges but no mass disorder on any of the days.</p> <p>GBD joined via Microsoft Teams and explained that he is inspector for Kensington South (everything from High Street Kensington south in the borough). GBD shared some crime statistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 22<sup>nd</sup> lowest for crime among London boroughs</li> <li>– Positive outcome rate of 5.2</li> <li>– Burglary - 1005 in the last 20 months</li> <li>– Vehicle crime – Carrying out more patrols and engaging to share preventative tips.</li> <li>– Violence with injury – 28<sup>th</sup> lowest among London boroughs</li> <li>– Homicide – One in the last year</li> <li>– Firearms – 29 in the last 12 months, 34% positive outcomes</li> <li>– Rape – 171 in the last 12 months, 328 sexual offences with 6.7 positive outcomes</li> <li>– Domestic abuse/violence - 1332 in the last 12 months</li> <li>– Hate crime – 619 incidents a rise in hate crimes</li> <li>– Anti-social behaviour – 4886 reports a decrease since last year</li> </ul> <p>Points raised following the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figures reported are all crimes that are investigated</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch – Citizen's arrest team came from Hammersmith</li> <li>• Graphic representation and cluster maps would be appreciated when sharing data</li> <li>• The issue of doorstep theft being discussed on the Next Door app was raised – Police stressed the importance of reporting all crimes to allow them to have an accurate picture of crime in the borough and allow for resource allocation.</li> <li>• Extraction rates in the borough have been affected by various protests and sporting events in London.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised about underreporting of crimes and the percentage of successful outcomes. Ways of getting the message out were sought.</li> <li>• The effectiveness of former Crime Prevention Officers was discussed they would look at CCTV, go to burglaries and provide security advice and were instrumental in bringing down repeat offending. The warden restructure means that there is now a non-police crime prevention brief for the borough.</li> <li>• The unpopular decision to close the Ladbroke Grove police stations was highlighted. The Council stated that it is currently a priority to purchase the building where the old station was based and they would be keen to offer the police a space there.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Another Way Project</b>	
	This agenda item was postponed as regrettably the speaker Michael Defoe was unable to attend the meeting.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Report from the Chair</b>	
	RB read out the following statement from outgoing Chair Kim Howell who regrettably was unable to attend the meeting:	

On behalf of Kim Howell, Outgoing Chair RBKC SNB, I would like to read the following statement:

*As you are aware the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) was seeking a new Chair and has successfully completed a recruitment and interview process.*

*The assessment panel comprised Stuart Priestley (Chief Community Safety Officer, RBKC), Angela Spence (CEO, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)) and Kim Howell (outgoing Chair RBKC SNB).*

*As a result of that process, Ruth Daniel has been appointed as the new Chair of the RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board. Ruth is currently working at a local voluntary sector organisation and is also involved with a number of community groups in the borough.*

*I wish Ruth the very best of good fortune in this important role.*

**Vice-Chair's Resignation:** RB announced his resignation as Vice-Chair and continued by reading the following remarks.

I have been, as far as I know, a part of the Kensington & Chelsea Safer Neighbourhood Board for about 7 years, mainly as vice chair serving under Kim Howell. It was a pleasure to serve with Kim whose judgment was always measured, fair minded and democratic.

Before the SNB, I ran the Sector Working Group at Chelsea Police Station, which was a very effective system for locals to talk directly to police and to get things done locally. That group disappeared along with Chelsea Police station some years ago.

In the SNB, I have assisted the chair in running the Board and also attended various police and municipal meetings concerning protocols between the public and the police. My main concern and interest however has been in the charitable and similar organisations in the Borough to whom we distribute Mopac funds every year. Clearly, we have a duty to dish out these public funds responsibly and that involved visits to those organisations to make sure they were doing what they promised to do. Those that I visited were using the money well and serving the citizens of the Borough effectively and I established a useful relationship with some of them. I encourage my successors to do the same as this is a very real way of helping many different types of residents – and it can't be done by email.

The most notable event of my time serving on various police committees in the Borough was in June 2017 when I chaired the first public meeting after the Grenfell fire. This was called in a hurry to reinforce the response of the Borough and was held in a sports hall close to Grenfell. It was an immensely sad occasion attended by a large number of grieving families as well as all the emergency services, government representatives and members of the cross London group from other boroughs who came together to help in this tragedy. I believe that although we had no executive power, we did start the enquiry process and were able to offer some hope to the many bereaved.

Over the 20 or more years that I have served on police committees, I have met a large number of policemen and policewomen and have almost invariably been impressed by their dedication to their job. I am the first to admit that police officers are exposed regularly to the less pleasant sides of human nature, as well as to threatening behaviour and dangerous situations. I would support any

	<p>methods to assess and help alleviate the psychological strain on serving officers, it can be a very tough job.</p> <p>My problem is that over those years, I have met dozens of police officers – scores, probably hundreds - because in the Met you are encouraged to change jobs frequently to gain experience in different disciplines. As it is, an officer may be a station inspector for 2 years, then be moved on to traffic or drugs or diplomatic or domestic or whatever is available. I find this unhelpful.</p> <p>Anybody who has sat in one of these meetings with me knows that this is a drum I frequently beat. Officers need to stay in jobs much longer than 2 years in order for them to learn the ropes and to be able to make a difference. Experience is everything and I know of 2 officers in the south of this borough who stayed in post long past the minimum period and achieved much more by doing so – they knew their patch. And as a result, the area was better policed and the Met got much better value from the officers. It's also virtually a cost free change so I repeat my call which I made to Commissioner Hogan Howe when he visited us in 2012 – <i>A police officer who stays longer, becomes stronger.</i></p> <p>I hope that the current commissioner Sir Mark Rowley will think about this important but virtually cost-free improvement to the Met.</p> <p>Thanks to all of you and I wish particular good luck to the new Chair Ruth Daniel. Thanks very much.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>General Q&amp;A</b>	
	<p>There were no additional questions asked.</p> <p>The ongoing problem with dog faeces not being pick up by owners was discussed. There is no quick fix but it is hoped that the new wardens will be able to help. Awareness, education and posters were advocated.</p> <p>The issue of aggressive dogs was also raised. The Police highlighted that there are certain breeds that must be kept on muzzle</p> <p>The Council are investing in more street waste services in response to waste being thrown in the street.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Close</b>	
	The meeting closed at 7.40pm	

Additional Information shared at the meeting:

[SNB Executive Report - February 2024](#)

In attendance

<b>Name</b>
Abderrahman Elguerbouzi
Andrew Wylie
Anna Odusanya
Benedict Whyte
Caryl Harris
Chris Griffin
Clotilde Walewska
Collette Njobia
David Pullan
Geoffrey Davies
Gillian Day
Giulia Parodi-Garner
Greig Baker-Doyle
Harry Singer
Ina Wolf
Joan Sheppard
Joanna Gardner
John Russell
John Walker
Jon Patino Marin
Karen Clark
Keith Sterling
Laura Mosedale
Lloyd North
Margaret Grayling
Margaret Greenstock
N Mellor
Natalie Matthias
Owen Renowden
Rachel Palmer
Rita Perera
Roger Baresel
Ruth Daniel
Sarah Addenbrooke
Stuart Priestley
Susan Wolfe
Vassiliki Stavrou-Lorraine
Victoria Baldacchino
Virginia Russell
William Clark
Zara Ghods
Zina Serageldin