

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD

**Minutes of the meeting held Monday 31 July 2023
Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX**

**Chaired by: Kim Howell
Minutes taken by: Zina Serageldin**

1	Welcome and introductions	Action By								
	<p>The Chair welcomed those present to the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) members meeting and invited all present to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Stuart Priestley, Vassiliki Stavrou, Lucy Smith-Ryland, Joe Batty.</p>									
2	Safer Neighbourhood Board Projects									
	<p>Presentation slides</p> <p>The SNB Chair Kim Howell provided an outline of the small local project funding that the SNB has been able to award over a period of seven years. Funding is made available directly from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to cover community engagement, crime prevention and crime reduction initiatives.</p> <p>Submissions for this funding is reviewed and shortlisted by an SNB panel and submitted to MOPAC for approval. All successful recipients are visited by the SNB deputy chair to monitor progress. A budget reduction has meant fewer projects being funded in recent years. It is hoped that MOPAC will continue to provide funding of around £15,000 or more next year.</p> <p>The four projects funded this year were:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Harrow Club</td> <td>Late night session on improving youth communication using Chat GPT Artificial Intelligence</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baraka Community Association</td> <td>Boxing based anti-crime and anti- social behaviour workshops</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chelsea Theatre</td> <td>Drama workshops – update was provided at the meeting please see item 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fit for Life Youth CIC</td> <td>Diversionsary football activities with mentoring</td> </tr> </table>	Harrow Club	Late night session on improving youth communication using Chat GPT Artificial Intelligence	Baraka Community Association	Boxing based anti-crime and anti- social behaviour workshops	Chelsea Theatre	Drama workshops – update was provided at the meeting please see item 3	Fit for Life Youth CIC	Diversionsary football activities with mentoring	
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	<p>Key discussion points following the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising of funding opportunities is made through Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC). This year ten submissions were received with shortlisted based on SNB priorities and what the project aims were. 	
3	Chelsea Theatre Presentation	
	<p>Chelsea Theatre was the recipient of SNB Project funding again this year and was invited to provide an overview of the work being done.</p> <p>Steve McCauley who works with Chelsea Theatre on the project explained how the project engages with the young people of World's End estate and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The project takes young people off the street and gets them into theatrical production. This has many challenges as the work involves instilling discipline and providing ground rules to a diverse group including those from the streets and youth groups. Groups merge well however some can struggle with the discipline or with learning lines and coming in to rehearsals. Slipping back to previous habits does occur however there is a high rate of young people subsequently returning to the group.</p> <p>The project has had success with participants getting into drama schools and getting agents or finding working in the hospitality industry.</p> <p>The group is currently working on a production that involves the subject areas of gangs and knife crime, pornography, sexual harassment and peer pressure. It is important to address these issues in a way that young people can engage with and relate to. Time is spent improvising scenes predominantly based on their experiences, examining what happens at school, home and in relationships. Questions are asked about the effects these situations have on them, their family and friends and acts as a form of therapy.</p> <p>They would like to tour the production to schools and colleges and put it on at the Chelsea Theatre if funding becomes available. Sadly, a couple of relapses and withdrawals from the programme lead to a postponement or a planned performance. To mitigate for this in future they are planning to have two teams ready for any productions.</p> <p>Key discussion points following the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group is made up of a fluctuating ratio of male and female participants aged up to 25 years old. It is not often that you hear about initiatives that are not sport based. Sessions start with time to talk about what is going on and relationships. This provides a view of not only mental health but also social problems. It was felt that social media is having a great impact on young people. It can exacerbate existing tensions in the area and impact attendance. After workshops or during improvisations many traumatic experiences are shared. It is important that these can be shared as participants can see 	

	<p>how people are affected by actions that they themselves may have done at one time.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Met update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turnaround Plan Follow-up: A New Met for London - Notting Hill Carnival - Earl’s Court “Section 80” Strategy - Borough crime snapshot 	
	<p>Presentation slides</p> <p><u>A New Met for London</u></p> <p>Superintendent Owen Renowden referenced the ‘A New Met for London’ report which sets out the Met’s direction for the next two years. He explained that the Commissioner believes that this is the right path for the Met going forward. The plan in full is available online.</p> <p>Three key areas were outlined:</p> <p><u>Community crime fighting</u> – a focus on neighbourhood policing. No ward teams will lose out in reviews of staffing.</p> <p><u>Culture change</u> – an internal focus with emphasis on engaging with communities. A robust system of handing complaints is in place. A review of stop and search and a discussion of having a Stop and Search Charter.</p> <p><u>Fixing foundations</u> - giving officers the skills and the training to be able to do their job. Making sure the right officers with the right skills are in the right place. Leadership training has been built in for key roles.</p> <p>There has been progress to date but this is considered very much a start.</p> <p>In summary the Met aims for ‘More Trust, Less Crime, High Standards’.</p> <p>Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enquiry about the number of dismissals of officers was made. This has increased. The Commissioner has asked for more powers to hire and fire. • It was felt that it is a matter of right and wrong not political correctness. The line is clearly set. There is a difference between making a mistake and misconduct. In rebuilding, trust people have to see it is genuine. • A concern was raised about 101 calls going through to ‘999’ when not answered. Superintendent Renowden explained that all calls are monitored and a national standard is set so calls will be diverted to ensure they are answered. • It was pointed out that a great deal of the loss of trust has been down to not having community police officers, with some wards only having one officer, abstractions and high turnaround. • It was suggested that the change in training methods in recent years could have contributed to lost opportunities in identifying inappropriate behaviours. The good thing is there is a recognition that there is a practical element to the role and that needs to be reflected in training and looking at how people operate. 	

- Officers are working hard but it is difficult for them to be seen across the ward. There is a need to work on letting people know where they are working.
- Caryl Harris explained that a new app was being developed that would show the location of officers and inform the public about their Ward.
- Concern was raised about the loss of police stations. It has hoped that the new officers and PCSOs would not be based miles away from their wards with an impact on travel times.
There is recognition that Duty Ward Officers (DWO)s need to be closer to their wards.
- An enquiry was made about staffing and rest days for borough wards. At times the whole team may be off at the same time. There will be occasions when officers will work together for specific operations. There is an expectation that teams will work together to fill the gap.
- Demand on officers is huge and there is far more scrutiny including the continuous wearing of body cameras. There is a need to be portraying the good work that is being done by DWOs and departments.
Those gathered were asked how they receive information about the police and how they would like to receive communications from the Met?
 - It was felt that good news should not be reported in a way that made it sound like a pat on the back.
 - The Nextdoor App was referenced as an inappropriate method used to report crimes witnessed.
 - Direct from ward police was most effective.
 - Residents associations funnel news to police.
 - The former e-mail sent to residents' associations used to work very well. It provided a mechanism to provide intelligence.
 - Not a lot of positive news.
 - Rapport with officers is developed to feed and receive information.
- Individual efforts of officers are recognised but there is too much turnover. The plan aims to address this in the coming year. Neighbourhood policing is a specialist position encompassing varied roles. Officers can be overwhelmed by demand and expectation. Abstraction rates are too high, especially with increased levels of protest groups in London. There is recognition that ward officers need to be on their wards. The MPS are limited to what they are able to do by the available resources.

Notting Hill Carnival

A local command team will be working with the Notting Hill command team this year. Aim to have joined-up decisions that will take into consideration the impact across the whole area.

In his newly created role RO has worked along side the command team for Carnival for the first time and was invited to the community meeting. The team are conscious of being present in the run up to and after carnival.

A different approach is being adopted this year.

The exclusion zone will fall to the Basic Command Unit (BCU) to police and will have response officers positioned in that area to enable them to get to calls quickly, thereby dealing with an issue experienced last year.

The welfare of officers is also being considered, as there have been multiple large scale national events in the last year that has taken a toll on officers.

Inspector Greg Baker-Doyle will lead on community over Carnival in a hybrid role working under with sector commanders and with groups in the community.

This year Lorna Platt from RBKC Council Community Safety team will be present on both days to enable swift reactions concerning issues under the Council's remit e.g. Anti-social behaviour or street cleaning.

Pre Carnival plans are in place to tackle graffiti concerns and Inspector Baker-Doyle will be managing weapons sweeps.

Key discussion points:

- Street parking in the periphery of the carnival footprint. Wardens will be employed over the weekend. Priority is to remove improperly parked vehicles from the footprint.
- Rubbish especially canisters and broken glass on streets following the event.

Earls Court Section 80 Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Earls Court regularly comes up as an area of concern. Inspector Gellately experienced a similar issue at Shepherds Bush Green where a sergeant came up with the idea of using a Section 80 order which had never been used in London before.

This is a partial closure order. A hexagon shape is identified and within the area certain stipulations are placed. This will target behaviours for example drugs, alcohol, defecation or urination. As this is a court order, arrests can be made for breach of the court order, and therefore much easier than an arrest for an offence. Those breaching the order are taken straight to court. The months of action in Shepherds Bush resulted in a 50% decrease in reporting, although since then the incidents of reporting have increased again.

Chief inspector Gellately is proposing that a Section 80 order is done in Earls Court. It is far from a given, at this stage statements (around 150 were needed for Shepherds Bush Green) are being obtained to present to the Court. The proposal still needs to be signed off by the BCU, the Met's legal department and the Courts. The area is yet to be determined.

This is not used very often. If approved it will be in place for three months with a possible three month extension. Previous months of action have involved working and communicating with as many people as possible to explain how and why action is being taken and providing information on resourcing available and challenges involved. This included listening to expectations of communities involved and providing a realistic idea of what can be delivered.

Crime Statistics

Total notifiable offenses reported in the borough for the previous year to June 2023 were highlighted. Kensington and Chelsea is in the lower third of all

	<p>crimes reported in London which play a part in the central fund allocation awarded to the borough. There are 32 boroughs in London.</p> <p>There has been a shift back in activity post Covid-19 with the return of large groups and tourists. There has been a down turn in anti-social behaviour, although that may be because people may not be reporting all incidents. A plea was made to continue to report these crimes as it helps build a complete picture. The number of reports received can influence money allocated to the team and reporting of up to date (within three months) intelligence to courts.</p> <p>Burglary is going up. Leaving windows open at properties has allowed opportunistic crime. Work is ongoing with scaffolding companies to address any weaknesses.</p> <p>Personal robbery is low but opportunistic crime on the rise with more people out and about.</p> <p>Youth engagement and work with schools continues to raise the profile of serious violence, its effects and what can be done to decrease it including diversion activities.</p> <p>Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery is theft with potential or actual violence. • Motor vehicle crime is going up but lower than other boroughs. • Bicycles theft is increasing. 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Council Community Safety updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Wardens - CREST Programme - Cleaner Safer Pilot 	
	<p>Stuart Priestly was unwell and unable to present at the meeting.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Report from the Chair</p>	
	<p>Executive Report July 2023</p> <p>The Chair encourage everyone to read the Executive Reports circulated ahead of the meeting. Included is the report from the Chair and ward panel and stop and search updates. The report will also be posted on the SNB page of the KCSC website.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>AOB</p>	
	<p>Superintendent Owen Renowden extended an invitation to a joint police and community event. This will be a workshop aiming to help with planning the New Met for London within The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC). Open to all groups in RBKC and it is hoped that a diverse range of people will be in attendance.</p> <p>Date: Thursday 17th August 2023 Time: 1800 - 2100hrs</p>	

	<p>Venue: Refettorio Felix at St Cuthbert's Centre, 51 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB</p> <p>This will be the first in a series of engagement events that will take place.</p>	
	Meeting ended at 7.25pm	

Attendance

	Name	
1	Alan Lester	Cromwell Gardens RA Chair
2	Andrew Wylie	Ward Panel Representatives
3	Carolyn Arnold	Norland Ward Panel Chair
4	Caryl Harris	Neighbourhood Watch Representative
5	Claire van Helfteren	RBKC Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Chair
6	Elise Gellatley	Chief Inspector, Central West (AW) BCU – Neighbourhoods – Kensington & Chelsea, Royal Parks, Schools & Youth
7	Greig Baker-Doyle	Inspector, Central West BOCU (AW) Kensington Safer Neighbourhoods / AW Level 2 SPOC
8	Harry Singer	Ward Panel representative (Norland)
9	John Cookson	Resident
10	John Hebditch	Resident
11	Kim Howell	SNB Chair
12	Owen Renowden	Superintendent RBKC Neighbourhoods
13	Paul Sturgess	Earl's Court Ward Panel Secretary
14	Robert Graham	Resident
15	Roger Baresel	Deputy Chair/Community representatives
16	Steve McCauley	Chelsea Theatre
17	Zara Ghods	Older People's Representative
18	Zina Sergeldin	SNB Administration Support