

# Caledonian Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

## Minutes

**7.00-8.50 pm on 24.09.09 Blessed Sacrament Copenhagen St**

**Chair:** Cllr Paul Convery — Gifford Street

**Secretary:** Jennifer Christie — Thornhill Square

### Police

Sgt Dave Wiggins — Ward team

PC Carel le Masson — Ward team

DI Andy Chalmers — Homicide Command

DI Mark Lawson — Homicide Command

TPCSO Darren Hearn — Islington Safer Transport Team

PS Peter Byrne — Islington Safer Transport Team

### Residents and community workers

Stephanie Garner — Community Safety Partnership Unit

Stephen Griffith — Copenhagen Youth Project

Chris Day — Thornhill Square

Helen Walsh — Islington Caledonian Road

Bill Millett M.B.E. — Westbourne Estate

Gloria Johnson — Bemerton Estate

Shirley Pinfold — Ice Wharf Residents Association

Sue Cartwright — Huntingdon Street and Crescent Street Residents Association

Lisa Tang — Thornhill Bridge Community Gardens

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### **1. Apologies**

Stephan in NYC and will be here until 4 Nov.

Sarah Swan - sisters staying minutes

Apologies for confusion over keys resulting in our last minute transfer to Jean Stokes Community Centre.

**2. Homicide Command (murder squad) report** - Mark Lawson is working on the investigating into the murder of John Duncan Macray, stabbed in a house towards the top end of Caledonian Road. A suspect has been identified but he is living in France.

Mark said he wanted to come to the meeting to reassure residents and because he works closely with Safer Neighbourhood teams across London gathering local knowledge to support his investigations, He announced that since the start of the year there had been 46 known murders across the whole of London (down, so far, on the previous year) and that two of these occurred in the Islington borough. These two were the Macray murder and the murder of a father in front of his son, in Bingfield park (now convicted). He said murder cases usually involved senseless motives and the parties involved usually knew each other.

### **3. SNP police report - Dave Wiggins**

- **Controlled Public Drinking Zone**
- **Boston Estate**
- **Drugs raid on an address in Thornhill Square**
- **Thornhill Square incident with boys carrying knives**

#### **Controlled Public Drinking Zone**

The Met are about to instate a controlled public drinking zone; that is, in a designated public place anyone carrying open cans are required to give their name and address on request. If they refuse they can be arrested and/or referred to an outreach team.

#### **Boston Estate**

In response to reports last week, the team have been watching the tunnel in the middle area, but there have been no more complaints; it appears the group has moved North to the Holloway Road.

#### **Drugs raid on an address in Thornhill Square**

The team obtained a warrant on an address in Thornhill Square and made two arrests for possession of class A drugs and stolen goods (a mobile phone and a Playstation identified as one stolen from a house in Bedford). The house is occupied by a mother with five children. The mother is probably unfit, because of her drug use. The team have reported the situation to HFI (Homes for Islington). Paul recommended pursuing the situation further and keeping an eye on the property.

## **Thornhill Square incident with boys carrying knives**

Sgt Wiggins explained that kids were arrested after an incident in Thornhill Square gardens. The kids, residing on the Bemerton Estate, walked into Thornhill Square carrying machetes and meat cleavers for a showdown with some Asian boys. The two parties involved are in a dispute but none of them are willing to reveal why. The young Asian boys were beaten up and their family came down to retaliate. Nobody involved lived in Thornhill Square. They were simply congregating there. The police made 6 arrests.

### **4. Community Safety Partnership Unit report — Stephanie Garner**

A new area of green space is to open in Bunning Way, to reduce antisocial behaviour. Government money has been used to redevelop the area into a park, and the park will be launched on 12th November with a party — at the point where Fredericer Street and Bunning Way intersect. Comedy entertainment will be laid on to celebrate.

Action: Stephanie to send event details to Dave.

### **5. Islington Safer Transport Team — Darren Hearn**

(Tackling crime against public transport in our ward.)

Priorities for the next 8-week period:

143 - route to Archway

91 – criminal damage on the Caledonian Road. 6 incidents in 16 weeks.

## **6. Area reports from residents**

### **Westbourne Estate and McKenzie Road – Bill**

Things have improved since the safer neighbourhood police team started patrolling at night. The new youth club has been launched, offering football (in partnership with the Arsenal) and indoor bowling. Residents have held their first public meeting about the regenerating the Vulcan Way area.

Paul added that the Westbourne Estate youth club is one of three youth clubs now operating in the ward:

- Westbourne Estate
- Jean Stokes Hall
- The Boston Estate (Nailour Hall Community Centre)

### **Bingfield Park – Gloria Johnson**

Gloria suspects drugs are being sold in Bingfield Park and Pembroke Street and she reported that motorbikes regularly circling the area at 4.00 a.m.

Action: Dave to plan in some night duty there.

### **Thornhill Square – Chris Day and Jen Christie**

Residents intercepted an attempted theft in Barnsbury Wood. A boy apx 10-year-olds (one of a group of 6 kids) obtained access to the wood via the rear wall of 18 Thornhill Crescent and was lifting a stolen bike over the railings. Photographs of the boy have been emailed to the police. The bike is now missing because it was subsequently successfully stolen from the wood. It is tagged.

Action: Dave to review the site and advise how to improve security, and contact DC Yohanson in Robberies to try to identify the boy.

Action2: Dave to find out whether **electronic bike tagging** is successfully used to identify stolen bikes — establish who has the hand scanners, and whether the robberies department actually refers to [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) when a stolen bike is found and whether residents know to register their details on it.

### **Tiber Gardens and the canal – Lisa Tang**

Lisa reported recently discovered that the canal gate had been locked all day and on Sunday night at apx 7 p.m. she saw a boy with a key, letting a girl out of Tiber Gardens. She is concerned it is too easy for kids to obtain keys and cause mischief. She also reported that Greenspace welded the gate open because the majority of public support is to keep it open.

### **Caledonian Road – Gloria and Chris**

Kids have been raiding Somerfield, openly, and without reproach because the proprietors don't know how to respond. The panel agreed that ignoring their looting would teach these kids that they can get away with it. Dave suggested he visit Somerfield and talk to the staff. Paul suggested he would write to the Chief Executive because Somerfield as they are about to be taken over by the Co-op.

Action: Paul to write to Somerfield. Dave to visit.

## **7. Police priorities – report from Dave**

### **Operation Blunt - stop-and-search knife checks**

The team and a supportive task force have been stopping and searching kids aged 13-17 to check they are not carrying knives. They have also been questioning club members outside the club to check for drugs.

There was some discussion amongst the panel about the way this is handled.

Action: Dave to look into this and speak to the task force who is helping carry out the searches.

## **8. Next meeting 26 November.**

(Need to agree meeting dates for 2010 and any agenda points for next meeting.)