

Caledonian Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Minutes

7.00-8.50 pm on 26.11.09 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

TPCSO Darren Hearn — Islington Safer Transport Team

Residents and community workers

Angie Woods — Vice Chair Bemerton Estate

Claire Milne — Thornhill Crescent

Stephan Schulte — York Way

Gloria Johnson — Bemerton Estate

Bill Millett M.B.E. — Westbourne Estate

Paul Allen — “Team Cally”

Stephen Griffith — Senior Youth Worker, Copenhagen Youth Project

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1. Apologies

Shirley Pinfold, Daniel Dresner, Michael Learmouth.

2. SNP police report - Dave Wiggins

- i. Controlled Public Drinking Zone
- ii. Knife Incident in Thornhill Square
- iii. Bike tagging
- iv. Drugs raid on an address in Thornhill Square
- v. Halloween/firworks night
- vi. Police priorities
- vii. Sgt Dave Wiggins' departure/promotion

i) Controlled Public Drinking Zone

A clamp-down on street drinking is about to be implemented in a zone that stretches from Clerkenwell up to the bottom part of the Cally ward. Anyone carrying open cans will be required to give their name and address on request. If they refuse they can be arrested and/or referred to an outreach team.

ii) Knife Incident in Thronhill Square

Unfortunately there was no evidence on CCTV.

iii) Bike tagging

The ward police now have 2 scanners. They will advertising details of where to buy tags.

iv) Drugs raid on an address in Thornhill Square

The first court hearing is scheduled for 12 Dec. They were charged with possession of class A drugs.

v) Halloween/firworks night

Increased efforts/patrols led to a marked reduction in ASB and Crime. Two of the youths' (ring leaders) addresses were raided.

vi) Police priorities and convictions

Convictions

Three youths have been charged with public order offences for throwing rocks at people. Two main players have been served with ASBOs to ban them from the ward. Neither are from the ward (they are from Camden and Tufnell Park). Only 6 of the larger group are actually from the estate.

Current priority

ASB occurring on the Bemerton Estate

Surveillance operations

Paul mentioned the recent "Magpi" meeting at which it was agreed that professional surveillance operations could be implemented. Dave said he first wanted to see whether removing the ring leaders eased the problem but agreed that surveillance is effective. Using surveillance in the summer they imposed three injunctions on over 18s who are now banned from the estate. However, it is not cheap because it involves the hiring of private filming companies specialising in discrete filming, at the weekend when most of the trouble occurs. They also come forward as witnesses. This is known as a professional witness scheme.

vii) Sgt Dave Wiggins' departure/promotion

The Sergeant announced to the panel that he was moving on to work on the Safer Neighbourhood Task Force, a problem-solving team. He will still be based in Islington but on a boroughwide 'tasking team'. The panel thanked him for his good work on the ward and wished him well in his new role.

3. Islington Safer Transport Team report - Darren Hearn

Vandalism on the 91 bus route

Kids throwing miscellaneous items at the 91 bus between Cally station and Pentonville Prison, 6 buses were taken out of action. A tasking team is now patrolling this route.

Focus on Illegal taxi touts

The transport team will be targeting the unlicensed minicabs that tout around the same area as licensed taxis.

4 .Area reports from residents

I) Westbourne Estate and Lough Road – Bill Millet M.B.E

Plans for development

Hfl is planning to convert the underground garages into one-bed flats. Bill is concerned the conversion will result in poor quality accommodation with inadequate ventilation — only one window, one bedroom and a sitting room. Paul agreed that the current proposal seems impractical and felt it was unlikely to get planning permission.

Bill raised concerns about the applications for new 8-storey block of flats on Lough Road. Paul explained that although the developers concerned are contributing £1.5m to new community facilities (including youth work and community safety activities) at St David's church, the planning committee turned it down. He advised that alternative proposals are expected which would reduce the number of storeys and increase the amount of affordable housing.

Bill also reported that:

- Lockhart Close is still being used by prostitutes as a place to take clients
- Improvements at Boston/Nailour were successful and it was now quiet
- Kids are drinking and hanging out in the park at Grove Estate and Faraday Davey, but plans are afoot to make infrastructure changes to deal with this.
- The surveillance filming of kids on the North Road Estate, Market Estate and the Westbourne Estate had begun.

II) Tiber Gardens and the canal - Paul

No complaints. The Marine policing unit are currently patrolling the Great Union Canal. British Waterways are currently in consultation about the use of the canal.

III) Killick Street - Paul

Residents near the junction with Pentonville Road were being troubled by drug dealing. The culprits lived above the Nat West bank on Pentonville Road. They have now been evicted and the problems have ceased.

IV) King's Cross – Stephan Schulte

Quiet

V) Thornhill Square – Jen Christie

Quiet

Bemerton – Paul/Gloria/Angie/Dave

The core problem has been in the middle of the estate where kids are drinking, smoking, menacing the public and urinating on the walls. The BVMO are reacting quickly but we need to prevent it.

Angie (BVMO) added that it was 30-40 kids congregating from around 6.30 p.m. outside the youth centre and in the main passage way to the shops. They have lookouts so they get plenty of warning to hide their drugs.

Dave added that after the Friday night meeting at Prospex. PCs Mark and Carel approached the group and Prospex accused them of harassing the kids. This highlights the general Problem of Prospex's tendency to side with the kids rather than 'engage' with them, and to absolve any responsibility for them once the club session is over.

Prospex

Stephan raised the point that Prospex is answerable to whoever funds it. If they are commissioned to do detached work they should be monitored to make sure they are doing this. Therefore we should speak to the funders. Gloria added that the Wales trip organised by Prospex ended early because the kids were drinking alcohol. Steve (CYP) added that he knew the 3-4 boys involved in this incident and they are extremely difficult characters. Jen suggested that splitting them up rather than taking them on field trips together.

Youth projects – Steve Griffith, CYP

Reported details of 2 positive and successful projects with young people

Scootalive

The Scootalive project consisted of 4 workshops (Drug advice and information, Scooter Safety, Bike Mechanics, Gangs and Crime, and a ride with Spark Plug). The sessions ran between September and December and were facilitated excellently by specialist staff. The group started as 18 young men aged 16-18 and 9 completed (50% is good). These 9 candidates will now be awarded £120 funding to complete their competency based training (CBT) which will enable them to ride a scooter legally.

Ben Kinsella Exhibition

The Ben Kinsella Exhibition was held at CYP Culture. CYP hung the exhibition for the Kinsella family and friends as a celebration of Ben's work, on his Birthday, 27th October. The following week saw the work of CYP young people adding to the exhibition with a short film (made by the young people from CYP and ex offenders performance company One Conect. The film, called *Disraction FC* was written and performed by the group. It focused on the distractions young people face.

8. Next meeting 18 March, 7.00-9.30 at the Cally Resource Centre, 140 Copenhagen Street.

Dates for 2010

~~28 Jan~~

18 March

27 May

22 July

9 Sept

11 Nov