

MINUTES OF MEETING ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2019, 7.00 - 9.45 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: Adam Jogee (Chair), Peray Ahmet, Eldridge Culverwell, Julie Davies, Scott Emery, Julia Ogiehor and Sygrave

ALSO ATTENDING:

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barbara Blake.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Culverwell declared an interest in relation to the deputation as well as agenda item 10 as he is the vice-chair of the Friends of Finsbury Park.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

The Panel received a deputation on behalf of the Friends of Finsbury Park regarding the recent major events that took place in Finsbury Park during September and the resultant damage that had occurred. The lead depute was Clive Carter and the other members of the deputation party were Barbara Baughan and Martin Ball. Concerns were raised by the deputation party about the extent of the damage to the bandstand field, which was categorised as severe. It was suggested that the damage was not the kind which could be straightforwardly repaired and could cause long-term damage on the park.

Clive Carter advised the Panel that the Friends group represented residents across the three adjoining boroughs and not just Haringey. It was suggested that residents across the three Boroughs had enough of major events in Finsbury Park and that the

Council was exploiting a valued community utility for short term financial gain, generating significant ill will as a result. It was contended that the park was being ruined as a result of the damage caused. The deputation party set out that the noise levels were excessive during the recent major events, particularly in relation to bass frequencies, and that the music could be heard three kilometres away. It was suggested that the Council, in continuing to hold large scale major events, was ignoring the concerns of parks users and showing contempt for local residents.

In response to concerns raised about the events' adherence to licensing conditions, the deputation party were advised that any concerns around licensing conditions and adherence thereof, would have to be raised separately through the formal licensing process and were not within the purview of the Scrutiny Panel.

The Chair thanked the deputation party for their contribution.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of 3rd October were agreed as a correct record.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES AND CRIME PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

The Panel received a covering report and accompanying set of slides which provided an overview of Haringey's performance in relation to key crime performance statistics. The report and accompanying presentation were introduced by Sandeep Broca, Intelligence Analyst, as set out in the agenda pack at pages 9 to 21. The Borough Commander, Treena Fleming was also present to discuss the Community Safety Partnerships' priorities for the current year. The following key points from the presentation were noted:

- Overall recorded crime in Haringey had increased by 2.7% in the 12 months to October 2019, which was better than the London wide average increase of 8.3%. The main hotspots were located around Wood Green High Road and around the A10 corridor, from Bruce Grove to Seven Sisters. Wandsworth was the only London Borough to see a small reduction in overall crime in the 12 month period to October 2019.
- Overall sexual offences in Haringey decreased by 10.6% in the 12 months to October 2019, compared to a London wide average reduction of 2.1%.
- Non-domestic violence with injury offences had decreased in Haringey by 9.8%, compared to a London-wide increase of 0.8%.
- Personal robbery increased in Haringey, by 26%. Almost 2,200 offences a year took place. London wide offending had also worsened, experiencing an increase of 14%. North London in particular had seen large increases in robbery.

- The volume of overall knife injuries had reduced by 4.9% in Haringey, compared to an 11.7% London-wide reduction.
- Lethal barrelled firearm discharges in Haringey had decreased year on year by 18.4%. London had decreased by 15% over this same period. This was a notable improvement from mid-2018, during which significantly higher volumes of firearms discharges occurred. However, Haringey still had the second highest number of incidents in London. Firearm related incidents mostly occurred in the east of the borough, and showed some correlation with known gang linked areas. Offences also demonstrated some geographical clustering.

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021) outlined key priorities: Sexual Violence; Domestic Abuse; Child Sexual Exploitation; Weapon-Based Crime; Hate Crime; Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, Robbery and Non-Domestic Violence with Injury were agreed as local priorities.

The following was noted in discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The AD Stronger Communities provided an update to the Panel around the community conversation programme, which aimed to improve public confidence in the police and partners through adopting a proactive partnership approach to resident engagement. The Borough Commander emphasised the role of ward officers in getting out into the community and building up contacts and networks.
- b. In response to a question, the Panel was advised that knife crime was a subsidiary of a wider category of weapon based crimes, which was designated as a mandatory high harm crime for all London Boroughs. Knife crime, by contrast, was a local priority in Haringey.
- c. The Panel sought assurances around systems for anonymously reporting crime and requested an update on the safe haven scheme. In response, officers advised that Haringey Community Gold were undertaking work on the displacement of crime as well as a wider communications campaign for residents. The AD for Stronger Communities agreed to circulate a written briefing on the safe havens scheme to the Panel. **(Action: Eubert Malcolm).**
- d. The Borough Commander advised the Panel that in relation to youth engagement, the Police used teachable moments to involve youth engagement workers in the custody suite to talk to young people. The Borough Commander also advised that a new Inspector was due to join her staff who had significant experience and would be leading on ensuring that police officers adopted a trauma informed approach.
- e. The Committee set out that partners needed to adopt a targeted approach as well as a universal one and cautioned that young people should not be treated as a homogenous group. The Borough Commander acknowledged these concerns and advised that targeting the robbery issue would also tackle knife crime and serious youth violence due to the profile of those offenders.
- f. The Borough Commander emphasised the role of a whole systems approach which included targeted patrols in hotspot locations as well as sending schools officers out to local schools to engage young people and build up that community network. In addition, the police had established a robbery focus unit comprised of 1 Detective Sergeant and 12 police officers which was starting to

- yield significant results in terms of crime detection rates. In relation to robbery, the Panel noted that there was a keen focus on ensuring immediacy of response as well as ensuring visible policing patrols were in the correct locations as well as also ensuring a whole systems approach and safeguarding concerns were met, due to the profile of suspects being 14-18 years old. The Borough Commander advised that she was hopeful that significant improvements would be seen in this area in the coming months.
- g. The Panel queried the way the data was presented and questioned why the slides showed the trend over total number of offences. In response, officers advised that this was the standardised format used, but it could be adapted to prioritise total number of offences for future presentations to the Panel if that was requested. The Panel agreed to pick this up outside of the meeting. **(Action Panel Members)**. The Panel also commented on the use of three shades of green and the lack of an explanation for yellow RAG status in the key. **(Action: Sandeep Broca)**.
 - h. The Committee enquired about statistics on race and crime. In response officers acknowledged that there was a known disproportionality in relation to specific ethnic groups in the recorded crime statistics. In relation to hate crime, the Panel was advised that there was a national awareness raising week on hate crime and that work was being undertaken to encourage third party reporting as there was a known issue around under-reporting of hate crimes. The Panel requested that officers circulate the figure on hate crime as well as outlining what was being done to tackle the issue outside of the meeting and this would be brought back to a future meeting for brief discussion. **(Action: Sandeep Broca/Treena Fleming)**.
 - i. The Panel sought clarification around whether misogyny could be included as a hate crime going forwards. In response the Borough Commander advised that this was not something the Metropolitan Police were currently doing corporately.

RESOLVED

That the Panel noted the update in relation to Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Crime Performance Overview.

8. UPDATE ON THE MERGING OF HARINGEY AND ENFIELD BCUS

The Panel received a verbal update from Treena Fleming, the Borough Commander on the merging of Haringey and Enfield Borough Command Units (BCUs). The following key points were noted:

- a. The Panel noted that the new Borough Commander had been in post since April and that, overall, the merger had gone well. It was reported that following an initial bedding in period, performance had stabilised and 80% of I grades were responded to within target times and 75% of S grades within the target time.
- b. The Borough Commander advised that her focus was on ensuring a high quality of service and on what the officers did when they arrived at the scene of crime rather than solely on how quickly they got there.
- c. Response teams were responsible for carrying out low-level investigations and there was a continuity of the investigating officer throughout the whole process.

- The Borough Commander advised that she was looking to upskill her officers to ensure that all of her officers were investigative.
- d. The Borough Commander welcomed the fact that sexual offences and child abuse had been assigned back to front line policing and that with the safeguarding teams in place, this allowed the police to offer a much more holistic service, with one point of contact and the ability to offer wrap around services to victims of those crimes. There police had also developed a much more joined-up risk assessment process.
 - e. The Panel were advised that the CID team was in place and that it was their responsibility to handle complex crime.
 - f. The merging of neighbourhood teams was going well and there were only a couple of vacancies, including those in the schools team. The Panel noted that there was significant best practice learning taking place in the neighbourhoods model and that the shift pattern for officers in neighbourhoods teams had been changed to ensure deployment between 4pm and midnight, as well as at key hotspot locations, in response to increased levels of criminal activity during those times.
 - g. Overall, the Borough Commander advised, the merged BCU offered a great deal of autonomy and flexibility in dealing with crime across both boroughs.

The following was noted in response to the discussion of this item:

- a. In response to a question around how many new police officers were scheduled to come to Haringey and Enfield, the Borough Commander advised that the government had announced around 1300 new officers for the Metropolitan and that she was currently seeing around 10-15 new recruits coming through a month, along with some direct entry detectives.
- b. In response to a question around how well the relationship worked between the police and the Council, the Borough Commander advised that there were good relationships being developed with individual colleagues and that overall the relationship worked well. The Borough Commander advised that Sandeep was co-located with the Police and that she held regular meetings with the Chief Executive. Furthermore, her five Superintendents worked closely with the relevant directors within the Council. Overall, it was emphasised that the relationship between the Council and police colleagues was one of a critical friend.
- c. In response to a question about the exact number of vacancies in the Neighbourhoods teams, the Borough Commander advised that under the Met's Borough Workforce Targets, they were supposed to have 46 officers and they currently had 45, so there was only 1 vacancy. However, it was noted that of those 45 police officers some of them could be on sick leave at any one time or assigned to restricted duties if they had been injured.
- d. In response to concerns raised about the effectiveness of ward panel meetings and the self-nominating process involved, the Borough Commander acknowledged that the panels were only as good as the people who were involved in them and suggested that the key aspect was to see what learning and areas of best practice could be gathered from the successful ward panels.
- e. In response to a question around the spread of officers across the two Boroughs, the Borough Commander advised that she didn't have the exact figures but set out that the performance figures suggested that it was an

- equitable service across both Boroughs and that the spread of resources should be broadly equal.
- f. The Panel sought assurances around the abstraction of local SNT officers to cover large scale policing events such as recent Extinction Rebellion protests. In response, the Borough Commander that requests for central aid did happen and that to some extent this was out of her control, however where local officers were abstracted she would back fill those frontline positions and had recently implemented 12 hour shift patterns in order to help provide cover.

RESOLVED

That the update was noted.

9. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND EQUALITIES.

The Panel received a verbal update from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Equalities on his portfolio area. The following was noted in discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The Panel noted that the Council had signed a three-year £1.5m grant agreement with MOPAC which provided the core funding for community safety work; such as violent offender management, gangs work and supporting victims of domestic violence. The Cabinet Member advised that Haringey Community Gold had been live for around six months and had funded 9 projects. The early outcomes were characterised as being overwhelmingly positive.
- b. In response to a question around what the Cabinet Member's political priorities for his portfolio were, he advised that one of his key areas was around ensuring that there were additional resources for youth engagement. The Cabinet Member also advised that he was working on securing the next bid for Haringey Community Gold. Furthermore, he was reviewing invest to save proposals around violence reduction with officers as well as work to review the community conversation agenda and how best to work closely with voluntary sector partners.
- c. The Panel sought reassurance around engagement and early intervention and requested further information in relation to how the money was being spent and the outcomes that were sought. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that there was a rigorous process of engagement and reporting back to the Mayor's Office on how the money was being spent as part of Haringey Community Gold, along with regular joint meetings with officers and partners. The Panel requested further information on the activities and outcomes being undertaken as part of Community Gold. **Action: (Cllr Blake/Eubert).**
- d. The Panel also sought assurances around Community Conversations and raised concerns about it being led by voluntary organisations who were seeking funding through the project, rather than individual local residents. The Panel requested that the Cabinet Member give some further thought to how these groups were selected and what the selection criteria was for choosing them. **(Action: Cllr Blake).** In response, Officers advised that that as part of the funding for Community Gold, the Council went out into the community and invited bids for funding, so this was to some extent a self-selection process.

Officers reassured the Panel that those groups selected had regular engagement with the GLA as part of the process.

- e. The Panel requested some further information around the action plan, and the individual actions contained therein, that sat underneath the Youth at Risk Strategy. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that there would be a Member Briefing session on serious youth violence and the Youth at Risk Strategy in January that would update Members in detail.

RESOLVED

- I. That the update was noted.

10. UPDATE ON SLAMMIN' MAJOR EVENTS 2019 AND FINSBURY PARK RECTIFICATION WORKS

The Panel received a briefing paper on the Slammin' events 2019 that took place in Finsbury Park and the rectification works that had been undertaken following these events. Sarah Jones, Events and Partnerships Manager introduced the report as set out in the agenda pack at pages 23 to 26. The following was noted in discussion of the report:

- a. The Panel sought assurances around what could be done to restrict bass levels from future events. In response officers acknowledged that there was an increase in complaints and that the noise had spread over a further distance than usual due to the prevailing weather conditions. Officers advised that specific conditions were set within the Licence and that there were currently three licences issued to promoters, with each one independent of each other and specific to the relevant licence holder. The conditions referred to in the deputation were for Live Nation events and that these were not transferable to the other premises licences.
- b. In response to concerns about the advertised complaints telephone number being difficult to get hold of and closing immediately after the event, officers acknowledged these concerns and advised that the volume of complaints was well above what was anticipated. The Panel noted that this was the fifth year of the event and it usually generated around 15 complaints, so one telephone line was usually suitable. However, 38 complaints were received in the afternoon this time, along with a significant number of complaints to the Parks team in the days following the event. Officers agreed to reconsider how to best ensure the complaints line was organised for future events. **(Action: Sarah Jones)**.
- c. The Panel sought assurances around whether in light of the complaints generated, holding Major Events was in the Council's interests. In response, officers advised that the revenue generated was essential to the upkeep and maintenance of Finsbury Park, following significant budget reductions since 2010. Officers also advised that a lot of residents enjoyed the events and that they were seeking to ensure that there was a balance so that the number of events was kept relatively low whilst also providing a vital income stream.
- d. The Panel questioned whether the level of income being generated was enough to justify the events. In response, officers advised that the schedule of events for next year balanced the concerns of residents against ensuring enough revenue to support the park. It was anticipated that the revenue from next years' events would allow the Council to make some small infrastructure

- improvements to Finsbury Park. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability advised that, in her view, the events were justifiable in order to ensure the ongoing viability and upkeep of the park.
- e. The Panel queried whether the events could be held every second year instead. Officers advised that in the case of Wireless, that this was an annual event and that the organisers would likely go elsewhere if the Council only permitted them to have it every other year. This would create a significant budget pressure.
 - f. The Chair of the LCSP set out that the Council would need to find around £1m to fund the Park if it no longer permitted major events. It was also suggested that the Council seemed to have got a lot better at managing this process over the last five years and that Finsbury Park was immeasurably better than it was many years ago, partially as a result of the additional funding it received from these events.

RESOLVED

That the Panel noted the update on Slammin' Major Events 2019 and Finsbury Park rectification works.

11. LIVEABLE STREETS

The Panel received a verbal update on the Crouch End Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme from Peter Watson, Programme Manager Highway Major Events. The following was noted:

- The Project commenced last November and included significant consultation work and workshops with both residents and Members.
- The key aim was to engender modal shift away from cars towards using public transport. In order to do this vehicular traffic was restricted and a bus gate in operation on Priory Lane.
- As part of the justification for the trial scheme it was noted that 80% of the traffic going through Crouch End did not stop there and instead vehicles were using Crouch End as a commuting artery.
- Part of the purpose of the trial was to iron out any issues that arose around communications. The Panel were advised that following the two-week trial, around 3000 comments were received through the website. At the time of the meeting, officers had responded to 800.
- The Project Board, at its most recent meeting, had agreed to undertake additional communications work and officers would be going out to the public with a consultation exercise on the next stage of the scheme. Officers advised that there were no plans at present to install another bus gate in the second stage of the project.
- In response to a request for clarification on timescales for the communication exercise, officers advised that they were constrained by the recent announcement of a General Election and anticipated this being concluded by the end of January. In addition, there was also a pre-election period scheduled for 23rd March for the Mayoral election and it was noted that this would also determine when the second trial period could take place.

The following points were raised in discussion of this agenda item:

- a. The Panel sought assurances about whether any measurement of air quality was taken before and after the trial period to assess its impact. In response, officers advised that 26 sites were monitored across Crouch End over a twelve month period to develop a baseline from which to measure any improvements to air quality.
- b. In response to a question about the level of concerns raised by residents following the trial period and whether the Council was considering cancelling the project, officers acknowledged the concerns raised by residents and suggested that the scheme was always likely to cause some upset because of the impact on traffic flow. Officers also highlighted that Haringey was the only borough awarded funding who were able to complete the whole two week trial period. Both Newham and Tower Hamlets had to cancel similar schemes due to concerns over safety. Enfield and Waltham Forest undertook borough-wide closures, whereas Haringey's was targeted to a specific location.
- c. Officers advised that they would be examining all of the feedback to examine where improvements could be made and how some of the biggest concerns might be mitigated. Officers suggested that one of the key learning points was around residents feeling that they had not been properly engaged. Officers suggested that despite sending out thousands of leaflets, there were some concerns about the extent to which people read the communications literature. The Cabinet Member advised that she had circulated a 3 page list of all of the consultation work undertaken as part of this scheme to Members last week. Furthermore, officers had engaged with all of the local business owners face-to-face. Nevertheless, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that more needed to be done next time to ensure that residents were fully aware of what was happening and when.
- d. The Panel advocated that more consultation and engagement needed to be done about the closure of Middle Lane as a bus stop. The Panel also requested further information around the outcomes from the scheme as well as the impact on air pollution. Officers agreed to circulate a briefing on the Crouch End Liveable Neighbourhoods to the Panel outside of the meeting. **(Action: Ann Cunningham).**
- e. Cllr Emery enquired whether a Councillor from Muswell Hill Ward could be placed on the project board due to the impact the scheme had in Muswell Hill. The Cabinet Member advised that she was going to hold a meeting with ward Councillors from the neighbouring wards about the communications programme going forwards and how this would be communicated to residents. Concerns from Muswell Hill ward Councillors would be picked up at this meeting. **(Action: Cllr Hearn).**
- f. In response to a question around the costs of the two week trial, officers advised that the cost was £187k, with most of the cost being due to staffing costs.
- g. The Chair requested that officers circulate copies of the responses to any FOI requests that had been received in relation to the Crouch End Liveable Neighbourhoods. **(Action: Ann Cunningham).**
- h. The Cabinet Member advised Panel Members had four days left to respond with feedback on the two week trial period.
- i. The Chair requested that Team Noel Park be added to a future agenda meeting and that the Cabinet Member be invited to attend. **(Action: Clerk).**

RESOLVED

The Panel noted the update.

12. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

RESOLVED

That the Members noted the work programme update and approved any changes therein.

13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting date was 17th December 2019.

CHAIR: Councillor Adam Jogee

Signed by Chair

Date