



QUEENSTOWN WARD SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

14th April 2021

6 p.m.

TEAMS MEETING

Present: Ken Jordan (Co-Chair/Chair Savona Street)); Michael Blair (Community Safety Officer, Nine Elms); Graham Harris (Co-Chair & Doddington) Susan Ekins (Secretary); Sgt Leah Arbuckle; PC Connor Landymore; PC Melissa Ewin (SNT); Cllr Paula Walker; Laura Gavin (Housing); Lisa Martin (Animal Welfare); James Sowden (Peabody) Doreen Boulding (York Mansions) Michael Cosham (Montefiore); Jean Domhofer (CBWharf); James Furlong; John Gallagher (Doddington) Kathryn Geels, (Riverlight) Barbara Graham (St Philip St.); James Murray (Riverside Court)

Apologies: Cllr. Aydin Dikerdem Harry Goonewardene (Savona) Paul Houghton (Park Court); Kirsty Jeffreys (Yvonne Carr) Cllr Maurice Mcleod.

Minutes of February Meeting were accepted.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Report, which includes updates on matters arising.

PC Melissa Ewin (ME)

Robberies in Battersea Park were on the increase. There was now a Protection Agreement in place with Battersea Park, so that information and CCTV footage could be shared.

There had been 8 catalytic converter thefts in Queenstown since the last meeting (February) – 2 in one day in Warriner Gardens. Connor and Melissa had carried out door to door visits giving information and advice, and mentioning tilt alarms, which sensed when a car was being shifted to steal wheels or CCs. Some detailed prevention methods are being sent out with these minutes.

Hondas were the most frequently targeted, not only because they sat high above the round, but also because the CC was positioned toward the front. ME has emailed a contact in Honda asking for more information.

Another activity had been focusing on motor vehicles. Included were:

2 with no MOT; 1 driving through a red light; 10 electric scooters; 5 verbal warnings about driving standards.

Speeding in Queenstown Road. The SN Team did not work late on weekends, although this could change. Complaints and information were being sent to the Traffic Units within the Met, who were better served to deal with this. Stephen Thompson (CBW) was asked to send all information to the SNT who can pass it on. Needed: Description, time, where noted.

Doreen Boulding (DB) added that the same issues occurred on Saturday nights on Prince of Wales Drive.

Connor Landymore (CL) said this had been an issue for years. The Transport Unit, financed by TfL, did not cover nights. They had been working on this issue for the past few weeks, and CL was waiting for their feedback. The line of information should be: Residents' rep/individual to SNP to Traffic Units.

Electric scooters. Traffic Units were talking to scooter riders. ME said there were currently trials to the stage where legislation could be updated. CL said it was difficult to identify riders, since scooters had no number plates, although a photo might identify the rider. People should ring 999. DB asked what happened when they used pavements? From her own experience she knew how dangerous they could be. ME asked if she could take pictures and submit them.

Cllr Paula Walker (PW) said that regarding the bike racers, there seemed to be a circuit which took in Pimlico and the Churchill Garden neighbourhood.

John Gallagher (JG) said the fact was, at the moment electric scooters were illegal. They should not be used on any public space. Should the police not be confiscating them? Ken Jordan (KJ) said that this would not necessarily be best policing practice within a community.

CL said that in the past, they had been ordered by the Court to return m/bikes, and that court would not take it any further. The same would apply with scooters. ME said that they first issued a warning. JG added that he thought magistrates should first study the law.

Jean Domhofer (JD) asked what was the most effective way of reporting at night? CL said if it were dangerous, then 999 was advised. If not, put it on the Met website. Sgt Arbuckle (LA) said that at the moment it was a grey area, because of the trials, but that people should continue to pass on as much information as possible.

EM said that Operation Chapper was continuing with its work. In the last month two drug warrants had been issued on the Doddington. Drug dealing outside Bank Court and Park Court would be tackled with CCTV. Andrew Kapoor and Housing had achieved a successful application for this.

CL said that regular patrols were carried out along Riverlight, in particular to check out on social distancing. There seemed to be fewer issues with builders, and it was thought that they had maybe moved on towards the Savona Estate. KJ said that every Friday and Saturday night, groups of young people were parking near Kirtling Street.

There was loud music, and the next morning, silver N2O cartridges littered the place. ME asked to be sent an email with details. This was only a crime if they were sold. A propos Riverlight, they were working on the flat where there were ASB problems.

Kathryn Geels (KG) reported that near Sainsbury's one particular area was constantly littered. Ove 100 people gathered. And there was alcohol use. ME confirmed that this area was within their patrol. KJ said that following his email about balloon parties in his local car park, this seemed to have stopped. CL said they were working with the new housing manager, Daniel Lloyd, on Savona Street. There had been reports of a large gathering smoking drugs, and some ASB. A similar group, in the middle of Patmore, had run away. A partnership meeting to share information has been set up to deal with continuing ASB problems around St Joseph's Street. One culprit has been arrested. The nuisance has lessened, but not stopped.

Within the BCU it was expected that with the lifting of lockdown, crime and ASB would increase. Pubs were packed. Shifts were being changed in order to cope.

Michael Blair – Community Safety Officer.

Michael took over from Roger Lyddon as from 10th February last, but would also cover Roger's wards when he goes on leave. There were still some handovers.

Since then, he had initiated a meeting with Wandsworth Parks & Events Police, Prevent & Partnership Team, plus the SNT in order to streamline the sharing of information, highlighting intelligence, and improving on the current working arrangements

He was working with Housing on reports of ASB at Thessaly House and Wenham House.

As regards the new pedestrian/cycle tunnel (Arch 42) to the NCGM public open space and Ponton Street, he had met with colleagues of the Nine Elms Programmes Board to discuss Community Safety input.

He had put in three 310 Requests to the police with regards to speeding on Ponton Street, Queenstown Road and Nine Elms Lane. These covered a 6-month period. Strangely, no reports were received by the Police on this matter. Obviously, this does not mean there are no problems, but he highlighted the need to report problems on the reporting mechanisms available. (*See March Newsletter*)

He helped with setting up a Community Trigger Meeting in his colleagues' area.

OWL recently being used to highlight crime prevention, with advice about shed and bike thefts.

JD said that her residents would have contacted the police about the speeding. MB said that full information had been supplied, but nothing had shown up. The info might have been logged in another borough, He and JD would have an off-line conversation

about the matter. SE said contacts were in the Newsletter. She added that Queenstown Road linked 4 boroughs –Wandsworth, Lambeth, Westminster, and K&C.

Cllr. Paula Walker.

A pop-up vaccination centre was being set up in the Shaftesbury Christian Centre (Austin Road). They would be happy to vaccinate anyone who found it difficult to get to the Arts Centre or Clapham Junction. Vaccinations were still only for 45 plus, unless there was an underlying health condition. JG said he would put up fliers on the Doddington and Rollo.

PPR tests for the South African variant could be ordered on line. PW said people should take one, even if they had been vaccinated. It is clear from the site that this is available if you have been asked to take a test, e.g., by your local council. Graham Harris (GH) confirmed that this was the best route, since he had heard that centres in Wandsworth were packed, with no appointments for 2 weeks.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Laura Gavin (LG) said that WBC were putting in additional testing centres. Information could be found on the Council web page COVID Info with a link.

The Petition regarding speeding on Prince of Wales Drive had only reached 153 signatures. It had been submitted in Full Council Meeting.

The Park car parks had been closed because it was too dangerous with Covid, which meant that traffic in the area had become very bad.

Regarding litter problems along Riverside, WBC was responsible for managing surface land, but much of it belonged to the flats.

KG said that the area appeared rather scruffy at times, and there were still rough sleepers. LG said that people should contact Streetlink,

https://www.streetlink.london/Streetlink_London_HomePage

who would then contact Spear. MB said that this had been reported to Spear.

Housing Report. Laura Gavin

Daniel Lloyd has asked for deployable CCTV for the Thessaly Street car park area. Local construction companies had been spoken to about their employees hanging around.

There were problems with motor bikes being parked outside the “blue block” on Battersea Park Road. KJ said there were often 8-9 of them. LG said she had seen more. DL would talk to the Wandsworth Legal Department about removing them. It might be possible to install a barrier, but this would impede, for example, wheelchair

access. KJ thought it might be a legal responsibility, because of access for emergency vehicles.

There had been some issues with dogs off-lead and fouling around Edward Foster Court. They had been liaising with Animal Welfare. Lisa Martin (LM) – Animal Welfare, said they had one description of a dog being exercised in the basketball court and communal areas. They had been spoken to. In addition, three lads were attacked by a large dog near Edward Foster Court. The Police were dealing with it.

There had been a fire in the bin area of Wenham House. All residents had received a letter. Deployable CCTV now available for Doddington, but a suitable place needed to be found, since trees could often block views. New signs for Doddington and Rollo would be erected shortly.

KJ said the lock on the Seldon House playground was broken. More signs were needed regarding ball games. It was starting to become tiresome. Planting would be destroyed.

Animal Welfare. Lisa Martin.

A report had been sent out with the Agenda. KJ asked if there had been any reports of a stocky man who let his dog, (B & W spaniel mix) run round the playground by Seldon House. Usually in the morning around 10 or 11 a.m.

F A S T Report

Due to overload of work, a brief report was submitted and read to the meeting by the Secretary.

FAST has been operating throughout this year. We are currently running an Easter Holiday programme with Wandsworth Council and the Department of Education to provide activities and food. It is going well and is oversubscribed due to covid limitations.

FAST are closed next week as staff are spending the time preparing for the spring term and opening back up with less restrictions due to the easing of lockdown that gives us more flexibility. Please find our timetable** attached which runs from Monday 26th April.

**** Sent with the Minutes.**

Local Reports

Doddington (JG).

- It had mainly been quiet, but earlier that day JG had heard about trouble with motor bikes speeding through the Ravenet Street tunnel. There were also cyclists delivering small packages, i.e. probably dealing. Both ends needed policing at the same time.

- When a fire engine arrived at Palmerston House, it had to crawl along Strasbourg Road, because of parking on both sides of the street. One side of parking needed to go. He had mentioned it to Tom Crawley. KJ asked if he had requested parking Control? JG said he had not heard back yet. LG said she would speak to TC next week. PW said that if she were given the proper contact in Highways, she could try. And as regarded Ravenet Street, it was insufficient just to have a notice that said No Motorbikes. JG said it was not his patch. James Furlong (JF) would email contacts to PW.

St Philip Street. Barbara Graham (BG).

- BG had already reported CC theft. Following the report about the vulnerability of Hondas, her resident would be changing her car.
- A motor biker (maybe two) had knocked down a resident and taken her bag.
- London Concrete Lorries were still idling whilst their drivers went in to the Express in Queenstown Road.
- Fly tipping on the north side of the Square was still an issue. Her desire was for an anti-littering campaign.

PW said she had raised this with the council on numerous occasions. They were now going through bags to find details of the fly tippers. She has been pressing them to widen the area which they currently cover.

York Mansions. Doreen Boulding

DB wondered whether anything had happened over the Parking Petition?

PW said it was still up, and she had asked officers to extend the period, because now was not a good time to go from door to door. 51% of residents of two streets needed to have signed. The petition would go forward, but would only be considered for formal consultation with those criteria met. She added that she was also receiving a backlash from people who did not want what was being proposed.

Savona Street. Ken Jordan

KJ said that Contractors were using their car park.

Savona Estate. Harry Goonwardene.

Report submitted in his absence, and passed to the relevant officers.

I have been getting regular reports from resident about ASB on the Savona Estate.

- The main area of concern is the Thessaly House car park, opposite Costcutters on Thessaly Road.

- Large groups of youth are seen gathering in the car park to drink alcohol, smoke Cannabis and take drugs at all times of the day. I have reported this to the Police, Michael Blair and Council Officials with images and reference numbers of Police Reports. It looks as if these groups are not abiding by the COVID restrictions on gatherings. It has now come to the stage where the residents are afraid to leave their homes due to intimidation and threats.
- Similar ASB in the Seldon House and Wenham House passages have been reported to the Council.

Riverlight. Kathryn Geels

There was a lot of worry about taller buildings impacting on light and space. People had complained about the planned hotel. She would keep people informed.

PW said that people should take part in the consultation. They had been told that buildings would not compromise on green space, and would not be higher. She and KG would liaise off-line.

SE added that when she contacted Battersea Society about a 10-storey development on the edge of the conservation area, in Battersea Studios, Silverthorne Road, she was told that there were buildings higher than that. It was almost as if people were accepting this as normal. They would need to fight. Michael Cosham (MC) said many were involved in the Battersea Studios campaign, and Cllr. Dikerdem was giving them advice. BG said the more people that complained, the better.

Chelsea Bridge Wharf. Jean Domhofer.

Jean was pleased to announce that CBW's newly instituted RA was starting to meet regularly, and had its own App.

Battersea Power Station

Alex Bourne, who usually attends, is currently on maternity leave.

Newsletter

The Secretary said she was grateful for the appreciation of people like MC as it was difficult to know how many people actually received the Newsletter. Some 180 went out, together with an "on-line" presence through Roger Lyddon. Reps should be sending it to their residents where possible, as, apart from humorous articles, it contained important information on safety. DB said that it was difficult for her flats, since the Management was in charge and she had no access to email addresses.

Melissa Ewing.

The meeting was very sad to learn that in a month or so, Melissa would be leaving to train in detective work. She has been a very positive and cheerful presence, and we shall really miss her.

The Priorities remained the same.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

The next meeting will be on 9th June at 6 p.m. – probably by TEAMS.