

KEW POLICE LIAISON GROUP

Minutes for the Meeting on Wednesday 12th December 2018

Attending: Sgt Matt Shalders, PC Jim Dyson, PC Jordan Wharmsby, PCSO Lorraine Childs, Judi Braddock (Chair), Darren Smith, Martin Roberts, Hilary Fitzhugh, Chris Royle, Terry Smith, Mary Done, M White, Poh Long, Cllr Lotte Campanale, Elahe Mohtasham, Loraine Martin, Nick Hutchings, Cheryl Gibbs, Brian Gibbs, David Nelson, Chris Dennington, Caroline Brock

Apologies: Diana Dunrossil, Jane McGowan, Sue Sheffer, Andrea Samuelson, Sue Britto

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those attending and thanked the Kew Safer Neighbourhood Team. The Chair noted thanks to Darren Smith of The National Archives for hosting again.

The Chair was sad to inform the group that Keith Britto, a long-time member of the PLG, had passed away on 20th September, and she had passed on kind wishes to Sue, whom she hoped would continue to be part of the PLG.

The Chair invited those present to introduce themselves and declare any representations.

2. Matters arising from previous meeting

- The Chair will be standing down from running the PLG, having chaired it since April 2008, noting that chairs are not expected to make a length of time commitment! She thanked Darren Smith for offering to be temporary Chair for the next meeting, and invited residents to volunteer to chair future meetings and to take the minutes.
- There were no other matters arising.

3. Update from the SNT

Kew is part of 4 wards merged as a superborough (Richmond, Kingston, Wandsworth and Merton) to form the South West Basic Command Unit (SW BCU). Police resources can flex across the BCU if there is an issue e.g. for an issue in Kew, PCs from other wards can assist. Recently the Kew team have been assisting Richmond, by being in Richmond town centre where there has been a spike in robberies on younger people by groups of young adults. There is also a police team using a police bus to get to issues at Christmas events, robberies etc.

The Kew team, which is unchanged, currently work out of the base in Sheen Lane and Sgt Matt is based in Twickenham. The SNT are working with partners to have a “hub” in Kew, with a large (6’ x 6’) locker for equipment storage etc, and hope to have that established next year.

The SNT stressed that despite scare stories on social media, crime is as low in Kew as it always has been, and to ask the police directly what happened, not rely on social media. The SNT are aware that a local business owner has put forward the idea of “My Local Bobby”, a subscription-based private security guard service.

Crime figures October-December 2018 compared to this period in 2017 were down, thanks to PCSO Lorraine working on crime prevention and PC Jim targeting prolific offenders:

- Theft from motor vehicle was down 3 from 47 to 44. 82% of the thefts in October were not residents’ vehicles, they were visitors to Kew Gardens, Kew Grill, The Coach and Horses.
- Burglary was down 10 from 54 to 44.
- Robbery was down from 4 to 2, one of which was a nasty theft of a handbag, using a moped,

in Lichfield Road, on a visitor to Kew Gardens. Sgt Rumi Miah, who used to be on Kew Ward, is about to arrest an individual for this, for this and other crimes committed in the borough. The other robbery was in Burlington Road, where a man leaving the station at 18.15 was followed, pushed to the floor, and threatened for their mobile phone.

- Theft of motor vehicles down from 11 to 7, the majority of which have been keyless theft of high value vehicles. Use of a Faraday Cage bag to store car entry fobs when not in use is recommended and leaflets are being published to communicate this. Keyless theft involves two people, one has a device which they hold at the front door/windows (with a range of up to 20 metres, so can reach upstairs rooms) to scan the signal from the keyless entry fob, the other is at the car with the other side of the device, which transmits the signal to open the door and start the car. The more expensive cars have entry fobs that stop transmitting if not moving, when they are put down. Always check a Faraday Cage bag is working, by taking the entry fob in it to the car and testing if it opens the car. Or crooklock the car steering wheel as a deterrent. Almost all the local thefts were overnight, on a car on a driveway, so that the two devices are in range.

Once the car stops and is switched off, a thief can't restart it, but the thieves will re-programme an entry fob in 30 seconds, soon after the car is stolen, then they can use it to restart the car. Whilst some cars have trackers, thieves know where the factory fitted tracker unit is on the car and will remove it. Or, they will leave the car for a few days and if it is still there, will assume it's not being tracked. The police do recover cars using trackers, but often by then the tracker is out of range as they are shipped abroad. This is organised crime and the high value cars are targeted to order.

There followed some discussion on points raised:

- There had been recent media coverage of Met Police using police cars to push criminal moped riders off their bikes. These police teams have to be trained for this, and to have done a risk assessment for each situation. It has reduced the number of incidents – for example, moped related crime was a big issue in Camden with 937 a quarter, which has now reduced to less than 100 for the last quarter.
- All the Kew SNT have been trained in the use of tagging spray on moped related crime. This is a cannister of indelible dye that glows under ultraviolet, to be used if a crime is witnessed or suspected. It is classed as use of force.
- The SW BCU has launched BRIT, a proactive Burglary and Robbery Investigation Team, across the BCU, including use of CCTV.
- PC Jim arrested a person who was door to door selling (Richmond Council are not issuing any pedlar licences for the borough) who had an unrelated offence outstanding. Door to door charity collections are legal. Also arrested a shoplifter who had failed to attend court, and another person in possession of drugs. A previous arrest for aggressive door to door selling, a male with 4 offences and a female with 7, are awaiting sentencing.
- The Kew SNT has done welfare visits to residents, had meetings with social workers, attended Kew Village Market, and Kew Sparkle. Extra funding has been made available to police outside Kew Gardens with the Christmas at Kew events are on, to be visible to visitors attending. There is now a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Taylor Avenue. There has been a Neighbourhood Watch meeting held for West Park Avenue and it's believed a person is interested in being the co-ordinator. As yet there has been no volunteer for Sandycombe Road Neighbourhood Watch. This does not have to be someone for the whole road, it could be joint, or split into sections or parts combined with adjoining roads.

4. Update on the promises that had been set at the last meeting

- a) Burglaries – PCSO Lorraine has done many crime prevention visits. Four people have been charged in the South West for burglary including one business burglary in Kew. A

household burglary target is gold jewellery, displayed at specific religious ceremonies. Jewellery should be hidden, or preferably kept in a safe that is securely fitted (bolted to the floor or wall), or ideally kept in a safe deposit box, not at the house. Always take a photograph of jewellery, including a ruler in the photo to show the size.

- b) Providing advice (e.g. home visits) – covered above and highly recommended.
- c) Racist graffiti – towpath patrols have not found any more graffiti since the last was cleared (and towpath was closed for part of the time). Clarence Road has some graffiti. Antisemitic graffiti is also monitored by the Home Office. Take a photo of graffiti. If the graffiti is on rail premises such as a railway arch then it's Network Rail's responsibility, send the photo to the SNT as well and they will forward to the British Transport Police who have a database, otherwise contact the council (Cllr Lotte can escalate).

6. Discussion on points raised and voting on promises for next quarter

Following a brief discussion, there was a vote on the promises suggested by residents. The promises chosen for the SNT are:

1. Burglaries
2. Providing advice (for example, home visits and communications such as a newsletter)
3. Racist graffiti

5. Public confidence in the police

Those present expressed their confidence in the police in relation to all three questions raised.

6. Any Other Business

- A resident raised a concern on the length of time to mend a lamppost, making the street poorly lit. Raise with the Council, escalating to Cllr Lotte if necessary. It might be that the council is waiting for a part.
- In response to a question from a resident, the SNT said there are no plans for CCTV in the streets around Kew Gardens, Kew Village or the Retail Park. These are majority Council owned so assessed on a needs basis against other boroughs, so Kew is not a priority. The SNT can bid for the Council to provide cameras, based on the number of crimes committed. Inside the Retail Park, Kew Gardens and The National Archives has CCTV as they are privately owned. Residents can purchase doorbell cameras; these should be aimed to cover inside your boundary (official advice) or may include e.g. a footpath if it's clear it's to protect your own property.

7. Next Meeting

The Police Liaison Group (PLG) next meeting will be **Tuesday 12th March**, at The National Archives, at 19.30 to 20.30.

The SNT thanked the Chair for her volunteering, and presented her with a gift and large bouquet of flowers. The Chair said it had been a pleasure and a privilege, and would be very happy to chat to anyone wanting to discuss volunteering for future meetings.

The chair thanked the residents and SNT for attending the meeting, and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SNT Contact details

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Emergency – always dial 999 (textphone 1800)

Non-emergency - dial 101 (textphone 18001 101)

Web site <http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Richmond/Kew>

Twitter account @MPSKEW