

From: Geoff Horsnell [geoff@horsnell.freemove.co.uk]

Sent: 16 September 2012 07:46

To: roger.evans@london.gov.uk

Cc: mayor@london.gov.uk; Cllr Nolan; Cllr Goody (Peter Goody); Cllr Wilson; Cllr Chan; Cllr Dunn; Cllr Cummins; Cllr Prince; Melanie Attlesey; 'Helen Zammett'

Subject: Open letter / email on the subject of the proposed sale of Metropolitan Polices owned properties

Importance: High

Dear Roger,

I am writing on behalf of WaSRA – The Wanstead and Snaresbrook Residents' Alliance. This is a group representing three local residents associations, namely The Wanstead Society, The Counties Residents' Association and the Carlton Terrace Residents' Association. Together we represent over 700 of the households within the Wanstead and Snaresbrook area.

First, thank you for attending our meeting last Friday 14 September. I am writing to raise a point that was not covered on the night, except within a reply you made to a question from the floor.

The question concerned the underspend on the Olympics and whether this money could be made available to offset the shortfall within the Metropolitan Police budget. In your reply, you quite correctly stated that the money from the Olympics was a "one off" figure, and that the shortfall, although similar in size, was an ongoing figure, year on year.

However, is it not true that any money received from the sale of Metropolitan police owned properties is also a "one off" figure. Collectively, it may collectively be sufficient to last more than one year – but eventually, the money will be exhausted. At this point, there will still be an annual shortfall – but the "family silver" will have been squandered. What will happen then? In all of the discussions, it appears that the view of the "accountant" is sacrosanct and must be obeyed. However, policing is an action that is undertaken by the consent of the people. If you decimate the support infrastructure by selling off the bases from which the police may operate, it is, as always, the community that will suffer in the long run. Eventually, the community becomes alienated as the police response will be viewed as inadequate – indeed this is already happening locally as illustrated by many of the speakers from the floor on Friday. Gradually the trust between community and police is eroded – and trust is a commodity that is very difficult to regain!

There must be a better way to address the shortfall – one that is sustainable over time. We therefore urge you to impress upon the mayor and commissioner to consider the consequences of such a short-term solution before embarking on this course of action.

Geoff Horsnell – for WaSRA – representing the Wanstead Society, The Counties Residents' Association and the Carlton Terrace Residents' Association

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