



Councillor C. M. G. Cummins

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The Mayor of London,
Mr Boris Johnson,
Greater London Authority,
City Hall,
Queen's Walk,
London,
SE1 2AA

24th September 2012

Dear Mr Mayor

I write as chairman of Area 1 Committee (Snaresbrook and Wanstead wards) of the London Borough of Redbridge.

On Friday 14th September we held an extraordinary meeting of the Area 1 Committee attended by approximately 150 residents to discuss the future of Wanstead Police Station in light of the Mayor's Office for Policing (MOPAC) Estates review of existing properties within the Metropolitan Police Area.

The meeting was attended by John Cryer MP for Leyton & Wanstead, GLA member Roger Evans (Havering & Redbridge), the leader of the Council, Cllr Keith Price and Deputy Borough Commander Supt Stewart Hill.

There has been a groundswell of opinion against the possible closure of Wanstead Police Station. Two petitions have been raised. One organised by Snaresbrook and Wanstead Conservatives attracted 1,315 signatures from letters delivered across the two wards and was presented to Area 1 Committee on 14th September and Council on 20th September.

The second, organised by the Wanstead and Snaresbrook Residents Alliance (WaSRA) representing The Wanstead Society, The Counties Residents Association and the Carlton Terrace Residents Association attracted 2,355 signatures and triggered a Petition for Debate at Council on 20th September.

The following resolutions were agreed at the end of the Area 1 meeting. That;

- i) The Committee oppose any proposal to close Wanstead Police Station;
- ii) The Committee support the two petitions to be presented to Council on 20th September and the business motion for debate by the Leaders of the

- three political groups (the motion was extended to include Woodford Green and Chadwell Police Stations);
- iii) The Chairman write to the Mayor of London to express members strong opposition to any future proposed closure of Wanstead Police Station and to inform him of the petitions in (ii) above;
 - iv) The Committee lobby the Mayor that Wanstead Police Station should remain open;
 - v) The Committee thank the Deputy Borough Commander for his undertaking to feedback concerns to the Borough Commander and request that she communicated these to New Scotland Yard;
 - vi) The Committee request The Mayor to undertake full consultation and engagement with residents before any decision was made;
 - vii) The Chairman write to convey residents' concerns as expressed above to the Commissioner, who was undertaking the review and request that these are fed into the consultation;
 - viii) The Chief Community Safety Officer write to enquire about the outcome of the Review into the fault identified with the consultation undertaken in 2007 on the future of the police station;
 - ix) The chief Community Safety Officer request a regular update from the Borough Commander and keep the Committee informed.

I would particularly draw your attention to (vi) and (vii); the request for a full consultation with residents before any decision is made. There was widespread concern among members and residents when the Deputy Borough Commander said that the police would “engage” with residents after the decision had been made. We expect a full consultation prior to any decision and urge that this be undertaken..

A question was asked from the audience whether the under spend in the Olympics could be made available to offset the shortfall within the Metropolitan Police budget, given the similar amounts involved. The reply was that this was unlikely as the under spend was only a “one off” figure whereas the shortfall was ongoing, year on year. Nonetheless Mr Geoff Horsnell on behalf of WeSRA has written to Roger Evans GLM on this matter and I enclose his e-mail for your attention.

At the subsequent Council Meeting on 20th September, the Petition for Debate and Business Motion were discussed together and the following resolution agreed:

- i) To support residents campaigns in Wanstead and elsewhere to keep police stations open;
- ii) To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London, The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the Redbridge Borough Commander to outline the opposition to the potential closure of police stations and to invite them to meet with concerned residents.

In conclusion there is a large body of opinion from local residents and elected representatives across all the three main political parties against the possible closure of Wanstead Police Station.

A hard copy will follow by post.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Chris Cummins
Chairman,
Area 1 Committee,
London Borough of Redbridge.

cc The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Mr Stephen Greenhalgh
Borough Commander for Redbridge, Supt Sue Williams
Mr John Cryer, MP
GLA Member, Mr Roger Evans
Leader of the Council, Cllr Keith Prince
CEO London Borough of Redbridge, Mr Roger Hampson
Chief Community Safety Officer, Ms Kathy Nixon
Area 1 Committee members and WRA Petitioners, Mr Geoff Horsnell and Mrs
Helen Zammitt