



# Wanstead & Snarebrook Residents' Alliance

24 February 2013

Mr Stephen Greenhalgh  
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime  
10 Dean Farrar Street  
LONDON SW1H 0NY

Dear Mr Greenhalgh,

Following the meeting in Redbridge Town Hall on 11 February, we are writing to point out that the Wanstead police station, rather than being detrimental to policing, would be a valuable asset for the Metropolitan Police to keep within its portfolio, for the following reasons:

## 1. Strategic Position

Wanstead police station is the closest police building to the three roads which dissect the Borough – the A12 is less than half a mile away, the A406 and M11 are within one mile where they meet at the notorious Redbridge roundabout. This makes it an ideal facility to enable police cars to reach the western half of the Borough in response to emergencies.

PTO

## 2. Car park provision

WaSRA is an alliance of the following organisations committed to the protection of Wanstead and Snarebrook

### **THE CARLTON TERRACE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**



*The Counties  
Residents' Association*

[www.countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk)



**THE WANSTEAD  
SOCIETY**

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Car park space is at a premium in the Wanstead area. The reason why a shop front police station was not established in Wanstead was because there was no car parking facility available for police cars. It may be that officially a Rapid Response Team car is not stationed at Wanstead police station, but in reality there is often one car parked there. Two officers from the Rapid Response team have said that without a car ready at Wanstead police station, they would not be able to reach the west side of the Borough in time to deal with an emergency. A previous Redbridge Commander, Commander Grant, said that the A406 was such a great barrier, that a police car had to be positioned at Wanstead police station, in order to deal with emergency situations.

### 3. Accommodation

It is a fact that two Safer Neighbourhood Teams are stationed in Wanstead Police Station but the building is able to have many more officers stationed there. There is a substantial numbers of rooms within the main part of the station, while the building at the rear has housed a number of sizeable police teams over the years.

### 4. Finance

Wanstead Police Station and the land is owned by the Metropolitan Police and therefore is relatively cheap to run, compared with buying a lease and converting a building to make it suitable for police to be stationed there.

When Wanstead police station closed in 2003, crime rose by 23%. We believe that without the visible police presence provided by our police station, there would be a significant rise in crime. If the police station closed, it would be almost impossible for the Metropolitan police to acquire anything which would compensate for its loss.

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We hope that these points will be considered carefully when making a decision which will affect the lives of our residents for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

HELEN E ZAMMETT

On behalf of WASRA

PTO

cc Assistant Commissioner Simon Byrne  
Siobahn Coldwell, Head of Strategy  
Commander Sue Williams  
Mr John Cryer MP  
Cllr Prince, Leader of Redbridge Council  
Cllr Patel, Cabinet Member for Policing and Crime  
Cllr Chan  
Cllr Cummings  
Cllr Dunn  
Cllr Goody  
Cllr Nolan

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Cllr Wilson

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