



Wanstead & Snaresbrook Residents' Alliance

21 Gloucester Road
Wanstead
London
E11 2ED

By eMail

Dear Commander Williams,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Wanstead and Snaresbrook Residents' Alliance, which comprises the Carlton Terrace Residents Association, The Counties Residents Association and the Wanstead Society. As you may be aware, we have long campaigned to keep our local Wanstead Police Station as we believe that its location is significant in the west of the borough and is not only useful to house our local police but is a suitable venue for specialist groups – again as a result of its unique position in the borough. However, it appears that the decision is now made to retain the Woodford Police Station as the representative station in the west of Redbridge.

As a result, we now fear that the level of crime in Wanstead and surrounding areas will increase. With the best will in the world, local police will take time out of their allotted shift to arrive and depart the area. At the same time, we will lose the visual presence of any specialist teams as they will no longer be seen going to and from Wanstead Police Station – all of which is a deterrent!

There are still local residents who, despite the increase in IT communications of all descriptions, prefer the personal approach when wishing to report a crime and these are the people who will lose out. We understand that one option to “replace” the Wanstead Police Station is to use the local public library in Spratt Hall Road. This comes with a whole host of (different) problems. To name a few:

- It can only operate during the library opening hours at best. Crime does not wait for such niceties!
- We understand that the library will be “manned” (by PCSOs?) for some 3 hours per week. See my previous comment.
- The library is usually viewed as a place for quiet. How can anyone be expected to enter in to the details of a crime report with everyone else around them “listening in”? This is especially true of anyone wishing to report a serious offence such as rape!
- How will the public be informed as to when the library is being manned? Clearly any publically available notice is also available to the criminal and potential criminal, who will then rearrange their activities accordingly!

We can only see the crime statistics rising under such circumstances, as indeed happened the last time that Wanstead Police Station closed. We therefore request that we are provided with monthly statistics for the crimes in the Wanstead area, broken down as follows:

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

THE CARLTON TERRACE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



*The Counties
Residents' Association*

www.countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk



**THE WANSTEAD
SOCIETY**

www.wansteadsociety.org.uk



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- How the police currently categorise crime, and notification whenever such categories change.
- Reported crime by the public. This should be given by area, method (telephone, email, personal visit etc) and type of crime (burglary, car theft etc)
- Investigated crime by the police. This should be broken down by area, type of crime and urgency/seriousness of the crime.

We also understand that the new policing policy for our area has not yet been decided. We would therefore like to know when this policy is formulated and what has been decided.

Clearly if the crime rate (including reported crimes) changes significantly as a result of the closure of Wanstead Police Station and policing policy, we would be very interested, especially if the figures reveal any increase in any particular area. As we have been told on numerous occasions, the "closure of any police station should not affect the crime rate" but we remain to be convinced of this.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Horsnell

cc.

John Cryer MP
Keith Prince (Leader – Redbridge council)
Councillor Sue Nolan
Councillor Thomas Chan
Councillor Peter Goody
Councillor Alex Wilson
Councillor Chris Cummins

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