

From: Sue.Williams@met.police.uk [mailto:Sue.Williams@met.police.uk]
Sent: 13 April 2013 16:07
To: geoff horsnell
Subject: RE: Wanstead Police Station and the new Policing Policy - a request for monthly crime statistics in the area of Wanstead and Snaresbrook

Dear Mr Horsnell

I am writing in response to your letter dated the 12th April. I too was disappointed that Wanstead Police Station will close but I was heartened by the support and participation of the public in local policing, which I see as the cornerstone of Neighbourhood Policing within our new Policing Model and absolutely essential in reducing crime. I was aware of the spirited campaign to keep the police station in Wanstead open and see the energy spent by the community as a sign of the close relationship of the public and the local police. As Borough Commander I lead the Policing of the Borough and my command team make the decisions on operational policing matters. The Police Estate however is not under the control of the police but MOPAC. Under the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review there is a requirement for more than £500 million worth of savings from the Metropolitan Police budget. Very simply, this level of cuts means either reducing the number of police officers or reducing the costs of the organisation in another way. A decision was made at a very senior level in consultation with MOPAC to cut administration and infrastructure costs of the police. Reducing the number of police buildings enables us to afford to keep police officers and in particular increase those on the front line.

There's often confusion about how we provide policing for a Borough and what part police stations play in delivering policing. Emergency calls and initial crime investigations are taken by a team of officers working in what we refer to as Emergency Response Teams. Those Emergency Response Team officers provide a 24/7 service. They are equipped with state of the art police vehicles and their vehicles have tracking devices which allow us to ensure we know where each car is and that cover can be provided for the whole Borough. The Emergency Response Team's parade site for the last several years has been at Ilford Police Station. This centralisation of the emergency response is common practice across London and increases our efficiency allowing us to achieve our target response to emergency calls.

Currently Wanstead Police Station houses just Wanstead and Snaresbrook SNT's. Collectively a sergeant, 4 constables and 6 PCSO's. These teams don't provide 24 hour cover and work 5 out of 7 days. The SNTs don't provide the emergency policing response to Wanstead.

In terms of a Policing Policy for the area this is now part of our plans for the new Local Policing Model. We will be increasing our focus on crime fighting and reduction of anti social behaviour. Our intention is to increase the number of officers dedicated to policing Redbridge and specifically increase constables engaged in Neighbourhood Policing. All Wards will have a named police officer and PCSO who will be dedicated to their ward. We have divided the Borough into three Policing areas and have ensured that each area has a base and in some cases 2 bases for their officers to work out of. The North West Neighbourhood which includes Wanstead currently has 18 Constables, our plans are to increase this to 34. The Ward officers will work out of 2 bases, Woodford Police Station and an office at Fencepiece Road. Woodford Police Station will become the base for the Neighbourhood Inspector and the other Neighbourhood Policing Officers, Wanstead and Snaresbrook Ward Officers will also work from Woodford Police Station. Accountability to the public will be an integral part of our policing. The Ward Panels will be reinvigorated and will work closely with the Neighbourhood Inspector to ensure that not only do police engage with the public but the public have specific input in deciding police priorities.

In relation to our proposed use of Wanstead library, this is only to establish a contact point at this venue. There is no intention of using the library as a place to deploy police from. The library will be a contact point for local people to be able to speak to police to let them know about local issues or concerns. Crimes can be reported on line or in person at either Barkingside or Ilford Police Stations and if the victim prefers police will visit them.

Crime statistics are available to the public and can be obtained by using the following link <http://www.met.police.uk> and referring to the heading crime mapping . With the reduction of local infrastructure and the focus of the Metropolitan Police being dedicated to fighting crime and anti social behaviour I do not have a facility to provide you with a bespoke monthly reports. Officers will attend Ward Panels and Area Committees and will assist where possible with updates on local crime and how we are tackling borough priorities.

It's my personal belief that the increase in local police numbers and the maintenance of close police and public relationships, will enable us to work towards a reduction in crime across the North West of the Borough. I 'm very pleased to see members of the public galvanised together in the groups identified in your letter. I know that Helen Zammett from the Counties Residents Association has already been involved in Neighbourhood Watch and attended Safer Neighbourhoods Panel meetings. It's my hope that your collective residents groups will all engage with your local police teams in helping us maintain strong public consultation and accountability as we move through this period of change. I look forward to working alongside your residents groups in the future.

Kind regards.

Sue Williams

Sue Williams | Chief Superintendent

Redbridge BOCU | Territorial Policing - J I |

MetPhone 22603 | Telephone 0208 345 2603 Mobile 07824 451397 |

Address Ilford Police Station, 270-294 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1GT