



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS MEETING  
WANSTEAD & SNARESBROOK WARDS**

**Wanstead House Community Centre  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 1945 hours**

**Present**

Jill Stock	Wanstead East NHW
Debbie Selner	Christchurch NHW
Colin Shubrook	Wanstead Central NHW
Derek Long	Wanstead Central NHW
Helen Zammett	Counties NHW
Malcolm Dowers	Counties NHW
Dave Murrell	Firs NHW
Dave Satchell	Park NHW
Sue Griffiths	Park NHW
Cllr Sue Nolan	Snaresbrook Ward
Cllr Chris Cummins	Snaresbrook Ward

**Police Attendance**

Sgt Brett Hagen	Snaresbrook Ward SNT
PCSO Amie Proffitt	Snaresbrook Ward SNT

**1. Apologies for Absence**

John Goodman	Sylvan Road
Lenny Darroux	Park NHW
Sgt Jon Harwood	Wanstead SNT

**2. Previous Minutes**

No issues arose from the previous minutes.

**3. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.



## 4. Police Report

### Snaresbrook Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeant Brett Hagen reporting:

- There is a new Borough Commander for Redbridge - Chief Superintendent Sue Williams. She is very nice, and has only had good words said about her so far which is very positive.
- Wanstead Sauna - The panel are aware that what was formally Wanstead Sauna, a known brothel, is now a Male Grooming Centre. A Clubs and Vice operation resulted in the sauna being closed. Snaresbrook SNT are closely monitoring the venue, and visits have already been made. The staff there are new, and there are massage tables in the rooms as opposed to beds which is a good sign. However police are still observing its opening times etc.
- Distraction thefts on Wanstead High Street have reduced from approximately two or three per week to none since the posters warning shoppers about the scam were put up by the banks and on the lampposts.
- Sgt Hagen referred to copies of the crime statistics for Snaresbrook and Wanstead Ward for October, November and December 2010 distributed to the panel:
- Throughout the last three months there has been an overall reduction in crime on both wards.
- In the few months leading up to Christmas there was a borough wide increase in residential burglaries. However these were on the most part in the south of the borough and Wanstead and Snaresbrook have not been hit anywhere near as hard as the likes of Ilford and Barkingside. Sgt Hagen stressed the importance of continue to put to good use all of the crime prevention advice around burglaries to keep the problem away from the area.
- Theft of/from Motor Vehicle has also increased borough wide. This is unfortunately due to people leaving valuables on show. Vehicles that are stolen are a result from burglaries. Cllr Nolan notified the panel of an aggressive aggravated theft of Motor Vehicle that occurred in Lorne Gardens, Wanstead, whereby the victim was injured. Vehicles are being stolen to order.
- Sgt Hagen explained that the crime 'theft other' on Wanstead Ward mainly consist of Making of without payment of petrol from the Esso Garage on Aldersbrook Road. This has been a problem for a long time, and Wanstead officers continue to tackle the problem with a default patrol to the venue during each duty. Also road blocks are conducted in Heatherwood Close next to the garage to show a presence of a number of officers proactively policing.
- Officers on both wards continue to conduct high visibility patrols on foot and bicycle. Road Blocks in Heatherwood Close and other roads have had an overall good impact, especially with residents who are assured that their local police



- are proactively working. Dave S stated that residents have enquired as to why such a large number of police are out and it has received a good response.

## **5. Co-ordinators Reports**

### Malcolm Dowers - Counties NHW

The area has been very quiet. There has been one attempted burglary and one substantive burglary.

Malcolm referred to an email sent to him by one of his residents regarding a suspicious vehicle in Buckingham road on 19/11/2010 at approximately midday. On the same day that the vehicle was seen a burglary occurred in the road. The informant called both wards Safer Neighbourhood mobiles with no response, and 999 also with what appeared to be no action taken. Lisa Cherry has been informed also but Malcolm is yet to hear back. Sgt Hagen explained that both teams are sometimes off at the same time, and have weekdays off following a weekend on, but that he will look into the matter to see what action was taken.

**Result of the above following investigation: CAD 3636/19nov10 refers - the vehicle was stopped following a ten minute area search as a result of the call to police. It was a satisfactory stop/search, and logged in the crimint database.**

### Helen Zammett - Counties NHW

Helen stated that it is hard to get people to meetings, and asked sgt Hagen if anything can be done about this. Sgt Hagen explained that the best way to ensure officers can be present at meetings is to arrange the meetings based around the SN shifts, so Sgt Harwood can commit to the date with the Operations Office.

Helen asked the panel to be aware of people possibly using their Blackberry phones to distract people on the streets.

Helen also asked the panel to be aware that a male has been knocking on doors saying that he is looking for his father and needs some money. He is in his early 20s with blonde hair. Sgt Hagen explained we have an idea of who this could be.

### Dave Murrell - Firs NHW

The Firs estate has been very quiet. There was a burglary in High View Road where access was gained through the sideway and a fence was broken down.

There were incidences of young boys throwing snowball at and into cars. When 999 was called and the police arrived within 2-3 minutes.

### Colin Shubrook - Wanstead Central NHW



Colin explained that Theft from Motor Vehicle is the main concern in his watch area. The victims are not residents by and large because people park down The Avenue and Grove Park to use the High Street.

There has been a drop in Cold Calling incidences resulting from the launch of the Doorstep Calling Restricted Zone.

Residents have asked Colin how to dispose of old kitchen knives. Sgt Hagen replied that the best way is to wrap them up and bring them into the police station where they can be destroyed on division.

#### Derek Long - Wanstead Central NHW

Derek mentioned the drunks on the High Street. Sgt Hagen said we know who they are and where they live, and take them home if they get out of hand.

#### Jill Stock - Wanstead East NHW

Jill informed the panel of an incident in Cranbourne Ave where two males were on either side of the road trying car door handles. The lads were apprehended in Leicester Road.

A lady in Sylvan Road had a male knock on her door saying that his grandma was locked out of her house and he needed £30 to gain her access. He stated that his Grandma knew the lady, and he knew her by her pet name, making the story seem all the more believable. She gave the money to him. He tried the same thing further on up the road. The suspect was a young presentable male. Three of the same offences have occurred.

Sgt Hagen explained that a male known to us, who resides in the area and is a drug addict, was stopped by officers in the High Street and questioned about these offences and no more have occurred.

Jill also informed the panel of a suspicious white people carrier mini van loitering in the area.

#### Debs Selner - Christchurch Green NHW

The camper van that has been parking up in various locations in Wanstead is no longer in Fitzgerald Road.

A burglary occurred over Christmas where the occupants were away for two weeks and left the house in darkness. Amie explained that she visited the victim and gave her three timer switches which will hopefully be put to good use.

Debs explained that there was a small spate of criminal damage to vehicles in Chaucer road two weeks before Christmas whereby some window wipers were snapped.



Moreover a vehicle lock was broken and another broken into. These weren't reported to police.

A resident asked Debs to inform police of some noisy neighbours who hold parties, play music, and have full blown arguments. Debs will forward the details onto Sgt Hagen via email so he can send officers round.

#### Sue Griffiths - Park NHW

Sue relayed crime figures to the panel for the watch area, for the months October, November and December 2010: 7 burglaries, 11 Motor Vehicle offences and 14 'other' which Sgt Hagen explained will amount from the Theft of Petrol at the Esso.

Sue put forward that perhaps we should circulate to residents about varying the times in which timer switches come on and off so it doesn't become obvious that they are timers as opposed to people actually being home.

Park NHW will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year!

#### Dave Satchell - Park NHW

To celebrate 25 years of Park NHW there will be a party where all profits made will be donated to the Help the Heroes Charity. Hopefully there will be a very important guest of honour who is a war veteran who lives in the area.

Dave also informed the panel of an incident whereby a cab driver was robbed on the early hours of New Years Day as he walked from his taxi to his flat in Heatherwood Close. He was approached by a group of four adults who took his phone and money (takings from the evenings work).

### **Councillors Reports**

#### Cllr Sue Nolan – Snaresbrook Ward

Sue made the panel aware of a car theft incident on Lorne Gardens as I have explained on page 2.

#### Cllr Chris Cummins - Snaresbrook Ward

Nothing to report.

### **6. Any other Business**

Sgt Hagen explained very briefly that there is a review being undertaken regarding Safer Neighbourhood shifts and ward boundaries. Sue N stated that she has put forward that she wants no changes as SN are invaluable.



## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 9th May 2011 at 1945 hours was proposed for the date and time of the next meeting and agreed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2050 hours.