

St Leonard's Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meeting

Tuesday 2 February 2010, English Martyrs' Church Hall, Mitcham Lane

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Ben Everitt (Chair) welcomed the attendees, who included Amanda Austin (Vice Chair), Fiona Brent (Secretary), Sgt Miller (SNT) and Nabil Mezoughi (Community Safety Officer). He also thanked the English Martyrs' Church for the loan of their hall - the new venue for 2010.

Apologies were received from:

PC Errol Patterson

Lee Alley

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 02.12.09

The minutes to the previous meeting were accepted, signed and adopted.

3. Action Points from the previous meeting (update)

- **St. Leonard's Safer Neighbourhood Website** – The suggested links e.g. to Incident Report Forms, Lambeth Private Sector Housing and the Safer Home Fund are currently under review and will be actioned shortly by Lee Alley / Fiona Brent.
- **'Controlled Drinking Zone'** – The Panel Chair has obtained copies of the consultation documents. The Panel have responded in favour and requested that particular attention be given to the Streatham Green area.
- **St. Andrews Church / Street Drinking** (see 'Police Report')

4. Officer's Reports

- **Streatham Green / Street Drinking & AS Behaviour (Panel Chair)** – The Streatham Green area has been relatively quiet with no notable instances of ASB.
- **Vice (Vice Chair)** – The recently reinstated Vice Unit has clearly made an impact but the panel has no written guarantee that the unit will remain particularly if there are cuts in public spending.

5. **Police Update** Crime figures:

Total Crimes Reported to the Police (TNO)				
Last Three Months Oct - Dec 09	Previous Three Months Jul - Sep 09	Difference	Same Period Last Year Oct - Dec 08	Difference
465	532	-67	472	-7

There has been an overall **decrease of 12.6% (67 offences)** when the last three months period is compared with the previous three months. When compared with the same period last year, there has been a **decrease of 1.5% (7 offences)**.

Crime Breakdown					
Crime Classification	Last Three Months Oct - Dec 09	Previous Three Months Jul - Sep 09	Difference	Same Period Last Year Oct - Dec 08	Difference
Common Assault / with injury	58	85	-27	64	-6
Burglary In A Dwelling	50	58	-8	61	-11
Theft From Shops	50	35	15	21	29
Personal Property Robbery	32	17	15	26	6
Criminal Damage To Motor Vehicle	26	24	2	18	8
Other Criminal Damage	23	46	-23	34	-11
Theft From Motor Vehicle	21	26	-5	33	-12
Theft Person	13	22	-9	13	0
Theft/Taking Of Motor Vehicle	12	11	1	12	0
Burglary In Other Buildings	8	5	3	13	-5
Theft/Taking Of Pedal Cycle	6	10	-4	5	1
Business Property Robbery	2	2	0	4	-2

Burglary – Local police have been engaged in a cross border operation with Wandsworth and have made two arrests recently in the Riggindale Road Area (both culprits were Wandsworth residents). This has been identified as a ‘hot spot’ for burglaries. Recent police activity has included:

- posting leaflets to residents highlighting preventative measures
- appealing for a volunteer to set up a NW group for the area
- working with Lambeth Council to prosecute Estate Agents who leave their signs up beyond the 14 day period once the property is sold / let
- patrols by plain clothes officers

Vice – Few arrests have occurred in Streatham and local residents have noticed a difference e.g. police have received a ‘thank you’ from the Head at SCHS. The new Vice Unit is proactive and the local SNT are highly supportive of their work. They agree that the unit must remain. The Council have kept bushes / undergrowth pruned which has also helped.

ASB / Streatham Green – Despite statements / evidence being collated, there is not enough to obtain Asbos. The ‘Controlled Drinking Zone’ is supported by the police despite some initial scepticism and a new Polish speaking PCSO has helped to enforce the legislation with many of the Polish / Eastern European drinkers. The St. Leonard’s church remains a focal point. The area around the church has been improved and planting schemes introduced to deter drinkers from urinating in certain areas.

St. Andrews Church – In the previous Panel meeting, it was reported that drinkers were also frequenting this site. The church falls into the southern part of the ward. The information has been passed onto local police who have liaised with the church. There have been no official reports of problems.

Ockley Road / Royal Mail Vans – A number of white vans owned by Royal Mail have reportedly been left parked on double yellow lines. Residents have complained. Police have been to the depot to investigate but Parking Enforcement has confirmed that the vehicles are exempt from prosecution. The additional vehicles are there to deal with backlog of mail and will remain until the problem is resolved. Local police are struggling with a suitable strategy.

ACTION: Amanda Austin (Vice Chair) will research an appropriate contact at the Royal Mail and will write on behalf of the Panel to complain.

Squatters / Noise Pollution – A property in the Gleneagle Road area has been inhabited by squatters. Local residents have been disturbed by loud parties and individuals removing items from the premises. Lambeth Living have been informed and the police are aware. Unfortunately, noise pollution is not a police matter but they will continue to monitor the situation and act if there is a criminal activity / offence taking place.

ACTION: Sgt Miller will monitor the problem. PC Christmas will investigate the vehicle reported at the scene. The Panel will offer support to residents and will help to resolve the issue with help from the Community Safety Officer (Nabil Mezoughi).

6. Community Safety Officer Report

Safer Home Fund - The Safer Home Fund is proving successful in improving the locks / security on premises but the process is slow. The deadline for spending is the 19th March 2010. Referrals forms (including self referral forms) are still available and there is a free phone number residents can call (0800 085 2378)

Controlled Drinking Zone – Local policing and the introduction of the zone have led to some improvements but relatively few individuals will ‘engage’ and consider support groups. The zone does not ban drink from the area. There was considerable frustration expressed by a number of Panel members about the continued use of the Streatham Green area by street drinkers. Numerous strategies have now been used, including a dispersal zone but none have worked effectively.

ACTION: Panel Chair has requested that the Community Safety Officer liaise with the Council to compile a list of options for the long term resolution of this problem. The Panel would like the pro and cons listed for each. The problem needs solving as a matter of urgency. It has been an ongoing issue for some considerable time.

7. Priorities Discussion

It was agreed that the priorities should remain:

- i. Street Drinking / ASB
- ii. Burglary
- iii. Vice

8. Any other business

- **Street Lighting in Tooting Bec Gardens** – street lighting restored promptly.
- **Begging** – Instances of begging on the High Road have reportedly increased. The police will monitor and have a designated team ‘Clean Sweep’ for dealing with this issue.
- **Robberies** – Earlier in the meeting, it was reported that there had been an increase in robberies. A high number of cases involve young people (often school children) and the theft of mobile phones. Should these crimes be reported separately in future as they involve a specific age group and could distort the overall figures?

ACTION: Sgt Miller will follow up

- **Street Parsons** – Six parsons are now trained. They will be out again on 19th February and then twice a month ongoing. The parsons work from 9.30pm – 4am and cover areas close to the High Road, and Streatham Green, also local pubs and the ice rink. They offer support to vulnerable people. The Panel thanked them for their work.

- **Budget** – Funding is now confirmed so there may be a future vacancy for a Panel Treasurer. The funds need to be spent before April and the following suggestions have been made:
 - The chairs from the local SN groups have agreed to donate £100 each towards a lap top and projector which would benefit everyone.
 - Purchase a banner which would publicise forthcoming meetings. This will be researched before the next meeting. Locations need to be explored.
- **Panel Chair, Ben Everitt** – Announced that he will be standing as a councillor in the forthcoming elections. Consequently, he will not Chair the next Panel meeting. Amanda Austin (Vice Chair) will stand in.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is to be held on **Tuesday** 6 April, 19.00, English Martyrs' Church hall, Mitcham Lane.

The Panel meetings will be held on the Tuesdays throughout 2010.