

## *Barking Riverside and Thames View joint Ward Panel Meeting*

Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2023

Attendees: Derwan Hussain, Natalie Ogene, Venilia Amorim, Joanne Janeczko, Cllr Victoria Hornby, Cllr Sabbir Zamee, Karen Bryan (LBBD), Charlotte Seymour (LBBD), Zahra Awani, Lucy Lee, Marsha Belnavis, Vishal Narayan PC Gary Jones 1856EA PC Dexter Cook 2474EA, PCSO Mark Chapman 7011EA

Apologies

Sergeant Mathew Everett, Elizabeth Ajayi, Pam Dumbleton, Steven Wren, Carol Wren

This was a joint ward panel meeting for Thames View and Barking Riverside Wards.

PC Jones addressed current local Facebook stories relating to a robbery that occurred of a family inside their house on the Riverside Estate. He clarified details and the state of the investigation.

PC Jones introduced PC Dexter Cook the new Dedicated Ward Officer for Thames View Safer Neighbourhoods Team and informed the panel that PCSO Mark Chapman would be leaving the ward shortly as he has been accepted as a PC. This leaves the wards with one PC on each.

The Ward Panel wanted to know what was being done to get more officers on the wards and PC Jones told them that the jobs had been advertised internally but that there were lots of departments with shortages so there was no timeframe for officers joining the teams. They were also told that DWOs are still getting abstracted with PC Cook spending a few upcoming shifts on response team dealing with 999 calls and policing the Coronation.

PC Jones then talked through the crime maps for Burglary, Robbery and Motor Vehicle Crime.

When breaking down the Robberies the Panel were told about how about 2 months ago there had been a problem with robberies of schoolchildren on their way home from Riverside School having mobile phones taken. Around this time of day there had also been an issue with schoolchildren stealing from the Co-Op on Fielders Crescent. The teams responded by initially catching some of the children while shoplifting and issuing warnings and then by patrolling that area and making their presence known. As a result since then there had been one robbery (on a day the teams were off) and a large reduction in problems at the shop.

Karen Bryan introduced her team and their powers with regards to threatening tenancy of the parents of children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour that can be used to assist the SNTs with issues.

The Ward Panel asked whether we informed Riverside School about incidents involving schoolchildren and PC Jones told them that the team does this via the schools officer.

PC Jones talked through the motor vehicle crime map and actions that the SNTs can potentially take should a pattern emerge with regards to crimes.

PC Jones informed the Ward Panel that unless they were directed the SNTs would not be getting involved pro-actively with shopliftings at the Merriellands Crescent retail area as this would be to the detriment of the service to residents. The Ward Panel agreed.

PC Jones informed the Ward Panel about numerous issues with anti-social behaviour that are occurring at Shinwell House on Merriellands Crescent. The Ward Panel suggested that attempts be made to recruit Ward Panel members from this area as they are currently not represented.

The Ward Panel was told that much of the team's time is spent patrolling areas of anti-social behaviour. There are currently numerous locations on the wards where youths gather, smoke cannabis and intimidate residents.

PC Jones also informed the Ward Panel that the SNT Officers had been allocated domestic violence crimes to investigate as the domestic violence unit couldn't cope with the volume of this type of crime.

The Ward Panel were also informed that the team will be keeping an awareness of the potential for a re-occurrence of last years' problem with scrambler bikes.

It was raised that women feel unsafe travelling home at night walking from the bus stop on Bastable Avenue at the Farr Avenue shops.

It was raised that there are issues with packages from delivery drivers being stolen from the communal areas of blocks.

It was raised that many residents are not aware of how they can contact the ward teams or how to give information anonymously should they need to.

The team were asked if there were any planned coffee for a copper contact points and they were told there is one planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of May from 1600 – 1700 at The Wilds Coffee Shop and more will be organised shortly.

The team were asked if more CCTV could be placed on the ward to make the street safer. PC Jones responded by saying that new CCTV cameras were very expensive so can only be requested if there is a clear need and at this time there is no location that has enough of a problem for a camera to be requested.

It was agreed by the SNTs and the Ward Panel that for the time being attendance was not sufficient for the two wards to hold separate ward panel meetings. This will be reviewed on a meeting by meeting basis. The next meeting will also be a joint Thames View and Barking Riverside meeting.

Actions for police:

- Advertise at the Merrielands Crescent blocks for Ward Panel members
- Place contact information for the SNTs and Crimestoppers on Farr Avenue public noticeboard
- Make enquiries with Amazon as to how package theft can be addressed
- Contact LBBB CCTV to suggest that the Farr Avenue camera be pointed at the crossing from the bus stop to make travellers feel safer at night.
- More dates for public contact points to be organised.

Nominations for Ward Panel Chairs were then held.

Lucy Lee was nominated to be chair of Thames View Ward Panel

Zahra Awani was nominated to be chair of Barking Riverside Ward Panel

As there were no further nominations PC Jones asked for objections as to Lucy and Zahra being automatically appointed these roles without vote and no objections were made.

Lucy Lee will now be the Ward Panel Chair for Thames View Ward Panel

Zahra Awani will now be the Ward Panel Chair for Barking Riverside Ward Panel.

The date for the next ward panel meeting will be agreed with both Ward Panel Chairs and invites will be sent out with sufficient notice. This will be in about 3 months time.

