

Barking Riverside Safety Summit

Held at The Project Office on Thursday 22 May 2025, at 11am to 1pm

Attendees:

Venilia Amorim, Secretary, Barking Reach Residents Association; Coordinator, Barking Riverside Neighbourhood Watch
Joanna Janeczko, Assistant Secretary, Barking Reach Residents Association; Coordinator, Barking Riverside Neighbourhood Watch
Pete Mason, Chair, Barking Reach Residents Association
Sarah Phillips, Barking Riverside Ltd (BRL)
Lucy Lee, Barking Riverside Ltd (BRL)
Anthony Hanchard, Estate Manager, Preim
Vijay Pandya, L&Q
Mabel Ogundayo, Bellway (online)
Cameron Geddes, Councillor, Barking and Dagenham Council
Victoria Hornby, Councillor, Barking and Dagenham Council
Dan Rigolle, PC, Metropolitan Police
David Wylde, Head of Safeguarding, Riverside School

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
11:00 - 11:15	Introduction and summary of safety issues	VA/JJ
11:15 - 11:40	BRL + Preim to describe activities carried out so far to improve safety; security strategy	SP/AH/LL
11:40 - 11:50	Break	
11:50 - 12:50	Roundtable: How to address issues and improve safety in Barking Riverside? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antisocial behaviour<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Loitering in cars○ Entering gated car parks○ Youth roaming due to lack of activities○ Speeding/purposely loud driving• Parcel and other theft & identity fraud• Motor vehicle crime• Co-op/Shoplifting• Fly tipping and littering• Dogs fouling/off leash Solutions	All

12:50 - 13:00	Closing remarks/action plan	VA/JJ
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Venilia and Joanna kicked off the meeting, explaining the reason for the safety summit: there has been a noticeable increase in crime around the Barking Riverside estate and surrounding areas. There have been multiple cases of anti-social behaviour, theft, shoplifting, etc, discussed in several residents' forums. Having identified various key concerns for safety and security in Barking Riverside, it's crucial that all present share ideas and solutions to tackle such concerns, and more importantly, that a relationship continues where accountability and responsibility can be openly and objectively discussed.

Safety and security

Sarah informed the meeting that BRL had appointed a security consultant and they were now drafting a security strategy for the estate. This would create various opportunities to engage with residents and local organisations in the next 12-18 months. Once the report is completed, BRL will have a better idea of what security measures to implement. It was suggested that the consultant go on walks with the local Neighbourhood Watch Group as part of their research.

Anthony said that Preim was trialling CCTV in Stage 2 (Northgate Neighbourhood) initially to gather evidence on vandalism, but also flytipping and antisocial behaviour. It's a 12-week trial. He noted that a qualified contractor must review CCTV due to GDPR restrictions, but this was all included in the CCTV package being trialled.

Mobile CCTV was also discussed, where cameras are able to move from location to location, as a cost-saving measure.

Anthony also said that there would be a new residents' app available for residents in the autumn, which will enable residents to see what is happening in the area in terms of events and services, but residents can also report antisocial behaviour, broken property, etc, around the estate.

Vijay said that a new company is being trialled – National Parking Control (NPC) – using its advanced ANPR cameras to monitor the garage gates for Bluebird and Robert Lewis Houses on Phase 1 of the estate (Rivergate Neighbourhood), which suffer from antisocial behaviour and vandalism in their underground car parks.

PC Dan said that reported motor vehicle crime has decreased. He noted that there had been some recent incidents of shoplifting at the Co-op in the Northgate Neighbourhood, but overall the situation had improved since the shop moved to its new location.

Speeding/reckless driving

Speeding and nuisance driving on Galleons Drive, Minter Road, Handley Page Road, new part of Manwell Lane were discussed. Speed bumps are not necessarily effective; islands or

narrowing down lanes is expensive to maintain. Only part of Galleons Drive is adopted, so BRL is unable to install speed cameras on unadopted roads. It was suggested that the council should be urged to adopt the road.

Fly tipping and littering

Anthony said the CCTV trial is expected to help deter the behaviour. Currently, however, if offenders are identified (through labels in boxes, envelopes), Preim sends a letter to their address to warn them. If there are images of names/addresses of fly tippers shared on social media, they can be shared with Preim, he asked.

There were suggestions to implement something akin to the Council's Wall of Shame.

On the Envac, it was shared that tenants may not have Envac fobs to use the system and may not know how to operate it. Sarah said that there had been a series of sessions made available to residents by the company Envac to instruct residents on how to use it. Extra fobs have also been offered to residents, including renters.

Activities for young people

A discussion also started around activities for young people, which are lacking in the area, mainly highlighting the 'lost hours' (3-7pm).

David said the Riverside school already offers 100+ clubs to students, and added that the school is limited when it comes to hiring any other parts of the school apart from the sports hall and outside areas for safeguarding reasons.

He also mentioned that Riverside school has good engagement with the police, although there is no longer a dedicated PCSO for the school (this is also at national level).

There was a suggestion to start a bus service to take young people to and from the Future Youth Zone in Dagenham, most likely to be organised by the Riverside School, and it was suggested to use Bellway's community fund. **Action: David** to liaise with Mabel/Bellway with regards to this.

Lucy mentioned that BRL and L&Q are already working together on a new project for kids to be tied to the school.

It was suggested that L&Q and Bellway engage with the school and younger community to identify events or services needed, with Bellway showing interest in engaging in a focus group at the Riverside School.

Parcel and post theft

It is widely known that the L&Q/Bellway letterboxes are not fit for purpose: people can easily retrieve post and small packages from the boxes. They are supposed to be "secure by design",

but in fact, it is very easy to tamper with them. There have also been multiple instances of fraud being committed using mail interception.

It was noted that Pinnacle introduced a post room in a new block on Northgate Neighbourhood but it requires staff.

Action: BRL to speak to the two Co-op shops regarding setting up an Evri/Yodel collection/drop off point.

Action: BRL to look into additional Amazon Lockers and InPost lockers on the estate.

Positive news

Finally, there was a discussion about the importance of sharing more positive news about the estate, e.g. improvements, lowering crime rate, etc. The police have crime statistics for the area, which are relatively low compared to other areas of the borough or indeed the rest of London. It was suggested that this data is shared with local residents via the new police platform (Met Engage) and also via the local newspaper (The RiverView).

An open day for the Rivergate Centre is scheduled for September.

There was no time left to discuss dog fouling/off-leash dogs.

Sarah suggested that following safety summits take place more regularly (quarterly) and that the BRL Community Interest Company (BRL CIC) resident directors lead on the initiative.