

# Neighbourhood Governance

## Notes of a meeting of the Southall Green Ward Forum

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held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at the Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall UB1 4BQ

**Present:** Councillors, Swarn Kang (Chair), Jasbir Anand

**Attendees:** 26 residents attended the meeting

**Apologies:** Sgt Richard Molewyn-Hughes – Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team

**Officers present:** Susan Parsonage – Director, Safer Communities, Ealing Council  
 Jess Murray – Service Manager, Safer Communities, Ealing Council  
 Chief Inspector Colin Wingrove – Metropolitan Police, Safer Southall Project  
 Mark Reynolds – Park Ranger, Ealing Council  
 Dennis Frost (DF) – Ealing Council, Neighbourhood Governance Co-ordinator

No.	Note	Question /Action Point
1.	<b>Chair's welcome and introductions</b>	
	<p>The meeting began at 7.05pm. <b>Councillor Swarn Kang</b> welcomed those residents present and explained that ward forums were an important opportunity for residents to discuss local matters with their elected councillors.</p> <p>He introduced his fellow councillor Jasbir Anand, along with council and police officers who had been invited to present reports to the meeting.</p>	

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	<p>Councillor Kang again reminded residents that the third ward councillor, Kamaljit Dhindsa, was taking no part in this year's meetings because of his role as the borough's Mayor.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Notes of the last Southall Green ward forum – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013</b>  <b>- to note, along with any matters arising</b></p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang reported that the notes of the last meeting had been circulated to residents, and that further copies were available at the meeting.</p> <p>No corrections or additions were made to the notes.</p> <p>A number of matters arising from the notes were discussed:</p> <p><b>Item 2: page 2</b>  <b>– drugs and drug dealing:</b> this concerned the poorly lit alley between the Tudor Rose and St Anselm's Church. Councillor Anand noted that council officers had been asked to investigate this matter.</p> <p>DF advised that, as the council was considering currently an application from the owners of the Tudor Rose to vary the premises' licensing hours, it would not be appropriate to discuss this particular application at the ward forum. He further advised that the meeting should not debate the merits or otherwise of the application. There would be an opportunity for councillors and residents to comment on the application during the consultation process.</p> <p><b>– prostitution:</b> Councillor Kang noted that Chief Inspector Wingrove would update residents in his report during item 3 (below).</p> <p><b>– Havelock Road perimeter fence:</b> DF reported that a design of fence had been chosen, and that he was working with Highways</p>	

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	<p>colleagues to close the alley leading from Hammond Road.</p> <p>– <b>Open Area in Norwood Road:</b> DF confirmed that the council had offered the Gurdwara Nanak Darbar a land swap which, if accepted, would result in the second car park in Norwood Road being resurfaced and the overgrown area being available for additional parking.</p> <p>– <b>International Trading Estate – noise nuisance:</b> DF reported that councillors and residents had visited the estate on 10 January, but unfortunately had not been able to meet with the manager of Bestway to discuss further work to cut back vegetation</p> <p><b>Item 8: page 9</b>  <b>-booking rooms in the Manor House:</b> DF advised that this was possible via the Dominion Centre.</p>	<p>DF was asked to pursue this matter</p>
3.	<p><b>Local police update from Safer Neighbourhoods team</b></p>	
	<p>Chief Inspector Wingrove began his report by confirming Sgt Molewyn-Hughes apologies – he was attending a Police training course.</p> <p>Crime: overall crime in the ward was continuing to reduce – in the year to February, there had been a 13% reduction, equating to 200 fewer offences.</p> <p>Robbery and violent crime were showing significant reductions – between 30 and 40%. However, there had been an increase in vehicle crime, in particular thefts from motor vehicles.</p> <p>Drugs: the recent Operation Garstang had resulted in 18 convictions for drug related offences, with on average, three year custodial</p>	<p><b>Southall Green Safer Neighbourhoods Team – details</b>  <b>Address:</b>  Unit 4 - The Arches Business Centre  Merrick Road  Southall UB2 4AU</p> <p><b>Team members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspector Julian Holton</li> <li>• Sgt Richard Moelwyn-Hughes</li> <li>• PC Anne-Marie Pilkington</li> <li>• PC Gwyn Hunt</li> </ul>

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	<p>sentences issued.</p> <p>Prostitution: there have been further convictions following Operation Tolkein – and which was reported to the last meeting in October 2013. To date £11,000 in fines has been levied on offenders.</p> <p>CCTV has been used to identify particular vehicles observed kerb crawling, with over 20 warning letters sent to vehicle owners.</p> <p>The general picture is of a marked decline in prostitution, following information provided about brothels. Recent night patrols by the local Safer Neighbourhoods team have helped to continue this trend.</p> <p>Finally, Chief inspector Wingrove spoke about work to improve Southall through the <i>Big Plan</i> and related regeneration projects. The Southall Champions fund – supported by the ward – was allocating small grants to community projects and had received a very encouraging level of applications.</p> <p>Councillor Kang asked for questions to the Police:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC Darren Ives</li> <li>• PCSO David Diaz</li> </ul> <p><b>Telephone:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 020 8721 2047</li> </ul> <p><b>E-mail:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:SouthallGreen.snt@met.police.uk">SouthallGreen.snt@met.police.uk</a></p> <p><b>Web site:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods">www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods</a></p> <p><i>Has the brothel in Brent Road been closed down?</i></p> <p>Yes, it has – some time ago.</p> <p><i>While the reduction in prostitution is welcome, doesn't this mean that the problem has moved elsewhere?</i></p> <p>It is the case that when crime is tackled comprehensively, as in this instance, the offenders are sometimes dispersed. However the Police's prime concern is to allow ward residents to feel safer. This has happened, and this positive outcome will be maintained by ongoing policing.</p>

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	<p>Councillor Anand asked about the operation of the dispersal zone. Chief Inspector Wingrove replied this was a useful power, which allowed officers to disperse groups of people causing a nuisance to residents. The powers governing the zone had recently been renewed, and would continue in operation until July.</p>	<p><i>Crime seems to be reducing year-on-year. Is this possible?</i></p> <p>Yes. In Southall, the result is that the town is no longer categorised as a London high crime area.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Community Safety Report</b>	
	<p>Councillor Kang welcomed Susan Parsonage and Jess Murray from the council's Safer Communities department.</p> <p>Susan Parsonage reported on a range of community safety and licensing projects which her department had been involved with in recent months. A multi-agency team based at and funded by the council, and which included Police officers, was making the best use of their skills and experience to deal with specific issues. Drugs and prostitution are priority areas, and the team are working closely with Chief Inspector Wingrove.</p> <p>Susan spoke about a number of particular projects:</p> <p>Prostitution: senior councillors and officers met with residents in October to brief them about work in progress. It is intended to install CCTV cameras in Western Road, to detect kerb crawlers by identifying vehicle registration plates. Other local boroughs are being consulted, in order that detection work is co-ordinated. Work to promote respect for women includes helping female residents to feel safer. A letter to residents is in production, outlining the work being undertaken.</p>	

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	<p>CCTV: while the cameras already mentioned are being installed, two mobile cameras have been used to achieve the detection results Chief Inspector Wingrove has already reported (see report below by Jess Murray concerning the installation of fixed CCTV on Western Road).</p> <p>Gating: a ward funded scheme will close the alley between Montague Waye and Recreation Road. A public consultation in August last year received a very positive outcome, and a gating order has now been endorsed, meaning that gates can now be installed – dealing with previously significant levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in this alleyway.</p> <p>Outbuildings: a borough wide effort is taking place to identify sub-standard outhouses which are being used as living accommodation. A number of properties in Montague Road have been identified, which will result in prohibition notices, preventing their use as accommodation. If the notices are not complied with, the buildings can be demolished.</p> <p>Jess Murray provided more details about the CCTV installation in Western Road.</p> <p>The ward had allocated previously funds to install CCTV in Southall Recreation Ground. However, this had not proved technically possible. He had advised councillors that a preferable scheme would be to fund cameras in Western Road, where high quality imagines are relayed to the council's CCTV control room and offences detected in real time.</p> <p>Jess advised that crime in Southall Rec was better tacked by patrols organised by the council's contractor, Parkguard.</p> <p>Councillors and residents supported officers' recommendation, that</p>	

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	<p>CCTV was better deployed in Western Road.</p> <p>Councillor Kang asked Mark Reynolds to report on further planned work in Southall Rec.</p> <p>Mark explained that a charitable grant of £10,000 was available to support the ward allocation of further funds (see item 6). He planned to install more public exercise machines, and to put an asphalt base around each, to prevent the ground deteriorating.</p> <p>Jess Murray reported on a some additional local matters:</p> <p>Drug detection: some intensive work in Herbert Road Car Park and the Havelock Estate has resulted in some drug activity being displaced to Southall Green ward. To counter this, detection work has increased, with properties in St John's Road and Featherstone Terrace being identified as drug houses and closed down.</p> <p>Emerald square: a group of properties in the ward, which are owned by A2 Dominion housing association, are being investigated for a</p>	<p><i>Can the cameras be moved in the future?</i></p> <p>Jess recommended that cameras in Western Road should remain in place. This was a major thoroughfare and access point to the borough, and cameras will help with all kinds of law enforcement.</p> <p><i>Employing a security firm to patrol Southall Rec will duplicate the Police's role.</i></p> <p>No. Parkguard will be given a specific job, to patrol at particular times – often after dark – to speak with park users, use their patrol dogs to detect drugs, and detain those they suspect of committing offences until the Police arrive.</p>

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	<p>serious vermin infestation.</p> <p>Brent Road: overnight HGV parking and dealing in Khat are taking place in the northern unadopted section of this road. Officers are using powers provided by trading legislation to deal with these, but further investigation is needed.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Envirocrime report</b>  <b>- written report from Ruston Wyatt – Envirocrime Officer</b></p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang introduced a detailed report from Ruston Wyatt, covering activity in the ward since the last meeting. This had included work to remove rubbish from private land, abandoned vehicles and detecting the dumping of commercial waste – which had resulted in prosecutions.</p> <p>Copies of the report were available at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Kang asked if there were residents’ questions about the report.</p>	<p><b>Council’s Envirocrime Team – details:</b></p> <p>Ruston Wyatt and Hazel Livesey – Envirocrime Prevention Officers</p> <p>Ealing Council, Customer Service Centre, Perceval House,  14 -16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL  Tel: (020) 8825 6000</p> <p>Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm</p> <p>From the front page of the council’s web site, click on: ‘Report or request it’</p> <p><a href="http://www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit">http://www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit</a></p> <p><i>Can officers get rubbish removed from private gardens?</i></p> <p>The report explains that this is happening. Envirocrime officers are often able to encourage residents to clear unsightly rubbish, but can take enforcement action if there is the prospect of infestation or other public safety matters.</p>



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6.	<p><b>Ward budget – 2013/14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>approved ward budget –attached</b></li> <li>- <b>update on projects in progress</b></li> </ul>	
	<p>Councillor Kang updated residents, confirming that the Leader of the Council had approved the budget, and that DF was working to implement the various projects listed.</p> <p>Mark Reynolds had already reported on the planned further work in Southall rec (item 4 above) and that additional canopied seating areas were also planned.</p> <p>DF reported that the council's Major Projects Team were finalising the planned improvements in the Southall Manor House grounds. The cost was being shared with Norwood Green ward, and included some planting and mosaic work, designed by local schoolchildren.</p> <p>David Watson from the Kings Centre explained that it was planned to re-open the old St John's Church on the corner of King Street and Western Road as a community centre – and that the ward grant would help support efforts to raise £3million for the project.</p> <p>Two organisations made proposals for ward funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a community arts project, based at the Dominion Centre – spoke of plans to produce some public art linked to the reopening of the Dominion centre, following its full refurbishment. The group were asked to submit a written proposal to DF in the first instance.</li> <li>- representatives from Desi Radio spoke in more detail about their young people's Punjabi language project, which was presented to the last forum. A grant of £5,000 was</li> </ul>	

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	<p>requested. Councillors asked for time to consider the group's written proposal, which had recently been submitted.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Ward projects – 2010/14</b> - <b>review of projects and achievements</b></p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang introduced a written report, which gave details of the ward's activities during the term of the council's current administration, which had been elected in 2010.</p> <p>As the meeting was the last before the local council elections in May, this was an appropriate time to review the ward's work.</p> <p>Councillor Kang was pleased to report that a total of 35 ward funded projects had been undertaken during the past four years, costing a total of £210,030. The major project for the ward had undoubtedly been the range of improvements to Southall Recreation Ground which had in themselves incurred £114,500</p>	
8.	<p><b>Public Forum</b> - <b>issues and questions from residents</b></p>	
	<p>Councillor Kang asked for residents' questions:</p>	<p><i>What is planned for the Dominion Centre's re-opening and how with the move of library books be organised?</i></p> <p>A provisional date in April is planned.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> the opening is likely to be phased, due to some delays with the library extension. There is always a rationalisation of stock when we refurbish a library. This is undertaken by the staff under the guidance of stock management services, as well as the purchase of new stock.</p>

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	<p>Councillor Kang reported that there will be some traffic disruption in at the southern end of King Street from early March, as work to connect services to the new gurdwara takes place.</p>	<p><i>Resurfacing The Common is welcome. However, the double yellow lines have not been replaced as previously, and the speed humps are very high.</i></p> <p>DF offered to relay these points to Highways colleagues.</p> <p><i>Is the council planning to deal with spitting?</i></p> <p>Yes, this was identified as a priority during Southall's <i>Big Conversation</i> with residents last year. The Envirocrime team are taking the lead – and will be issuing fixed penalty notices.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Dates of future meetings 2014/15</b>	
	<p>These will be advised with the publication of the meeting notes. The first meeting is likely to take place in late June / early July.</p>	

Dennis Frost  
17: February: 2014