

## **CLERKENWELL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS PANEL**

### **Meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at City University**

**Present:** Howard Clark (Sadlers Wells) – Chair, PC James Ryder, Chris Ruff and Sally Calistan (Brunswick Estate), Susi Norris (Rosebery Avenue), John Ferguson (Claremont Close), Sony Tan (Granville Square), Edward van Dorp (Wilmington Square), Richard Mansfield (City University), Wilma Henderson and Deborah Spencer (St Mungos). Darian Mitchell (Lloyd Baker Estate).

**Apologies:** Anita Croy, Pritpal Tamber, Anne Hewitson (also for the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March).

#### **1. Report from Safer Neighbourhoods Team.**

The new borough commander met the Margery Street Residents Association to discuss the latest problems with gangs of youths and drug dealing on the estate. They believe that the same youth who is suspected of the notorious stabbing of the boy on his bicycle on Caledonian Road is involved with the Margery Street disturbances. The Council have now locked the gate which provided a passage way through the estate to close off an escape route for the gang. James said that these youths tended to congregate in large groups for protection. The police have increased their patrols round Margery Street and Wilmington Square.

There was a stabbing in Exmouth Market in recent weeks which the police believe was gang related. The council are considering installing a CCTV camera in Yardley Street. The police are seeking powers to disperse youths gathering in this area. The theft of scooters and pushbikes have greatly increased. The police are conducting patrols around the stations advising people to put their mobile phones away to prevent them being snatched.

The Safer Neighbourhoods team will consist of:

PS Brain Quail  
PC James Ryder  
PC Chris Knock  
PC Paul Mackulin  
PC Georgina Cotterell  
PC James Armstrong  
PC Dashmir Ferizolli  
PCSO Joanna Rondos

Richard asked that Johnathon Gallagher be asked about the current services from the anti-social behaviour team. Is the hot line still operational and what is their response time to incidents of anti-social behaviour? The public need to be clear about what action to take.

#### **2. Report from Panel Members**

**Sadlers Wells:** there have been a series of bike thefts from outside the theatre. James said that 30 bikes a day were being stolen in Islington. There is guidance on the police website as to how to secure a bicycle properly.

**City University:** the university has also seen a lot of bike and phone thefts and they are investing in secure bike sheds. However secure sheds are only as reliable as the people who use them. The library is now open 24 hours a day until the end of May. The University closes for the summer on 6<sup>th</sup> June, but then major construction work begins.

**Rosebery Avenue:** all quiet.

**Brunswick Estate:** Chris reported that Islington Council have produced an app called Clean Islington which allows people to report rubbish and dog poo. He has used this to report the problems on Berry Place. The estate is quiet at the moment, probably because there is a lot of building work going on.

**Claremont Close:** following the last meeting John was surprised to find new external lighting in the Close before he had had a chance to complain to the chief executive of the council. He also mentioned that Claremont Close had a secure bike shed which was effective.

**Wilmington Square:** There has been an increase in rough sleeping involving some younger men. Edward also mentioned the stabbing which had been covered in the police report

**St Mungos:** no problems to report. External decorations are happening in Roseberry Avenue.

**Lloyd Baker Estate:** Darian reported that a racist attack had taken place in Cumberland Gardens. A woman wearing a berka had had her veil snatched off her face by a man on his own. A passer-by had given chase. Apparently the perpetrator has been caught. Also another woman in Wharton Street, who is Chinese, has been harassed by some quite young boys. The police are dealing with this and are using some CCTV footage to see if they can identify them.

**Granville Square:** Sony reported an incident where a Malaysian man had been threatened by some of his neighbours following complaints that he had made about noise. James advised that this should be reported to the police who would deal with it as a racist incident.

### **3. Parks and Gardens' Security**

Following the Council cutbacks the park patrol team have been reduced and they are no longer locking the parks and squares at night. A complaint has been passed to the Islington Safer Neighbourhoods Board, particularly concerning Vernon Square and Percy Circus. Dominic Denton (the chair) has said that he will take it up with councillor Convery who is the executive member for community safety. These spaces are especially vulnerable being so near Kings Cross and close up to residential buildings. A lot of money has recently been spent on Vernon Square in order to make it secure because it had been a trouble spot for late night noise. James said that he would take the matter up with his superiors.

Richard suggested that Howard ask the new pastor at the Vernon Rise Chapel to join the safer neighbourhoods panel.

### **4. The next meeting is at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 at City University.**