

**West End and Chinatown Safer Neighbourhood Team**

**Ward Panel Meeting**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Minutes**

**In attendance**

Sara Wong	Chinese Community Centre
Suzannah Kwok	London Chinatown Chinese Association
Carol Wiseman	Vale Royal Neighbourhood Watch
Colin Bennett	LSA
Diane Fairfoot	Resident
Sylvia Mak	Notre Dame de France Church
Delaney Gordon	G Casino
Ralph Tween	China Town Unit
Christian Ardron	Safer Neighbourhood Team
Rob Nanasi	Safer Neighbourhood Team
Matthew Foley	Westminster Police
Darren Pickup	Westminster CDRP
Jacky Deery	Westminster Street Management
Rico Pieri	Heart of London
David Fereday	Heart of London

**Apologies**

Mike Hyams	McDonald's
Rob Embleton	Novus

**Welcome and Introductions**

DF thanked all for attending and informed the group that Richard Walker from Metra had now moved on and had therefore left the group and he congratulated Darren Pickup on his promotion within Westminster.

**Police Update**

Chief Inspector Matthew Foley attended the meeting to update us on the latest crime trends and the police response to these trends.

There is a drive by the Metropolitan Police to reduce crime by 10% in the oncoming year.

There had been a 1% increase in all crime over the past year.

In Westminster, Pickpocketing and other theft accounted for 50% of all crime.

Much of the Pickpocketing offences appear to be taking place in cafes and licensed premises.

He is looking at a wide range of tactics to challenge this crime and bag theft.

He was introducing Crime Action Thursdays when the SNT would spend their day giving crime prevention advice to businesses.

He wants to help premises sell the crime prevention message

He has created a Business Crime Reduction Team consisting of a sergeant and ten constables who would be employed investigating and gathering intelligence with regard to pickpockets and bag thieves operating in the area.

He has tasked them to deliver a 10% reduction in Pickpocketing and bag theft together with the seizure of at least £250K in proceeds of crime in the first 6 months.

He will make sure that the successes and any failures are passed to the community. He hopes that the results will speak for themselves.

Key to the process will be getting the businesses to work with his team. There is already a trial taking place in Westminster where Starbucks are actively working with the police team to reduce crime in their premises.

**ACTION – MF agreed to supply details of the success of this operation at our Ward Panel Meetings.**

With regard to general policing he said that the MPS was recruiting 10,000 special constables.

In our area the task force has a number of special constables working with them already. There are also 17 officers currently attached to the SNT team.

MF said that there had been problems with the creation of the task force but he hoped that these had all been resolved.

DF asked that the police should ensure that the officers working in our area have an ownership of the area and that they should be introduced to the community through forums such as this so that they can understand our problems.

**ACTION – Rob Nanasi to discuss with DF.**

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team are currently planning Safe Nights to coincide with the World cup matches.

RN and CA then ran through the details of their policing response to our objectives, these are detailed on the report that has already been forwarded to you all.

RT said that the China Town Unit which consisted of a sergeant and four constables had in the previous 6 weeks had 17 arrests; he said that 78 offences had been reported 59 of which involved a victim many being pick pocketing and bag theft.

RT did outline a fantastic arrest that his team has had where officers spotted a covert deal taking place in the street; they stopped the individuals and found a number of credits cards and cash. The suspects were arrested and as a result of their enquiries an address in North London was raided which turned out to be a credit card factory and there were thousands of cloned cards seized all of which were ready to be passed out into the community.

SK said that the LCCA had recently been involved in a charity event and that when she handed the proceeds into the bank she had been informed that there had been a number of fake £1 coins.

RP confirmed that he had recently received reports from the guardian's stating that local businesses had reported an increase in the number of fake notes being tendered.

JD reported on the activity in the area by the Westminster City Inspectors, the most notable of which was the fact that 125 days have gone by before a hotdog trader had been caught in the area.

Operations and enforcement continue in the area especially around dumped waste a street urination.

### **Comments from the Panel**

Criminal damage and cleansing to Notre Dame de France Church

**ACTION - RN to arrange an officer to visit re damage, JD to discuss cleansing issues**

SK commented on the work being done in Rupert Court, the liaison with the police and authorities and that she was pleased that she now attends the meeting.

Buskers in China Town

Proposals for a 24hour off licence in Wardour St.

**Action - RT already aware of many of the issues but will keep in touch with SK.**

SK also mentioned the fact that two events were being proposed for China Town, neither of which were supported by the LCCA.

CW discussed the problem of urination inside Vale Royal House.

**ACTION - RN and JD to discuss how this can be resolved.**

JH commented on people urinating in their doorway in Charing Cross Road, the need for additional toilets in the area.

JH discussed the recent St Georges Day celebrations and the incidents that occurred outside The Moon Under Water. The panel also expressed concern that with the World Cup nearing this kind of behaviour has to be dealt with immediately and that we need reassurance that policing for the World Cup will be better than this apparent incident.

**ACTION – MF to meet with the officer in charge of the policing that day to ascertain what took place and why he/she chose the course of action that they did. He will then feed this back to the panel through DF. He expressed his concern about the allegations made.**

DianeF asked about Alfresco dining, the regulations, and made observations about Subway in Irving Street attracting crowd through to 5am in the morning disturbing residents.

**ACTION – DP to send details of the licence for alfresco dining and a brief explanation. City Inspectors are watching the effect of Subway's trading in Irving Street.**

There were no actions from CB.

**The group then agreed the following priorities:-**

- Pickpocketing and other theft
- Alcohol fuelled violence and disorder (Urination)
- Illegal street activities

**AOB**

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting –

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**6pm**

**Charing Cross Police Station**

**A REMINDER - THE THREAT LEVEL FROM TERRORISM:**

**SEVERE**

This means that an attack is a "strong possibility" and might occur without warning.

Report noise complaints to the Environmental Action Line:  
**0207 641 2000**

Anti Terrorist Hotline  
**0800 789 321**

**In an emergency always dial 999**

**or in cases which there is no urgency – 0300 123 1212**

**West End and China Town Safer Neighbourhood Team**

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