

West End and Chinatown Safer Neighbourhood Team

Ward Panel Meeting

Tuesday 19th January 6pm

Minutes

In attendance

Shane Holland	London Clubs International
Sara Wong	Chinese Community Centre
Barney Barnard	Safer Neighbourhood Team
Suzannah Kwok	London China Town Association
Christian Ardron	Safer Neighbourhood Team
Mike Hyams	McDonalds
Diane Fairfoot	Residents
Darren Pickup	Westminster CDRP
Lisa McFiggins	
Sylvia Mak	Notre Dame de France Church
Ryan Kay	Metra
Pari Subramanian	Metra
Ralph Tween	China Town Unit
Rob Nanasi	Safer Neighbourhood Team
Mitch Matthews-Dublin	Westminster Street management
David Fereday	Heart of London

Apologies

Justin Wallace	Sound/ Storm/ Pubwatch Chair
Leslie NG	London China Town Association

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Governance

Dave F reminded the group that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss crime and anti social behaviour issues that affect the community as a whole. The meetings is not to discuss individual issues, these should be discussed in the appropriate way with the police outside the meeting.

Dave F also said that the expectation was that everyone at the meeting represented groups of people and that the detail of the meeting should be shared with colleagues and neighbours.

3. Police Update

Facts and figures.

Dave F said that he hoped that all had read the update from the Safer Neighbourhood Team that was circulated with the agenda.

Rob N stated by explaining that since 18th February there had been a policing operation in place which was directed at reducing most serious violence in the area. The operation was similar in style to the successful safe night operations, lighting towers and signage was also being used. The operation runs on every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night and will end on the 28th March.

The results from the operation are so far that there has been a 25% reduction in crime in the first week, a 41% reduction for the second week. The operations are seen as being very successful, they allow those people coming to the area to enjoy their evening and those coming to the area to cause trouble are driven away.

There have been 4 Counter Terrorist Operations where over 300 people have been stopped in their vehicles. This has resulted in 3 crime related arrests and 8 vehicles have been seized. None of the results were terrorist related.

Rob then ran through the Safer Neighbourhood update report. A key theme throughout the report was the joined up work taking place between the Police and Westminster Street Management to tackle issues such as illegal street trading and street urination.

With regard to pedicabs, Christian A had written to the magistrates advising them of the concerns of the community and the problems caused by the pedicabs, this had resulted in the fines for a cyclist prosecuted for footway obstruction rising to £200 in many cases. This is now a real deterrent.

With regard to Vale Royal House, Carol Wiseman had discussed the residents concerns about drug related anti social behaviour taking place in the premises. As a result the police team is conducting a number of early morning visits to the premises. This has so far led to 15 arrests and there is a hope that the illegal activity may have been curtailed.

10 Special Constables work with the Safer Neighbourhood Team in the area especially on the operations that they manage. Rob wanted to say that they are of great value to the area and he thanked them for their

help. He is trying to invite them to the Ward Panel meeting to introduce them to us.

Mitch DM was welcomed to the meeting. He manages the Westminster Night time enforcement teams. He explained that since January this year over 67 seizures of illegal street traders had taken place. He was of the opinion that the illegal hotdog trade has been severely affected by these operations and as a result their trade has moved away from Westminster into Camden. The night teams are making great use of the Westminster CCTV Control Room and taskings are directed from there. The majority of seizures are now flower sellers. His teams are working with the police, immigration, social services and any other department that can help him reach a long term solution for the problem.

Drug related anti social behaviour is an on going problem in the area of Rupert Court, Wardour Street and Gerrard Street. The police have ongoing operations in place attempting to tackle the suspects.

Rupert Court has for a long time been an issue, especially a small area called Rupert Yard. As this is an area where waste is kept and collected there is a problem with the entry system and with a problem of dumped waste.

Darren P and Rob N explained that they had been working with the property owners and others to find a long term solution to the problem. A change of door entry system is planned and a new coloured waste sack system installed to identify waste properly left and waste that has been dumped.

Suzannah K said that she was most disappointed with the way that the local businesses had been informed of the new scheme and that she had complained to the highest level in Westminster about the process. Rob and Darren explained that they believed that the consultation process had been directed at the right people. The disagreement was such that Dave F informed them all that he believed that the matter could be sorted out at the next LCTA Meeting which will be held on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Action – Ralph Tween to ensure that Westminster and the police are properly represented at the meeting together with all of the details of the plan.

Darren P went on to discuss the work being undertaken to target the night club ticket promoters operating in Leicester Square. There have been a number of complaints about the way that these individuals operate and that it was clear to all that something needed to be done.

Christian A said that he was really keen to promote the fact that the current Safer Neighbourhood Team were fully involved in solving

problems in the West End and China Town, they regularly change their shift patterns to perform early morning patrols in places such as Rupert Court and Vale Royal House then working on throughout the day. He said that he and Rob were extremely lucky to have such a strong and positive team to work with.

Darren mentioned the fact that all door staff in the area were signing up to an agreement that they would wear yellow high viz jackets 2 hours before closing time to help identify them and to enable CCTV and the police to know who is who outside a premises. The identification will also help with visitors having a point of contact that they can ask help and advice from.

4. Comments from the Panel

Sylvia M raised issues concerning an individual who regularly visited the church acting in an anti social manner. She was advised to call the police. She also mentioned a telephone box in Leicester Place which she believed was used by people taking drugs. This was noted by the police. Finally she mentioned the portable loo that is placed in Leicester Place. Apparently when it is taken away the urine is allowed to overflow onto the street. It was noted that this also happens with the portable loo placed in Orange street.

Action - Mitch MD said that he would take this information and discuss with the street cleaning company Viola.

Mike H said that he thought the police were really helpful whenever he called them to his premises especially in instances of anti social behaviour in the toilets.

Suzannah K said that she had noticed a greater police presence in the China Town area especially in the early evenings and that she found this very reassuring.

Dianne F said that she wanted to thank the police and council for doing such a great job and for responding to the needs of the community.

Mike H raised concerns about the level of information circulated by the police about events in the area that may affect trade, such as Eid, and other St Patricks Day. Dave F agreed and said that he thought that the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams did not seem to be kept up to date with events in their area. He suggested that it might help if we as a panel asked the Police to report on future events at each meeting. Barney B agreed that this might be a good idea.

Action- Barney B to speak to the events department.

5. Priorities for the next period.

Dave F suggested that although our priorities remain the same it may have to be the way as if we don't concentrate on these issues the offenders will quickly return. He asked the Panel if they would agree to the priorities staying as per our last meeting. Each Panel Member agreed.

The priorities therefore remain as:-

- **Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour**
- **Drugs**
- **Illegal Street Trading**

6. AOB

Dave F asked that we hold our next meeting in China Town. Sara W agreed to ask whether this is possible and get back to us.

7. Date of next meeting –

Tuesday 27th April 6pm
Location to be confirmed.

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

Report low level anti-social behaviour to the Community Intelligence Line:
020 7641 3000

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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