

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2021

MEMBERS: Councillors Lee David-Sanders (Chair & Deputy Leader of the Opposition), Stephanos Ioannou (Vice-Chair), Daniel Anderson, Yasemin Brett and Achilleas Georgiou

Officers: Doug Wilkinson, Director of Environment & Operational Services, Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety, Ivana Price, Head of Early Help, Youth & Community Safety, Stephen Skinner, Head of Highway Services, John Grimes, Group Engineer- Highway Maintenance, Sujeevan Ponnampalam, Prevent Programme Manager, Stacey Gilmour, Governance Officer.

Also Attending: Simon Crick, BCU Commander, Met Police, Superintendent Chris Jones, Met Police, Tim Fellowes, Chair, Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), Janet Marshall, SNB, John Prior, Parent Engagement Network

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Barnes and Kate Anolue. Councillor Hass Yusef was substituting for Councillor Kate Anolue. An apology for lateness was also received from Councillor Stephanos Ioannou.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest relevant to items on the agenda.

3. STREET LIGHTING (PERCEPTION VERSUS CRIME)

Stephen Skinner, Head of Highway Services presented the report highlighting the following:

- i) The report explained the arrangements for street lighting in Enfield and reviews the current position regarding crime, including the fear of crime, and to explore any associations between the two.
- ii) In 2006, Enfield Council entered into a Streetlighting PFI for a 25-year period, which requires the service provider, Enfield Lighting Services (ELS), to manage and maintain Enfield's street lights on behalf of Enfield Council until 2031.
- iii) The new street lights installed during the first 5-year period of the PFI were designed in accordance with the British Standard and Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) guidance documents relevant at that time.

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- iv) Most residential roads were designed to a specific lighting class called S2, which was at the higher end of the range of lighting levels required by the British Standard for residential roads and provided an average brightness of 10lux and a minimum of 3lux. Main roads and town centres were designed to a higher standard
- v) By way of comparison, the natural lighting conditions provided by moonlight (full moon) typically provides 1lux and night-time with no moon provides less than 0.01lux.
- vi) In 2013/14, the lights were dimmed to save energy; an approach adopted by many authorities at that time. The power supply was reduced by 50%, which reduced the lighting level for the S2 class from an average of 10lux to an average of 2.3lux.
- vii) In July 2019 full Council approved a project to convert all Enfield's street lights to LEDs, controlled by a new central management system (CMS), which would further reduce Enfield's electrical consumption by over 50% and provide associated reductions in carbon emissions.
- viii) A significant benefit of LED lighting is that it provides a much clearer, whiter light that is closer to natural daylight and gives better colour rendition at night than the old-style yellow lanterns. This is particularly beneficial for identification and CCTV recordings.
- ix) A further benefit is that a LED lighting source is more controlled and direct, meaning less stray 'backlight' into peoples' homes. Stray backlighting caused numerous complaints with the previous street lights resulting in back-shields being fitted to luminaires in situations where this caused problems for residents.
- x) As part of the development of the LED proposals, the Street Lighting team worked closely with the Council's Community Safety Team who identified a number of crime 'hot spots' in the borough. The lighting in these roads was increased by one lighting class.
- xi) Further detailed information was provided on the LED upgrade and the levels of illumination provided by the new LED lights which in summary are at least as bright as before.
- xii) The programme to install 22,943 LED luminaires started in February 2020 and is now substantially complete, with approximately 1000 still to install. The programme appears to have been well received by the public with low numbers of complaints being received from residents and Councillors. However some concerns had been raised by residents regarding lights being too bright, which generally occurred during the period immediately after installation before the correct power profile had been applied via CMS, or where properties are very close to a street light, and these issues have been resolved by fitting a back shield. There were also a few concerns from residents that the lighting levels were too dark.
- xiii) In roads where complaints have been received photometric tests were undertaken to check both the average and minimum lighting levels provided. In all cases the tests confirmed that actual levels met the designed levels apart from one recent test in Bowes ward, where it was found that the low light levels were caused by overgrown street trees and arrangements have been made to prune the trees in order to remedy this.

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- xiv) Several residents in Bowes Ward have raised concerns that Enfield's street lights are much darker than Haringey's. Officers have liaised with Haringey's Street Lighting team and are aware that Haringey's residential roads are currently lit at two lighting classes higher than Enfield's (apart from midnight to 5am when they are dimmed such that they are only one lighting class brighter than Enfield's).
- xv) Officers in the Streetlighting Team have liaised closely with Enfield's Community Safety team to obtain a better understanding of any relationship between lighting and crime. Key issues to consider are whether there has been a change in the level of night-time crime in Enfield since the installation of the new LED lighting and, if so, whether this has been prevalent in certain areas of the borough or in specific road types.
- xvi) There is no existing survey data on the fear of crime. Therefore, analysis data included in the report is provided using local crime and accessible Police data as well as the results from the Crime Survey of England and Wales.
- xvii) The Community Safety Unit works closely with the Police and other agencies to review crime levels and trends and this work is ongoing.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- Q. Councillor Anderson asked what approval was given to dim the lights.
- A. Officers would check whether this had been a Cabinet or Council decision and feedback to Members accordingly.

Action: Stephen Skinner, Head of Highway Services

Post meeting response

Approval was given to dim the previous 'SON' type lights via a Cabinet Report approved on 21st March 2012. As described in the briefing paper, the new LED lights have been designed to lighting classes in accordance with the current British Standard and they are at least as bright as the levels provided by the SON lights

- Q. Councillor Georgiou asked when the street lights come on and off.
- A. The lights are set to come on 20 minutes after sunset and 20 minutes before sunrise. This aligns with the 'trimming' approved in the above Cabinet report whereby the lights were set to be switched on 6.5 minutes after sunset and 6.5 minutes before sunrise. Because the older SON lamps took a period of time to 'power up and down', it was estimated that the old 6.5 minutes equates to 20 minutes with the new LED luminaires, which do not have the same time delay. Officers will liaise further with Haringey to establish switch on and off times of Haringey's lights and review whether Enfield and Haringey can be aligned.

Action: Stephen Skinner, Head of Highway Services

- Q. Councillor Georgiou referred to a resident in Bowes Ward who had provided a video and lighting survey and asked whether he was quoting the same specification as the Council.

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- A. The London Borough of Enfield (LBE) designers used “BS5489- Design of Road Lighting. Lighting of roads and public amenity areas- Code of Practice”. Officers believe that the resident was referring to the same British Standard. However, as explained in the meeting the resident had quoted lighting levels that he measured in Lumens, whereas the lighting classes specified in the British Standard (BS) are specified in lux, which is what LBE designers have used.
- Q. Councillor Georgiou commented on the fact that there had been more complaints regarding lighting levels from Upper Edmonton and Bowes Wards and questioned why this was the case?
- A. Once possible explanation for this was because of the close proximity geographically of these particular wards to Haringey therefore it was easier for residents to make a direct comparison.
- Q. Councillor Yusef asked if there was possibly an argument for different levels of lighting along different parts of the same road as often crimes were committed in darker areas of streets where the lighting was not so good due to large trees/vegetation etc.
- A. This was possible but there would still need to be some consistency along the whole road for the overall level of illumination. If however crimes are being reported to the Police this will link up with Enfield’s Community Safety Team and if certain areas are becoming ‘hot spots’ and the levels/scale of crime is causing the Police issues then this is something that the Council would need to respond to by ensuring that lighting is sufficient.
- Q. Councillor Anderson asked to see some costings on increasing the lighting levels in the borough by one or two lighting classes.
- A. Officers would look into this and provide costings accordingly.
Action: Stephen Skinner, Head of Highway Services/John Grimes, Group Engineer, Highway Maintenance

Post meeting response

As described in the report, the majority of the luminaires in residential roads are operating at between 80-90% power consumption. Whilst there is a capacity to turn these up to 100%, the increase in the level of light would be less than a whole lighting class. In order to achieve an increase of either 1 or 2 lighting classes, we would need to replace all the luminaires with new brighter units. The cost would be similar to the whole LED installation programme that is almost complete, at a cost of £6.375m for the whole borough.

- Q. Councillor Stephanos enquired about the lighting in the Ivy Road footpath/open space area as the area was very poorly lit and he had received an excessive amount of emails, particularly from young women who regularly utilised the night economy and transport system in this area and were concerned as they felt unsafe when walking home.

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- A. John Grimes agreed to look into this matter and provide a direct response to Councillor Stephanos.

Action: John Grimes, Group Engineer, Highway Maintenance.

Post meeting response provided directly to Councillor Stephanos

The pathway/access road that runs through the allotments here is not an adopted highway or a defined public right of way. There are many paths through park land and other public realm areas that are of a similar nature to this one and under the terms of the street lighting PFI there is not a requirement to introduce lighting to such areas. Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to install new lighting here.

Councillor Brett commented that the perception of crime is certainly part of the bigger problem. She had also received extensive correspondence from women in her ward expressing how unsafe they felt when walking the streets at night. She added that there appears to be a conflict on many levels as if the Local Authority (LA) want to support the climate level agenda and encourage people to walk, we need to ensure that residents feel safe. She also added that there are areas of large vegetation overgrowth along the North Circular Road in Bowes Ward. Therefore, although the lighting might be good and compliant with British Standards, this was counteracted by the overhanging trees etc.

Officers acknowledged this point and agreed that if vegetation and trees were not maintained and pruned regularly, they did cause dark areas in certain streets. These comments would be fed back accordingly to the appropriate council teams.

Doug Wilkinson, Director of Environment and Operational Services concluded by thanking Members for their feedback and comments which had come at a perfect time as the Lighting Replacement Programme nears its end and therefore it is now about constant improvement and constant refining.

The Chair thanked Officers for their informative report which had resulted in some very interesting discussions and some good anecdotal commentary.

It was agreed that following this meeting the Panel would come forward with some recommendations around Street Lighting and these would be fed back to Officers accordingly.

Action: Crime Scrutiny Panel Members

4. UPDATE ON THE CURRENT HATE CRIMES IN ENFIELD

Suj Ponnampalam, Prevent Programme Manager presented the report highlighting the following:

- i) The Enfield Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) has given priority to tackling Hate Crime and has identified it as a key priority within its current partnership plan and has done so for several years.

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- ii) Enfield also has a separate strategy that looks to tackle all forms of Hate Crime and to support victims of Hate Crime.
- iii) The report came about as a large increase in Hate Crime was witnessed in Enfield especially during the pandemic.
- iv) Enfield was one of the first boroughs in the country to establish a multi-agency partnership for tackling issues around racial hate. The Racial Incident Action Group (RIAG) was set up in Enfield in 1994, in 2006 this evolved into the Enfield Hate Crime Forum (EHCF) incorporating groups that work to tackle all aspects of Hate Crime.
- v) Enfield's Multi-Agency model was recommended as a good practice model by the Home Office 'In This Together: Good Practice in Multi-Agency Working' guide as far back as 1999
- vi) The current reporting position reflected in the overall performance reports show that in the twelve months leading up to July 2021, there were 773 Hate Crime offences recorded in Enfield. This is a 20% increase over the same period the previous year where 664 cases were recorded.
- vii) This increase however has reduced considerably over the last few months and is now tracking a similar pattern to that of anti-social behaviour reports, in so much as the numbers increased dramatically during lockdown and are starting to revert to a more usual level as the pandemic restrictions are becoming less onerous.
- viii) Historically, summer months have seen higher numbers of Hate Crime reported compared with the winter, probably due to more people gathering outside their homes during warmer months.
- ix) The highest number of Hate Crime offences in Enfield in the last 2 years were recorded in June 2020, which followed the first ever easing of restrictions in mid May 2020. The following months show a reduction in reporting until December 2020 where another significant rise in Hate Crime numbers were reported, again coinciding with the lifting of restrictions. Thought the increase in reporting in December 2020 was a smaller increase
- x) Racist and Religious Hate Crime continues to be the highest proportion of all the Hate Crime strands. This accounts for around 88% of all reported Hate Crime in Enfield. The largest reporting reason was verbal assault or verbal altercation followed by neighbour dispute.
- xi) Ethnicity details for victims and perpetrators are not always available. Where figures are available the largest recorded cohort of the victims were from the Black African/Caribbean background. Followed by Dark European category. The ethnicity details produced are according to the way they are defined on the police ethnicity code system and people can choose not to declare their ethnicity
- xii) The locations and time of incidents were studied, and it was found that a number of higher population density wards such as Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Southbury and Ponders End had the highest proportion of the reported incidents. The fewest incidents were reported in Grange, Bush Hill Park and Turkey Street.
- xiii) The SSCB understands that Hate Crime remains under reported and efforts need to continue to tackle Hate Crime in the borough.

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- xiv) The borough has a bi-monthly Case Management Panel (CMP) that uses multi-agency approach to tackling Hate Crime and supporting victims of Hate Crime. The CMP also enables the multi-agency partnership to scrutinise the way the crimes are handled, and the panel is chaired by a local community representative
- xv) Enfield has regularly supported the National Hate Crime awareness week, which this year is falling on the 9th-16th October and a number of dedicated online publicity materials have been created to share online
- xvi) In relation to Hate Crime and to promote cohesion, Enfield's Prevent Education Officer has offered workshops and assemblies on Hate Crime to both Primary and Secondary schools within the borough. A number of resources have been created including classroom workshops and school assembly materials to take this message to local schools. These workshops have been particularly well received in local schools

The following comments and questions were raised:

- 1 Why are there no religious groups represented on the membership of the Enfield Hate Crime Forum (EHCF) and is anything being done to address this? Suj advised that regular and close work takes places with many religious organisations. Enfield has a Faith Forum as well as a Faith Officer. Faith Group representatives are invited to all public events, however due to the way in which the Faith Forum operates they do not have a nominated person to attend the various meetings/events and unfortunately it would not be feasible to invite all Faith Forum representatives to every individual event/meeting.
- 2 Would it not be an idea to invite appropriate representatives to meetings/events from the faith communities that are being targeted by hate crimes? Suj advised that regular monitoring takes place to look at any religious groups that have been targeted by hate crimes and then work is undertaken with these particular groups.
- 3 Hate Crime data is not broken down in the reports, e.g. what is the crime, is it against certain religious groups etc.? It would be most beneficial to have a much more detailed and itemised breakdown. Andrea explained that the level of detail that can be accessed for the reports is often limited due to the way in which this data is recorded by the Police. Simon Crick, BCU Commander acknowledged that this was a concern and advised that this would be reviewed across the BCU (Basic Command Unit) so that a much deeper level of detail would be made available that could then be used when compiling reports. He went on to say that Hate Crime is one of his top priorities and he advised that Enfield is one of the better authorities across London for dealing with and addressing this type of offence. In London the sanctioned detection rate (a positive criminal justice outcome) rose from 13% in 2019/20 to 14% in 2020/21. The highest proportion of hate crime is consistently racist and religious offences and the majority of sanctioned detections are for these types of offences.
- 4 Simon also advised that a training programme is provided to every Hate Crime response officer and good practice is regularly shared. A

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bespoke team has been created to investigate and deal specifically with Hate Crime and the benefits of this are now becoming apparent with higher levels in the reporting of Hate Crime and an increase in detection rates. This is a real confident boost for what officers are doing.

- 5 A strong pro-active approach is taken with regards to cohesion and 'bringing people together'. Enfield's Community Engagement Officer works closely with different communities/organisations and this theme is also embedded in the education work that takes place in local schools. The Police have also supplemented this work by holding a number of Come Together events which have been well received and attended.
- 6 Superintendent Chris Jones commented that the work taking place in schools is absolutely critical in terms of learning about and understanding different religions and cultures, and this is a really strong investments for the future of our schools and young people.
- 7 Andrea advised that there is also some fantastic work taking place around the Learning Disabilities Team with regards to keeping safe etc. This work is invaluable as this group can often be targeted in relation to Hate Crime.

The Chair thanked everyone for another good update which had been most informative and helpful.

5. SSCB PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - MONITORING UPDATE

Andrea Clemons Head of Community Safety presented the report, highlighting the following:

- (i) The report provides an update on performance against Enfield's Safer Stronger Communities Board priorities up to 31st July 2021.
- (ii) These priorities are:
 - Tackling violent crime in all its forms
 - Keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime
 - Reducing burglary and keeping people safe at home
 - Promoting cohesion and tackling hate crime
 - Dealing with anti-social behaviour
 - Additional focus on tackling illegal drugs and raising awareness to deter vehicle crime
- (iii) Due to the submission deadlines for the September 2021 Crime and Scrutiny Review meeting, Police data for August 2021 was not yet available, this report therefore includes data to the end of July 2021.
- (iv) Total notifiable offences in England decreased by 1.8% in the year ending July 2021. In London, there was a higher reduction of 8.2% in the same period.
- (v) Residential burglaries in Enfield decreased by 26.4% in the year ending July 2021, with a 17.1% reduction in London.
- (vi) Although Enfield continues to have high levels of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) victims, we have experienced a decrease of 18.8% in

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- the year ending July 2021, compared to 2020. This is very similar to the London average which was 18.6% in the same period.
- (vii) In the year to July 2021, there were no London Boroughs where an increase in Serious Youth Violence victims was recorded.
 - (viii) In the year ending July 2021, Knife Crime in Enfield had decreased by 18.6% compared to the previous year. London experienced a similar reduction of 21.9% in the same period.
 - (ix) Gun crime offences in Enfield decreased by 28.4% in the year to July 2021. London experienced a reduction of 22.2% in the same period. These figures demonstrate how the Met Police have made some significant gains in tackling Gun Crime.
 - (x) Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury decreased by 10% in the last year, while in London there was a smaller 5.1% decrease.
 - (xi) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls decreased in Enfield, with a 2.1% fall in call numbers in the year ending July 2021, compared to the same period the previous year. In London there was an increase of 2.4% in the same period.
 - (xii) With regards to Interfering with a Motor Vehicle there had been a decrease of 23.8% in the year ending July 2021. In London, there was a decrease of 26.4% in the same period.

The following comments/questions were raised:

- 1 Membership details for the SSCB would be circulated to Members of the Crime Scrutiny Panel as part of the next report.
Action: Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety
- 2 Explanations were provided on various detail included in the report. For example, Superintendent Chris Jones clarified the definition for the offence of 'Interfering with a Motor Vehicle' which could, for example, involve tampering with the door handle.
- 3 With regards to Serious Youth Violence numbers Enfield has a large youth population and the borough also imports into schools daily. Covid has had a big impact and there have been some fluctuations linked with young people returning to school, hence targeted police work around school times. The peaks also reflect releases in lockdown measures as people return to their everyday business.
- 4 Simon Crick, BCU Commander, MPS advised that offences in most crime types are decreasing but it was recognised that detection rates need to increase. There is however a shortage of Detective Constables across the organisation. Work is taking place to address this issue, but it is a slow process which will take time. A shortage of Detectives unfortunately impacts on the ability to detect crimes. However, the focus over the next few months is to look at ways of driving crime detection up.
- 5 What is the impact locally on Police Officers being called upon to patrol central London protests? This continues to be and has always been a major issue which has a huge impact. However, all London protests must be policed which is of course extremely challenging.

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The Chair thanked everyone for their informative updates.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 June 2021 subject to the following amendment:

- (i) Councillor Yasemin Brett attended the meeting therefore her apologies for absence had been recorded in error.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as follows:

- Tuesday 25 January 2022

AGREED that the Crime Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2021/22 would be circulated to Members as requested.

Action: Stacey Gilmour, Governance Officer