

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Northwood Ward Panel

Held at James Court, Hallowell Road, Northwood

on Wednesday 18 September 2024

Present:

Hoda Lacey	Panel Chair, NRA
Mike Fowler	SNT
Sharon Goldstein	Resident
James Bennett	Outreach Community Partnerships, Northwood College
James Woods	Resident
Senga Karst	Resident
Malcolm Lucas	IAG

1. Welcome

Hoda welcomed Senga Karst and James Woods as new members.

2. Apologies

Received from Councillors Henry Higgins and Richard Lewis, Jeremy Stern, Nimesh Inamdar, Jennifer O'Dwyer, Richard Conradi and Brian Sass.

3. Previous Minutes and matters arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2024 were reviewed and adopted. No matters arising.

4. Chair's Report (Hoda)

The name "Police" will be dropped from our name. We will be known as the Northwood Ward Panel. HL was alerted to this by the chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board and was subsequently confirmed by Inspector Sarah Fox.

Hoda will be meeting with the students and their project supervisors from Northwood College and St. Helen's to discuss the annual youth survey. The January 2024 questionnaire will be used as a starting point and the students (who are all new) will be asked for their ideas about alterations and additional questions.

Hoda asked panel members by email to review our mission statement. Jeremy suggested clarification that we support the police (as the current wording implies we do the work).

5. Police and Crime Report for the past 3 months (Mike F)

Theft up by 34 to 63 (of which shoplifting is 45), probably due to more reporting (as encouraged by the SNT and Business Watch).

Theft from vehicles down by 15 to 6 – a lot is preventable so the SNT give advice, particularly not to leave possessions on show and to put keys in faraday pouches to prevent cloning.

Drugs – only 3 reported (same as previously) but clearly there is more unreported activity, especially at night. Shoplifters steal to fund their drug habit.

Criminal damage up 25 to 30, often neighbour disputes.

Antisocial behaviour – Senga referred to a TV report that 62% of ASB in UK is not dealt with.

Total crime volume for the quarter was 170, up 29 from 141 the previous quarter. Crime data was extracted from the public tableau website.

6. Survey

There were 401 resident responses to the crime survey, increasing from 242 in June and 123 in March. 71% were in the 60+ age category. Fear of burglary remains the top concern at 71%, then ASB 55%, drugs 40%, robbery 40%, vehicle crime 40%, theft 36% and knife crime 33%.

Using a heavier weighting for more serious crimes, the highest scores were drugs and ASB 1580, speeding and traffic 1330, weapons 1138, vehicle theft 971 and community engagements 801. Malcolm asked how the weighting is calculated?

ACTION: Mike will find out about the weighting from Maz.

ASB is a joint responsibility of police and council, but we do not know the volume of ASB reports to the council.

ACTION: Malcolm to ask Adam Stinson (responsible for ASB at the council) whether we can have some ASB figures. He has moved to another department, so email SSET@hillington.gov.uk

7. Priorities

VAWG remains the number one priority across the MPS.

Panel members choose as a priority - **Visibility** of officers, by patrolling in busy areas (especially Green Lane, Maxwell Road and Hallowell Road) and having information stalls. Actual crime in Northwood is relatively low, but the fear of crime is a concern to residents, so visibility of officers provides reassurance and will deter criminals. Mike mentioned that Sargeant Blackburn regarded this as an unsuitable priority.

ACTION: Sgt Blackburn should attend the next meeting and explain his reasoning as to why the panel should not choose visibility as a priority.

Speeding vehicles is the panel's other priority. Ideally one speed gun operation during the 3 months at each of Green Lane, Maxwell Road, Hallowell Road, Eastbury Avenue and Rickmansworth Road. Mike has had training with a calibrated speed gun. Speeding is a joint responsibility of police and the council.

8. **AOB** - none

9. **Next Meeting** - Wednesday 4 December at Northwood College for girls.

With thanks to James Court for their generous hosting of our meeting.

ML

30/09/24