

HAMPTON WICK AND SOUTH TEDDINGTON/TEDDINGTON

POLICE LIAISON GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING,

St Mary's Church Hall, Teddington, Thursday 12th June 2025

PRESENT: Robert Blakebrough (Chair), Helen Page (Secretary), PS Philip Ross Martyn, PCSO Sukhbinder Saini (Teddington PCSO), PC Amanda Stonehouse (Teddington), PC Nuno Sequeira, (Teddington), PC Colin Wills (Hampton Wick), PCSO David Auld (Hampton Wick), Councillors Robin Brown, Charlie Engel, Richard Baker & Phil Giesler, plus 16 local residents and interested parties.

Apologies from, PC Lex Powell, Councillor Jim Millard, Mark Buckley, Carol Dukes, Peter van der Kooy.

1. The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating.
2. Notes of the Meeting Thursday 20th February 2025 were approved. The Chair apologised for the agenda giving the date of the Meeting held on 27th June 2024 for approval instead of the previous meeting of 20th February 2025
3. Matters Arising.
 - (1) The Safer Neighbourhood Board and LBRuT are pursuing the unfortunate issue whereby wards are losing SNT Officer cover due to MPS abstracting officers from their local duties to duties outside SNT their SNT wards. PS RossMartyn noted there are also some abstractions, not necessarily covered in the statistics, where staff has to work out of borough, e.g. training, which reduces the resources available within the area.
 - (2) Peter Corriveau's film about knife crime has not been screened for local police and interested parties. With the pressure of work, this is not been a priority, but PS RossMartyn supports the initiative and it is hoped the film will screened to appropriate groups quite soon.
 - (3) Since Sainsbury's Local opened in Hampton Wick police have been keeping a close eye out for unwanted incidents relating to ASB etc., and the number of incidents about which the Police might have concern is said not significant.
 - (4) Councillor Brown advised that the LBRuT Transport Committee is setting up a consultation process for residents to air their views about Lime bikes. They should contact:
ebikes@richmond.gov.uk before 20th June.
There will be a meeting at 7pm, 24th June to discuss the outcome. This can be viewed online. Councillor Brown asked if the Teddington Society and Hampton Wick Association could advertise this.
In the autumn, the council will consider its relationship with Lime.
 - (5) PS RossMartyn has received guidance on dealing with Lime/electric bike riders who falsely claim they are over 18, (the required legal age to ride a Lime bike). An attendee had seen some bikes have an illegal passenger, which is not uncommon.
 - (6) Peter van der Kooy has analysed the crime statistics for Hampton Wick & South Teddington to show trends and seasonal variations, which was interesting to the police, but thought to be too sophisticated for use at this meeting. He was thanked for the time and effort he had put in. Helen Stoddard was also thanked for her work, but she has now moved abroad. The main requirements are
 - a) easily understood trends for main crimes over the last year/s

- b) whether they are getting better or worse
- c) any seasonal effect
- d) how the ward compares with other boroughs.

For those interested in more detail, the data is publicly available at

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/metropolitan.police.service/viz/MonthlyCrimeDataNewCats/Coversheet>

- (7) Three linked burglaries/attempted burglaries in King Edward's Grove and Cromwell Road, Teddington have not yet resulted in an arrest, although it is understood investigation of suspects continues.
- (8) The Chair was pleased to report that the Metropolitan Police Service is now out of special measures.
- (9) PCSO Auld is retiring in July. There was a vote of thanks and appreciation for his dedicated service and ever visible presence in Hampton Wick. PS RossMartyn is in the process of recruiting a replacement. This is a popular borough to work in.

In response to concern about the legal right to work of certain persons working in certain local businesses and if those businesses might be used for money laundering, e.g. nail bars, massage studios, barber shops, and car washes etc., Sgt RossMartyn confirmed that some businesses of these types are linked with money laundering and are known to employ persons who do not have the right to live and work in the UK. He advised that immigration checks are carried out, but, again, this is not a priority. Most of the initiatives about illegal immigrants come from The Home Office. Councillor Robin Brown confirmed there had been a Home Office raid on the car wash in, Kingston Road, Hampton Wick, resulting in two arrests.

- (10) The Secretary was asked by Councillor Robin Brown if she had followed up on the council contacts he had provided, to promote this meeting. She confirmed they had been added to the distribution list but she had not seen anything in the weekly community newsletter.

4. Police Matters and Briefing

- (1) Sgt RossMartyn informed of plans for "Street Briefings". These will take place at 2 venues: Hampton Wick and Teddington, on a regular basis. Members of the public will be able to turn up and talk to the police.
- (2) A further 2-way communications initiative between public and police has been introduced by MPS, and is called MetEngage, which will, eventually, replace all other social media used for the public engaging informally with the police e.g. WhatsApp groups. Those signing up can tailor what information they want to receive from MPS and they can e-mail MPS direct, though, it was stressed, MetEngage is not an alternative to 999 calls. An information card on Met Engage was circulated and help was offered if attendees should need assistance in signing up.
- (3) 14 people have been arrested over the last 3 months for various crimes, along with 78 investigations carried out. It is a high-performing borough with dedicated police officers. When possible, they visit local groups e.g. guides, to talk with them. They liaise with other organisations e.g. fire brigade for tackling Lime bike fires.

(4) Staffing levels have been agreed:

Hampton Wick: 1/8 inspector, ½ sergeant, 2 dedicated ward officers, 1 PCSO

Teddington: 1/8 inspector, ½ sergeant, 3 dedicated ward officers, 2 PCSOs

Although allocated, they are not yet all in place. 400 officer positions are due to disappear across MPS but it should not affect neighbourhood policing, which may even increase. As the Parks Police (1 full time employee) are being disbanded from 1st November, our SNT sergeant will try to recruit from there for our wards. The SNT are liaising with Royal Parks Police to ensure a smooth transition, including meetings with Friends of Bushy & Home Parks. PS RossMartyn is confident that it will result in an overall better service that will continue to police Bushy Park and Home Park as well as the Wards. The MPS Safer Transport Team transport police (not British Transport Police) are also due to disappear.

In response to a question about selling disposable bbqs, it is not within the police remit to ban sales of bbqs, though use of bbqs in LBRuT parks and open spaces are not permitted.

(5) PC Amanda Stonehouse, (new in Teddington Ward) has now had the opportunity to familiarise herself with the ward. She has been working on Closure orders: where a property is deemed at risk e.g. drugs dealing, it will be part or wholly closed down. This is reassuring to worried neighbours. There have already been several arrests and a property in Queens Road, Teddington, closed down.

(6) PC Nuno Sequira was previously working as a schools officer. He is still involved with schools though he is now a Ward Officer. An incident in Broom Road, involving threatening behaviour, resulted in the arrest of two young men. Nuno is, sadly, leaving the Teddington SNT and MPS and moving to Surrey Police Force but will hand over his role to colleagues in the SNT during the next 3 weeks.

(7) PC Colin Wills had nothing specific to report but was available after the meeting if anyone wanted to talk to him.

(8) PCSO Saini was thanked by the Chair for taking time to visit concerned residents of Old Station Gardens who were worried about cyclists illegally cycling, at speed, along the passageway near Teddington Station and leading to Cromwell Road and The Avenue. PC Saini now regularly includes the passageway on his beat and deals with any offenders he sees.

(9) PS RossMartyn showed 2 videos, captured on his body camera, of arrests of two youths cycling on the pavement, one wearing a face mask and balaclava. Attendees were impressed with the way the crimes were dealt with and agreed they would appreciate more of this type of presentation, though it requires substantial preparation.

(10) PS RossMartyn presented a graph (attached) showing a general reduction in crime for Hampton Wick & South Teddington over the last 10 years. Both the perception and reporting of crime has gone down. It has never been easier to report a crime. It was noted by PS RossMartyn that there is a link between confidence in the Police and reporting of crime. When confidence is high more crime is reported. However, notwithstanding this observed relationship, it is safe to say crime in the Borough is going down.

(11) One Stop Shop, a drop in charity service to support domestic abuse survivors, has been set up in the same building as Hampton Hill Citizens Advice bureau, 94-102 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NY. Open every Friday 10am-12 pm. The charity is lauded as providing a valuable support service by SNT and LBRuT.

5. Matters Raised by the Public

- (1) A question submitted to Chair by a resident prior to the meeting has been given a response by PS RossMartyn in advance of the meeting: the answer to the question, 'were police response cars delayed as a result of the closure to Kingston Road, when Kingston Road closed for works by Thames Water ?' was 'police response vehicles taking another route instead of Kingston Road had an increased response time, but only marginally,' i.e 1-3 minutes as response cars were re-routing via Broom Road.
- (2) Another question was put to Chair prior to the Meeting by an attendee at Teddington Memorial Hospital who had observed abusive behaviour taking place there by what was believed to be a woman with mental health issues. Hospital Staff was unable to eject this person. As it was not an emergency, police would not have responded immediately, likely only within thirty minutes. No-one was physically hurt. Police will liaise outside the meeting and PCSO Saini offered to visit Security staff at the hospital and liaise. The SNT advised that 999 is best called in a situation like this.
- (3) Residents in Cedars/Vicarage Rd, Hampton Wick, were concerned about cars being sporadically broken into. They asked if there could be a meeting between residents and the police. This will be taken up outside the meeting.
- (4) A suggestion was made to remove the signage from the old Teddington police station, as it lowers Met reputation since it still seems to proclaim that MPS are owners. The future of the building, now owned by the Mayor of London Office, is still under discussion so it is unlikely anything will happen until a decision is made.

6. Questions and Discussion

- (1) A suggestion was made at the last meeting, that the dark nights might deter some residents from attending PLG meetings. Attendees were asked to vote on whether a Saturday morning should be trialled for the Police Liaison Group Meeting next February. This was agreed. Elleray Hall may be completed and available by then, but St Mary's is always booked at weekends. The alternative would be to hold the scheduled meetings at Bullen Hall, Hampton Wick, (instead of Mina Hogan Room, Teddington), as demand for Bullen Hall is lower. Unlike St Mary's, there is a charge.
- (2) Councillor Robin Brown gave information about a White Ribbon Walk against violence to women and girls which would take place on Saturday 12th July, probably starting at Hampton Wick station. He invited everyone to attend.

7. Priorities for next four months

The main priorities continue to be burglary, shoplifting, and anti-social behaviour, (ASB). There is also a focus on violence against women and girls, especially on Friday and Saturday nights.

Date and time of Next meeting: 7:30 pm on Thursday 16th October 2025, Bullen Hall, Hampton Wick.

