



Bromley Community Engagement Forum

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MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING/AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2011, 7PM BROMLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

BCEF MEMBERS PRESENT (SNP = Safer Neighbourhood Panel)

Judith Cross (BCEF Chair)

Mahmood (BCEF Executive; Multi Faith)

Michael Lever (BCEF Executive and Bromley Residents Federation)

Dave Freeborn (BCEF Exec member)

Bruce Tompson (BCEF Exec member & West Wickham SNP)

Alf Kennedy (BCEF Exec member & Cray Valley West SNP)

Cheryl Mulryne (Sundridge & Plaistow SNP)

Nell Riehl (Honorary Member))

Cora Green (Bromley Victim Support)

Val Harrison (Kelsey & Eden Park SNP),

Peter Toy (ClockHouse SNP)

Barbara Jarvis (Hayes/Coney Hall SNP)

David Ely (Chislehurst SNP)

Bernard Waine (Darwin SNP)

Sally Bettsworth (Mottinham & Chislehurst North SNP)

Ian Smith (Honorary Member)

Ray Bell (Orpington SNP)

Julian Melfi (Copers Cope SNP)

Ed Cobby (Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom SNP)

Teri Moore (Bromley Women's Aid)

John Bruce (Bickley SNP)

Steve Dilworth (Bromley Town SNP)

Jenny Coleman (Penge & Cator SNP)

Glen Urquhart (Shortlands SNP)

Clifford Longley (Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association)

Margaret Gubbins (Bromley Independent Custody Visitors Panel)

Ray Bell (Street Pastors)

(Amanda Evans - BCEF Operations Manager)

SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Griggs (Police, Borough Commander)

Tim Stevens (Safer Bromley Partnership Chairman)

Nigel Davies (LBB Council)

Paula Morrison (Bromley PCT)

Colin Newman (Community Safety)

Jamie Rounph (Affinity Sutton)

Jean Levy (Community Links)

Terry Gooding (Fire Brigade)

Ellis-Foy (Glades)

Also Present: 53 members of the public attended.
A total of 90 people in attendance!

MEMBERS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Lulu Pearce (Community Advisory Group), Brenda Thompson (BCEF Executive, Mental Health Forum, Cray Valley East SNP), Sarah Walker (MPA), Roger Taylor (Honorary Member), Patrick Cracroft-Brennon (Crystal Palace SNP), Sue Polydorou (Petts Wood & Knoll SNP), Derek Holl (Bromley Common & Keston SNP), Neil Miller (Orpington SNP), Ali Hussain (Somalian Community), Maureen Falloner (Age Concern, Bromley),

Strategic Apologies: James Cleverly (Metropolitan Police Authority/London Assembly), Tracy Pidgeon (Ambulance).

1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Judith Cross welcomed everybody. Delighted to see so many people here tonight. Introduced the Safer Bromley Partnership members (listed on the first page) who will also be available to take questions. Additionally, Cora Green (Victim Support) and Peter Warne (Community Safety) hosted information stands.

JC was delighted to announce our funding from the Metropolitan Police Authority for 2011-12 had been agreed. As with all organizations, our funding has been reduced from previous years.

Details of all the tasks that the BCEF have undertaken, and the current work programme for this financial year are contained in our Annual Report. This is available on our website: www.bcef.org.uk and hard copies were handed out at the meeting.

JC thanked members and friends for all their support to the BCEF.

2. **SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Tim Stevens explained his background and thanked Judith Cross for the opportunity to introduce himself to BCEF members. Tim was previously the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety before becoming the Chairman of Safer Bromley Partnership. He added that the BCEF "do a fantastic job" in making the community safer and working in partnership to make that extra difference. He is looking forward to supporting the BCEF and working closely with them.

3. **NEW MEMBER APPLICATION** - Street Pastors: Ray Bell gave a brief precise about the role of Street Pastors on this Borough. Street Pastors are a group of volunteers from local churches who patrol Bromley, Beckenham and Orpington Town Centres on Friday nights offering a caring presence on the street. Members voted unanimously in favour.

The BCEF are always looking to increase membership. If you represent a community organization and would like to become a BCEF member, please get in touch: amanda.evans@bcef.org.uk

4. **GUEST SPEAKER** – Commander Bob Broadhurst described the highs and lows of his role leading on public order and pan London operational support for the police.

“The public either love us or loathe us, depending on the event,” he said. “When it’s the recent Royal Wedding they love us, but when it’s a protest such as the G20 in 2009, they can be critical.” Commander Broadhurst went on to outline the process used to plan policing at all London’s high profile events including next year’s Olympic Games.

Officers used in all these operations are drawn from across the Met’s Police Service and brought in specifically for these occasions. Discussed the level of training officers have to comply with based on the type of operation. The amount of officers involved depends on the event and consideration has to be given as to the size of public attendance – the recent royal wedding was not a State affair, but as a “celebrity couple” the crowds would be of enormous numbers and important to have appropriate number of police officers for each event (over 2,500 officers for royal wedding).

As each event closes, planning is well underway for the next one!

With 35 years service with the Metropolitan Police Service he has spent his whole career in uniform, mainly in South-East London. He was the Borough Commander at Sutton for four years and the deputy at Lambeth for one year. He was the Link Commander for South East London for four years, having overall responsibility for the eight Boroughs in that area, until he was appointed Commander ‘Public Order and Pan London Operational Support’ in July 2006.

An experienced Hostage Negotiator, he was the Negotiator Team Leader at the Afghan Airlines hi-jack at Stansted Airport, and the Gold Commander at the Hackney Siege. He continues to support National Siege Management courses and has given input to FBI Crisis Negotiator Courses in Quantico, USA.

He has been commanding public order events since 1990 and has been involved in many large-scale demonstrations during that time including:

Trooping the Colour, the State Opening of Parliament, large scale events such as New Year's Eve, Notting Hill Carnival and the G20 Conference, as well as high profile events as diverse as the Tour de France, Olympic Torch Relay and the visit of Pope Benedict XVI. He is currently taking the lead on operational planning for the 2012 Olympics.

Commander Broadhurst is a resident on this Borough and paid tribute to Bromley's police Borough Commander, Charles Griggs.

Questions:

- a) Describe a typical day in the Command Unit during a large scale event. All CCTV cameras are monitored and everyone knows what they have to do. He described the 3 command structures: Gold Command (Strategic, command for officers to follow); Silver Command (Senior officers who ensure the commands are adhered to); Bronze command (the people on the ground).
 - b) Leading up to an event – a massive security operation takes place weeks ahead and discussed the days leading up to an event including checking drains etc along the route. For the recent royal wedding he discussed some security concerns that were actioned; buildings searched, items seized as well as dealing with hoax calls. Police searched bags on the day and confiscated paint bombs for instance. Alternative plans/routes have to be drawn up just in case they are needed at the last minute. Different types of threats have to be considered – terrorist as well as psychological (one of the many threats for the royal wedding for example was public infatuation with royal family members!)
 - c) A question on kettling/containment and are the Police reviewing this? Yes. Officers are looking out for trouble and will try to disperse and push the innocent crowd away whilst containing the troublemakers and make appropriate arrests.
 - d) Bad news is news, good news isn't. How do you deal with that? We live in a time where news goes viral and we need to make better use of social networks.
- 5. ELECTION OF BCEF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Colin Newman presided over the elections of the BCEF Executive Committee. Nominations had been received and the following were all voted in: Judith Cross (Chairman), Mahmood, Lulu Pearce, Brenda Thompson, Michael Lever, Bruce Tompson, David Freeborn, Alf Kennedy, Clifford Longley, Ian Smith. The Committee will elect a Treasurer and Vice Chair at their Executive Meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

6.1 New Police telephone number: Dial 101 for all non emergency calls.

Less than a quarter of 999 calls require an emergency response, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), together with other police forces in the south east is from Monday 11 July, launching a new contact number for the public. The new number, 101, is part of a national programme to improve access and will give the public one easy way to get in touch with the police for calls that do not require an urgent response. For example, the public should call 101 to report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make us aware of local policing issues.

It is being introduced to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999 and to help tackle crime and disorder. In London the new number is just one of the ways the Metropolitan Police Service is modernising and improving our services while making them more accessible to the public.

As with 999, calls to 101 in London will be handled 24 hours a day, seven days a week by specially trained officers and staff at the MPS's Central Communications Command who will help deal with enquiries. For people who speak no or little English they can also dial 101 where their call will be connected with an interpreter. Callers who are deaf, deafened or have a hearing or speech impairment can use a textphone to call: 18001 101; or in an emergency it's 18000.

According to official MPS figures, in April 2011 there were 161,008 recorded 999 calls, 32,941 (20%) of which were graded as an immediate response required i.e. a genuine emergency. This means the remaining 80% would be more appropriate for 101.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Community Outreach Day arranged for Tuesday 13 September in the Glades. If you would like to use this opportunity to promote your organisation, or to help us with our surveys on community safety, please contact Amanda: email: amanda.evans@bcef.org.uk; telephone: 020 8658 7168.