



## Bromley Community Engagement Forum

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### MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2011, 7PM BROMLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

#### **BCEF MEMBERS PRESENT** (SNP = Safer Neighbourhood Panel)

Judith Cross (BCEF Chair)

Ian Smith (BCEF Exec member)

Mahmood (BCEF Executive; Multi Faith)

Brenda Thompson (BCEF Executive, Mental Health Forum, Cray Valley East SNP)

Michael Lever (BCEF Executive and Bromley Residents Federation)

Dave Freeborn (BCEF Exec member)

Bruce Tompson (BCEF Exec member)

Alf Kennedy (BCEF Exec member, Cray Valley West SNP, BNWA),

Nell Riehl (Honorary Member)

Howard Clark (Honorary Member)

Cora Green (Bromley Victim Support)

Margaret Gubbins (Independent Custody Visitors Panel)

Terry Belcher (Bromley Link)

Mark Lapper (Sundridge Park SNP)

Peter Toy (Clock House SNP)

David Ely (Chislehurst SNP)

Sally Bettsworth (Mottingham & Chislehurst North SNP)

Val Harrison (Kelsey & Eden Park SNP)

Barbara Jarvis (Hayes & Coney Hall SNP)

Mark Diplock (Keston & Bromley Common SNP)

Geoff Newton (West Wickham SNP)

Bernard Waine (Darwin SNP)

Ray Bell (Street Pastors)

Ed Cobby (Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom SNP)

Raymond Langford Jones (Shortlands SNP)

Julian Melfi (Copers Cope SNP)

Jenny Coleman (Penge & Cator SNP)

Sandie McGarey (Bromley Women's Aid)

John Bruce (Bickley SNP)

Steve Dilworth (Bromley Town SNP)

Sue Polydorou (Petts Wood & Knoll SNP)

Patrick Cracroft-Brennan (Crystal Palace SNP)

Amanda Evans (BCEF Operations Manager)

**SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Charles Griggs (Police, Borough Commander)  
Andrew Holcombe (Fire, Borough Commander)  
Cllr Tim Stevens (Portfolio Holder Community Safety)  
Nigel Davies (LBB Council)  
James Cleverly (Metropolitan Police Authority/London Assembly)  
Paula Morrison (Bromley PCT)  
James Rounph (Affinity Sutton)

**Also Present:** Roger White, Angela Wilder, Peter Sibley (Anti Social Behaviour Co-Ordinator), Rob Vale (Trading Standards), Peter Ward, Jennifer Gordon, Cheryl Mulryne (P&SP SNP), James Ellis (Clock House SNP), Pushpa Hillman (Keston & Bromley Common SNP), Peter Hodges (Hayes & Coney Hall SNP), Val Bowley (Cudham RA), Ann Taylor, James Fowler (Link), Craig Archer, Maura Tompson, Marsha Berg (CCARA), Inder Sharma, Terry & Jacqui Giles (MV&PH Rd RA), Andy Mills, Joe Kerr (Dawin SNP), Monica Fowler (BNW), Trevor Irwin (WW SNP), Nicholas Bennett, Nason Maani (Bromley Bahai Community), Derek Swatton, Peter Seymour, Linda Kennedy, Anousha Vahdaty, Jim Jamaspian, Chris Riches, Mr & Mrs Armstrong, G.Williams, P.Hogan, Sue Harrhy, E.Ledgen, Brian Evans, Mr & Mrs Bunse, Kathy Bunce, Jennie Clark, Tony Cross, H.Kale, Stephen Davies, Martin Hickman, Mr & Mrs Tullet, Mr & Mrs Richards, D.Fieldman, Florence Atkins, Amanda Davies, Roger Hewitt, Sue Craney

**MEMBERS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Lulu Pearce (Community Advisory Group), Clifford Longley (NWA); Sarah Walker (MPA); Neil Miller (Orpington SNP), Roger Taylor (Honorary Member and Penge Partners).

**No apologies/representation** for: Biggin Hill SNP, Farnborough & Crofton SNP, LGBT.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Judith Cross explained the purpose of the meeting and introduced the Partnership members (as listed above) who are available to take questions.

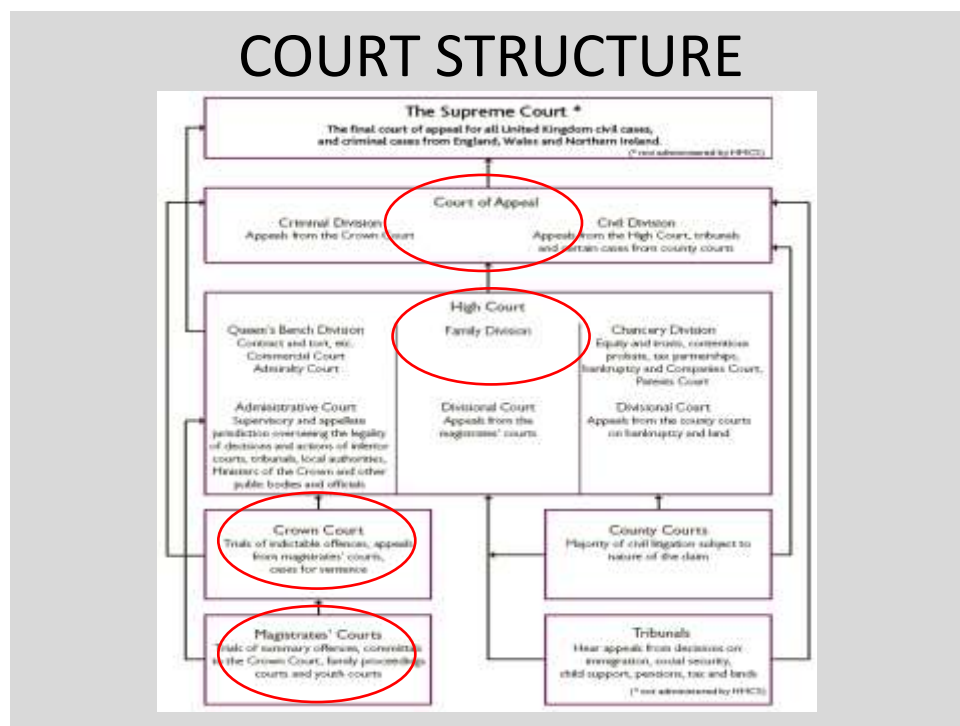
Judith explained that this would be her last meeting as Chair of the BCEF in view of her imminent move to South Africa. As Vice Chair, Ian Smith will take on the role as Chairman with immediate effect.

Thanked the following for hosting information stands at this event to increase public awareness:

Cora Green – Bromley Victim Support  
Peter Warne - Safer Neighbourhood Development Officer  
Rob Vale – Trading Standards  
Teri Moore – Bromley Women's Aid  
Michael Taylor - Shared lives team (Homes for vulnerable adults)  
Jennifer Gordon - Lewisham & Bromley Local Immigration Team  
Anousha Vahdaty - Bromley Bahai Community

2. **NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** John Bruce (Bickley SNP Chair) is currently a Special Advisor to the Executive Committee on Safer Neighbourhoods and with Judith's departure requiring a lead for Safer Neighbourhoods, members were asked to vote for John to become a full Executive Member for the timeframe up to July's AGM. Members voted unanimously in favour of John's appointment to the Executive Committee.
  
3. **MAGISTRATE PRESENTATION:** Presented by Roger White (Deputy Bench Chair for the South East London Justice Area) and Angela Wilder (Legal Team Manager) explaining the role of the Magistrate.

Explained the Court layout where everyone is positioned in the room and the court structure below - from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Crown Court, Magistrate Court:



The Magistrates Court deal with: Youth Courts; Family Courts; Adult Courts.

# WHAT DO WE DO?

CIVIL MATTERS EG NON PAYMENT OF COUNCIL TAX & NON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

AUTHORISE SEARCH, ENTRY OR ARREST WARRANTS

HEAR VIRTUALLY ALL YOUTH CASES

PRESIDE OVER TRIALS AND DECIDE ON GUILT OR INNOCENCE

PASS SENTENCE EITHER ON A GUILTY PLEA OR GUILT AFTER A TRIAL.

DECIDE ON ISSUING BAIL OR REMAND IN CUSTODY

ENFORCEMENT OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES

DETERMINE APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR A CASE TO BE HEARD

COMMIT DEFENDANT TO CROWN COURT FOR TRIAL OR SENTENCE

VISIT, SCHOOLS, ROTARY CLUBS AND PUBLIC FORUMS

## ADULT CASES



**+ 97%**  
are finalised in the Magistrates Court



**+ 99%**  
are finalised in the Magistrates Court

## ALL YOUTH CASES



**+ 99%** are finalised in the Magistrates Court

## TYPE OF OFFENCES

TRIAL ONLY  
SUMMARILY

These include Offences like, Animal Cruelty, Harassment, Public Order, Fare Evasion, School Non-Attendance, Vehicle Interference & Vehicle taking without consent.

TRIAL EITHER  
WAY

Drug offences, exposure, Fraud, Handling stolen goods, Sexual Assault And shop lifting. Additionally, Dangerous driving or causing death By careless or dangerous driving.

INDICTABLE ONLY

These are the most serious offences, Murder, kidnapping and rape etc. Our Involvement here is committing the defendant for trial to the Crown Court.

## STRUCTURED DECISIONS

WHERE DO WE START ?

- 1 – IDENTIFY THE COMMITTED OFFENCE AND UNDER WHICH ACT
- 2 – CLARIFY THE NATURE OF THE ACTIVITY
- 3 – ESTABLISH THE STARTING POINT
- 4 – IDENTIFY THE RANGE OF THE SENTENCE
- 5 – TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MITIGATION OR AGGRAVATING FACTORS
- 6 – LISTEN TO OR READ OTHER INFORMATION
  - Previous Convictions
  - Pre-sentence report
- 7 – DECIDE ON THE APPROPRIATE SENTENCE AND GIVE REASONS

**Sentencing:** Each Magistrate is issued with a Definitive Guideline manual: “Magistrates’ Court Sentencing Guidelines”, which lists the range of sentencing the Magistrate is able to give for each specific offence and the considerations/factors that need to be addressed when sentencing.

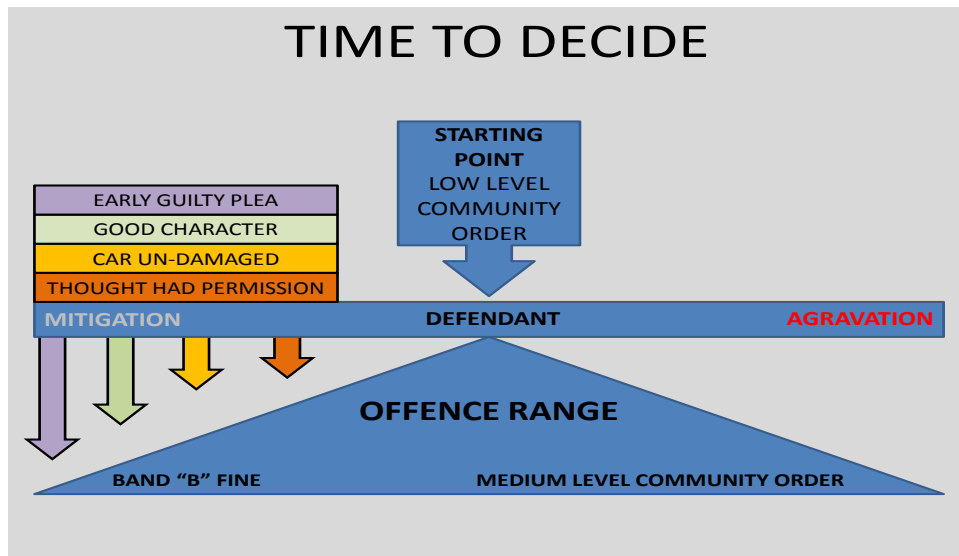
Showed an example about **Vehicle taking without consent** and the relevant page of the manual gives the starting and maximum point for sentencing when taking considerations into account, such as: who owned the car (stranger/employer/ relative etc); any damage caused to lock/ignition; taken from private premises etc.

Each consideration can affect the range of sentence but cannot exceed what is stated in the Manual:

## AVAILABLE SENTENCES

DISCHARGE	OFFENCE RECORDED BUT NO ADDITIONAL PENALTY IS MADE
CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE	CONDITIONAL THAT NO FURTHER OFFENCES ARE COMMITTED
FINANCIAL PENALTY	FINE IMPOSED NORMALLY BETWEEN 50% AND 150% OF RWI
POINTS & DISQUALIFY	MAINLY MOTORING OFFENCES
COMMUNITY ORDER	SPLIT INTO LOW, MEDIUM AND HIGH ORDERS + REQUIREMENTS
CUSTODY	UP TO 6 MONTHS, BUT CAN BE SUSPENDED WITH REQUIREMENTS
CROWN COURT	COMMIT TO CROWN COURT FOR SENTENCING

INFORMATION	
OFFENCE	TAKING WITHOUT OWNERS CONSENT
ACTIVITY	EMPLOYERS CAR
START POINT	LOW LEVEL COMMUNITY ORDER
RANGE	BAND "B" FINE TO MEDIUM LEVEL COMMUNITY
AGGRAVATING FEATURES	NONE - ALTHOUGH POLICE INVOLVED
MITIGATION	1 – MISUNDERSTANDING THOUGHT HAD PERMISSION
	2 – CAR RETURNED SAFELY AND WITHOUT DAMAGE
	3 – EARLY GUILTY PLEA
	4 – DEFENDANT OF PREVIOUS GOOD CHARACTER



Other scenarios were discussed such as taking without owners consent but from private premises which the starting point for sentencing would be 'High Level Community Order' instead of the above 'Low Level Community Order'.

**Appeals:** Any defendant not happy with the Magistrate's decision on verdict or sentence can appeal to a Higher Court. However, of all those cases finalized in a Magistrate's Court fewer than 1% are ever appealed. Of those 1% fewer than 30% are upheld ("So we, as a body of Magistrates, get it right a lot more time than we get it wrong").

**QUESTIONS:** Questions related to the perception of lenient sentencing and reviewing sentencing guidelines.

Mr White is happy to take further questions – please contact Amanda who will forward your questions: [amanda.evans@bcef.org.uk](mailto:amanda.evans@bcef.org.uk)

- 4. POLICE/PARTNERSHIP UPDATE ON THE DISORDER INCIDENTS IN THE BOROUGH:** Presented by Chief Superintendent Charles Griggs, Cllr Tim Stevens and Nigel Davies which explains the Police and Council's response.

A DVD was shown of the disorder incidents that took place around Bromley High Street on the night of 8 August (West/East Street and The Mall). Overall, rioting took place in Bromley, Beckenham High Street, Orpington (The Nugent Centre). The CCTV Control Room were able to provide 2,500 hours of footage which the Police are using to identify the suspects (close up shots of the looters as well as details of any vehicle used). These CCTV images have been published via the Newshopper/police website/large screens in the Glades. 57 properties were damaged. 84 people have been arrested for Bromley Borough offences, 18 convictions to date.

**Immediate Police Response:** Bromley police contained the situation during Monday night, given that many of their officers were deployed in other parts of London as Bromley was not expecting any serious issues.

**Council Response:** Set up a Borough Emergency Control Room (BECC) with a hot line between the BECC and the Operations Room at Bromley Police Station. The Chief Executive, Emergency Planning Officer and a small team from Bromley were on call for London during the entire time. Environmental Services cleared up the mess thereby preventing the debris from being used as missiles in any further disorder. LBB funded additional patrols of Ward Security to support the police to maintain a heightened level of presence and visibility.

There were many unfounded reports about further violence and looting on Tuesday which created a culture of fear and unrest across Bromley borough especially in light of the terrible events the night before in Croydon. Rumours of further violence flourished and although they were totally groundless, people started to act on them with businesses closing in their locality.

The Council are planning an approach for on-going support to businesses and have included relevant information for businesses on the Council's website. Also helped with temporary emergency accommodation for those affected by the fires in Croydon.

Throughout these events regular communication was maintained from the Police and the Council through a wide network of partners to give information about the ongoing situation and also provide reassurance that the situation was under control. Tim Stevens spoke about the important role that the BCEF played in this and discussed a new Communication Team that the Council will set up to which the BCEF will be invited to participate.

Bromley's Fire Brigade were highly praised as the crew were also involved in assisting Croydon and put their lives on the line on more than one occasion.

Praise was also given to Bromley's CCTV Control Room Manager who had finished her shift and returned to assist her colleagues.



## QUESTIONS:

- a) Praise for the Police and Council with the way they handled the situation.
- b) How effective in finding the looters have the CCTV images been?  
Excellent, over 2000 images in Bromley alone. Charles Griggs mentioned there were still some identification issues. (Addendum: This is because of the face coverings that cause a problem and in the absence of admissions, proving that the person in the image is the person detained. The LBB CCTV system is excellent).

Addendum: The following questions received about CCTV:

- Is the identification issue due to poor images or purely because the masks etc that the people were using? If the issue is poor images then does the council have any plans to update the equipment to obtain better images to assist in any future investigations?
- Are there any plans to increase the areas covered by CCTV.
- Why cannot the TFL cameras already in place in West Wickham to enforce the red route also be used for obtaining evidence to assist the police?

### **Reply from Jim McGowan, Head of Environmental Protection, LLB:**

Some of the identification issues may relate to image quality but we do not have any plans to update the hardware of our system. However, it is also apparent that most of the identification problems relate to masks etc., and the Police are employing various different software applications to get around this.

With regard to the TFL cameras in West Wickham, the police can obtain CCTV footage at any time from TFL. With regard to the Council use of these cameras, TFL are willing to enter into a sharing protocol but it was decided that it was not cost effective and we have not progressed this.

The Council is not currently considering any expansion of the LBB CCTV system unless it can be achieved within existing resources.

- c) Jennifer Gordon (Bromley & Lewisham Immigration Team) thanked the Police for forwarding looters names to them.
- d) A discussion ensued about warning signs/patterns/intelligence gathering and whether the problems should have been addressed before it got out of hand in London and what lessons have been learned. James Cleverly felt that we do not encounter this wide spread disorder often and is a rarity. With images of looting being broadcast widely by media coverage

looters (who in some cases were respectable people never been in trouble with the Police before) felt this gave them the green light to take what they want. There will be more officers trained to deal with Level 2 Riots in case this happens again and London is better prepared. The message is out there that if you participate your image will be widely circulated, you will be found and you will be arrested.

- e) Concerns were expressed that policing will be thin on the ground because of the Olympics. James Cleverly said that this is being addressed and the plan is it will be almost business as usual. He added that it will not be as disruptive as some reports indicate and officers can be brought in from the Home Counties.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Judith thanked everybody for their support to the BCEF. She also thanked Rachel Evans for regularly helping out at the BCEF meetings and assisting with the powerpoint presentations.
- This is also Charles Griggs last meeting with the BCEF as the Borough Police Commander before his move to Southwark.

Cllr Tim Stevens, on behalf of everyone, thanked Judith and Charles for all their hard work.