

**Better Together Community Meeting – Eltham and Shooters Hill**  
Middle Park Community Centre - 7-9pm, 3 April 2019

**Notes**

**Services in attendance**

- Community Safety Team
- Greenwich Inclusion Project (GrIP)
- Greenwich Local Labour & Business (GLLaB)
- Leisure Services
- Library Services
- Met Police
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Parks and open spaces
- Waste and street services

## Guest panel:

Metropolitan Police  
Community Safety & Environmental Health  
Anti Social Behaviour Specialist Investigations Officer  
Neighbourhood watch coordinator

**Attendees:** 15

Item	
1	<p>Following time for visiting service provider stalls, the chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the panel and ward councillors. Questions were then invited from the audience.</p>
2	<p>The first question was:</p> <p>“What is the Council doing around burglary and drug dealing; making the residents feel safe? There has been a number of burglaries taking place in a short space of time. Particularly around King Orchards Way and North Road.”</p> <p>The Met Police responded that they are tackling crime as far as they can and burglary is high on the agenda. Drugs and ASB are also a high priority but they have finite resources. The police are working with Neighbourhood Watch to empower the community to work together to help look after each other e.g with a burglary master class with crime prevention advice, how to help themselves in making their homes safe; by targeting outstanding enquiries and all warrant enquiries; by forensically marking property so that if recovered it can be traced. They’re also using social media such as the Nextdoor app to share information quickly.</p> <p>The Council responded that it is supporting the Met in particular with intelligence via staff. While Eltham has had a recent spike in burglary, figures seem to be stabilising.</p>
3	<p>The next question was:</p> <p>“What is happening for Thamesmead, lots going on in Plumstead. There’s lots of ASB and drug dealing in the area. Don’t look after tenants (Peabody also they are not doing anything)”.</p> <p>The Council responded that Teresa Pearce MP is doing walkabouts in the area and the Leader of the Council said he was happy to link the resident up into those networks.</p> <p>The Council also meets regularly with Peabody colleagues about ASB. Our safer neighbourhood team will work with residents.</p> <p>The Met police also confirmed an officer is going on a motorbike course to deal with all moped and drug dealing issues.</p>

4	<p>The next question was:  “Safer Neighbourhood Team Eltham West, we had good relationship but no sight of them recently.”</p> <p>The Met said they would look into this.</p>
5	<p>A resident then asked about knife crime prevention.</p> <p>The Met Police responded that knife crime is being dealt with as a top priority. They have been conducting stop and search in Woolwich and are involved in diversion and targeting habitual knife carriers.</p> <p>The Council added that more people over 18 are involved in knife crime than those under 18.</p>
6	<p>A resident asked what happens when someone reports a person carrying a knife.</p> <p>The Met Police responded if officers are close by, people can be stopped and searched. If not, a crime report will be done. In terms of what can be done to protect person who has been threatened, they would speak to CID to see what protection can be offered. There are special schemes in relation to calls to persons address. Recent activity includes:</p> <p>42 arrests  5 warrants  455 stop and searches  27 weapons and 10 firearms seized.</p> <p>The Met representative added that while stop and search is very controversial, its what needs to be done. Policing has changed from 1980’s a lot.</p> <p>The main issue is the grounds for search must be relevant. If there are no grounds, police can talk to person and build grounds or if not, then police will walk away.</p> <p>Body worn cameras have brought down complaints about stop and search.</p> <p>The grounds for stop and search were explained as acting in suspicious way. The representative explained the VOLT method and gave advice to people who are stopped and searched.</p>
7	<p>The next question asked how the Council is looking at the root cause of social economic inequality.</p> <p>The Council responded that the gap is big in Greenwich. Last night 20,000 children will have gone to sleep hungry. We are tackling deprivation in early years through our children centres. When you look at knife crime offenders, domestic violence is a big factor. We look at those factors and</p>

	<p>see who is likely to offend and what support we can offer. We are trying to bring forward 750 homes through the Council to try and tackle homelessness to reduce the inequality in the borough.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>A resident contributed that residents have become neighbourhood coordinators through being burgled. There is a WhatsApp group which is a good platform, information has to be timely and relevant. Best practice is about using tools to your advantage.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Watch representative responded that residents can attend Safer Neighbourhood Team ward panels to set priorities for your area. There is also a local independent divisors group which is for members of public to join, independent advisors to the police.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Another resident commented that the community needs to take a stand against crime. Must be ethically underpinned. It's not the Council's or police's fault.</p> <p>The Council responded that there is no one way to crack this issue. It is also about community spirit, and people wanting to be involved to tackle these issues.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p>The Chair thanked people for their questions and closed the meeting.</p>