

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
18 JUNE 2014**

TIME: 7.15 to 9.15

PRESENT: Councillor Edith Macauley (Chair), Councillor Marsie Skeete, Councillor Adam Bush, Councillor Abdul Latif

Mr Sheikh, Mr Rizvi, Mr Savage, Mr Vukalic, Mrs Anderson, Dr Arumugaraasah, Mr Islam, Mr Khan, Mr Ejaz, Ms Colquhoun, Mrs Salmon, Ms Salmon, Ms Quale, Mr Maliki, Ms Carter-Allen, Mr Hayward

ALSO PRESENT: Evereth Willis, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer, Mrs Fudahunsi,

Revd Andrew Wakefield, Chair Merton Credit Union,

Chief Inspector Mark Lawrence – Operations, Wimbledon Police,

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs Khan, Revd Mrs Hannah Neale, Mr Jerry Hall, Mrs Ahmed, Mr Rahman

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19 March 2014

The minutes were agreed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Macauley updated the meeting on the council's proposals to take forward the BAME Voice item that was discussed at the meeting on 19 March 2014. Due to the elections it was not possible to hold an urgent meeting of the JCC.

A meeting has been arranged for 8th July from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm to meet with members of the BAME Forum to get a view on the way forward. In answer to a

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question about how many people can attend the meeting Councillor Macauley clarified that Kate Herbert, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships is leading on this.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that interested parties should contact Evereth Willis if they would like to be invited to the meeting or have suggestions as to who should be invited.

It was agreed that the meeting should be held in the evening to give the opportunity for more people to attend.

5 Election of Vice-Chair

Three nominations were received, Mr Islam, Councillor Abdul Latif and Mr Maliki. Following a vote, Mr Maliki was elected as Vice-Chair of the JCC for 2014/15. The votes were as follows:

Mr Maliki – 6 votes, Mr Islam 4 votes and Councillor Latif, 2 votes.

6. Credit Union update

Andrew Wakefield the Vice-Chair of the Credit Unit (CU) board is leading the delivery of a CU in Merton. He provided background information about the development of the CU in Pollards Hill. Research students were asked to investigate what would make a CU effective on Pollards Hill. The research showed that engaging with stakeholder groups and delivering a hyper local CU is the model to follow.

A CU is being launched at the Pollards Hill New Horizon centre and will operate from 9.00 am to 4.00 on Fridays. Local people are being trained as loans advisers. The

Pollards Hill CU will be used as a pilot to then be rolled out across the borough. The next site is likely to be the Acacia Centre in Eastfields .

MOAT and Circle Merton Priory Homes wants to be involved – MOAT is acting as a community champion and the Citizens Advice Bureau is promoting the service. There is a local management group and the CU will reporting o the Safer and Stronger Strategy group.

The CU will be launched in July and further promoted at a family fun day on 6 August 2014.

A question was asked as to whether the training will include financial literacy. Rev. Wakefield replied that credit unions operate ethically and give loans to clients who may be excluded from doing so from high street banks. He stressed that credit

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unions also encourage saving and an alternative model (the Salford Model) is being developed that will include working with debt counselling, the Citizens Advice Bureau and Christians Against Poverty.

How will capital be generated? Rev Wakefield clarified that there is £2 million capitalisation from investors who receive dividends. Credit unions are subject to tight regulation and legally they are required to meet a capitalisation ratio.

Is the credit union listed on the Stock Exchange? – No it is not listed but dividends are given in a similar way to a limited company. Credit unions are Industrial Provident Societies.

Who can join?

Anyone can join after investing £5 to get a loan and they must save £25 per month. Credit checks are done and action taken for non payment.

How do you pay in?

There are various methods but cash is problematic due to security and accounting risks.

7. Police update

Chief Inspector Mark Lawrence presented a Police performance report. Over a twelve month period crime has reduced in Merton from 13,090 recorded offences to 11,438, a reduction of 12%. The MOPAC 7 crime types have seen an overall improvement in most crime types as follows:

MOPAC Crime	November 2013	June 2014
Burglary	-12.4%	-23.7%
Criminal Damage	-22.8%	-29.0%
Robbery	-23.6%	-48.9%
Theft from motor vehicle	-18.3%	-18.5%
Theft/Taking of motor vehicle	-24.6%	-20.2%
Theft from person	+22.2%	+19.9%
Violence with injury	-10.7%	-6.7%

There has been an increase in violence with injury which is primarily due to an increase in reported domestic violence. Theft from motor vehicle on the Borough

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continues to be disproportionately affected by Victoria Bunton and her associates. She is currently serving a custodial sentence for breaching an Anti-Social Behaviour Order and consequently this may result in a reduction of this crime type.

Domestic Violence with injury has increased by 24.6%- 76 more victims than last year and 120 more overall offences. However performance around arrest rates is good with Merton 5th best in London at 76.9% and sanction detections for DV with violence currently sits just below the target of 55% at 54.4%.

A new policing model was introduced in July 2013 for responding to emergencies. During the current 12 months this target was met 94.1% of the time, which is 1.5% better than in November 2014.

Confidence as measured by the Public Attitude Survey remains high in Merton and has improved by 1 % to 76% or people stating that the police do a good job in their area. This is 8 % above the average for the MPS.

In terms of User Satisfaction through the delivery of the Total Victim Care action plan and sustained supervision around complying with the Victim's Code of Practice, (VCOP) Merton has continued to see excellent performance in the overall satisfaction levels for victims of crime in Merton. During January Merton was best in the MPS but was again beaten into second place after last month's data was published. Merton remains joint second in the MPS at 83.3%, with only Sutton Borough ahead at 84%.

Overall ASB calls are down 7% and confidence figures continue to show that residents of Merton feel that the police tackle ASB more effectively than in other Boroughs. However, there has been an increase of 17.7% in repeat callers. The increase is predominantly down to callers experiencing issues of mental health and represents a challenge across the Safeguarding Adults piece.

Merton has had 30 crimes reported this year to date where a race or religious flag has been added. This equates to around three offences per week, which is consistent with previous performance. Year on year performance should improve following a spike last year after the Lee Rigby murder. Most of those are incidents of ignorant and insensitive name calling. There are no serious overt incidents of racially motivated offending.

The positive news is that 15 of the offences reported this year have resulted in a sanction detection. This represents a percentage of 50% which is the best of any borough in London.

The number of stop and searches for the period May 13 to April 14 was 3355. This compares to 5986 for May 12 to April 13. This is a reduction of 2631 searches. At the same time the percentage of people arrested as a result of stop and search has

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risen from 15.9% to 19.9%.

Disproportionality has also improved between the two periods with a reduction from 2.7 to 2.4 for the ratio of black to white stop searches and 1.3 down to 1.0 for Asian to white searches. This figure is arrived at using a rather complicated formula but basically the lower the number, the better.

The reduction in numbers of searches, the percentage resulting in arrest the disproportionality ratios are easily the best in the West area and some of the best for London.

The Local Policing Model is now at the review stage and the borough has new recruits. There are 13 more recruits than there should be. Chief inspector Lawrence also reported that he is working with P.Cs on engagement and confidence building. The Met wants to engage with one million Londoners and locally wants to engage with the local community.

Questions:

Has the World Cup resulted in an increase in drunken behaviour? CI Lawrence reported that there has not been an increase in anti social behaviour and extra p

What is being done about burglary? Intense undercover work is being done to catch the thief who is targeting high value properties.

Why is there an increase in numbers and what support do Domestic Violence victims get? The police pursue victim less prosecutions and work with a range of agencies to support victims through it. It is not clear why there is a rise in this crime type, however theories include: alcohol or financially related, more willingness to report the crime. However arrests are being done quickly and every effort is being made to reduce repeat victims. The police is working in partnership with other agencies to provide support.

How does the police deal with mental illness? The Police are working with safeguarding adult social care staff and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Staff are being trained to give them a better understanding to recognise mental health when dealing with the community and colleagues.

Is data available from other boroughs? CI Lawrence asked the JCC to give clarity about the data that it wants to have presented at future meetings. He responded that the public attitude data does not break down by communities, ward data is available.

Is the community being used to train P.C.s? Merton is designing probation training and offers of engaging with local communities are welcome.

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What is being done about Asians being targeted for robbery? A special project was implemented across the Met and incidents in the borough have decreased.

Where is the DV after care plan? Total Victim Care has improved and victims are treated sensitively. The Community Safety and Violence Advisor support people.

A request was made to include Hate crime figures. CI Lawrence asked the JCC to confirm the data that it wished to have presented to future meetings.

RESOLVED: Evereth to write to the JCC and ask for requests which will then be forwarded to CI Lawrence.

Is the decrease in crime due to police efficiency and are the crime statistics affected by people from abroad? Efficiency has played a part also companies have improved the security of items such as mobiles and car by the use of tracking devices. Also the Safer Schools Officers have had a big impact on keeping youth crime. The borough has a changing population but no one community contributes more than another. There has been an increase in the borough's BAME population but crime is decreasing.

It was suggested that the police should work more closely with the mosques to give crime prevention advice. CI Lawrence confirmed that the police already engages with the borough's mosques on any incident likely to impact the Islamic community. The police are also trying to recruit young Asian men.

8. Equality Strategy 2013-17

Evereth Willis gave an update on the implementation of the Equality Strategy 2013-17. The report was well received.

Item 3.4.1 relating BAME engagement was positively received. However it was noted that financial support was required for the BAME Forum and it was suggested that consideration be given tot making the BAME Forum and independent body.

Clarity was sought on action 1.2.14 relating to Public Health's work on targeting obesity in children.

RESOLVED: Evereth to get an update from Public Health

Concern was expressed about the lack of BAME staff in senior positions in the borough. The JCC asked the HR attend the next meeting to give an update on the staff profile outlining the number of BAME staff and their grades and give details of proposals to increase the proportion of BAME staff in senior officer grades.

RESOLVED: Evereth to invite representatives from HR to the next meeting

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9. Safer Neighbourhood Boards

Abayah Savage presented an update on the first meeting of the SNB. The board met for the first time in April. It is still not clear what the function of a SNB will be and training is still to be done. Each meeting two member areas will be invited to give a presentation outlining the concerns of the respective community.

The July meeting will have a report on business crime. The JCC was urged to tell Mr Savage what it wants him to report to the SNB and he in turn will provide feed back. The public meetings with the police, 'Face the People' are still happening with the Chief Executive of Merton Council and the Police Borough Commander.

10. AOB

None.