

## Walsall Strategic Community Reference Group

### Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2014 at Walsall Police Station

#### In attendance:

Nirmal Singh (NS)	Sikh Community
Bill Ellens (BE)	CUSP
Cllr. Rose Burley (RB)	Councillor Bentley/Darlaston North
R.K Mehmi (RKM)	SGRT Darlaston
Manu Vyas (MV)	Hindu Forum
Hannah Cooper (HC)	University of Wolverhampton
Vivienne Aston (VA)	Brownhills Traders Association
Desmond Jones (DJ)	Brownhills Traders Association
Ryan Steane (RS)	Walsall College
Matthew Rafferty (MR)	Youth PCC
Mahmood Sacha (MS)	Muslim Welfare Society/UMO
Imran Sacha (IS)	Darlaston Youth Club
Marcin Klein (MK)	EWA CIC
Kevin Pitt (KP)	Walsall Police

#### Apologies:

Pauline Beckett  
Michelle Small  
Alison Davies  
Thomas Hardgrove  
Michael Gladstone  
Peter Griffin  
Elizabeth Kardynal  
Sandeep Singh  
Vasant Mistry  
Namir Choudhury  
Darren Letman  
Sue Parker

#### Minutes of Last Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting were read and accepted. RKM pointed out a correction in that he represents the SGRT Darlaston.

#### Matters Arising.

NS enquired about progress regarding identity cards for SCRG members. KP reported that he had been in touch with the manager of the Resource Management Unit Systems who reported that cards cost £38 each. There is no WMP policy for issuing ID cards to reference group members and any request for such cards would most likely be declined. The group felt that cards or some other proof of SCRG membership was necessary in order for group members to support the police and properly identify themselves as SCRG members to officers.

**ACTION – NS to approach Chief Supt. Sturman.**

## **Stop and Search Update and Scrutiny.**

The group viewed the following electronic stop and search records:

SSWS-FQIZ-6225  
SSWS-S130-6024  
SSWS-HMIH-5854  
SSWS-ED60-5816  
SSWS-P6RH-5714  
SSWS-JZUC-5674

No comments were made.

There were 381 Stop Searches completed since the 1<sup>st</sup> August to the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The group was shown information relating to ethnic breakdown and outcomes. Of these 235 were of white origin, 94 Asian and 21 had various black origins. 71 stop searches resulted in an arrest or some other resolution.

## **Performance Update Including Hate Crime and Response Times.**

Information was given on knife crime. 23 incidents involving bladed instruments were recorded in August, and 34 in September.

Hate crime – in August 2014 32 hate incidents or crimes were recorded with 23 being resolved, and in September 23 recorded with 21 resolved.

Information was given on response times. Walsall LPU has been the top performing LPU in the force for the last seven months with regard to early response logs. In August 2014 Walsall LPU responded to 1079 immediate response logs and 1383 early response logs, both figures up on last year.

KP then updated the group about changes to the police estate which has been approved by the PCC. In summary:

The headline decisions made by the PCC during are as follows

- Closure of Brownhills Police Station
- Closure of Willenhall Police Station.
- Closure of the following police bases , Delves, Ryecroft Place , University of Wolverhampton, Hope Street, Blakenall and Bentley Lane.

The following police stations will remain open;

- Bloxwich
- Aldridge
- Brownhills Crime Prevention House
- Darlaston
- Plus shared police accommodation in partner owned buildings in Caldmore Green and Willenhall.

Additionally there was confirmation of the previous decisions for closure of Walsall Green Lane and new shared accommodation within Civic Centre, Walsall.

The accepted proposals

- ensure that we retain a footprint across the whole borough maintaining the existing police presence across the three sectors .
- The changes in estate will ensure that Neighbourhood teams are still working within our local communities but may be utilising different premises than we currently do.
- There is absolute reassurance that we have considered the public and our internal staff needs in the proposals that have been approved and the decision now allows us to move forward with progressing the changes and sharing the details.

### **Any Other Business**

RKM told the group about a magazine scam he had come across. Advised by KP to contact trading standards.

MK asked about youth gangs in Walsall and how it is being approached by the police.

**ACTION** – update at next meeting and KP will send information to MK.

MV advised the group that Diwali was taking place on 23 October which will involve the letting off of fireworks.

MS advised the group that Eid would be taking place this weekend and may result in additional traffic around mosques and cemeteries.

MS also raised concerns about a new housing estate being built in Bright Street and how this may affect the local community.

**ACTION** – KP to ask Sgt Leigh Hale to contact MS.

Update: email sent to Sgt Hale 9/10/14.

MR told the group about the YES Forum which aims to improve young peoples' lives and about an event being held at Safeside in Birmingham on 31 October.

HC advised that students would shortly be moving onto the Walsall University Campus and asked for police to be aware.

RS asked to be contacted by Brownhills police as anti-social behaviour was affecting elderly and vulnerable people attending coffee mornings.

**ACTION** – KP to ask Sgt Nicholls to contact RS.

Update: email sent to Sgt Nicholls on 9/10/14.

NS advised the group that pyramid schemes were re-surfacing and asked them to advise people not to become involved.

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting.**

4 December 2014, 6pm at Walsall Police Station.