

Minutes from Langney Point Neighbourhood Panel  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Present:** Sgt Ed Ripley (Chair), PC Ed Faulkner, PCSO Tony Holland, Cllr Susan Tarrant, and 26 members of the panel.

**Apologies:** Lori Cronin, Cllr David Elkin, Jan Newens.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes from the last meeting for the panel were distributed to those present. They were agreed as a true record of that meeting. Sgt Ripley then spoke about the various items that had been raised in those minutes to give an update.

He mentioned the issue of dog waste and cleansing. There have been additional signs put up in Leeds Avenue, and continuing patrol for enforcement purposes. Members of the panel mentioned that they had noticed that there is a reduction in quantity of fouling in the area, although there are still some problem areas. Cllr Tarrant mentioned that £1000 from the ward devolved budget has been allocated to the installation of new bins, however often the problem is the ongoing cost of maintenance. Specific areas members mentioned had ongoing problems were Seaville/Rotunda and also Leeds Avenue. The health issues of positioning bins near to dwellings did have an impact.

Parking in Winston Crescent was also mentioned. The meeting was updated that the majority of shop owners have been spoken to, and the Council is to reassess the condition of the pavements. This is in progress and updates will be given in the future.

The problem with overhanging branches was also touched upon. Efforts have been made to identify owners of land with overhanging branches so that contact can be made. Cllr Tarrant will support residents by identifying problem areas.

An update was given regarding the Lodge Public House. No planning application had been made for the sight, and local Officers have not been made aware of any drug dealing issues taking place at the location. It was agreed that this would come off the list of running issues for the future.

The meeting remarked on how good it was to see the "Keep Clear" painted on the road at the entrance of Queens Crescent.

**Panel Priorities:** Drug Dealing/Cycling on pavements & parking/Dog related issues

Sgt Ripley had already given an update on the dog issue so no further update was needed

A lengthy discussion took place in relation to cycling on pavements, and also road safety in the general area. In response to a question from the panel, PCSO Holland mentioned that a common sense attitude is taken to cycling on the pavement, with under 16s being allowed to stay on the pavement providing they are sensible, and over 16s asked to go onto the road. This appears to be working well although there are still some people acting irresponsibly. Cllr Tarrant mentioned that consideration is being given to improving the cycle lane coverage and road layout for the St. Anthony's Avenue/Seaside area with money put aside following the harbour development. She also made reference to the importance of the highway code, especially when approaching roundabouts. Sgt Ripley rounded the discussion off by saying that Police are targeting those anti-social cyclists rather than sensible people. The conversation then moved onto road safety, and speed limits around Lottbridge Drove. More signage was asked for past the Staples roundabout to make it clearer what speed the road is. The possibility of it being painted on the road was also mentioned. PC Faulkner promised to mention this to the County Councillor for the area and report back to the group.

The final priority, drug dealing, provoked a lot of questions and discussion from the panel. Sgt Ripley updated the meeting that a lot of high visibility patrol had been put in by all officers to try and deter, additionally a number of vehicles seen in the area of Fraser Avenue had been stopped as part of an operation recently, 7 of which were found with cannabis in the vehicles. A Misuse of Drugs Act Warrant had been carried out at the Fraser Avenue address however nothing was found. Members of the panel told Police that they had not seen officers around the local area, and that patrols and other activities were being targeted at the wrong time. One resident mentioned that the occupants of the household do not return until after 1300hrs, and keep drugs in the vehicles outside of the property. A general discussion took place with various options being raised and considered. These included camera's, plain clothes patrols, further warrants being sought, along with other options. Each was given consideration however due to restrictions on Police powers cameras and surveillance were not able to be actioned. An application under the

“Regulation of Investigative Powers Act” could be made however, it is not as straight forward as installing camera’s in the area. Cllr Tarrant asked what else the residents could do to support Police actions in this area. Sgt Ripley said that intelligence is crucial and it is important for residents to keep supplying Police with information so that it can be acted upon, he mentioned the successes with the vehicles which would not have happened without residents support. PC Faulkner provided his direct contact details to residents so they could report matters to him direct. Some panel members made mention of wanting to protest or demonstrate outside the property, however the Police officers advised against this. Some panel members were dissatisfied at the perceived lack of activity from Police to resolve this matter, stating that the occupants of the premises had won. The Police Officers again stated the lengths that they had gone to resolve this matter, however conceded that after the meeting it would be necessary to go away and rethink the strategy to solving this. Cllr Tarrant offered to meet with Sgt Ripley in the near future to see what support she and the Council to give to this issue. An update would be given at the next meeting.

**Any other business:** One members raised the issue of driving schools and the number of learner vehicles who use the Langney Point area. PC Faulkner mentioned that he had already spoken with the test centre however the large number of driving schools makes it difficult to get a message to all of them. PC Faulkner promised to try again.

The issue of double yellow lines in Prince William Parade were mentioned with a request for the lines to be extended along the whole length of the road. A general discussion took place with regard to the merits of this and whether it would make the road safer. Again PC Faulkner promised to raise this with Cllr Elkin.

A member wished to praise the PCSO’s for the area saying that he is impressed with them being on patrol on cycles. He did also mention whether it would make more sense for them to patrol on their own rather than in twos. This was taken on board, however sometimes officers have to go to incidents in pairs for safety reasons.

Finally a resident asked PCSO Holland to revisit the issue of parking on corners around the Mountbatton area. PCSO Holland said he would look at this.

**The next meeting was planned for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 1900hrs at the Tollgate School. The meeting would like to that Tollgate School for their kindness at holding the meetings.**