

## **Shirley South Ward Panel Meeting Minutes - 20th February 2023**

### **(1) Introductions**

Chris Kirwan (**CK**) welcomed a new panel member to the Shirley South Ward Panel, and thanked Councillor Jason Cummings and Councillor Scott Roche for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend the panel meeting to take part in a question and answer session.

### **(2) Minutes/Actions from last meeting**

Minutes from the last meeting (07/11/22) were approved

#### **Actions:**

- (a) Ward Panel Terms of Reference and Privacy Policy agreed and returned by all panel members.
- (b) **CK:** Contacted Croydon Trading Standard and obtained a supply of 'No Cold Calling' stickers

### **(3) Councillor Jason Cummings & Councillor Scott Roche - Questions and Answers**

**Q1. What is the Council's strategic plan to address residents' safety concerns and to make Croydon town centre a safer and more pleasant place to work, visit and shop and when will it be implemented.**

In the immediate term, a Public Space Protection order (PSPO) has been introduced in Croydon town centre, which gives police wider discretionary powers to deal with problems affecting the local quality of life by causing harassment, alarm and distress. Issues such as street drinking and anti-social behaviour will be addressed and a multi-agency approach taken regarding rough sleeping.

In addition, the Broken Window Syndrome, is being addressed with a major blitz approach on fly tipping hotspots and generally being proactive in tackling issues affecting the local quality of life, focussing initially on Croydon North and Thornton Heath. Coordinating the various area Friends Groups and Street Champions in building a sense of pride in the area.

The long term strategic approach, will be a gradual process, with the reduction of town centre businesses and shops and the gradual development of more residential properties in the town centre with more people out and about, the whole nature of the area will improve over time.

**Q2. Would the councillors support additional CCTV coverage to monitor problem areas on the Shrublands estate.**

Although there is a need to manage expectations due to current financial position, there is currently a planned upgrade to the council CCTV system, which when completed the camera network will be via a new wi-fi system rather than hard wired connections, which will reduce the cost of adding additional cameras. Both councillors support the application request and will be submitted for consideration in the planned upgrade.

**Q3. What is the criteria and procedure for requesting the consideration of a fixed speed camera to be installed in Bridle Road, or other appropriate calming measures to be evaluated.**

The criteria for considering the installation of a speed camera is based on the number of serious and fatal crashes in the location within a three year period. Cllr Scott Roche confirmed there was a small pot of funding for calming measures which he will investigate and advise. If funding unavailable, will request for calming measures to be included in next year's round of funding.

With the current speed advisory indicator in Bridle Road, there is a problem with the SIM card transmitting the vehicle speed, date and time data and will advise when the issue has been resolved.

**Q4. What measures are the council taking to address the underlying causes of violence, especially on the Shrublands estate.**

The Croydon 'Community Safety Strategy' 2022 - 2024 provides full details. It has however been recognised that where preventative local engagement activity has been cut back, we are now reaping the impact of this in certain areas and that preventative engagement needs resetting. Councillor suggested that the Croydon Cabinet Member responsible for Community Safety, Ola Koladebe be invited to attend a future Ward Panel meeting to fully address this question.

**Q5. What is the next step the Executive Mayor Jason Perry can take to try and overturn the planned extension of the ULEZ being extended to include Croydon.**

Although Croydon will not be party to the proposed ULEZ Judicial Review being sought by a number of Outer London Boroughs, the Mayor Jason Perry has confirmed that Croydon will not help facilitate the provision of ULEZ cameras or signage.

**(4) Police Update in Priorities set at the last meeting**

- (a) **Vehicle crime reduction in Devonshire Way:** Extensive patrols and spot checks are continually taking place along Devonshire Way and adjoining roads at various times of the day and evening in marked and unmarked vehicles. The resulting results have shown a fifty percent reduction in reported vehicle crime for November '21 - January '23.
- (b) **Address Cold Calling incidents in Shirley South:** various SNT drop-in sessions have taken place to provide advice and reassurance.

This priority has been fully supported by Ward Panel member Debbie Moore (**DM**) owner of Peter Neale hairdresser (next to the PTA garage) who has spoken to the residents affected and provided them with 'No Cold Calling' stickers and information and advice sheets. Debbie has offered for the hairdressers to be a collection point for the stickers and future Ward Panel information leaflets for residents. Further information will be provided through SNT drop-in sessions, dates to be advertise in SPAN, Peter Neale hairdresser and on Cllr Scott Roche's Blog.

**(5) PCSO david Thompson Presentation**

David provided an overview of the last 12 month crime figures for Shirley South highlighting the reduction of burglary and vehicle crime over the last three months and clarified that the Violence against the person incidents were primarily domestics disputes and not street incidents. Although there has been a reduction in burglary, it is recognised that this can have a dramatic effect on the victims and further assistance, advice and support will be considered by the panel.

**(6) Panel Members: Concerns/Issues and feedback from residents**

**DM**, raised a concern on behalf of Shirley South businesses about the number of incidents of shop being broken into and doors smashed over the last few months. The SNT have undertaken to increase patrols and undertake reassurance visits to the businesses.

The question of police visits following a burglary was raised and whether there is now a directive that all burglaries will result in a visit by a police officer. It was clarified that there was no MET directive to that effect but depending on the situation, resources and when the incident was discovered a police officer would attend to reassure and provide security advice.

The issue of communicating with residents on different media platforms was raised, where it would be reassuring to provide positive updates on police successes and outcomes and not just when a crime incident occurs so that the police provide positive news and are given credit for successful investigations.

Catalytic Converter thefts continued to be a concern and what if any advice could the police provide. The SNT confirmed there will be a Catalytic Converter marking session in the summer for Shirley residents which will be advertised when details have been confirmed.

### **Discuss and Agree New Priorities**

**Priority 1:** To tackle the gang problems on the Shrublands estate, regular weapon sweeps and patrols of the estate and surrounding area..

**Priority 2:** To implement additional wider strategies to further reduce the number of vehicle crime incidents occurring in Shirley South and to provide information and advice on vehicle security.

**Priority 3:**

To provide Shirley South residential and business victims of burglary, reassurance visits and crime prevention advice and support.

**(7) AOB**

No other issues were raised.