

THNWA –Meeting

Venue: The Glasshouse, 161 Old Ford Road, London E2 9QB

Date: 31, August 2021	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Thank you to all who attended and showed interest.</p>
<p>2. Attendance and Apologies Martin Shortis Trustee Johanna Kaschke Trustee Benedicta Dikeocha, Hatecrime LBTH Anne Ambrose, Safer Neighbourhood Board John Fortune, LBTH Insp. Clare Thomas, + 2 officers MPS Avion Headley, LCI-Junior Lawyers Residents</p>	<p>Apologies: Rich Poolman, MPS Crissy Townsend, Teviot Estate Mayor John Biggs Cllr. G. Salva Macallan Chief Insp Scammell Alan Trench Trustee Madison Taylor Trustee</p>
<p>3. Up-date on issues from previous minutes This is the first public meeting as registered charity.</p>	<p>We do not minute monthly drop in meetings</p>
<p>4. Tower Hamlets Neighbourhood Watch Association, THNWA, what is it? Registered CIO Charity, no 1194477 Articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The promotion of good citizenship and the efficiency of the police across the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Enabling public participation in the prevention and detection of crime Promoting public support for the work of the police service and other partners in the protection of people and property from, and the prevention of crime. <p>Affiliated to the National Neighbourhood Watch Network.</p> <p>Declaration of political neutrality We are politically neutral and support all regardless of political beliefs as long as they submit their behaviour to all laws and bylaws. As an organisation we do not support specific protest movements, which are not mainly concerned with lawful conduct.</p> <p>Statement of Conflicts of Interest policy</p>	<p>Seek to fill all 12 Trustee positions Process membership applications for voting rights in the Association Include members from all platforms Membership is open to all including Councillors, public honoraria, community leaders, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators</p> <p>Invite all users of various types of social media platforms and apps to become integrated members of the THNWA.</p> <p>None declared</p>
<p>5. Partners & Committees National and local government agencies are main partners, crime prevention charities and organisations, aiming to increase communal well-being. We aim to partner with social and other housing providers and business also on a regular subscription basis. There is a Membership Proposal published.</p>	<p>Form committees on issues needing resolve. People ideally commit to at least 3 years on committees. All committees need to be headed by a Trustee.</p>

**Speaker Benedicta Dikeocha, Hate Crime Projects Officer,
LBTH**

[Hate crime](#) is any criminal offence where anyone believes the victim has been targeted because of their:

- disability
- race or ethnic identity
- religion/belief
- gender or gender identity
- sexual orientation
- age
- immigration status or nationality
- or any other actual or perceived difference.

Encourages all to sign the [individual Hate Crime Pledge](#).

Tower Hamlets [No Place for Hate Forum](#)
Hate Incidents Panel

Tower Hamlets Police Community Safety Unit deals with hate crimes, this includes, racism, domestic violence, homophobia and hate mail.

Speaker Avion Headley, City Island Junior Lawyers

Funded by the Law Society, setting up a new law centre, dealing with legal aid and paid cases. Supporting disadvantaged by enabling job succession into legal profession and supporting that all new immigrants get involved with Neighbourhood Watch as a safe way to meet people.

Starting the London City Island Remote Law Centre to deal with:

Domestic and sexual violence
Housing and Homelessness
Family Law
Crime
Employment
Immigration

[CIJ website](#)

Hand out leaflets about Hatecrime and window stickers at public meetings.

Attend a Football match on 9. Oct. 2021 to promote unity and cohesion

THNWA can refer anybody who sees themselves as victim of a Hate Crime to the Hate Incidents panel with their consent.

Enabling a good flow of Neighbourhood Watch membership applications

Determining whether this service covers all of Tower Hamlets.

6. The Power of Hello campaign

Helps make the neighbourhood a better place.
On saying hello you can evaluate an individual or groups and see how they react.
Observe,

Say hello to your neighbours

Participate in the [World Hello Day on 21. November](#)

Initiate a hello,
Navigate the risk,
Obtain help if necessary.

A person wanting to burgle for example, will realise they are noticed and have lost their anonymity and run off.

The strategy was first adopted by the Cyber Security Agency. It is also very helpful in day-to-day situations around our neighbourhoods.

Simple [Hellos](#) are unobtrusive and help reduce barriers.

7. Crime Reporting and how efficient it is

Speaker John Fortune, Neighbourhood Manager LBTH

All ongoing emergencies require dialling 999
Non emergencies 101

There are a variety of online crime and ASB reporting facilities.

ASB can be reported directly to the [MET Police](#) on their website.

When reporting directly on the [Council's website](#), users may get re-directed to other service providers like housing to report issues.

The [Neighbourhood Manager](#) works with Council employed patrolling officers like THEOS and ASB officers, who patrol the borough.

There is the Neighbourhood Management Board, which meets every three months. Also the Safer Neighbourhood Board, which meets every 2 months evaluates the needs of the borough.

John works with Neighbourhood Watch groups and Residents groups to alleviate incidences of ASB in their areas.

ASB reports are broken down as follows

1/3 drug related

1/5 noise

Also urinating, defecation, vagrancy, ASB cars,

LBTH, CCTV is the best in London with 350 cameras, which are currently up-graded and digitised.

Also has priorities for

Hostels, schools, highways, markets, parks, open spaces,

Neighbourhood Team.

When reporting state Day, date, time, place and distinguishing features.

Use our [reporting sheet](#) to make notes on recurring events and submit the ledger regularly to local SNT.

Report hotspots, which can change daily.

Encourage all residents to be more vigilant and look out for hidden weapons and or drugs hidden in public spaces and report it to police.

Increase watch group numbers.

Membership helps people maintain:

[A sense of responsibility](#)

[Increased confidence](#)

[Decreases the feeling of being a constant victim](#)

[Helps prevent falling victim to crime](#)

Carry out more [cybercrime](#) awareness as loneliness may make people vulnerable to phishing and cyber attacks

Encourage better community building to strengthen communal mental health.

<p>Consider your mental health</p>	<p>Always report as lethargy increases a risk to mental health.</p>
<p>8. SNT Panels in 20 wards and crime rates</p> <p>Currently ASB rates in Tower Hamlets are the highest in England. Police have been given extra funding to deal with the extra domestic violence cases from the Covid lockdown period.</p> <p>Tower Hamlets is described as being among the top 10 most dangerous boroughs in London. Most common crimes are violence and sexual offences. Least common crimes are possession of weapons.</p> <p>Tower Hamlets had the worst crime rate for bicycle theft in 2020.</p> <p>Speaker Insp. Clare Thomas MPS</p> <p>There are ward panels in all 20 wards. Though some wards have a lower crime rates than others all wards require regular maintained police presence.</p> <p>Ward Panels now have 3 priorities of which 1 is solely determined by police and include one crime type, whilst the other two are areas within a ward, which requires extra attention like patrols.</p> <p>Large presence of poverty in the population</p> <p>Reiterates the importance of crime reporting, police cannot act without reporting</p> <p>Broken window effect, means the more disorder is visible the more it attracts.</p> <p>Police have seen a fall in numbers of officers and have to make the best of the officers they have.</p> <p>Using messaging facilities like OWL to get police communications. Mentions NextDoor as widely used.</p> <p>On social media people tend to tell each other problems but actually need to report to police directly to get the attention of law enforcement needed.</p>	<p>Encourage all Neighbourhood Watch members to apply to sit on a ward panel in their area.</p> <p>Improve reporting facilities with a Quick reporting anonymous reporting page, enabling residents to upload evidence like pics or film for those not wanting to provide their details.</p> <p>Being in contact with all helplines and reporting facilities like Prevent, Met Police, Action Fraud, Crime stoppers, Council ASB, using online, phone and messaging methods.</p> <p>THNWA keeps on reporting to Home Office about crime rates and predicted increases to lobby for more officers in the borough.</p> <p>Continue to communicate on the open platform Twitter for wide appeal and reach, also promote the MPS reporting facility on twitter @MetCC for an alternative reporting method.</p> <p>A copy of the new Met Police Ward Panel Handbook is available for download on our website.</p> <p>Invite representatives of a variety of Apps and services providers to become members in the THNWA to get a wide-spread representation.</p>
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>Strongly recommend the use of Neighbourhood Watch Window stickers as they repel at least 13 % of burglars who would turn away.</p>	<p>Invite members to become Membership admins for their local area.</p>

<p>The importance of personally knowing your neighbours instead of just communicating remotely.</p> <p>There is an ever increasing number of Apps and web-based and communications facilities. Any person can only manage so much time on any one app and would lose out on information provided by other apps. Privacy and Data Protection often seems a problem on social media.</p> <p>Ourwatch is being up-graded to version V4 on 6. September</p> <p>Question: How can THNWA be integrated with SNB Answer: THNWA has been invited to SNB meetings in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Benedicta Dikeocha again wants to invite people to volunteer for the No Place for Hate Football match on 9. October.</p>	<p>Create street-based watch groups, instead of just online or messaging groups.</p> <p>Create messaging among neighbours to reach those not yet connected to email.</p> <p>Increase ability of working people to participate in Neighbourhood Watch, especially those who cannot easily meet because of working hours.</p> <p>Email: benedicta.dikeocha@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p>
<p>10. Desired meeting frequency and date of next meeting</p> <p>There are drop in meetings each third Saturday every month. Next one is 18. September 2021 from 5-6pm</p> <p>The Association has to hold an AGM within 18 months of charity registration, which was on 17. May 21</p>	<p>Encourage Association membership as only registered members have a vote.</p>