

## Report for the JCC on the Safer Neighbourhood Board 31/08/2016

### **Face the People**

This is a public meeting where the Chief Executive (Senior Councillors) and Borough Commander has the opportunity to respond to any concerns or suggestions the public may have on crime and community safety in Merton. Each Borough must at least hold one such meeting, regrettably Merton never had one.

Detective Chief Superintendent Stuart Macleod, Borough Commander is to retire this year. His retirement is a cruel reminder that all good things in life must come to end. Stuart is a friendly and approachable Commander with a great understanding of Merton's dynamics. He will be greatly missed.

The irony is that Stuart will not be available to respond to our concerns on crimes and policing at such meeting expected in the very near future. Personally, I have always been a critic of MOPAC7 at the expense of other crimes.

Recently, we have witnessed a surge in hate crimes particularly after the EU Referendum 23/06/2016. So many hate incidents against ethnic minorities were brought to my attention which were ultimately passed on to the Police.

The latest figures on hate crimes have not been encouraging. For the past year disability hate crime went up by 120%, faith crime 20.6%, rape by 87.3%, racist and religious by 34.0% etc. There has also been a surge in gang/knife crime among young people, we have recently witnessed three such serious crimes in Merton.

Domestic abuse is still under reported according to the British Crime Survey. I urge you to continue reporting as any increase in reporting is positive as our people are getting confident in dealing with the issue.

We are also faced with terrorism, extremism and radicalism and the Borough Commander at the last did remind us of complacency and requested that I quote "everyone be the eyes and ears" and ensure this message is passed onto the community members we represent.

### **SNB Funding 2016/17**

We had 5 bids totalling £46,454 against available amount of £22,000 allocated for projects meeting the funding criteria. None of the bids submitted were successful. I understand MOPAC have recently sent a detailed feedback. I am disappointed and would comment upon sight of each of the bids at and after the next SNB meeting.

ABAYEH SAVAGE (JCC Representative to SNB)

31/08/2016.

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