

Informal Minutes of the Lee Green Ward Police Panel Meeting held
on 3rd March 2022 at Manor House Library, Lee Green

These minutes are an informal record of what occurred. Apologies for anything missed. The meeting started at 7pm.

Introductions: We were welcomed by PC Carney and there were then introductions to PCSO Matei and PC Thompson, our Lee Green Community Police Team. PC Carney explained the main functions of a ward panel and explained the role the police have in the panel meetings and that issues or concerns that grow in the community can be discussed in any future meetings.

Due to this being the first organised ward panel meeting, it was explained that the panel should elect a Chair for any future panel meetings and anyone who wishes to put themselves forward for this role may email the Lee Green SNT mailbox. If multiple people put themselves forward then the panel will vote and elect a chair. The chair must not be a councillor.

It was suggested by a member of the panel that there could be a rotating chair, whereby it changes every few meetings. This can be discussed by the panel and can be considered if this is how the panel choose to move forward.

One issue which was brought up by various members of the community was the fact that the Ward Panel has not been advertised as much. This is the first Ward Panel meeting that has taken place outside of the Police station and this has proven to be a success and gained a lot of interest. PCSO Matei has managed to get the word out about the ward panel and for any future meetings will advertise it on social media and send invites out on mailing lists. The meetings will continue to be held in local locations within Lee Green for ease of access for all who wish to attend.

One of the residents expressed concern in certain parts of the ward where they do not feel safe walking at night as there is very little lighting. The website street safe (<https://www.police.uk/streetsafe>) was pointed out where these specific locations can be recorded by the public and Police has access to monitor these specific areas and allow more time for police presence here or for the issues to be highlighted to the local council.

The issue of knowing what to report to the Safer Neighbourhood team and the uncertainty of when and how to report certain crimes to the police arose from a resident. PC Carney has created a few short lines on guidance of reporting. Overall it was discussed that in emergency situations, 999 is always to be called. However, for more long-term non emergencies, this can be emailed or communicated through Safer Neighbourhood Teams who can work in the community to look into these issues. The police stated that some people choose not to report crimes as they believe they are too small or will not get looked at. However, in order to notice patterns and hotspot areas that need more patrols, crimes need to be reported to be flagged to the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The main concerns from residents were:-

1. Catalytic converter thefts

After being brought up in the panel meeting, residents were advised about cat-lock which can be fitted over a cat converter and makes it very difficult for people to cut it off, significantly minimizing the risk of becoming a victim to this crime. Safer neighbourhood teams also host catalytic converter marking events whereby the converters get a unique liquid marked on them so that if police recover them after the theft, the owner can be located. Residents were concerned about how violent these type of criminals are and have been advised not to approach these types of people as they tend to be organised

crime gangs and the best thing to do is call 999 and get an image or footage of the crime taking place from a safe place.

2- Tyre Slashing

With a history of tyre slashing being a problem throughout certain roads in Lee Green, the question was raised as to whether it is still an issue. PCSO Matei confirmed that although tyre slashing does still happen, it is not on a same level as it previously was and the figures have gone down significantly.

3- Violence against women

Residents questioned whether there were any reports on females being followed home. PCSO Matei confirmed that he had received no reports of the kind. Priti Patel has recently made an announcement that policing work must focus more around violence against women and so this will have an effect on the schemes and operations that the police run. One resident mentioned Manor Park and the safety of walking through it after light. Although the police do not recommend walking through the park in the dark, from previous patrols and crime reports that have been flagged to them, there are no major issues with crime in the park. The only previous dealings with people in the park area were youths smoking and loitering in there after dark.

4- Gangs

Questions were raised about whether Lee green has any active gangs. Now although Lewisham in general is known to have gangs, the neighbours of Lee Green are not known to have any active gangs in the area. Where gangs are living, you tend to see more stabbings, violence and drug crimes which is not the

case in Lee Green. Abbey Manor school was mentioned as having one or two known gang members but these individuals do not live in the local area. It was also brought up that this school is working very well with the students of the school with the teachers going to the bus stops with them everyday at the end of school.

In the future meetings, the police will provide statistics on certain crimes in the local area. Members of the panel can request which types of crimes or statistics they would like presented at the next meeting. It was suggested by a resident that instead of simply the top three crimes in the area, it should be more varied and 7-8 crimes should be given statistics on. This can be completed by the police and questions can be asked surrounding those at the next meeting.

It is the job of the ward panel to come up with aims for the police at each meeting as to what they think the police should be focusing on. They should discuss what their main concerns are moving forward and with each panel meeting, the results of this police focus for the previous 3 months on their chosen areas can be presented and discussed.

The next ward panel meeting is likely to be in June and the exact date will be set up closer to the time.

Thank you to everyone who attended the ward panel meeting and we welcome communication and working with you in the future towards making Lee Green a safer place.