

# NOTES FROM SEARLES ROAD COMMUNITY SAFETY CORE MEETING

Held at No 10 The Paragon, Searles Road on Thursday 15th March 2007

**Present:** Sue Arnold, Peta Caine, Judy Cook, Sally Paul, Raphael Preston, Ian Sime, Enrico Sorensini, Russell Vallance

**Distribution:** ALL Searles Road residents

16Mar07

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- Purpose of the Meeting: Generally to sum up current progress and specifically Ian Sime had been invited to a Police briefing on an anti-burglary operation to take place on Friday - Sunday (16-18 March) and he wished to represent the views of the residents
  - Searles Road Crime Report An attempted break-in via back windows in Wooster Place on Wednesday 7 March. [One resident who has kept a recent record was reported as seeing a trend of Wednesday evenings and Sundays.] A 4am disturbance with Police in attendance in Paragon Park and broken car windows added to a familiar recent week in Searles Road
  - Paragon Gardens Cllrs Jane Salmon and Tim McNally had pushed forward the idea mooted at the Searles Road Meeting (1 March) to reduce the options of quick exits from Searles Road by muggers and burglars. The Council are soon to start locking the gate into Paragon Park
  - Lighting A Southwark officer has visited Searles Road and agreed with us that new lighting is required. Cllr JS & TM have set up a meeting next week in the street to discuss a new lighting scheme
  - Neighbourhood Watch Whilst the meeting was unanimously agreed that NW could do no harm and may be a significant deterrent to potential burglars, Sally Paul agreed to investigate the pros and cons and report back
  - Safety Proposal from a Resident A traffic proposal suggesting the opening of Searles Road on to Darwin Street met with mixed opinion - for later discussion
  - Police The East Walworth Safer Neighbourhood Team's anti burglary operation this week-end was welcomed and Ian Sime will report back from the briefing

**NEXT..... The Follow-up Meeting with Residents, Police, Councillors and MP is proposed for Thursday 26th April, but this will be confirmed along with the venue once we have checked the date with the non-residents**

- Communication A request was made for opinions from more residents whose houses back on to Paragon Park and from No 70 Searles Road. Ian Sime also warned that he was unable to continue issuing hand delivered notes and asked those who wanted to be kept in the loop to submit email addresses to [iansime@simemanagement.biz](mailto:iansime@simemanagement.biz)

**Ian Sime**

### **EW SNT Briefing**

The operation is THIS weekend (you may have already seen the SNT team on foot or on bikes) and the purpose is indeed to be high visibility in order to reassure residents and warn off burglars, to give crime prevention advice to residents and to stop and search suspicious characters. It was suggested by one officer that plain clothes might achieve more than high visibility but it was concluded that the suspects were so well known that they would be recognised anyway

Although centred on Searles Road the operation also includes John Maurice Close and Henshaw, Chatham & Darwin Streets. There would be liaison with Crime Prevention Officers and Southwark's Wardens (they were invited but did not turn up to the briefing). Help from the Enforcement Team had also been anticipated but their cameras and other equipment had broken down

Well, I got to see what houses the Police had registered as victims of burglary and to see the faces of half a dozen young suspects, but the biggest fact I got from the briefing was that the operation was only concerned with burglary and nothing to do with robbery (muggings). Apparently the statistics warrant anti-burglary but not anti-robbery - we need to report ALL muggings or attempted muggings in future

Please speak to, challenge or query the Police this week-end or, if it gets as cold as predicted, offer them a cup of tea

Ian