

**Minutes of Community Meeting of Thornton Heath Community Action Team (THCAT)  
held at St Alban's Church  
Wednesday 18 October 2023**

1. Welcome – by Linda the Chair

Health and Safety - Father Sean explained the location of fire exits, toilets and kitchen.

2. Apologies - Councillor Scott Roche, Councillor Enid Molyneaux, Wes Baker, Mohammed Mir, Cynthia Maxwell

3. Guests - PC Hannah Bond & PC Charlie Daniels

The main area of discussion for the evening centred around local policing both issues and initiatives which are set out below:

4. Violence against Women & Girls - Linda introduced PC Bondi & PC Daniels from the Bensham Manor Safer Neighbourhood team who outlined initiatives they are currently working on.

a) Commissioner Rowley focus on Safer Neighbourhood scheme

- Pilot Campaign - Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG).
- The new pilot campaign (VAWG) commences in Thornton Heath on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November before being rolled out elsewhere in the country.
- A number of suggestions of areas to get involved were faith groups, local schools and community.
- There have been several walks with community members and SNT to address where areas of concern are such as alleys / dark streets / and incidents of cat calling occur.

b) StreetSafe /Neighbourhood watch

- The Street safe website - <https://www.police.uk/street-safe> allows anyone to record areas where they don't feel safe. This will help police and partner agencies make the streets safer for everyone particularly women and girls.
- Street abuse – how to report. Safeguarding within the community. Areas around Beulah Road and Woodville Roads were highlighted as particular areas of concern.

c) Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

- The PSPO is likely to come into effect in Thornton Heath around Brigstock Road, and the High Street. This will allow the police to move on perpetrators of any anti social behaviour such as drug dealing, street drinking, threatening behaviour, verbal abuse etc.

d) Statistics

- PC Daniels responded to a question about knife crime rates in Thornton Heath explaining that the rate is lower than the town centre and lower than across the borough. Also, ASB, drugs, shoplifting and criminal damage crime figures were down in the area due to certain perpetrators being moved, banned from the area, or having a prison sentence.
- PC Daniels also highlighted the success they recently had at Thornton Heath train station where a number of weapons were seized, and individuals arrested after a knife arch was installed one evening.
- Questions from the attendees were invited.

e) Clean Streets Team

The team of Gaetane, Barbara & Paul have spent considerable time with the local council and Cabinet Member on walkabouts highlighting areas where fly tipping is a concern around HMO's area's particularly in Melfort Road.

- An area of success the team reported was at the West Thornton Heath Mosque where planting has brought about a vast improvement to the frontage since the team's involvement.
- Paul raised the introduction of a 12-week graffiti & poster clean-up campaign commencing in early 2024.
- The council will clean graffiti off shop fronts and empty buildings on Brigstock Road and the High Street. Once this is completed any further graffiti will be the responsibility of the building owner or tenant. If the council are required to return to remove graffiti or fly posters, there will be a charge levied against the proprietor or landlord. A guide will be provided on how to remove graffiti and fly posters.
- Linda referred to the Living Streets website [www.livingstreets.org.uk](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk) which reports when our streets are clean, tidy, and well maintained this can make the community feel safer.

f) Love Clean Streets

- The Love Clean Streets app <https://lovecleanstreets.info/> was discussed and shown to those who were not familiar with it to encourage wider use across our area.

Attendees expressed their thanks to our PC guests for all the work they are doing.

Linda closed the meeting by thanking attendees for braving the elements, PC Bondi & Daniels for an engaging discussion, Father Sean for allowing us the church and Tammy for the refreshments

A date TBA for the next public THCAT meeting.