

Minutes Balham Ward Panel Meeting

Date, time and location:

1st July 2026 at 6.30 - 8pm

Balham Library (Upstairs) Ramsden Rd, London SW12 8QY

Purpose of the meeting:

Our joint vision is for Balham to be a safe place for people to live, work and visit. Our mission is to detect and prevent harm, protect the vulnerable and reduce crime.

Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) is dedicated to serving your community & making a difference. We work diligently in response to reports of anti-social behaviour and crime in your area, working closely with Wandsworth Council, Councillors, partner agencies and the community to solve these issues.

1. WELCOME, AGENDA, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES: JP

Present:

Name	Role, Dept and or Organisation
Jabraan Khan	PCSO Met Police
Hope Oyet	PC Met Police VIA ZOOM CALL
Cllr Lynsey Hedges	WBC Balham Conservative Councillor
Cllr Elizabeth Simos	WBC South Balham Labour Councillor
Jean Penders	Ward Panel Chair
Fiona Warn	Ward Panel Vice-Chair & Secretary
John Juliani	Resident Alderbrook Road
Jenny Purkis	Resident Bellamy Street
Steven Courtney	Resident Bellamy Street
Cllr Ann-Marie Critchard	Resident Gosberton Road
Anthony Curran	Waitrose Store Manager Balham
Emily Pickett	CSO Wandsworth Borough Council
George Parnavalas	CSO Wandsworth Borough Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - JP

Cllr Dr Jonathan Iliff was absent due to being on a night shift as a Doctor. His notes had been shared with Cllr Lynsey Hedges.

Cllr Elizabeth Simos said that she was attending to represent absent Cllr Jo Rigby.

Caroline Booth	Resident Nightingale Lane
Lucy Mowat	Resident Bellamy Street
Caroline Usher	Resident Alderbrook Road
Cllr Dr Jonathan iliff	WBC Balham Conservative Councillor
Cllr Jo Rigby	WBC Balham Labour Councillor

No information or absence notification was available from Wandsworth Borough Council Animal Welfare or Southern Housing team.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – FW

Minutes were accepted from meeting of 2nd April 2026.

3. WARD PANEL INTRODUCTIONS – JP

Chair Jean Penders welcomed everyone.

- Welcome
- Absences as mentioned

The Police were a bit late as they had an urgent call to attend to. So we started with the Councillors reports until the Police (PCSO Khan) arrived.

4. WBC COUNCILLOR REPORTS – LH, Dr JI, ES

Secretary Fiona reminded all Councillors to send to the Chair or PCSO Khan the live text for their notes that they would read out.

Conservative Councillors Lynsey Hedges & Dr Jonathan Iliff – Ward Update:

Good evening everyone. As my fellow Councillor Dr Jonathan Iliff is on night shift as a Doctor, I have amalgamated our notes as follows:

I would like to thank the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and all of our Police officers for their continued hard work, visible patrols and engagement with residents across Balham and Clapham South. It is appreciated by residents, particularly given the pressures on policing resources.

Nightingale Square and Surrounding Area – Vehicle Crime

Over recent weeks I have received a number of reports from residents about an increase in vehicle crime across the Nightingale Square area.

Incidents reported include:

- An attempted theft where a vehicle door was peeled back.
- Several thefts from unattended or unlocked vehicles.
- The theft of a steering wheel from a Mercedes overnight.

While some of these incidents may be opportunistic, the more organised theft of vehicle parts is causing understandable concern. Residents are asking whether this reflects a wider pattern and whether additional patrols or crime prevention activity can be considered.

Wexford Road

A resident reported that a BMW parked on Wexford Road had all four tyres stolen overnight. Neighbours became aware of the incident the following morning and shared information via the local WhatsApp group. Photographs have been passed to the police.

Leacroft Avenue

Residents have experienced two serious incidents within a short period. Most recently, four masked individuals attempted to break into a secure bike shed to steal a motorcycle. Despite CCTV, security lighting and residents shouting from inside the property, the offenders continued their attempts before eventually leaving. CCTV footage has been provided to the police. Only a few weeks earlier, another property on Leacroft Avenue was burgled during broad daylight, with several items stolen. CCTV footage from neighbouring properties has also been shared with officers. Residents are understandably anxious and would welcome reassurance patrols where operationally possible.

Gosberton Road

Residents have reported damage to parked vehicles and have asked whether these incidents are linked to the wider pattern of vehicle crime being seen locally.

Clapham Common Bowling Green Pavilion

Residents continue to raise concerns about anti-social behaviour around the disused Bowling Green Pavilion.

There have been reports of suspected drug-related activity, and residents have highlighted that fencing around the site has been damaged, allowing unauthorised access to the pavilion and surrounding area.

Can an update be provided on any work to secure the site and any partnership activity between the Council and police?

Clapham South Station – Bus Stop SC

Residents have contacted me regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour at Bus Stop SC outside Clapham South Underground Station.

A small group of individuals are regularly drinking alcohol at the bus stop, making passengers feel uncomfortable and, in some cases, intimidated while waiting for buses.

I would be grateful if this location could be included in patrols where possible, particularly during busier periods.

Overall, while Balham remains a great place to live, these incidents are affecting residents' confidence. I will continue encouraging residents to report every incident to the police, no matter how minor it may seem, as accurate reporting helps build the intelligence picture and informs future policing priorities.

Thank you again to the local police team for your continued work, and I look forward to hearing any updates on these issues.

Alderbrook Road

Multiple cars and multiple owners reporting cars, typically SUVs, being deliberately scratched or keyed on Alderbrook Road. There was a historical spate of this several years ago but has restarted in recent months (May and June).

Lochinvar Estate

ASB & Drug Dealing on the Lochinvar Estate .
Plus Car Crime.

Labour Councillor Elizabeth Simos update:

Cllr Elizabeth Simos from South Balham Ward explained that she was in attendance to represent Cllr Jo Rigby. She read out her notes.

Secretary Fiona requested to Cllr Simos that Cllr Rigby's notes needed to be emailed to the Chair or PCSO Khan, however to date, no notes have been submitted on behalf of Cllr Rigby.

5. CRIME ACTIVITY REPORT – MJK

PCSO Jabraan Khan apologised for being a little late, but this was due to an emergency incident he had to attend.

PC Hope Eyet dialled into the meeting via phone.

PCSO Jabraan Khan took the panel and residents through the latest crime figures for Balham Ward.

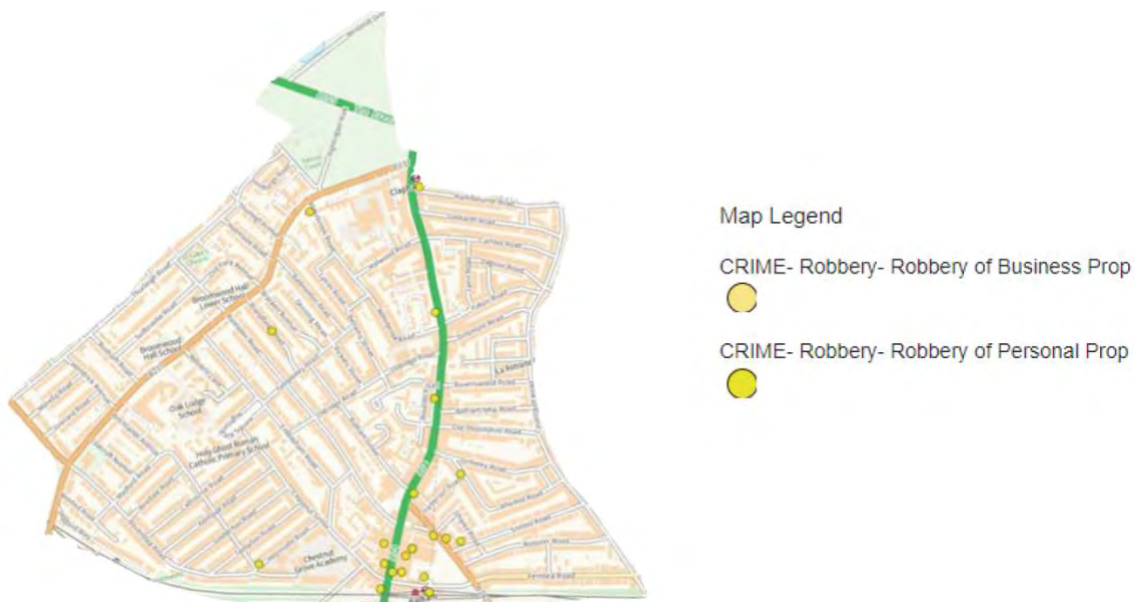


Priority 1 – Robbery

Robbery Incidents involve individuals who, use threatening language or physical violence against staff, security or others to retain stolen items by force and deprive them of their belongings.

Business robberies have involved suspects using threatening language to retain stolen property. In contrast, personal robberies have largely been phone snatches, with suspects often using distraction techniques rather than overt force. These incidents have predominantly occurred on weekends between 9pm and 2am, when individuals are leaving pubs to book transport home. During these times, victims are more vulnerable and are targeted accordingly.

Balham - Robbery	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Business property	5	2	2	0
Personal property	6	2	5	0
TOTAL	11	4	7	0



Priority 2 – ASB

ASB is generally reported in three different types. Personal, Nuisance & Environmental.

Personal means: This is when someone's behaviour targets a specific person or group, causing harassment, alarm or distress.

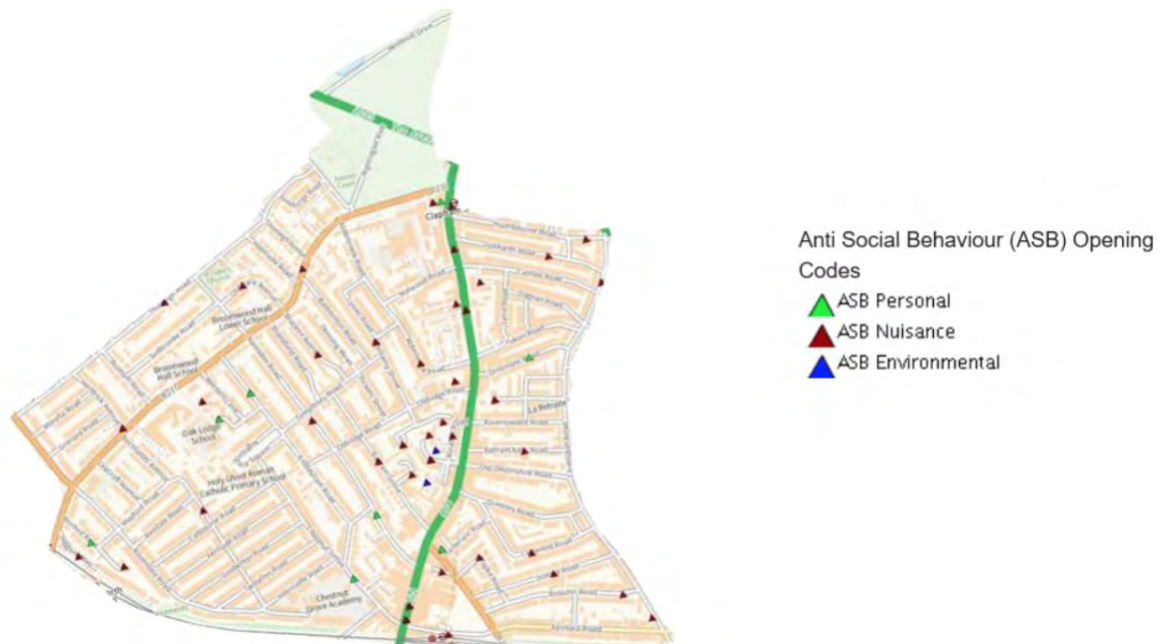


Examples: intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, nuisance phone calls . Generally directed at people.

Nuisance: Is inconsiderate behaviour or disturbance causing concern between neighbours or individuals. Examples: Noisy or rowdy behaviour, Drug-related activity Vehicle nuisance (revving, dirt bikes, street racing), & Neighbour disputes

Environmental: Is behaviour that generally affects the wider community.

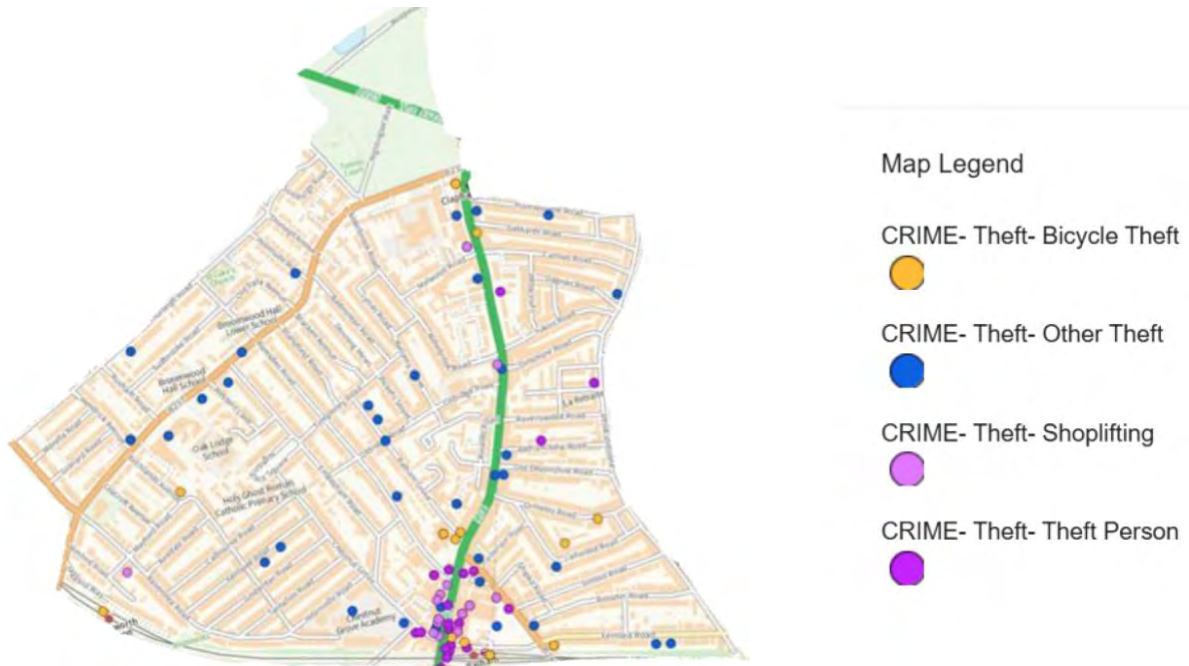
Examples: Graffiti Vandalism, Fly-tipping, Littering, Damage to shared/public property, Loitering, Drunken behaviour, congregation.



Priority 3 – Theft – Bicycle – Person – Shoplifting – Other

Officers will maintain patrols along Balham High Road and other affected areas to deter theft and engage with businesses and residents.

Balham - TFMV	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Bicycle	4	4	1	0
Person	10	3	5	0
Shoplifting	12	11	9	0
Other	11	8	10	0
TOTAL	37	26	25	0



OPERATION CUBO

Balham SNT assisted in Operation CUBO which is a multi-agency operation focused on improving road safety, addressing vehicle-related offences, and identifying wider criminality linked to the road network. Working alongside partner agencies such as enforcement & immigration officers, the operation seeks to disrupt offending behaviour, support enforcement activity, and enhance community safety through proactive engagement and enforcement activity.

The operation also identified one immigration offence and led to one arrest for possession of an offensive weapon, demonstrating its effectiveness in tackling a range of offences and preventing harm within the community.



RESULTS:

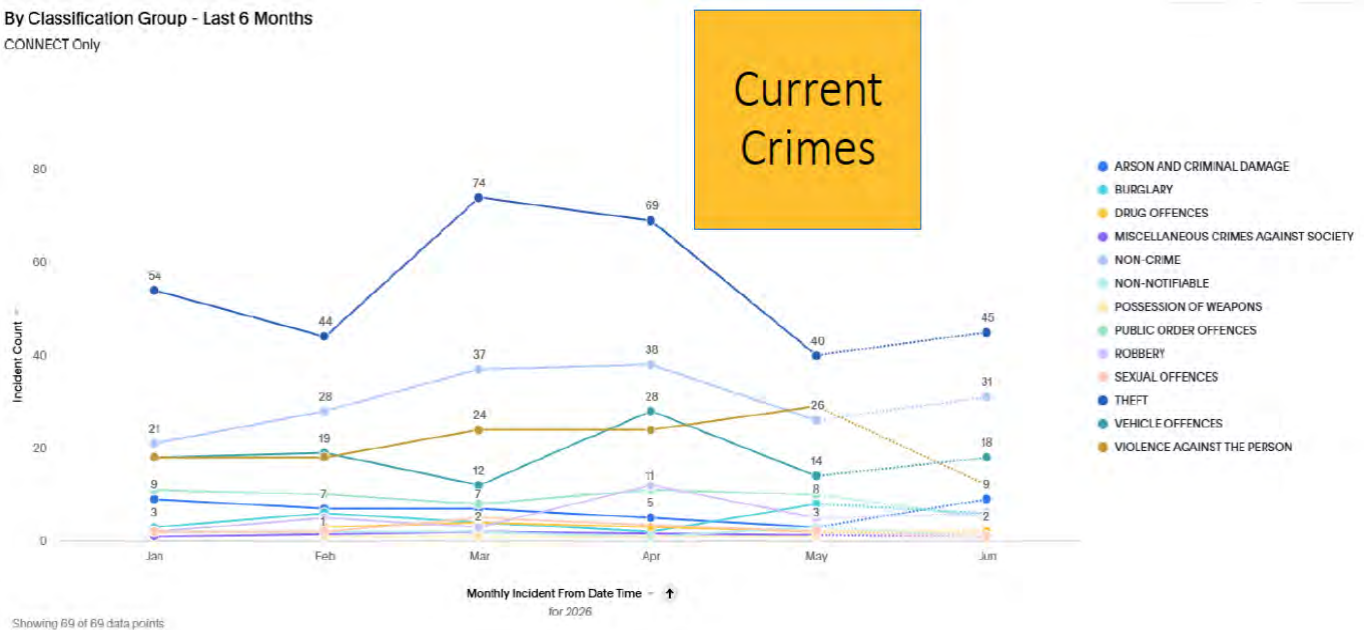
- 68 vehicle stops conducted.
- 11 Traffic Offence Reports (TORs) issued.



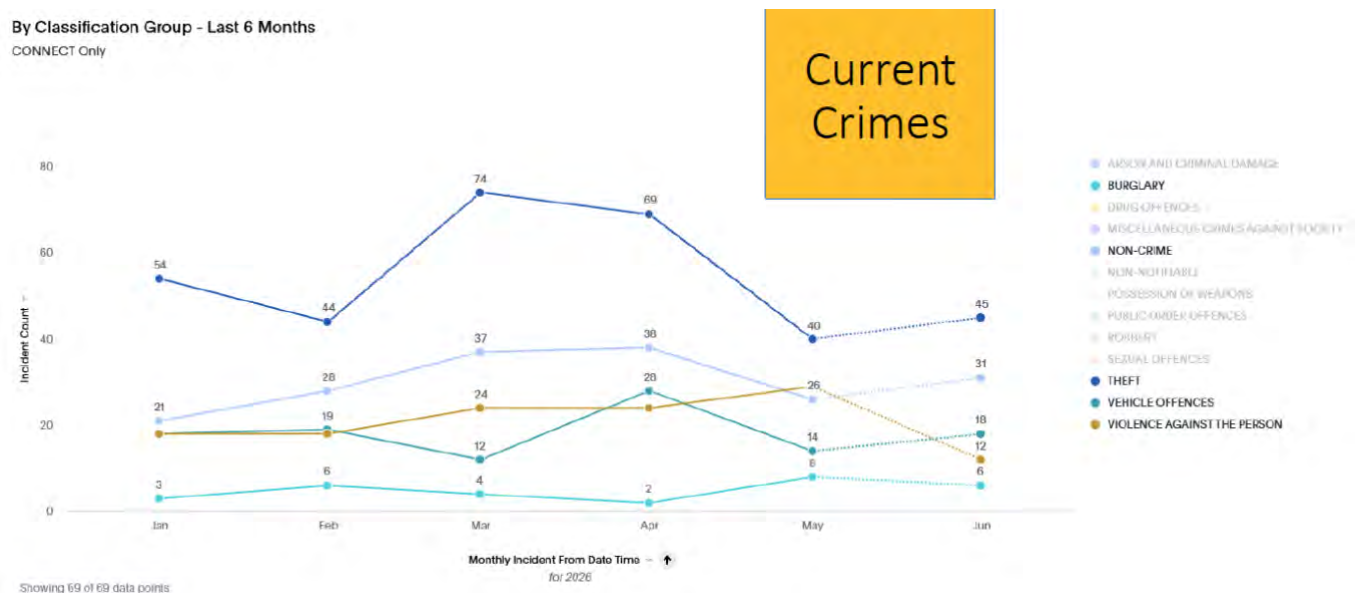
- 1 immigration offence identified.
- 1 arrest for possession of an offensive weapon.
- Majority of TORs issued for untaxed vehicles and no insurance.

CURRENT CRIMES:

By Classification Group - Last 6 Months
CONNECT Only



By Classification Group - Last 6 Months
CONNECT Only

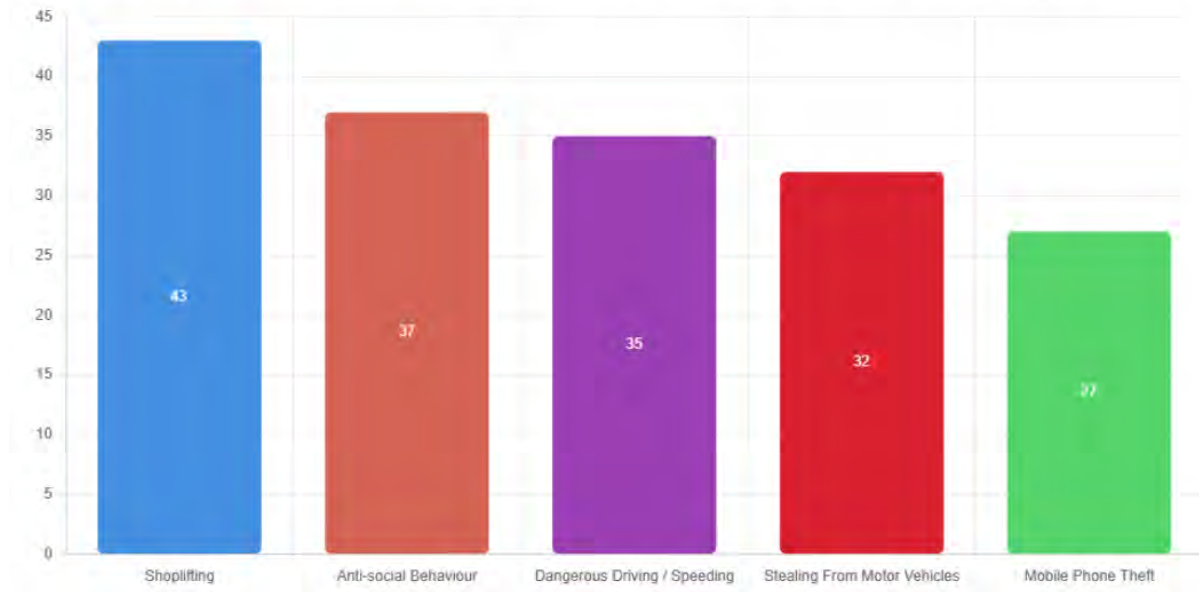


SURVEYS:



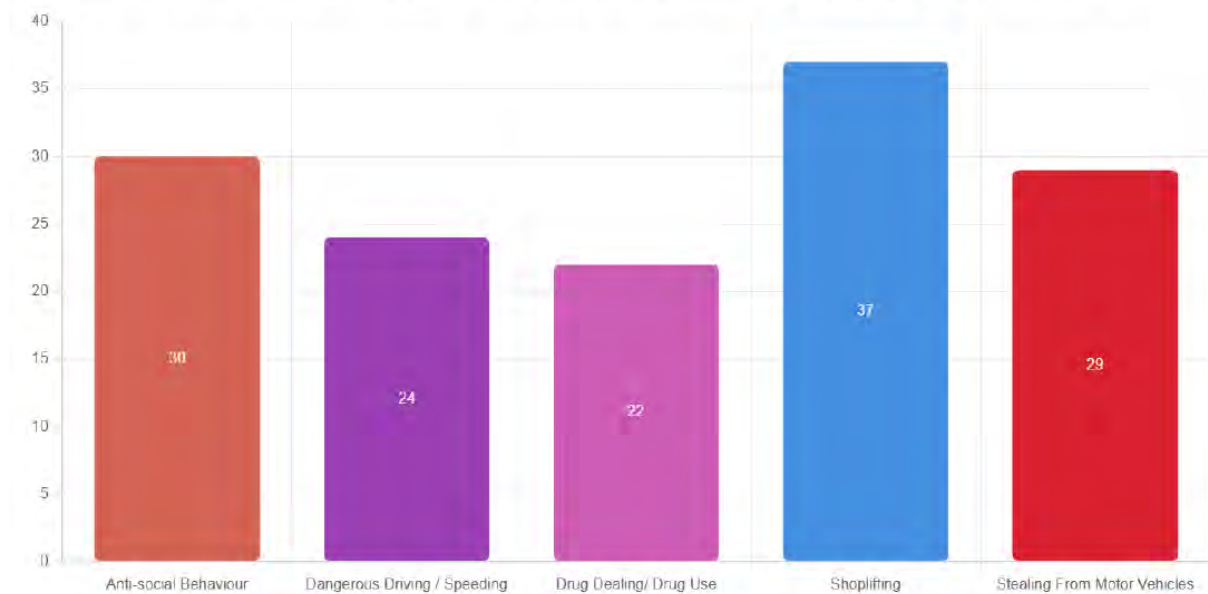
New Survey

Q2. What are the main issues that you think are affecting your local area (Top 5)



Previous Survey

Q2. What are the main issues that you think are affecting your local area (Top 5)



PICTURES:



HOW TO CONTACT US?

- We advise you to **call 999 for emergency** or **call 101 for non emergency** enquiries. You may also use the text phone service on 18001 101.
- Silent calls from 999. After the call goes through, press number 55 when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police. The police will usually be able to find your location. If 55 is not pressed your call could be ended. The police will try to help you if you are unable to speak on the phone.
- Calling 999 from a landline automatically gives police your location (If you are unable to communicate).
- **To report a crime online please visit: www.met.police.uk and select report and then the crime to report.**
- Our Contact details are:
- **Balham@met.police.uk** for community issues or advice.

MET ENGAGE:

MET ENGAGE

Community crime-fighting

Met Engage is a new digital platform from the Met Police to connect better with communities.

KEY AIMS:

- Build Trust within the Community.
- Share local crime updates and advice.
- Hear from residents about concerns and issues.

Why it matters?

It allows the Met to be more responsive, transparent and community focused.

- Met Engage replaces all forms of contact between the local policing team used to have with residents and community.
- The local policing team will share any community engagements, messages or further information/ updates via Met Engage to those who have signed up.
- This changes future Ward Panel Meetings. Surveys will now automatically be sent to you every 3 months (90 days) and no longer sent by the local policing team. We will only continue to send out the invitation & minutes and any other information required.
- <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/campaigns/2025/stay-informed-with-met-engage/>
- <https://www.metengage.co.uk/>



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

**MORE
TRUST**

**LESS
CRIME**

**HIGH
STANDARDS**



6. BALHAM WARD PANEL PRIORITIES:

Police has chosen:

- **Robbery – Cars, Business, Person force**

Panel & Residents to choose next 2 priorities:

- **All Thefts: Shoplifting, bicycle, phone theft, parcel theft, shed/houses**
- **ASB**

Residents wanted to keep more Police presence in the high road and surrounding shops to prevent shoplifting as felt it was having a good effect on public perception and morale.

7. Residents, Wandsworth Council, Councillors & Police Discussion/Comments

Vice-Chair Fiona requested that PCSO Khan be allowed to finish his Police Crime Activity Report without unnecessary interruptions, as residents can ask questions afterwards.

PCSO Khan mentioned that there was problems with 2 schoolkids from La Retrait school.

Vice-Chair & Secretary Fiona mentioned that she had seen more ASB from this school along Hanson Close, but that some schoolchildren were being followed by Police from Clapham Park.

PC Hope asked if there was a problem with littering.

Fiona mentioned that residents had said that schoolchildren buy fast food lunches and then just dump the pizza or burger boxes along Hanson Close.

Cllr Lynsey Hedges said that now the Council administration was under new administration, Balham Neighbourhood Warden Pilot scheme was under review. They had been brought in by the previous administration.

Cllr Hedges said that the new Conservative administration is planning on rolling out real MET Police Officers across Wandsworth as per the Conservative manifesto and in line with other Councils like Westminster who introduced real MET Police. The Conservative administration has introduced a new cabinet member for Enforcement – Cllr Caroline de La Soujeole – focussing on neighbourhood crime and enforcement.

Labour Cllr Elizabeth Samos got annoyed at this and requested from the panel 5 mins time to now discuss the Neighbourhood wardens. This was denied by Vice-Chair Fiona due to already over running on time and the fact that Cllr Rigby had discussed them at length at the previous SNT meeting in April. Where it was established that their remit was mainly fly-tipping.

Plus Sgt Mark Longely at the April meeting, had also discussed the Warden's lack of relevant Police powers where they could not apprehend shoplifters / phone thieves due to a no apprehension policy etc

Cllr Hedges reiterated that she had spoken to residents in Balham on the doorsteps, and crime was their main concern. Residents wanted to see more MET Police with real powers on the beat and not fly-tipping wardens.

PC Hope said that when they are abstracted elsewhere, crime does creep up in Balham but when they are present in the ward, the MET Police is present, it is noted as an important deterrent.

Balham resident Cllr Critchard (who is also a Tooting councillor) mentioned that the warden pilot scheme were paid from NCIL (neighborhood community infrastructure levy) money.

PCSO mentioned there had been many Police abstractions (*this is where our Balham Ward Police are sent to other areas like Nine Elms/Wimbledon*).

Cllr Critchard mentioned how do we compare in Wandsworth to the rest of London for shoplifting.

PCSO Khan said that it had gone down. But crimes in Nine Elms had increased and around stations.

He mentioned also having a stall inside the stations to deter drink spiking.

He mentioned that late at night when people let their guard down (after a few drinks) and trying to call an Uber with their phone out, they are distracted and their phones can be snatched.

Cllr Critchard mentioned what advice is there to overcome that.

PCSO Khan said use your phone inside the pub not outside on the street. Phone snatching was happening about 11.30pm-2am.

He mentioned bag snatching too.

Licensing was discussed that Head of Licensing was visiting the Voodoo Bar in Hildreth st regarding staying open late and about litter. A resident from Gosberton road mentioned licensing in Balham.

Chair asked about late openings due to the world cup.

PC Hope had said that the Voodoo bar can apply for late openings.

PC Hope mentioned that a MET licensing division had been disbanded some time ago. She mentioned it was more responsibility for Ward officers.

Cllr Hedges said there had been 5.5 years of problems with the Voodoo bar.

Chair mentioned that they keep extending their late hours.

Resident of Gosberton (who is also a Tooting councillor) mentioned the need to report to the Council noise team.

A resident from Bellamy Street mentioned beggars on the streets.

Cllr Critchard asked if figures for April were higher.

PCSO Khan said that when they are abstracted they are less visible and crimes can increase.

Cllr Hedges asked why they were being abstracted.

PCSO Khan said they were taken off Balham ward and sent to Nine Elms. Officers have been deployed to the protests in Nine Elms.
There has been live face recognition in Clapham Junction.

A resident from Bellamy Street said the acoustics in the room was bad and she was struggling to hear.

Cllr Critchard asked if people could speak more loudly and slowly.

PCSO Khan said they had a successful Operation Cubu that stopped vehicles and motorbikes for insurance and MOT's.

Cllr Critchard said they should do it on Lavender Hill A24.

PCSO Khan said it was up to supervisors. He said it would be good to have a shoplifting exercise.

Cllr Critchard said it helped all wards if untaxed and no MOT vehicles were caught.

Cllr Hedges asked if they had managed to do a MET Engage leaflet drop as discussed last time?

PCSO Khan said they were focussing on current crimes.

Cllr Critchard asked for clarification for crime numbers. She asked about crimes in peoples homes and sheds.

PC Hope mentioned an exercise for e-bikes and scooters. She said there were new powers coming in on the 29th June that allowed immediate seizure of bikes etc

Cllr Critchard asked if it was personal bikes?

PC Hope said it was rentals.

Vice chari Fiona mentioned how many rental e-bikes went over red lights which was dangerous to pedestrians and other road users. They are dangerous with some pedestrians having life changing injuries.

Cllr Hedges said the cabinet member will review and speak to operators to have a stricter code.

PC Hope said that the e-bikes don't have number plates so it's difficult to complain.

Vice chair Fiona mentioned that if you have a photo of an e-bike going across a red light you can match it with the data/time of the company to see who is offending.

PC Hope mentioned this was possible through GEO tracking riders.

Anthony, Manager of Waitrose mentioned that it was good that new barriers had been erected along the walkway outside Waitrose, which had prevented some pavement e-bikes.

Cllr Critchard asked if they now had a special area to park.

Manager of Waitrose said Ramsden rd.

Manager of Waitrose mentioned a Whatsapp group for business intelligence helping to de-escalate crime and gather intelligence. Gathering names of offenders.

Cllr Hedges mentioned that she and Cllr Dr Jonathan Iliff regularly cleaned up Waitrose car park as part of Beautify Balham. She said she'd found security plastics laying around.

Manager of Waitrose said they do a daily clean too.

A resident of Bellamy street said that Balham Grove needs more bins. Lots of rubbish by the Post office sorting office.

A resident of Bellamy said that whilst there's a personal conflict regarding good for the environment, e-bikes are dangerous. Doctors now say they have e-bike leg injuries called 'LIME-LEGS'. A 5 year old was nearly killed. The way Lime operates on time per minute is an incentive to speed, go on pavements and rush through red lights.

He mentioned drug dealers on Balham Hill.

He mentioned having his car broken into 3 times in 9 months, normally around 2am. He said he had a steering lock. He reported 2 out of the 3 times to the Police but was now losing faith. Nothing was done. Just given a number. His insurance premiums go up.

Thieves were checking car doors at 2am.

It was mentioned that the Police had carried out night patrols. PC Hope said in July they had changed shifts to do night shifts to 5am.

A resident suggested that local residents were discussing having private security. Vice Chair Fiona mentioned that she had had an email from Superintendent Gani Rajan – Head of Wandsworth Borough Neighbourhood policing - but there was not enough time to properly read it out. Superintendent Rajan mentioned some apps to retrieve cars after car thefts, upcoming parcel theft operations and retail crimes.

PC Hope mentioned abstractions happening a lot that were taking officers away from the wards.

Cllr Crithard mentioned having an old fashioned crook lock.

CSO George mentioned increased CCTV and patrols. In November they had nightly blue van CCTV.

Cllr Hedges mentioned a gradual decline in Alderbrook road.

We ran out of time to continue residents' concerns due to the time being 8pm and needed to finish so the library could close up.

08. NEXT SNT WARD PANEL MEETING:

**Thursday 24th September 2026
at 6:30pm – 8pm
Balham Library (Upstairs), Ramsden Road. SW12**

It was discussed whether we should meet at 6pm for 6-8pm meeting, however this might be difficult with residents' work schedules.

Vice-Chair/Secretary Fiona requested that as attendance is getting lower each time, and as a lot of people are not on Twitter – please contact Balham Newsie to be informed in good time to post details of the SNT meeting.

Previously Fiona had distributed posters to local cafés and the library however, todays meeting coincided with an England Football match World Cup game.



09. UPCOMING 2026 SNT EVENTS:

PCSO Jabraan Khan said that all Community engagements will be sent from **MET ENGAGE** as well as our twitter which will be used for now.

Saturday 15th August 2026.

9.30 – 10.30am

Cuppa with a Coppa

Panda Coffee House, Balham High Road

Saturday 15th August 2026.

11 – 12 Noon

Crime prevention stall

Balham Library entrance

10. AOB

No

11. ADDITIONAL INFO – FOR HOMELESS REPORTING:

CONTACT STREETLINK:

www.streetlink.org.uk

The street outreach services that StreetLink connects people to are for adults only. If you believe that the person you are concerned about is under 18, please call 999.



CONTACT SPIRES TOOTING:

www.spires.org.uk

0208 696 0943

**Thank you,
Balham Ward Panel SNT**

To find out more information about our updated privacy practises and how we process your data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 please visit our Privacy Notice on the Met Police website
<https://www.met.police.uk/privacy-notice>