

Meeting Minutes

Maryland Ward Panel

****Date:** 10th September 10, 2025 (Approx. 2-hour meeting)

****Chair:**** New Chairlady appointed (following passing of former chairlady)

****Attendees:**** Local residents x13, councillors x 2 police/Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) x2

1. Opening

- Tribute paid to former chairlady who passed away recently. She will be sorely missed
- Introduction of new chairlady. All attendees were happy with appointment

2. Communication & Reporting – MetEngage App

- MetEngage system introduced as new way to contact SNT (instead of emails/phone).
- Residents can report issues via email or text.
- Cannot upload photos/videos yet; images to be sent by email.
- Residents encouraged to register with MetEngage for easier reporting.

3. Priority Issues

a. Buxton Road (No. 85)

- Serious issues: drugs, prostitution, harassment
- Closure order secured; main offender evicted.
- Community Protection Warning issued → banned from Buxton Rd & surrounding area.
- Situation now stabilized, however offender seen recently. Police to keep a look out for him.

b. 11 Albert Square

- Squatters involved in drugs, prostitution, antisocial behaviour.
- Owner abroad; court order for bailiffs obtained but delays (possible 6 months backlog).
- Residents asked to keep providing detailed reports (numbers, activities, times) to support enforcement.
- Safety concerns raised, especially fear of human trafficking.

c. Luxembourg Mews

- Ongoing problems: drug use, urination, trespassing, fly-tipping.
- Residents repeatedly request ****gates, CCTV, signage, community safety unit patrols**
- Riverside Housing refused gates at citing cost; claim residents must pay. Councilor will look into this
- CCTV inadequate and outdated
- Councillors escalated to MP → Riverside still non-responsive.

- Residents policing themselves via WhatsApp group
- Community Safety Officer (Riverside) Pauline Jones made 2 site visits to speak to residents directly. However residents want the property manager to visit, however not responding to date
- Suggested actions:

- Install signage ('No loitering / CCTV / No urination').
- Repair/upgrade CCTV for remote access.
- Use anti-urination paint.
- Consider contacting freeholder directly (via Land Registry).
- Explore council People Powered Places funding (£5k available) Deadline was 13/9/25

d. Maryland Station Bike Racks

- Multiple bike thefts, especially from racks out of sight.
- Vans used in organised thefts.
- Police pushing to remove less visible racks; retain ones in front of station with CCTV.
- Bike marking event scheduled: 20th Nov at Velodrome, 12pm.

e. Gurney Road

- Past issues with trespassing into elderly/disabled homes.
- Situation improved with regular patrols; remains under watch.

f. Bow Street

- Drug addicts accessing bin sheds.
- Secured with shutters, CPWs issued; 12-month bans in place.
- Situation now improved.

g. Community Road Centre

- Previously misused by drinkers/addicts. Bar Licence Revoked
- Now shut; security on-site.
- Residents satisfied issue resolved.
- Building to be redeveloped into new Community Centre with council flats above.

h. Fly-tipping / Rubbish (David St / Wells St)

- Ongoing dumping and refuse problems.
- Residents asked council to add bin storage covers and roof to gated area.
- Councillors to follow up with refuse team.
- Fly-tipping confirmed as a crime; residents urged to report incidents.

i. Syringe Disposal

- Concern about used needles left in public areas.
- Residents often forced to pick them up themselves.
- Need for specialist 'red bins' for hazardous waste.

4. Key Decisions & Next Steps

- Residents:

- Report incidents via MetEngage with as much detail as possible.
- Provide photos/videos directly to officers where relevant.
- Consider applying for £5k council funding for signage/CCTV.
- Explore identifying freeholder of Luxembourg Mews to escalate responsibility.

- Police/SNT:

- Continue patrols at Buxton, Albert Square, Luxembourg Mews, Bow St, Gurney Rd.
- Chase bailiff action for 11 Albert Square squatters.
- Liaise with Riverside and council re: CCTV and signage.
- Hold bike-marking event (20th Nov).
- Councilor to contact Riverside Property Manager directly regarding Luxembourg Mews.

- Councilors actions:

- Escalate Luxembourg Mews issues to Riverside & MP.
- Support residents with funding applications.
- Follow up with refuse team re: David St/Wells St.
- Confirm redevelopment timeline for Community Road Centre.



Next meeting 10th December 2025