

## Minutes Balham Ward Panel Meeting

### Date, time and location:

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 6.30 - 8pm

Temporary Location: Alderbrook Primary School, Oldridge Road. Balham/ SW12



### 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.**

**Ward Panel Vice-Chair / Secretary:** Fiona Warn

### 1. Welcome, agenda, introductions and apologies: FW

Present:

Name	Role, Dept and or Organisation
Mark Longely	SGT Met Police

Joana Martins	PC Met Police
Jabraan Khan	PCSO Met Police
Cllr Lynsey Hedges	WBC Balham Conservative Councillor
Cllr Jo Rigby	WBC Balham Labour Councillor
Fiona Warn	Ward Panel Vice-Chair & Secretary
Cathy on behalf Ed Davidson	Nightingale/Hammerson
John Juliani	Resident Alderbrook Road
Sandra Lopez-rolack	Resident Rokeby House
J. Simpson	Resident Rokeby House

### Apologies for absence:

Fiona explained that she had given the library some printouts to put on the door of the Library an hour earlier, warning residents of the venue change. However attendance numbers were clearly down.

Sarah Miller	Resident Hildreth St Mews
Lucy Mowat	Resident Bellamy Street
Caroline Usher	Resident Alderbrook Road
Emily Pickett	CSO Wandsworth Borough Council
Caroline Booth	Resident Nightingale Lane
Cllr Dan Hamilton	WBC Balham Conservative Councillor
Jean Pender	Chair

### 2. Minutes of the last Meeting – FW

Minutes were accepted from meeting of 7th January 2026.

### 3. Ward Panel Introductions – FW

Vice-Chair Fiona Warn explained that Chair Jean Pender had a prior engagement and she would be leading the meeting. As numbers were low, she also took notes. She welcomed everyone and gave out the agenda for the meeting.:

- Welcome
- Absences as mentioned

*Thank you all for your attendance at this Balham SNT meeting. I just want to open the meeting by mentioning the following statement that was shared by Inspector Rajan at a recent Wandsworth MET for London event that I attended.*



PCSO Jabraan Khan, Fiona Warn, Sgt Maggie Swallwell and Deputy MET Commissioner Matt Jukes

***“For a Police service to be effective, it must operate with the support and consent of the people it serves” .***

*At every SNT meeting residents have the **opportunity to vote for 2 of the 3 priorities** that our Balham MET Police will concentrate on in the next 3 month period. This is a huge responsibility but one that can only be seen as a benefit to residents in Balham Ward.*

*To that effect, **residents made a huge change at the last meeting in January to change the priorities for Balham to reflect shoplifting and parcel theft** concerns. Our SNT team changed their routines and focused Crime prevention along Balham High Road and other key shopping areas in the ward.*



Bedford Hill & Balham High Rd more Police presence

*Residents in my Road and others across Balham, have already mentioned to me how they see more Police around, and that can only be a positive step towards the MET's objective of More Trust. Less Crime. High Standards. I hope that this is reflected by crime stats as well.*

***I would like to thank the Balham SNT Police team for that change and hope that crime figures show a positive result.***

#### **4. CRIME ACTIVITY REPORT – MJK**

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

As the screen was not working in the new temporary location at Alderbrook school, handouts were given for the Ward panel, Residents and Councillors in the meeting room.

#### **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	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Business property	2	1	1	0
Personal property	1	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>



Map Legend

CRIME- Robbery- Robbery of Business Prop



CRIME- Robbery- Robbery of Personal Prop



### **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.

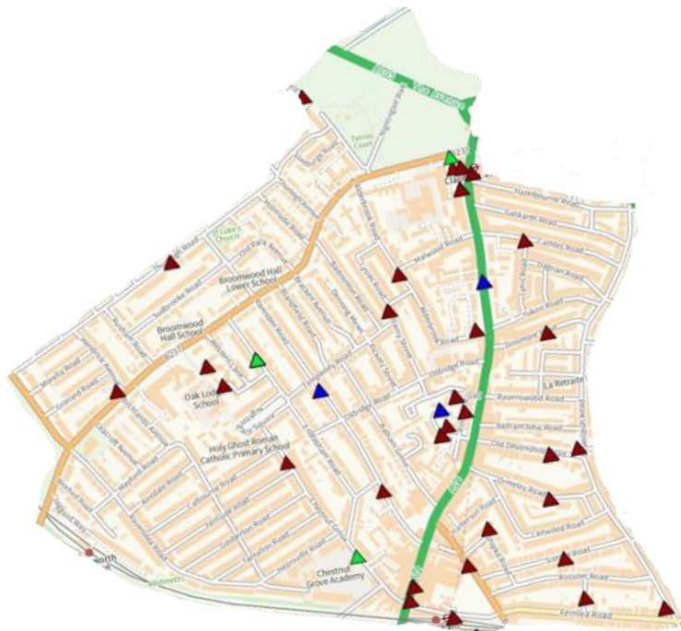
Examples: intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, nuisance phone calls . Generally directed at people.

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.





Map Legend

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Closing Codes

- ▲ ASB Personal
- ▲ ASB Nuisance
- ▲ ASB Environmental

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Opening Codes

- ▲ ASB Personal
- ▲ ASB Nuisance
- ▲ ASB Environmental

**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	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Bicycle	10	7	6	N/A
Person	9	7	13	N/A
Shoplifting	7	6	15	N/A
Other	6	4	4	N/A
TOTAL	32	24	38	N/A



Map Legend

CRIME- Theft- Bicycle Theft



CRIME- Theft- Other Theft



CRIME- Theft- Shoplifting



CRIME- Theft- Theft Person



**Balham Prolific Shoplifter Arrested**



Activity reflects one week of targeted plain-clothes operations, alongside NTE Op SENSOR and TFMV patrols.

High-visibility and covert patrols conducted along Balham High Road

Noticeable reduction in attempted shop thefts during the operation period

Significant decrease in reported shoplifting incidents from local businesses

Strong engagement with retailers, strengthening intelligence and preventative work.

ASB Warnings & Banning Letters issued to those caught shoplifting.

One known prolific shoplifters arrested at Sainsbury's

ASB warnings issued

Banning letters served to prevent repeat offending

Traffic and ASB enforcement outcomes during patrols:

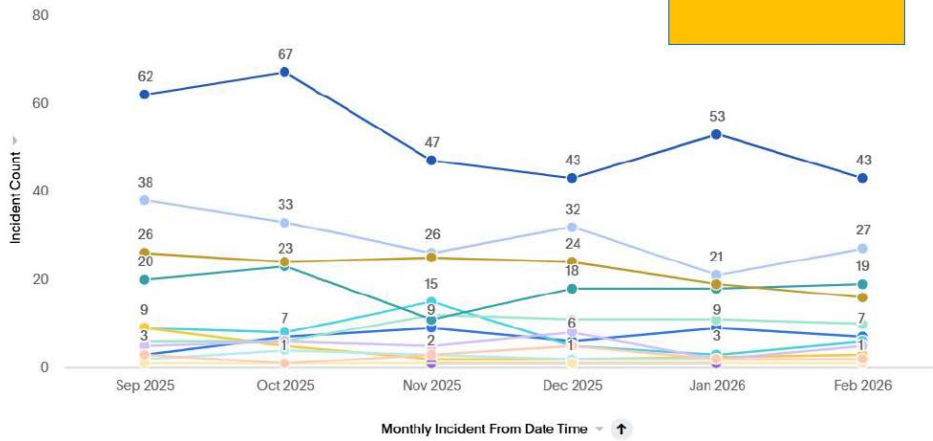
Multiple Section 59 warnings issued for anti-social driving Three vehicles seized due to persistent ASB driving behaviour



By Classification Group - Last 6 Months

CONNECT Only

Current Crimes

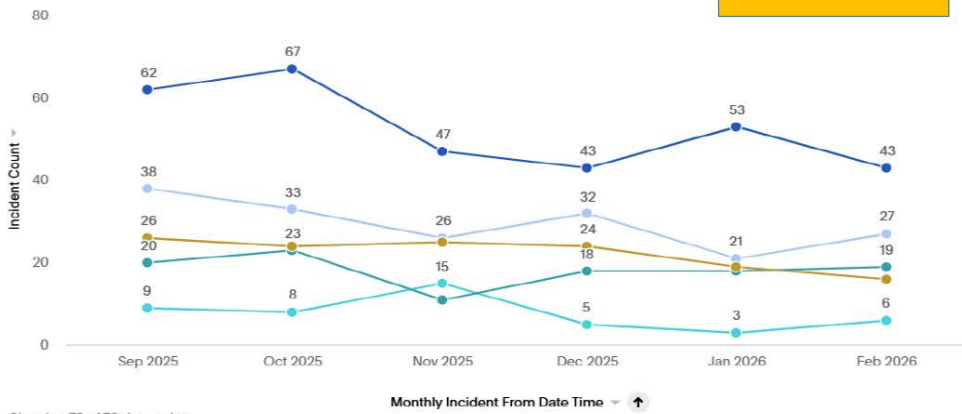


- ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- BURGLARY
- DRUG OFFENCES
- MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY
- NON-CRIME
- NON-NOTIFIABLE
- POSSESSION OF WEAPONS
- PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES
- ROBBERY
- SEXUAL OFFENCES
- THEFT
- VEHICLE OFFENCES
- VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

By Classification Group - Last 6 Months

CONNECT Only

Current Crimes

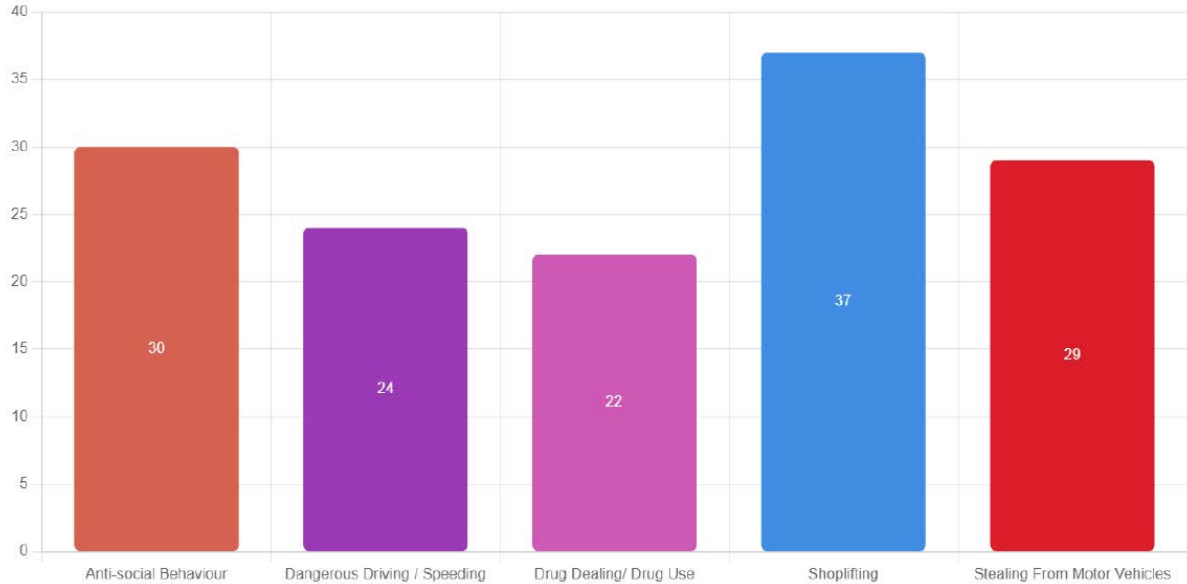


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Showing 70 of 70 data points

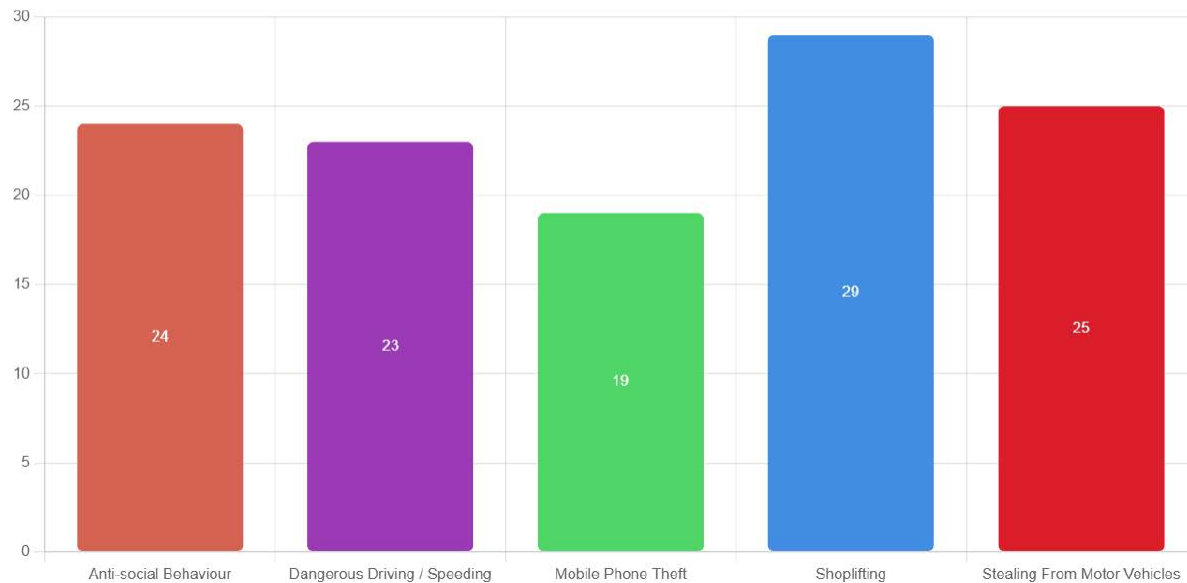
### New Survey

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)



## **MET ENGAGE:**

PCSO Jabraan Khan reminded residents **to sign up to MET ENGAGE** to hear

about local crime information. He said it was a platform to message but not to report crime. Still call 999 or 101 or online to report crime.

MET ENGAGE was set up to build more trust in the Police for the local community.



PCSO KHAN explained that Met Engage is the new digital platform from the Met Police to connect better with residents & communities.

Welcome to Met Engage. We're transforming the Met to become a service that truly delivers for you.

Through our new platform Met Engage you can get to know your local officers, help shape how we police your local area and have direct access to key information and advice.

This isn't just a platform for us to tell you what we're doing in your area, it's an opportunity for you to tell us what's concerning you most so we can take action on the things that truly matter to you.

**TO SIGN UP TO MET ENGAGE:**

- <https://www.metengage.co.uk/>
- <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/campaigns/2025/stay-informed-with-met-engage/>



METROPOLITAN POLICE

MORE TRUST

LESS CRIME

HIGH STANDARDS



**Pictures:**





## 5. WANDSWORTH COUNCIL ANIMAL WELFARE - **ABSENT**

Absent without notification.

No report was presented and no notes were emailed in.

**Secretary Fiona said no-one has attended from WANDSWORTH COUNCIL Animal welfare for 2 plus years.**

Cllr Rigby said many elderly cannot bend down (to bag up dog waste).

Cllr Rigby said they were busy. She said the problem is that to prosecute you need a photo.

## 6. WANDSWORTH COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER (CSO) - **ABSENT**

On this occasion Emily Pickett CSO had sent apologies for her absence. No notes were emailed in to the Chair or PCSO Jabraan Khan.

Going forward Emily Pickett will be the new Community Safety Officer for Balham Ward. Her details are as follows:

[emily.pickett@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:emily.pickett@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)  
[www.wandsworth.gov.uk](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk)

**Secretary Fiona said that no-one from Wandsworth**

**Council Community Safety Officer (CSO) had attended since March 2025 – A WHOLE YEAR. Someone should be attending each time or send notes or a deputy.**

## **7. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS – LH, DH & JR**

*Note taker FW requested that live text copies were to be sent to the Chair's email or to PCSO Khan as Councillors normally read from their notes and this would be less time consuming and more accurate. As well as the fact she is a volunteer.*

### **Cllr Lynsey Hedges (Conservative):**

Councillor Hedges read out her notes and emailed them to the Secretary for inclusion in these written notes.

Councillor Lynsey Hedges thanked the police for their continued hard work and visible presence across Balham and Clapham South.

### **Chestnut Grove**

Serious anti-social behaviour continues to affect residents on Chestnut Grove. Ongoing disturbances are significantly impacting quality of life, and residents are seeking urgent intervention to restore safety and stability. The matter has been reported to the police.

### **Rusham Road**

Significant concerns have been raised regarding a male resident in a block of flats on Rusham Road, reportedly linked to persistent anti-social behaviour and suspected drug-related activity. Of particular concern is an elderly resident living in the flat above, who is said to be extremely distressed and fearful, to the extent she feels unable to leave her home. This presents a serious safeguarding issue requiring urgent attention. The matter has been reported to the police.

### **Laitwood Road**

Following issues raised at the previous Crime Panel on 7 January, including a burglary where a household safe was dumped on the road, concerns remain regarding crime and safety on Laitwood Road. Additional worries include a recent murder on the road and a spate of aggressive parcel thefts. The police previously agreed to carry out a leaflet drop; however, this has not yet taken place.

### **Theft and Street Crime**

There has been a noticeable increase in mobile phone theft and pickpocketing in busy areas of Balham, affecting both residents and visitors. These incidents are contributing to a growing sense of insecurity in public spaces.

**Parcel Theft**

Residents across Balham and Clapham South continue to report theft of parcels from doorsteps and communal areas. This form of opportunistic crime is becoming more frequent and remains a significant concern for many households.

**Clapham Common / High Street Disorder**

Recent "flash mob" style incidents and disorder linked to Clapham High Street are deeply concerning. Residents living near the Common have reported repeated disturbances, which are unsettling for the community and damaging to local businesses. Continued joint working between neighbouring boroughs and the police is essential to prevent recurrence.

Councillor Hedges reiterated her commitment to working closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Metropolitan Police, and council officers to ensure residents feel safe and supported, and that robust action is taken where necessary.

**Cllr Dan Hamilton (Conservative):** Absent/Hols

Councillor Dan Hamilton was away on holiday and Councillor Hedges had captured his Balham crime problems.

**Cllr Jo Rigby (Labour):**

Councillor Jo Rigby had not emailed her crime notes to the Chair or PCSO J.Khan. Secretary chased up via email but had not received them at the deadline of sending notes to the Police.

**8. WANDSWORTH COUNCIL SOUTHERN HOUSING TEAM - ABSENT**

On this occasion, No report was emailed in to the Chair or PCSO Jabraan Khan.

New Wandsworth Council Estates Manager for Balham:

James Hull Tel: 0208 871 8662

Email: [james.hull@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:james.hull@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

**Secretary Fiona mentioned that they have not attended or sent notes in 2+ years.**

**9. Balham Ward panel priorities:****Police has chosen:**

- **Robbery/Burglary**

## Panel & Residents to choose next 2 priorities:

- **Thefts: Shoplifting, phone theft & parcel theft.**
- **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.

### **10. Residents, Wandsworth Council, Councillors & Police Discussion/Comments**

Sgt Mark Longely explained that Sgt Maggie Swallow had been moved to other wards and he was now responsible for Balham Ward SNT. He had a new team member PC Joana Martins with him, who had also joined the Balham SNT.

The panel welcomed them both.

He said there was 3 ways they were targeting ASB (Anti-social behaviour) He said that they had high viz Police, plain clothes Police and late shifts. There had been an arrest and recal to prison.

He explained that robbers surround victims to say "Give me your phone". Often late at night when victims come out of pubs and have their phones out because they are looking for their Taxi/Uber.

Resident from Rokeby House asked what shops were targeted for shoplifting?

Sainsbury's, TK Maxx and Boots.

Cllr Jo Rigby said that she had heard through residents that one of the betting shops was being used to 'fence goods'.

PC Joana Martins asked which of the Balgham betting shops this was?

Resident from Rokeby House said that with 1 staff member as security at the doors, plain clothes Police were needed inside shops.

Cllr Jo Rigby said that shed got Sainsburys to fix the security barrier. She saw someone just walk out with some milk whilst the security was busy on his phone. So she felt Sainsburys was fair game.

Sgt Mark Longely said that some security gives a good impression when walking in, some don't.

Fiona mentioned that she saw some form of shoplifting every time going into TK Maxx.

Resident from Rokeby House said that he's seen it in Sainsburys, Boots and Waitrose over the last 15 years.

PC Joana Martins mentioned staff couldn't do anything externally (outside of the shop).

PCSO Khan said that security staff have a no hands on policy.

Cllr Lynsey Hedges said that the Sainsburys garage on Nightingale Lane had anti-theft shelving and new protection glass for staff and expensive products behind the counter.



Photo taken by Secretary FW



Vice-Chair Fiona mentioned that Sainsburys Balham had also started to have shelf shoplifting safety devices on selected goods.



Photo taken by Secretary FW



Jo Rigby said that she's found lots of left unlocked shopping trolleys from Sainsburys, Waitrose and Tesco and she had to push them back to the stores.

Cllr Lynsey Hedges said that anti-social behaviour had got worse on the high road. She also said she'd spoken to many residents on Hendricks and Morella Avenue and they were interested to learn more about MET Engage.

PCSO Khan said that uptake had increased for MET Engage and that they would do a leaflet drop.

Resident from Rokeby House said that the big stores in Balham should attend these SNT meetings.

Fiona mentioned that she had already spoken to M&S Deputy manager at Clapham South.

PCSO Khan said that he could raise it with stores.

PC Joana Martins said that some stores accept a certain level of shoplifting in their profits/margins. It wasn't so much of a concern for them as it was a concern for the community.

Cllr Jo Rigby said that this policy by the big stores affected the smaller independents stores.

Resident from Rokeby House asked if there was a schools officer still.  
Sgt Mark Longely said there wasn't anymore.

Resident from Rokeby House asked if there could be gates across schools to stop ASB.

Cllr Lynsey Hedges asked if there had been a leaflet or street stall at Laitwood Rd after the recent burglary where a safe was found left on the pavement after a burglary. Sgt Maggie Swallow had previously said at the last meeting, that she would arrange for a leaflet in the road. This hasn't happened yet.

Cllr Lynsey Hedges mentioned that the recent riots/flashmob of schoolchildren/young people in Clapham High street was mentioned as a concern by many residents.

Fiona said that she's heard that it was planned months in advance on Tik Tok and other similar social media platforms and that supposedly Balham and Battersea were also targets.

She said that it was widely discussed on Whatsapps by residents and in shops as quite concerning.



*Photo credit taken from BBC Video*

Cllr Jo Rigby said there had been a good response to the wardens. They had managed to help an old man who had dropped his walking stick.

She also said there was concern for the squatters who lived above the old Halifax/TSB/Lloyds Building society by Waitrose. She said you wouldn't know they were there, as they were quiet and peaceful squatters. She said she was concerned for them if there was a fire. As there was also dogs in there. Who had keys to the shutters?

She said there was a problem evicting the squatters as the two top floors were owned by two separate landlords – one from Manchester. So that eviction orders were being done separately. One eviction is set for the 15<sup>th</sup> April for repossession of one of the floors.



*Photo taken by Secretary FW- 15<sup>th</sup> April Eviction day.*

Fiona asked if they would then have property guardians in place. She said she'd recently seen advertised for property guardians for a property on Cavendish rd between Ormerley and Old Devonshire rd, to live there for a low rent and keep the property occupied and lived in.

Resident from Alderbrook Road said that there was a huge convoy of vehicles including vans along Oldridge rd at 2am on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, which he thought was odd.

Cllr Jo Rigby mentioned the Wardens in Balham. She said they can fine people on the spot. Plus they can report flytipping and things that need fixing. She said it's been welcome by Lark as the wardens stand outside the shop and they've had shoplifting. It's a deterrent.

Sgt Mark Longely mentioned that they are a presence, but that they cannot have contact (with thieves).

PC Joana Martins said they are from parks police and are not hands-on Police.

Secretary Fiona asked Cllr Rigby if they can arrest and hold thieves. However it was clarified that they cannot stop crimes and arrest suspects and hold them. They cannot chase after children's phone theft and arrest. They do not have the same powers as MET Police.

Cllr Rigby said they're there mainly to stop flytipping, which they have done a lot since starting.

Cllr Jo Rigby said they can gather intelligence.

Sgt Mark Longely said that everything they do must be reported to MET police.

Cathy, on behalf Ed Davidson from Nightingale Lane, thanked the Police for their support.

#### **10. Next SNT Ward Panel Meeting:**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 at 6:30pm – 8pm.**

**Balham Library (Upstairs), Ramsden Road. SW12**

*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 s to be informed in good time to post details of the SNT meeting.*

#### **11. Upcoming 2026 SNT events:**

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 9-10am - Cuppa with a Coppa Panda Coffe Hoise

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 11am-12pm Theft from Motor vehicle Stall. Sudburgh Road

### Other events TBC.

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.

It was mentioned that there had been considerable abstractions and focus on priority tasks that meant there had not been many community engagements in the past 3 months.

### **12. AOB**

Sgt Mark Longely stood up and properly introduced himself and the new team.

Vice Chair & Secretary Fiona mentioned that public roles are normally for 3 years before residents should re-nominate and vote.

Fiona Warn has requested 6 months off as Secretary and we will need to look for another person to volunteer for this role for the next 2 meeting (6 months) that someone takes this on as she cannot guarantee attendance.

Please have a think if you'd like to help. If there are any candidates, this is something we should **vote on at the next meeting in July**.

### **13. HOW TO CONTACT THE POLICE?**

**As per previous meetings, its imperative to **REPORT crimes** so that stats can be documented and extra resource can be allocated according to the stats.**

**Reported crime and/or CAD numbers do not automatically get put through to the Balham Safer Neighborhood Team.**

- We advise you to call 999 for emergency or 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 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](http://www.met.police.uk) and select report and then the crime to report.
- Our Contact details are:
- [Balham@met.police.uk](mailto:Balham@met.police.uk) for community issues or advice.

#### 14. ADDITIONAL INFO – FOR HOMELESS REPORTING:



**CONTACT STREETLINK:**

[www.streetlink.org.uk](http://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](http://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>