

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	28 th July 2003
Subject:	Council Support to Harrow's Neighbourhood Watch
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Chief Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Deputy Leader
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1- Proposal for Neighbourhood Watch Action teams, aligned with the New Harrow Project

1. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

To propose a joint project between Harrow Council, Harrow Police and Harrow Neighbourhood Watch, using funds previously reserved for Harrow Neighbourhood Watch.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members agree to the proposed use of the grant reserved for Harrow Neighbourhood Watch set out in the appendix.
- 2.2 That Members note the proposals to review the role of Neighbourhood Watch

REASON:

- (a) to re-energise the role of the Watch, reflecting the priorities of the New Harrow Project.
- (b) to facilitate community involvement in community safety and the New Harrow Project.

3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

- 3.1 None

4. Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)

- 4.1 The Grants Panel at its last meeting agreed to "hold over" the unused Neighbourhood Watch grant from last year and to reserve £1000 in this years budget. These funds were to be used to support the NH Pilot in S Harrow by seeking to revitalise the Neighbourhood Watch in the area.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The proposed project is relevant to Harrow's Corporate priorities of enhancing the environment in Harrow and strengthening Harrow's local communities by improving the equality of life of the people of Harrow through the promotion of Community Safety and community involvement.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

- 6.1 Set out in the appendix to this report are the details of the project with proposed expenditure of £1016. This project is aimed at reducing car crime and burglary in the area.
- 6.2 Other proposals considered have included expenditure on joint leaflets between the Watch and the Council and on the development of a website. The Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch believes that it will be possible to secure funding from elsewhere for the website.
- 6.3 A further meeting has recently been held with Mr Rookledge. It is clear that there is potential still to be realised in the development of the Watch schemes in Harrow. It is considered that the Watch has more to contribute to the development of a Safer Harrow. What is being proposed is a project to assess the role of the Watch and to examine the extent to which it can contribute to the Council's objectives. A strategy for development would enable Members to see how any requests for further grants would fit with the Council's objectives and ensure expenditure was directed at agreed targets. Comparative data with other Watches in London will be assembled.
- 6.4 In the interim Mr Rookledge has asked if a few small sums could be released from the budget to meet expenditure needed to allow the Watch to support the work of the co-ordinators. Mentioned in particular was the need for more signs for new areas and meeting the costs of a meeting to encourage new volunteers. It is suggested that such requests should be dealt with by executive action after consultation with the groups and within the agreed budget.

7. **Consultation**

- 7.1 Consultation on the proposed project has taken place with Neighbourhood Watch area co-ordinators and the Chair of Neighbourhood Watch.

8. **Finance Observations**

No comments

9. **Legal Observations**

No comments

10. **Background Papers**

None

11. **Author**

- 11.1 Bindu Arjoon-Matthews. Manager, Strategic Partnerships Section Ext 5637

Appendix 1

Proposal for Harrow Neighbourhood Watch Action Teams

Consultation has been undertaken with Harrow Police and the Chair of the Harrow Neighbourhood Watch (HNW) to develop a project aimed at promoting community involvement in community safety issues, addressing fear of crime and re-energising the role of NHW locally. It is further proposed that the project be piloted in South Harrow.

Project Outline

This Project will provide a dedicated team of volunteers who will raise awareness of crime reduction and neighbourhood watch issues in the local community and will consist of two strands:

- Motor Vehicle Initiative
- Burglary Initiative

Members of HNW will be asked to cover a specific area of South Harrow for a specific period, for example, three hours in the afternoon wearing high visibility tabards which will carry the Harrow Strategic Partnership logo on it as well as the HNW, Police and Council logos. The volunteers will work in pairs and will be supported by uniformed officers and a mobile phone.

Volunteers will receive a briefing note prior to beginning their 'shift' and will be issued with mobile phones to provide immediate response from the mobile police vehicle. They will also be issued with literature relevant to the operation, carrying the logos of the three partners.

Police analysts will assign volunteers to areas where motor vehicle crime and/or burglaries are most prevalent and the Council, Police and HNW will determine the frequency of these operations.

Motor Crime Initiative

The HNW will walk the streets and place anti-theft crime leaflets on the windscreen of all vehicles. If volunteers see anything suspicious during their shift, they will be encouraged to contact the mobile police vehicle which will provide an immediate response.

Burglary Initiative

The HNW will walk down particular streets and alleyways in conjunction with the uniformed Police Tasking Teams. They will distribute crime reduction leaflets to raise awareness and encourage residents to consider additional home security and the establishment of neighbourhood watch schemes in their area.

Benefits:

- Provide an increased visible presence in target areas to reduce crime and the fear of crime
- Raise awareness of actual rather than perceived crime trends
- Raise awareness of crime reduction measures
- Promoting community involvement in community safety

- Raise awareness of HNW and encourage new members
- Engaging the statutory and voluntary sector in the New Harrow Project

Costs:

It is envisaged that these will be made from the Grant reserved for Harrow Neighbourhood Watch.

15 x Trium 110 'pay as you go' mobile phones on the Virgin T Mobile network with £5 free credit on each phone £749.85 inc VAT.

30 x Day-Glo yellow safety tabards with a single reflective strip on both sides, wording and logos on both sides, all in black ink £145.20 inc VAT

30 x Day-Glo yellow newsbags with reflective strips on both sides and logos printed in black ink on the front £121.50 inc VAT

Total £1016.55