
Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) Meeting Minutes

Date: 17 March 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Hillingdon.

Present:

(JH) Jean Hillman,	SNB Vice Chair
(DC) Donna Cooper	LBH Community Safety
(BW) Chief Inspector Ben Wright	Metropolitan Police
(DL) Dave Ludlow	Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch
(KM) Kevin Mephram	Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch
(MC) Mike Crane	BID Manager
(PS) Peter Smallwood	Councillor, LBH
(CS) Colleen Sullivan	Councillor, LBH
(SG) Suresh Gupta	Lay Member
(CM) Claire Morris	Lay Member
(CT) Chris Tarr	Lay Member

Apologies:

(HL) Hoda Lacey	SNB Chair
(JS) Jeremy Stern	Lay Member
(AR) Akash Rushana	Lay Member
(CB) Chris Beatty	Age UK
(LH) Lana Hormiz	Hillingdon Youth Council Worker
(GS) George Summerville	Hillingdon Youth Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair, JH, opened the meeting, welcoming attendees and acknowledging the wide range of issues facing communities and the Board. She noted that the Chair, HL, was attending an LCP2 meeting on behalf of Hillingdon's SNB. Members introduced themselves, with agreement that formal introductions around the room were unnecessary given the group's familiarity with each other.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes had been circulated in advance. No matters arose, and they were approved as an accurate record. Members expressed appreciation for the improved clarity and readability of recent minutes.

3. Chair's Quarterly Report

In the absence of the Chair, JH summarised key points from HL's written update. LCP2 continues to work on defining the role and expectations of SNBs across London and maintaining constructive dialogue with MOPAC regarding the continuation of funding. There had been uncertainty about financial allocations this year, so confirmation of a stable funding amount was welcomed.

JH also reported a positive online meeting of the Met Command and Control (MetCC) Forum. Members received long-awaited performance data and an update on staffing pressures, training and turnover. She noted ongoing strain on call-handling services but also improvements in efficiency and the quality of public information. Recruitment continues, although the overall workforce remains under pressure.

4. Vice Chair Update: Met CC Forum

JH provided additional detail from her attendance at the MetCC forum, including:

- Persistent staffing shortages and high workload in call centres.
- Improvements in performance transparency and public engagement.
- A desire to see continuity in leadership to maintain progress.

She emphasised that call-handling staff operate under significant emotional strain due to the nature of incidents they manage.

5. Police Quarterly Performance and Stop & Search

Chief Inspector BW delivered a detailed overview of police performance, operational pressures and crime trends. Key points included:

Operational Context

- Significant resources are being diverted to public order policing, including protests and tensions linked to Middle East events.
- Immigration-related policing around local hotels remains resource-intensive, though one hotel's upcoming closure may ease demand.
- The Met faces a continuing structural budget deficit, resulting in the loss of support posts and increasing administrative pressure on frontline officers.

Crime Trends

- Robbery levels remain low, with a notable reduction this month.
- Theft-person offences have fallen from previous spikes linked to e-bikes and high-footfall areas.
- Burglary increased earlier in the winter due to repeat offending by a small group; arrests have since stabilised the trend.
- Vehicle crime continues to be affected by Heathrow-related reports and unregulated parking operators.
- Shoplifting detection rates have improved significantly due to concentrated partnership work and use of Criminal Behaviour Orders.
- Hate crime has risen locally, with trends correlating with national immigration-related discourse. Most incidents remain low-level disputes rather than targeted campaigns.

Public Protection

- Increased reporting of domestic abuse and sexual offences reflects national under-reporting improvements rather than a rise in offending.
- Many recorded sexual offences are historic or relate to immigration safeguarding processes.
- The safeguarding team continues to achieve strong outcomes despite heavy demand.

Response and Demand Management

- Calls for service have risen sharply across all categories, while resources have been stretched by abstraction to major operations.
- Despite this, attendance performance has remained relatively stable due to significant effort by response teams.
- Prioritisation of domestic abuse calls over other high-risk incidents is now embedded practice.

Stop and Search

- Positive outcome rates remain strong, with body-worn video supporting scrutiny and public confidence.
- Community appetite for stop and search in Hillingdon is higher than in many London boroughs.
- Members were encouraged to join stop-and-search scrutiny panels to review footage and decision-making.

6. MOPAC Funding and Finance Update

DC provided a detailed update on MOPAC funding, deadlines and project expectations. Key points included:

- Total funding for 2026/27: £20,146, including £5,200 ring-fenced for SNB administration, historically managed by Hillingdon Council.
- Available funding for community projects: £14,946.
- Existing projects have been contacted to submit invoices ahead of year-end, with most expected to fully spend allocated funds.
- Application forms for new projects have been circulated, with a submission deadline of 27 March.
- The Board must ensure new applicants meet MOPAC priorities and demonstrate financial viability.

- DC outlined the full timeline through to final submission to MOPAC by 30 May, including the Board's decision deadline of 24 April.

Project updates included Growing Against Violence (completed early), YMCA football (ongoing strong engagement), the Botwell Teen Room (successful equipment refresh), and Youth Council initiatives (awaiting transfer of funds).

Potential new proposals included support for Bell Farm Christian Centre due to emerging ASB issues in West Drayton, and possibly revisiting multi-year successful projects such as Project Confidence.

7. Membership

The Board noted ongoing difficulties recruiting and retaining lay members, with attendance remaining inconsistent. Various engagement and outreach methods will continue to be reviewed.

8. Neighbourhood Watch Update

Neighbourhood Watch representatives gave a comprehensive update on membership growth, Met Engage metrics, and community engagement. Highlights included:

- Significant growth in local Neighbourhood Watch membership, with Heathrow Villages doubling participation through strong PCSO engagement.
- Hillingdon remains one of the highest-performing boroughs in London for neighbourhood-based registration.
- Northern wards continue to outperform southern wards, with social factors and high levels of private renting affecting recruitment in some areas.
- Collaborative events, such as crime-prevention days, continue to strengthen community–police links.

9. Ward Panels

There was an extended discussion about the functioning of ward panels, including difficulties sustaining membership, inconsistent communication, and differing practices across the borough. Some residents had expressed interest in joining panels but had received no follow-up. The police agreed to address these gaps.

Members also discussed visibility policing and clarified that “visibility” cannot be set as a ward panel priority in isolation, but rather must form part of specific, SMART crime-fighting objectives.

10. Councillors' Update

No formal updates were provided. Councillors reflected positively on the partnership working and emphasised support for continuing current administrative arrangements.

11. Age UK Update

Although Age UK was not represented, JH provided an overview of recent changes:

- Funding constraints are significantly reducing services and staff hours.
- Some previously free services (e.g., gardening) can no longer be delivered without charge.
- Befriending services have been restricted from long-term support to a six-week cycle due to demand.
- There is growing unmet need among vulnerable older residents, and a suggestion was made to consider future projects supporting this group.

12. Hillingdon Youth Council

Youth Council activities were referenced within the MOPAC funding update. Their project awaits final funding transfer, and further youth-led engagement is planned.

13. Any Other Business

Items raised included:

- A suggestion to vary meeting days to support attendance, though room-booking constraints may limit flexibility.
- Invitation to members to attend a monthly community meeting offering a social meal and discussion space.
- Proposal to take a group photograph for publicity, with consent of attendees.
- General thanks expressed to all volunteers, police representatives and administrators for their work.

14. Next Meeting

Date: 16 June 2026

Location: Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Uxbridge