
Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) Meeting Minutes

Date: 16 June 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

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

Present:

(HL) Hoda Lacey	SNB Chair
(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
(SG) Suresh Gupta	Lay Member
(CT) Chris Tarr	Lay Member
(ML) Malcolm Lucas	Hillingdon Independent Advisory Group (HIAG)
(GB) Gerrard Barry	Harefield Residents Association

Apologies:

(CM) Claire Morris	Lay Member
(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

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Members introduced themselves, including several attendees who were either new to the Board or attending for the first time, reflecting a mix of long-standing contributors and newer voices joining the discussion.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting - 17 March 2026

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed without amendment. There were no matters arising raised by members.

3. Chair's Quarterly Report

The Chair provided a candid update on the current position of the SNB, highlighting a period of uncertainty and change. There has been ongoing discussion at a London-wide level about the role of SNBs and how they fit alongside other structures, particularly ward panels. It was noted that MOPAC and the Metropolitan Police are increasingly separating their involvement, which may have implications for governance and funding in the future. While funding for the current year has been secured, there remains uncertainty beyond this.

A significant part of the discussion centered on the effectiveness of the current model. The Chair expressed concern that the purpose of SNBs, particularly as an escalation point for ward panels, is not widely understood and that the system itself is built on inconsistent foundations. Members reflected on the challenges faced by ward panels across London, including difficulties recruiting volunteers and engaging residents in a meaningful way.

It was also noted that the Terms of Reference in circulation are outdated, with the most recent version dating back several years. Work is now underway across London to effectively “reset” the model, giving boroughs an opportunity to shape future arrangements.

4. Vice Chair Update: Met CC Forum

The Vice Chair provided an update following attendance at a MetCC forum. The discussion focused on the pressures facing the central call handling function, which manages both 999 and 101 calls. Members heard that the service is currently experiencing significant strain due to a combination of high demand, staffing challenges and organisational change.

Frequent leadership changes and restructuring have made it difficult to maintain consistency, while staffing levels, particularly for 101 services, remain a concern. It was acknowledged that while emergency calls continue to be prioritised and handled effectively, non-emergency contact is more challenging, contributing to public frustration. The West Area, which includes Hillingdon, continues to experience particularly high demand, which impacts overall performance.

Despite these issues, it was recognised that staff are working under considerable pressure and continue to deliver an essential service.

5. Police Quarterly Performance and Stop & Search

Chief Inspector Wright delivered a comprehensive and wide-ranging update on police performance, providing both strategic context and local insight. He outlined several external pressures affecting policing demand, including ongoing protest activity linked to international events, increased public order requirements, and the policing demands associated with major events such as the World Cup. Local demand has also been affected by previous issues around immigration hotels, although this has reduced following the closure of key sites.

From a performance perspective, the overall picture for neighbourhood crime was described as positive, with many offence types showing a downward trend despite the challenging operating environment. This improvement has been driven by a strong focus on proactive policing, including targeting repeat offenders and prioritising visible crime-fighting activity.

Members discussed the importance of understanding crime data in context. It was noted, for example, that apparent increases in offences such as shoplifting are often linked to improved reporting mechanisms rather than a genuine rise in incidents. Similarly, data anomalies were acknowledged in some areas and were being reviewed.

In relation to response and demand, the Board heard that call volumes continue to rise, placing additional pressure on already stretched resources. While response times are broadly stable, this reflects significant effort by officers to maintain performance levels despite reduced capacity. Encouragingly, improvements have been seen in responses to high-risk incidents, particularly domestic abuse cases.

The position on serious violence remains particularly strong, with very low levels of the most serious offences recorded locally. This was highlighted as a notable achievement when compared to other parts of London.

The discussion also covered stop and search, which continues to be used proactively as a key crime prevention tool. The positive outcome rate remains high, and members were reassured that activity is intelligence-led and subject to scrutiny, including the use of body-worn video. Opportunities for Board members to observe this process were also offered.

6. MOPAC Funding and Finance Update

An update was provided on MOPAC funding, confirming that the Board's application had been successful with only minor adjustments required. The grant agreement has now been signed, and arrangements are in place for the funds to be released.

Four projects have been approved, covering women's safety initiatives, youth engagement through sport, school-based workshops, and a local youth provision. Work will now progress to formalising agreements with the project providers and supporting delivery over the coming months.

7. Membership

Members noted that there are two new applications to join the Board, which will be circulated and considered in due course.

8. Neighbourhood Watch Update

A detailed and data-rich update was provided on Neighbourhood Watch activity and Met Engage. Hillingdon continues to perform strongly in terms of resident engagement, with membership levels among the highest in London. However, other boroughs are increasing their activity, meaning continued effort will be needed to maintain this position.

The update highlighted a wide range of engagement activities, including attendance at community events, collaboration with local organisations, and innovative approaches such as engaging with residents in banking settings. Increasing use of digital platforms is also enabling more effective two-way communication, with recent examples showing how quickly intelligence can be gathered and shared following incidents.

There was also discussion about expanding collaboration at a wider BCU level to share good practice and strengthen engagement across neighbouring areas.

9. Ward Panels

The earlier discussion on ward panels was revisited, with members reflecting on the variation in how panels operate across the borough. While some are active and well-attended, others struggle with engagement and consistency.

Common challenges include recruiting volunteers, securing venues, and ensuring residents are aware of and understand the role of panels. It was widely recognised that any future review of the SNB structure will need to address these underlying issues to create a more coherent and effective system.

10. Councillors' Update

Members were informed of recent changes within the Council. Councillor Sullivan has been appointed Deputy Mayor and will therefore step down from the Board, with Councillor Ahmad-Wallana taking her place.

It was also noted that Councillor Adam Bennett has taken responsibility for community safety at Cabinet level. Going forward, councillor contributions will aim to provide more

strategic, borough-wide updates while also supporting communication between the Board and residents.

11. Age UK Update

The Board heard that Age UK continues to face significant challenges in recruiting volunteers. Demand for services such as befriending and practical support remains high and waiting times have reduced but are still present. Members were encouraged to promote volunteering opportunities where possible.

12. Hillingdon Youth Council

There was no substantive update from the Youth Council on this occasion, although apologies had been received. Clarification around representation and attendance will be followed up.

13. Any Other Business

A suggestion has been made to establish a WhatsApp group for Board members to improve communication between meetings. The proposal was broadly supported, subject to appropriate use and agreement from those not present.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place 15 September 2026, in CR3.