

## Title: Wormwood Scrubs updates

Date	<b>08 September 2020</b>
Classification	<b>Information</b>
Title of report	<b>Service update</b>
Report of	<b>Community Safety Unit</b>
Decision /Decision maker	<b>No</b>
Report author(s)	<b>Ahmad Rafique</b>

### **Law Enforcement Team officers for the area –**

#### **Ahmad Rafique, Senior Law Enforcement Officer, North area:**

Ahmad Rafique is one of the Senior Law Enforcement Officers and manages the North Team. Ahmad has been working with LBHF since 2003 and has gained vast knowledge and enforcement experience on various enviro-crime, highways, Markets and ASB issues. Previously, Ahmad had managed various teams and delivered the expected outcomes to a high standard including successful prosecutions at the court. Ahmad has acquired BTECH level 7 and BTECH level 3 qualifications in enforcement led fields. Ahmad has been working closely with our residents, partner agencies and the Elected Members on various enquiries, to achieve a cleaner and safer borough for all.

#### **Paul Buzsaki, Law Enforcement Officer, College Park & Old Oak ward:**

Paul Buzsaki is one of your local ward Law Enforcement Team officers. Paul has a background in community safety and enforcement gained through working across eight London boroughs over the last twenty years focusing on community and commercial business issues. Working in partnership with residents, business and local stakeholders tackling environmental blight, anti-social behaviour and providing a uniformed visible presence. Paul has worked on and contributed towards the success of two award winning neighbourhood warden and community safety services. Paul has run successful junior citizenship programmes at primary schools and delivered a noise monitoring service for a housing association. Paul has issued fines for various offences spanning different civil and criminal legislation to persons sometimes in confrontational circumstances. Paul also has experience of seizing vehicles linked to environmental crime offences as an officer for a fly tip task force. Paul is looking forward to the successes that the Law Enforcement Team will achieve in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and working alongside colleagues from other council departments and partner agencies to maintain and improve the local area.

### **An introduction to the LET**

This report updates the Wormwood Scrubs Committee on the role of Law Enforcement Officers in relation to the activities linked with Wormwood Scrubs.

The Law Enforcement Team (LET) has taken over the functions of previous services to name, the Neighbourhood Wardens, Parks Police, Street Scene Enforcement and Highways

Enforcement. The LET was formed on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, initially comprising of 1 x Manager, 6 x Seniors and 65 x Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs). Each Senior LEOs is to lead a team of LEOs covering 24/7 shift pattern that includes AM/ PM borough wide and night-time economy.

LET's main objectives are:

- To support the Council's vision to be the Best Council and deliver continuous improvement for our residents, to be the cleanest and safest Borough.
- To work in partnership with council services, residents, partners and external agencies to develop a co-ordinated approach to dealing with and solving street related issues and problems and increasing resident satisfaction.
- The LET is working round the clock, seven days a week, supporting the MPS and protecting residents from anti-social behaviour crime providing consistency and expertise to tackle persistent issues; particularly in known hotspots in the borough. In doing so, we will make H&F safer for everyone.

### **Details of our work in and around WWS since introduction of service:**

#### Hi-Vis patrolling:

LEOs have been patrolling the Wormwood Scrubs on daily basis engaging with the visitors, dog walkers, event organisers, public gym users, stakeholders, facility users, etc.

#### Public reassurance and safeguarding work:

- Routinely checking on the well-being of HS2 protestors
- Officers engaged with HS2 protestors at their encampment. Currently 14 protestors occupying the site, no welfare concerns identified.
- Undertaking daily patrols ensuring no campers occupying WWS
- Dealing with the UMEs and seeking assistance from the Police
- Crowd dispersal with the support of Police
- Undertaking regular patrols to deter crime and fear of crime
- Routinely inspecting the litter bins for any illegal/ criminal activities, i.e. knife sweeping, human faeces, burnt items, damage to litter bins, etc.
- Officers requested to identify/ inspect a rough sleeper site behind an advertising hoarding board that backs onto the Scrubs from Scrubs Lane. No sign of any rough sleeper in the immediate areas.
- Officer attended a small contained fire within a metal dustbin in thick undergrowth. No people present around the fire, so officer monitored for a short period of time and the fire burnt itself out.
- Hi-vis patrol of the Scrubs in response to two reports of a male flasher touching himself in a sexual manner in the bushes near to the school by Scrubs Lane. No male located, SNT was updated.
- Police presence close to wooded area near to Scrubs Lane following discovery a deceased male. The death is possibly treated as unexplained. Officers did reassurance patrols for a few days.
- Officers assisted a male laying on his back after suffering hypoglycaemic attack, male refused medical assistance as wife arrived with medication and sugary drink to assist the man getting home. Officers stayed behind ensuring this male left the area safely
- Officers engaged with HS2 protestors regarding human waste being deposited in bins, protestors denied depositing waste in bins and showed officers portable chemical toilets that they use.
- Officers patrolled Linford Christie stadium at the rear of the changing rooms and engaged with four persons listening to music and having a barbeque, safety advice given to group.

- Officers responded to call about loud music being played, on arrival officers met with a small family gathering and gave advice about music volume being played through one small speaker/ PA.
- Officers attended an Unauthorised Music Event at the Scrubs and that Police are there to disperse and requested LET be on site to observe and report. Officers attended the area and observed approximately 35 people in situ. Engagement with the campers was established, and after about 25 minutes of static patrol and the area was clear of all the people involved.
  - During the above-mentioned engagement, a member of the public (female) who lost her clear crossbody bag containing house keys, iPhone 12 and other personal belongings was found by officers at the location and handed over to the owner. The owner who was crying left the area very happy, she informed officers that, the party started at 12 noon and police dispersed them at 21:00.

WWS is patrolled both by the North officers and the night teams – these taskings we will continue for the foreseeable future.

#### Safeguarding the Council Assets:

- Vehicles being parking on the green
- Reporting on broken bollards
- Reporting on any damage to infrastructure of the WWS
- Attending reports of burning grass on the scrubs, complainant emailed for further information.
- Engagement with the Event Organisers, advising them not to park their vehicles on the green
- Checking on any unauthorised usage of WWS (sports events, personal training, unauthorised campers/ gazebos, illegal street trading (ice cream vendors, hot dog sellers, etc).
- Regular patrols are being undertaken ensuring no unauthorised campers are sighted on the WWS.

#### Park Locking:

- LEOs lock the WWS main gates daily
- Reporting on any defects to gates, metal bollards, fence, trees, grass, path, car parking areas, etc

#### Collaborative working:

- LEOs attend monthly meeting with the Partners of WWS to discuss any points of interest including the HS2 protestors
- Attending ASB North Forum to discuss the ASB related issues in the North of the borough
- Working closely with the local SNT, CSU, MET Intelligence, HS2 rep, BTP, idverde to share intelligence and enhance the partnership working.
- Working closely with the Councils' CCTV Control Room on ASB, campers, Anti Vaxxrs, etc.

#### How to contact the LET:

How residents contact the LET is via two routes. The first, via telephone on the contact centre number 020 8753 1100 and/or via [LET.HF@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:LET.HF@lbhf.gov.uk) – when you contact us your enquiry is logged and allocated to a ward officer. The ward officer will then contact you with updates and arrange to meet with you, speak with you etc to ensure transparency in case progression and to allow relationships to be developed.

The service also has its own web page within the councils website which can be accessed here - <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/crime/law-enforcement-team>

Offer to this group:

We are aware that residents and resident groups will want to know their ward officer on a personal level, and we are committed to ensuring that this happens. It is really important to us that our ward officers know as much about their ward as possible and residents are essential to assisting us with this knowledge.

If you would like to meet with Ahmad and/or Paul, on site, to undertake a site visit around WWS please email [ahmad.rafique@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:ahmad.rafique@lbhf.gov.uk) and this will be arranged.

For all general and routine enquiries, please continue to contact our generic inbox [LET.HF@lbhg.gov.uk](mailto:LET.HF@lbhg.gov.uk)