

Appendix 2 - Wormwood Scrubs updates

Date	15 December 2020
Classification	Information
Title of report	Service update
Report of	Community Safety Unit
Report author(s)	Ahmad Rafique

Law Enforcement Team Officers for your area –

Ahmad Rafique, Senior Law Enforcement Officer
Neil Morrison, Senior Law Enforcement Officer
Paul Buzsaki, Law Enforcement Officer, College Park & Old Oak ward
Magdalena Niedzwiedz, Law Enforcement Officer, College Park & Old Oak ward

Summary:

This report outlines the role and works undertaken by the Law Enforcement Officers in Wormwood Scrubs.

The Law Enforcement Team (LET) was launched in April 2021 following the amalgamation of various teams, including the Neighbourhood Wardens, Parks Police, Street Scene Enforcement and Highways Enforcement. The LET comprises 72 uniformed officers, and the service operates 24/7, 362 days a year.

The 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 coordinated approach to solving issues and increasing resident satisfaction.
- To support the Police and other partners to protect residents from anti-social behaviour and crime.
- Tackle persistent issues, particularly in known hotspots in the borough.

Details of our work in and around WWS since mid-July 2021:

Hi-Visibility patrols:

From mid-July to end of November 21, Officers have reported 425 various interactions. LET Officers have patrolled Wormwood Scrubs daily. Officers have engaged with residents, visitors, dog walkers, hospital workers, event organisers, public gym users, stakeholders and facility users.

Public reassurance and safeguarding work:

- LET officers served the High Court eviction Orders on the HS2 campers' representatives.
- Routinely checked on the well-being of HS2 protestors before they safely vacated their camps.
- Undertaking daily patrols ensuring no unauthorised campers occupying WWS
- Dealing with the Unauthorised music events in collaboration with the Police
- Undertaking regular patrols to deter crime and fear of crime
- Inspect the litter bins, conduct knife sweeps, report waste for clearance, and report damage to litter bins and other park furniture.
- Following an unfortunate incident where a female was attacked, LET officers patrol the area/ footpath from the car park leading to Braybroke Street at the rear of the WWS Prison. These patrols are undertaken daily
- LET officers have engaged with two unauthorised campers who were reportedly occupying the wooded areas on the eastern side of WWS. Both were spoken to, and advice on where to seek further assistance was offered, including checking on their well-being. Both were advised to remove their camps, and which was complied with; however, this took longer than anticipated.
- LET officers were alerted by colleagues from IDVerde male frequenting the woodland area and harassing park users. LET officers patrolled the reported woodland area but were unable to apprehend the individual. IDVerde staff have not seen him around since. Regular patrolling through the woodland is being undertaken, and officers will try to engage with the reported male on the reported matter and his well-being, etc.
- The HS2 campers have removed their items and the structures they erected from WWS.
- LET's Night Team has engaged with a group of young males in the car park at the rear of Hammersmith Hospital. Officers introduced themselves and advised the group to refrain from gathering in the car park.
- Whilst on patrol near the pony paddock, Officers saw a large aggressively dog running off the lead and heading towards the children's play area with no owner. After following the dog into the woods opposite the paddock, officers identified the owner and spoke to him about his dog being left off the lead and unattended. This matter has since been reported to the local SNT.

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 parked on the grass.
- Reporting on broken bollards
- Reporting of any damage to the infrastructure at WWS
- 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 at WWS.

Park Locking:

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

Engagement with Residents/ WWS users:

- Walkabout with the Friends of WWS was arranged and attended to discuss the ongoing issues and the upkeep of the WWS.
- Since 18th July 2021, LET officers have engaged with over 130 residents/ dog walkers/ Hospital workers/ users of WWS and gave them calling cards with ward officer details. LET officers introduced themselves to residents, spoke of the LET service, and provided advice on contacting us. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to our residents on broader issues.
- During one of the engagements, LET officers met with the Chair of Bentworth TRA and gave her a few LET Service's calling cards to the broader neighbourhood/ residents.

Collaborative working:

- LET officers work closely with IDVerde on the upkeep of the WWS.
- Attend a monthly meeting with the partners of WWS to discuss any points of interest, including the HS2 protestors
- LET officers have attended and provided reassurance patrols whilst the HS2 camps were being emptied/ removed.
- 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, users of WWS to share intelligence and enhance the partnership working.
- Working closely with the Councils' CCTV Control Room on ASB, campers, Anti Vaxers, etc.

How to contact the LET:

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

If you would like to meet with the Seniors or the ward Officers on-site to undertake a site visit around WWS, please email oldoakcollegepark_northwards@lbhf.gov.uk or the team seniors at Ahmad.Rafique@lbhf.gov.uk / Neil.Morrison@lbhf.gov.uk.

To contact the LET, via telephone please call 020 8753 1100 and via LET.HF@lbhf.gov.uk. When you contact us, your enquiry is logged and allocated to a ward officer. Ward officer will contact you with updates and arrange to meet or speak with you etc. Old Oak & College park ward has now a dedicated email address which is oldoakcollegepark_northwards@lbhf.gov.uk

The team website be accessed here - <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/crime/law-enforcement-team>

What's a Law Enforcement Officer and what do they do?

A Law Enforcement Officer carries out local area patrolling to provide the first point of contact with residents, businesses and other bodies:

- To increase public confidence and reduce the fear of crime
- To prevent and deal with Anti-Social Behavior (ASB)
- To protect the quality of the local environment.

They carry out investigations into ASB and environmental crime and use appropriate legislation to maintain a public realm that is welcome to all.

A Law Enforcement Officer does all this by working closely with Council departments, Contractors, the Police and other agencies, to provide a clean and safe borough for all our residents and visitors alike.

Law Enforcement Officers are empowered to take enforcement action in line with local and statutory legislation to deal with Anti-Social behaviour and environmental offences. They can:

- Request name and address and issue a fixed penalty notice
- Request name and address of a person acting in an Anti-Social manner
- Intervene and stop offences that may cause injury, alarm and distress to another person or damage / loss of another's property
- Confiscate alcohol and cigarettes from any person underage
- Confiscate alcohol from any person in a designated public space

They also act as professional witnesses gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses and perpetrators and taking statement that can be used as evidence in the courts. In addition, they undertake a raft of prevention, intervention and diversion activities.

The team deal with

Fly tipping
Trade waste
Highways obstruction
Overhanging vegetation
Dog fouling
Littering
Graffiti
Illegal street trading
Anti-Social behaviour
Unauthorised encampments
Park Byelaws
Front garden waste
Provide high visibility reassurance patrols in parks, roads and housing land
Disperse crowds
Lock all parks and cemeteries

To report a crime or in an emergency, please contact the police on 101 or 999