

Wormwood Scrubs updates

Date	27 June 2022
Classification	Information
Title of report	Service update
Report of	Law Enforcement Team
Decision /Decision maker	No
Report author(s)	Neil Morrison

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 1st March 2022:

1st March 2022 - 23rd June 2022		
Issue	No.	Comments
ASB	18	drug / drink related paraphernalia
Dog Fouling	10	8 for clearance - 2 complaints

Dog Issue	56	professional dog walkers - engagement success 50/50
Engagements	78	happy domestic dog walkers, Ideverde staff, Friends of Scrubs, Signs of Rough Sleeper in Copse 3
Fly Tip	2	no evidence
Graffiti	4	reported for clearance
Hi Vis Patrol	236	some VAWG tasking in mind
Highways - OV	1	on Braybrook Street
Illegal Encampment	70	Traveller Families in Car Park by LCS
Litter	9	general on Scrubs for clearance
Locking Duties	58	Yellow Gate scrubs lane and Height Barrier Artillery Road
Parking	6	Vehicles on Grass - 1 and Mopeds by Gym Area
Police	1	on Operation Day
Weapon Sweep	21	nothing of note found

Hi-Visibility patrols:

From 16th December 2021 to 26th February 2022, Officers have reported 308 various interactions.

LET Officers have engaged with residents, visitors, dog walkers, hospital workers, event organisers, public gym users, stakeholders and facility users.

Public reassurance and safeguarding work:

- Undertaking daily patrols ensuring no unauthorised campers occupying WWS
- 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 Braybrook Street at the rear of the WWS Prison. These patrols are undertaken daily as part of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) taskings.

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

Professional Dog Walkers

- 56 Interactions with professional dog walkers.

We have built up a portfolio of those who are obtrusive to us and where possible have investigated to find vehicle registration and company details so that when the Dogs Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) comes in to effect we are ready to be able to issue fines for those in breach.

Some walkers have asked what they get in return of their money in terms of facilities e.g. dog water tap close to car park – reports fed back to Parks team.

We have had positive engagements too with many saying that they were unaware of the ruling and receptive of information provided to them

Illegal Encampment

- LET maintained watch of the caravans that had cut a fence to enter on the car park by the Linford Christie Stadium. They were there due to one of the community being the Queen Charlotte Hospital
- Notice was served to them to vacate the property.
- Court was attended to take legal action – the families moved on the next day.
- LET liaised and attended with SERCO to remove 1 x caravan that had been left and to have the area thoroughly cleaned as was some broken glass.

Engagement with Residents/ WWS users:

- Walkabout with the Friends of WWS was arranged for Monday 6th June 2022, we met Stephen Waley-Cohen, Emma Ranson and Sarah Johnson. We discussed amongst, amongst other things,
 - Dogs Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and the fines that we could issue
 - Fence running along NE edge of Scrubs and although serves no purpose now good to leave in tact as allows a pure space for nature
 - Signs across the entrances to the nesting spaces – LET officers will put these and the rope back across if noticed on the floor while on patrol
 - Fire and pallet in Central Copse – reported – no further issues as far as we have observed

Operation Overwatch

- 25th May saw the LET planned operation take place simultaneously in WWS and Harrow Road.
- LET had a Presence on WWS from midnight to midnight, with the morning shift seeing 13 officers on the ground

Inspections returned and debrief for Operation Day are below

WORMWOOD SCRUBS – a large piece of land to cover it was selected so we could show a real presence with a high number of officers. Educating professional dog walkers on the requirements of the borough to have a license and walk no more than 4 per person, flyers were distributed of how to obtain. Sweeps within the copse / wood land to look for signs of ASB, Drug misuse and weapons. Violence against Women and Girls reassurance patrols carried out along the back wall of the prison in particular as this is a well frequented cut through from estate to the main road. The recent illegal encampment area was also monitored to ensure no return as there was a caravan still remaining on site.

ISSUES	HARROW ROAD	WORMWOOD SCRUBS	NOTES
Abandoned Vehicles	1		
ASB	3	2	
ASB Drink	1		
ASB Drug related	2	1	
Dog Fouling		6	4 reported for clearance and 2 intel acquired

Dog Issues		30	professional and private engagements and education
Engagements	65	17	22 x S34 letters to Harrow road, 30 x Kenmont School
Fly tip	8	2	all investigated and reported for clearance
Graffiti	1		reported for clearance
Hi Visibility reassurance patrols	80	63	All roads were patrolled at least twice
Highway Obstructions	2		1 on going with DWO
Illegal encampments		2	monitored to ensure no return

Total	286
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Safeguarding the Council Assets:

- Vehicles being parked on the grass.
- Reporting on broken bollards / Blocked drains
- Reporting of any damage to the infrastructure at WWS
- 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
- Parks told us on 22/4/22 that all the bollards had be taken from Scrubs Lane car park. This area was checked to ensure no unauthorised access.

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 (option 3 then option 1) 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>