



Members' Room
160 Tooley Street
London SE1 2QH

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Stephen Greenhalgh
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

October 11, 2012

Dear Mr Greenhalgh,

We are writing to you as a follow-up to the Dulwich Community Council meeting on September 18th which we invited you to attend along with Southwark's Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Charles Griggs. At this packed public meeting we discussed the future of local policing in the area covered by East Dulwich, Village, College and Peckham Rye wards, located at the southern end of the London Borough of Southwark.

It was confirmed to us by Chief Superintendent Griggs at this meeting that the East Dulwich Police Station on Lordship Lane SE22 was definitely to be closed down in the near future but that a local replacement facility may not be provided. This news was a shock to us as we had always been led to believe that there would be an alternative local police base in the area during our extensive liaisons with the Metropolitan Police over the years.

Therefore, we must stress that we do not consider the closure of East Dulwich Police Station, without a replacement, to be acceptable or appropriate.

The main issue with the proposal to remove a local police base is that our four wards, located at the very southern extremity of Southwark, are characterised by expansive geographical distances. Our topographical challenge is further exacerbated by extremely poor internal public transportation links, both locally and connecting to the rest of the borough, which must be taken into consideration when considering alternative options.

This combination of factors not only hinders police patrol movements but also restricts residents from accessing Peckham or Walworth Police Stations to report crime or meet with a police officer face to face, which is precisely why the East Dulwich Police Station based SNT model has been so successful at combating crime in our wards. Additionally, we have a high density of schools within the area, for which we currently have two dedicated SNT schools officers.

Consequently, we do not believe that the level of service which will be provided to Dulwich residents as a result of the proposed changes will be sufficient for the needs of the area.

Due to the combined impact of the above parameters, local councillors working together have already supported the creation of a satellite College ward Safer Neighbourhood

Team base on Seeley Drive, near the Kingswood Estate at the bottom of the borough, with a lease that runs until 2019, which we hope will continue.

In a similar exercise, our SNT officers have now identified a suitable opportunity for the relevant police teams to be based at the Gatehouse at the entrance to the Dulwich Community Hospital site on East Dulwich Grove as an interim measure to mitigate the loss of local police coverage in the geographical gap that will be created as a direct result of the closure of the East Dulwich Police Station. Negotiations with Southwark NHS have already been initiated in anticipation of having to react quickly to developments.

For the long term, we would obviously prefer to keep the current East Dulwich Police Station intact, financially supplemented by other local services that can be provided from this location. However, detailed discussions since 2008 have taken place with representatives of the Metropolitan Police Estate over their Asset Management Plan with the intention to provide a purpose-built police station on the ground floor of any new development of the highly accessible Lordship Lane site, while simultaneously attempting to identify a temporary local SNT base for the interim.

Councillors hope to continue work in a positive and constructive manner with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) to investigate all options to facilitate and secure any alternative base in both the medium and long term. It is understood that there are severe financial restrictions in these economically austere times, but we believe that a viable, cost-effective solution can be agreed and implemented quickly.

We therefore ask you to reconsider the decision to close East Dulwich Police Station without providing a replacement facility, and to work with Southwark Councillors to ensure the continuation of a police counter service within a local SNT operational base in Dulwich. We believe that a failure to do this will have grave consequences for crime in our area and this is wholly unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Robin
Crookshank Hilton
Lib Dem Member for
Village Ward

Cllr James Barber
Lib Dem Member for
East Dulwich Ward

Cllr Helen Hayes
Labour Member for
College Ward

Cllr Gavin Edwards
Labour Member for
Peckham Rye Ward

Cllr Michael Mitchell
Conservative Member
for Village Ward

Cllr Jonathan Mitchell
Lib Dem Member for
East Dulwich Ward

Cllr Lewis Robinson
Conservative Member
for College Ward

Cllr Renata Hamvas
Labour Member for
Peckham Rye Ward

Cllr Toby Eckersley
Conservative Member
for Village Ward

Cllr Rosie Shimell
Lib Dem Member for
East Dulwich Ward

Cllr Andy Simmons
Labour Member for
College Ward

Cllr Victoria Mills
Labour Member for
Peckham Rye Ward