

## “Making Our Communities Safer” a Redbridge Faith Forum Event 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018

This public meeting was organised by Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) at Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside to give local residents the opportunity to share views on what makes them feel safe or unsafe, discuss ideas on how to make them feel safer, and work with local services to identify and tackle issues of concern.



After enjoying a light lunch everyone settled into groups to share experiences, concerns and perceptions about living in Redbridge. This was followed by feedback from each group to the full group, which gave rise to more discussion about perceptions of the fear of crime as against the actual recorded incidents of reported crime.

RFF was delighted to have the participation of two metropolitan police officers, John Humphry and Mohammed Patel, from the Redbridge Safer Transport Team. The officers explain that the team regularly patrols bus routes and bus stops in Redbridge and also works to improve safety on the roads. They gave an example of supporting residents in the Clayhall area to form a Road Watch scheme where residents were trained in using speed guns to act as a deterrent to speeding vehicles. This has been very successful with the result of a marked decrease in the speed of vehicles following the project.

Many attending the workshop were concerned about the issue of domestic burglary. The officers stressed the importance of locking UPVC doors properly and drew attention to the many helpful leaflets and booklets they had brought with them that gave practical advice on how residents can reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime.

They also gave examples of how residents can work with their safer neighbourhood teams to report concerns such as loitering cars to the police as there has been an increase in residential burglaries in Clayhall – the registration numbers of these vehicles can then be checked against the police intelligence database. Many attending the workshop were concerned about the issue of domestic burglary. The officers stressed the importance of locking UPVC doors properly and drew attention to the many helpful leaflets and booklets they had brought with them that gave practical advice on how residents can reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime.

The contact details for Safer Neighbourhood Teams is given on the metropolitan police website and the teams carry a work mobile when on duty and hold regular drop in sessions for the public. Calls to the police should be made on 999 for an emergency response or 101 – all calls are graded and the operator will pass reports of crime onto the relevant Safer



Neighbourhood Team. The Team stressed that they are keen to be notified of issues in their ward area and they do conduct regular street briefings.

Onesimus Luto, Redbridge Enforcement Officer then introduced himself and explained the role of the Enforcement and Community Safety Teams in Redbridge Civic Pride's department. The officers work borough wide dealing with issues such as noise nuisance, licensed premises, overhanging vegetation, fly-tipping, dog fouling, highway obstruction unlit skips, untidy front gardens, litter, begging, spitting and urinating in the street. They are able to issue on the spot fines for offences. Problems can be reported online on the council's website and by telephone to 0208 478 4679. There is also a general enquiry line telephone 0208 554 5000. The telephone lines are manned Monday-Wednesdays 8am to 10pm, Thursday 8am to 11pm and Friday 8am to 3am following day, Saturday 9am-3am the following day, Sunday 9am-1am the following day.

Noise complaints should be responded to within 1 hour and other matters within 10 days. More information about the work of the Borough's Enforcement Team is available by signing up to their free newsletter ['Taking pride together'](#)



PCSO Kaser Aleem Faith and Community Liaison Officer introduced himself and explained his role within the boroughs of Redbridge, Havering, Barking & Dagenham. PCSO Aleem along with his colleague PC Shahnuaaz Meah act as community liaison officers between faith communities and the metropolitan police. They are happy to come and attend events and meet with members of faith communities to discuss any areas of concern and are also able to signpost residents to

their local safer neighbourhood teams.

All the officers then answered questions from the floor. Councillor Bellwood reminded everyone that all residents have access to their ward councillors as well as their safer neighbourhood teams and encouraged residents to get to know them so that everyone can work together to improve the safety and wellbeing of residents.

Redbridge Faith Forum would like to thank the four officers for their helpful and informative participation in the event.