

## Redbridge Faith Forum

### “Making Our Communities Safer” Event – 6th March 2017



This public meeting was arranged by Redbridge Faith Forum in St Cedds Church Hall in Seven Kings to give local residents the opportunity to meet together to share what makes them feel safe/unsafe and discuss ideas on how to make us feel safer and work with local services to identify and tackle issues of concern.

After partaking of refreshments those attending settled down to share in groups their concerns and perceptions about living in Redbridge including experiences of being burgled or feeling unsafe when out and about. This was followed by a facilitator feedback session from the discussion groups 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 Tracy Armes, Community Support Officer and PC Jovita Kazakauskaite of the Seven Kings Safer Neighbourhood Team. Tracy explained the role of the SNT in supporting residents to make their communities safer and assured all present that the team would be happy to visit residents at home to offer security advice and that they did regularly patrol the area. 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 landline

numbers for the Teams is available on the Met Police website and team members all carry a work mobile.

This presentation was followed by an informative talk by Sarah Louise-Kaye, Street Enforcement Team Officer. The Street Enforcement Team was set up in October 2015 by amalgamating other teams and employs 20 officers over 4 sectors – East, North, West and South. Sarah explained that she was one of four officers working in the East sector. Redbridge Enforcement Officers work on a shift pattern and cover 7 days a week

Officers go on monthly walkabouts in the borough and can be contacted via telephone (0208 554 5000) or by email at [civic.pride@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:civic.pride@redbridge.gov.uk) and on the council website to log a complaint or report a problem.

Monday- Wednesday 8.00-22.00; Thursday 8.00-23.00; Friday & Saturday 8.00-03.00  
Sunday 9.00-01.00

Outside of these hours calls can be made to the lifeline support service who will take messages – 0208 478 4679.

Officers are dressed in high visibility bright yellow clothing, wear stab vests and are equipped with body cameras and are Community Safety Accreditation (CSAS) accredited which gives them some Police powers to issue on the spot fines and deal with issues such as fly tipping and littering. The SET has power over environmental issues, highways, abandoned vehicles, skips, untidy front gardens, obstruction, graffiti, overgrown vegetation, domestic waste and commercial waste.

A question and answer session then followed which included discussion of whether the perception and fear of crime is much higher than actual incidents of crime. The need for individuals to all be aware of and be responsible for their and neighbours safety and security was also highlighted. Observant neighbours are vital to the task of detecting and preventing crime especially nowadays when burglary is usually pre-planned and committed in a professional manner leaving no incriminating DNA evidence. The importance of closing windows and locking doors security (especially upvc doors) was stated and that care is needed when posting on social media as this can advertise the fact that people are away from home and homes maybe unoccupied.



Redbridge Faith Forum would like to thank both the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Street Enforcement Team Officers for their helpful and informative participation in the event.

Two further workshops will be held later in the year at different venues in the Borough.

Redbridge Faith Forum (RFF) is a registered charity (number 1118765) and an independent organisation whose aims are to:-

- bring together representatives of different faith communities in order to gain mutual understanding and promote social cohesion
- give Faith Communities in Redbridge a collective voice by identifying and addressing issues that affect residents.

### **Next Events**

For more information contact RFF on 020 8708 2478, visit website [www.redbridgefaithforum.org](http://www.redbridgefaithforum.org) or email [faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk)

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