

Minutes of the Moorings Neighbourhood Forum
Held on Monday 24 March 2025 at 6pm at the Moorings Sociable Club

People present

Derek Sewell (Vice chair), Rachel Sewell, Esther Jawahar, Jimmy Dawodu, Yvonne Sharp, Ozge Ali, Pat Robinson, PCSO Stoian, PC Smith, PCSO Williams, Cllr Olu Babatola, Sue Pollock, Con Lobo, Lisa Etadafterwen, Beatrice Anaman, Dave Rugg, John Hogan, Faith Omage, Chris Geariwel (Peabody Neighbourhood warden), Criag Homilen (Peabody Neighbourhood warden), Lola Akincochy, Choamaka Muoneke

Apologies: Deborah Frimpong (chair), Rosa Guzzetta.

Ramirah PCSO for Thamesmead east

Chris - Neighbourhood warden for Peabody

1. Matters arising.

a) Update on the Lights on the Sky roundabout. DS read an email he recently received from Cllr Larry Ferguson. DS said that he was grateful of his help.: 'After UKPN eventually came in and the subcontractor subsequently removed asbestos, the council's contractor is having to do an upgrade of sorts to decades-old equipment/infrastructure. The contractor has had to put an earth mat in the ground, there wasn't one previously, alongside the earth wire. Think of the electrics in your home but on a much larger scale.

Testing was ongoing last week and will continue this week to ensure response times to the posts on which the lights sit atop are sufficiently quick, and the columns don't become live. The latter point is essentially a safety issue. The officer noted that had UKPN not taken six months to initially try and fix the power supply, Bexley could have been working on this problem a long time ago as changes were required.

He added he spoke to the council's contractor a day or two before our conversation, and they aren't willing to give any timescales as to when everything will be finished and nor can anyone say how quickly UKPN will complete everything afterwards although a repeat of their past performance is thought unlikely.

Whilst I only have a layman's understanding of the mechanics involved here, I have requested a site visit, safety regulations permitting, to try and get some sense of exactly what is going on.'

2. Police Safer Neighbourhood team report

The team shared a handout which detailed their priorities and the recent crime statistics. See Appendix

The top priorities are: shoplifting, increased patrols, especially after school and making sure the children don't hang around the Town Centre.

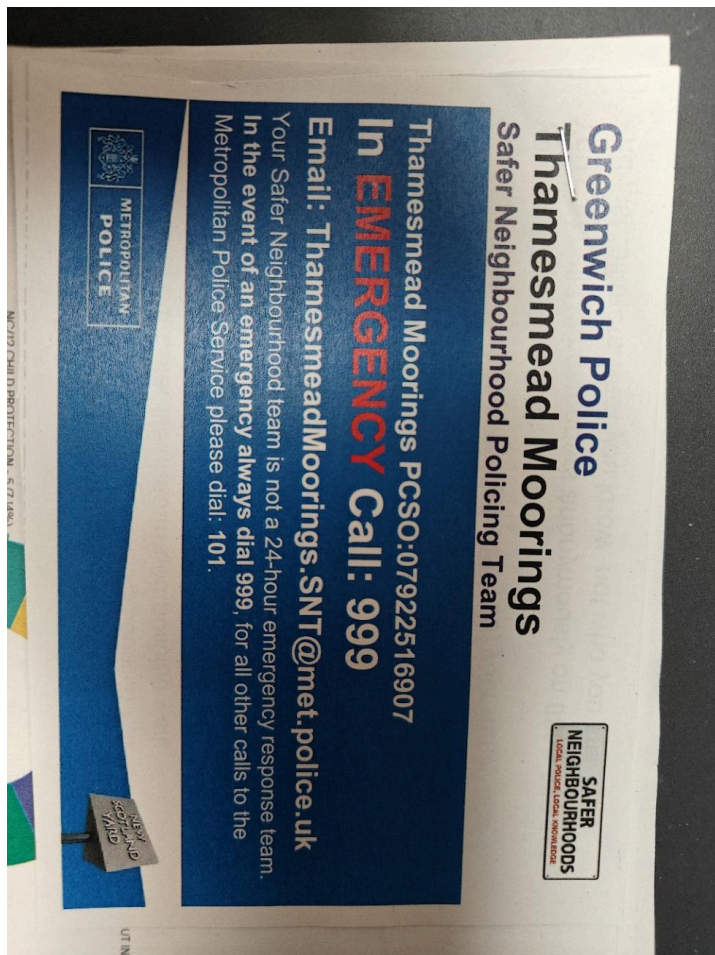
They are working on crime prevention in schools

Signs that can be put in your car to discourage people from breaking in or stealing

were given out.

Over the last few months, there has been a clear decrease in drug offences. A warning was given that recently in the Greenwich area Asian homes have been targeted with people looking for gold.

The team gave a Q and A and would like it filled out as soon as possible and returned to them via email: '**ThamesmeadMoorings.SNT@met.police.uk**'



Councillor thanked the representatives of the Police for coming to our meeting.

DS commented about Lime bikes being dumped around the area. Is there anything we can do to stop bikes being left like this? Talk to the council, as they issue licences for companies to operate.

The police will only deal with stolen vehicles or vehicles if they have been involved in a crime. The council will remove any other vehicles only after a lengthy procedure.. If, however, the vehicle is on Peabody land, Peabody has a clear procedure that they follow.

3. Targeting neglected areas

a) The steps by the A- bridge (<https://w3w.co/clips.truth.miles>): The work seems to be going slow. It would appear that the work that has been done has been damaged by

the frost. Councillor Babatola would like to find out what is happening here.

Action: Derek to email Councillor Babatola with details

b) Councillor Babatola received an email with an update on the flooding issue in the underpass at Austen Close. Derek read it out:

'We have had to temporarily close the underpass, to ensure public safety, while we address the situation. Initially, we believed the seepage was caused by a water leak, but after Thames Water conducted a site test, this was ruled out.

We now suspect that the issue is due to groundwater from the water table in the area. To better understand the full extent of the problem, we have commissioned our highway maintenance contractor to carry out exploratory work behind the brickwork. Once this work is completed, we will be able to plan the necessary remedial actions and will be able to give a better timeframe on reinstating access to the underpass.

Additionally, the pumping station responsible for removing water from the low point in the underpass has unfortunately failed. We have an investment programme to replace this pumping station in the coming months, and as part of this project, we will also be upgrading the pumping capacity to future-proof for larger storm events.

In the meantime, alternative crossing points are available. Residents can use Bentham Road, or alternatively, there is another underpass located at the end of the cul-de-sac. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but are working to restore access as quickly as we can.

Sami McGinlay, Programme & Improvement Manager - Transport
Communities, Environment and Central, Royal Borough of Greenwich

Councillor Babatola shared that he has been asked to help identify flytipping hotspots, he spoke about a few places that he is already aware of. If you know of any hotspots let DS know where, preferably with a photo and he will forward it to Councillor Babatola.

DS added that it is vital to use the 'WhatThreeWords'. such as <https://w3w.co/sung.scrap.goad>. You can do this while on location or afterwards.

Derek Sewell's email is mooringsforum@gmail.com
Councillor Olu Babatola Olu.babatola@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

It was noted that between Thamesmere Leisure Centre and the Clock Tower, the bushes are growing up again (<https://w3w.co/dream.sake.ants>). This is a difficult one as the area is privately owed.



Action: Councillor Babatola will find out who owns or is responsible for the area.

A discussion was had regarding to Nathan Way refuse centre. It is frustrating for Bexley residents as they are not allowed to use the Nathan Way refuse Centre. This may be a reason for increased flytipping.

Action: Councillor Babatola will raise again the possibility of Bexley residents being allowed to use the Nathan Way Refuse Centre.

The underpass between Hutchins Road and the Town Centre is flooded (Both sides). We think it is council-owned. <https://w3w.co/goats.exist.rental>

Action: Councillor Babatola will look into this problem.

4. Update on Potholes

Dave has been given a contact number for the potholes for people to report directly: 02089215419. They have been marked, but we are still waiting for something to be done.

5. Stepping up to serve within the forum

Derek shared that he is only one person. It would be great if someone can help with some of the jobs he is doing, ie, writing letters, sending emails, writing news etc. He is looking for someone who is willing to give some of their time. Ozge recognised the work Derek is doing. She is willing to help.

Councillor Babatola thanked Derek for what he has done. Councillor Babatola asked for volunteers for the committee and reminded of the need to help find ways to train others to help.

6. Finance (Sue)

We are now being charged £4.25 per month for service charges

Every cheque issued costs 50p. Therefore, we need to be very mindful of our funds. A new tax regulation form has been sent, which Sue needs to fill in within 6 weeks. She has contacted independent financial advisors to help fill it out. It was asked how we are financed. We get income funding from NHS Greenwich Ground Works but this is money for a specific project. We have no guaranteed funding and have had occasional grants from Greenwich and Peabody. Accounts are given out at AGM. Sue is standing down by the end of 2026, please think if you are able or know anyone who would be willing to join the committee and help with the finances.

7. Constitution revamp

Over the next couple of weeks, we hope to rewrite our constitution. It needs to be simplified and updated. This will then be sent to the committee and then to the whole forum before being agreed at the AGM meeting on 28 April. Derek has found a template and would like someone he could work with on the committee.

8. Next meetings: (TBC)

- 28 April Forum (AGM)
- 26 May Committee meeting (half term)
- 23 June Forum (Police)
- 28 July Forum
- August - no meeting
- 22 September Forum (Police)
- 27 October - Committee meeting
- 24 November's meeting Forum (Police)

9. AOB

It was asked if anyone knows when the Wheelchair ramp to Austen Close will be open. No one knows.

Ozge raised the idea of arranging a taxi (around £150) for a free concert for the committee members. While this was a wonderful idea, DS raised a concern that this was outside of our aims as a forum, especially as we could use public transport. DS also wonder why this could not be made known wider for the whole forum.

Concerts and Recitals

Saturday 8 March | 19.30 | Ticketed

Thomas Tallis Society

Eamonn Dougan | Director

Howells Requiem

Tickets available online or on the door

Tuesday 11 March | 19.00 | Free

Fairbanks Alaska High School Music Departments
Concert

Gwendolyn Brazier | Conductor

Lucas Clooten | Conductor

Sunnifa Deehr | Conductor

Thursday 13 March | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Opera Scenes

A concert selection from upcoming Opera Scenes performances.

Thursday 20 March | 13.05 | Free

Philip Jones Brass Ensemble Competition

Friday 21 March | 19.30 | Ticketed

St Paul's Sinfonia | Forces of Fate Destiny

Vieuxtemps & Beethoven

Ofer Falk | Violin

Andrew Morley | Conductor

Saturday 22 March | 13.05 | Free

Jennifer Lee | Piano

Thursday 27 March | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Guitar Ensemble

Graham Devine | Head of Guitar

Thursday 3 April | 13.05 | Free

Lucas Saraiva Cunha, piano

St. Alfege Church, Greenwich

Saturday 5 April | 13.05 | Free

Hooked on Flutes

Saturday 5 April | 19.00 | Ticketed

Greenwich Chamber Orchestra

David Cutts | Conductor

Gonzalo Acosta | Leader

Mikhail Kaploukhii | Soloist

Tickets available online or on the door

Thursday 10 April | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Chamber Musicians

Featuring pianist Miaoyan Li, & Stravinsky's

L'Histoire du Soldat, with Crystal Li, piano, Joey
violin, and Victoria Churcher, clarinet.

Thursday 24 April | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Jazz Orchestra & Rubythroat

Laß dir diesen Psalm gefallen

Head of Jazz, Hans Koller leads students and
guest soloists in a performance of his new
jazz ensemble and soprano voices.

Friday 25 April | 19.30 | Ticketed

St Paul's Sinfonia |

Symphonic Frontiers | Haydn, Wallace & Beethoven

Andrew Morley | Conductor

Thursday 1 May | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Chamber Musicians

Thursday 8 May | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Chamber Musicians

Thursday 15 May | 13.05 | Free

Trinity Laban Chamber Musicians

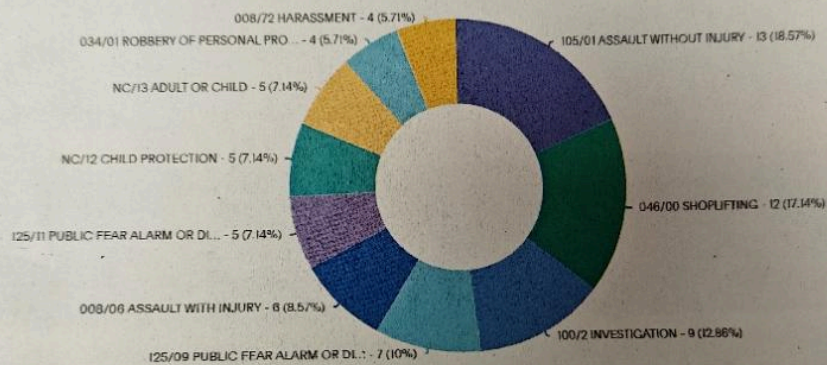
For more details, see <https://www.st-alfege.org.uk/Groups/395887/Concerts.aspx>

Ward panel meeting statistics for March 2025

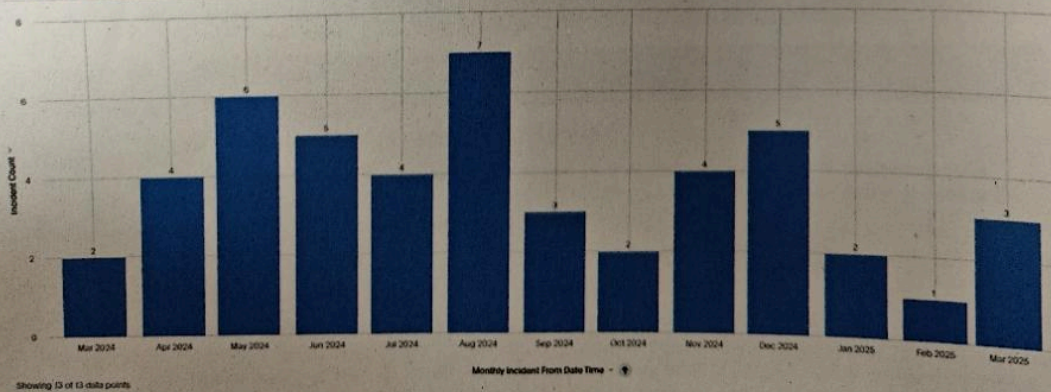
Thamesmead Moorings



Previous month statistics:



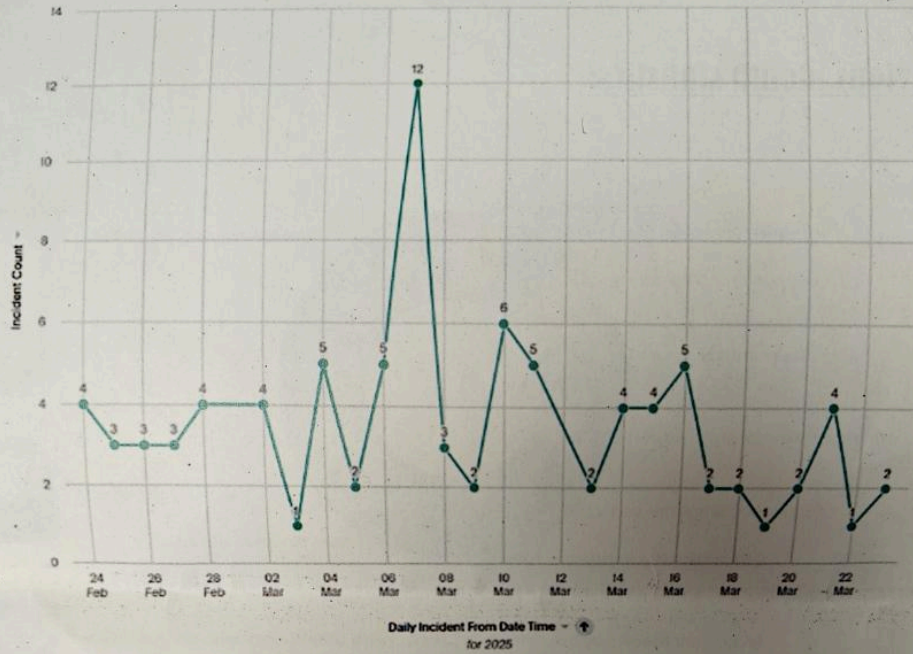
Theft of Motor Vehicle:



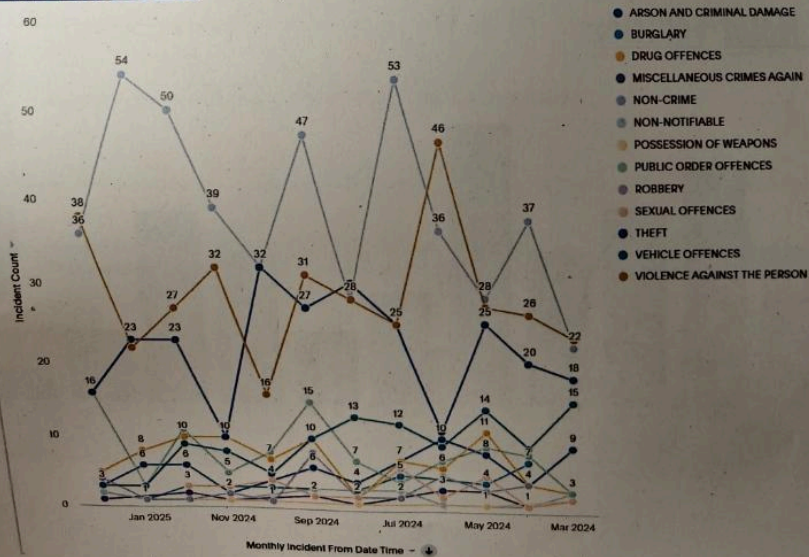
Daily recorded crime-Last 28 days:



ASB, Missing Persons etc removed



Last 12 months:





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Car Security

Car crime makes up a significant number of all recorded crimes across the United Kingdom. Car crime can be distressing and inconvenient, as you could be without your car for a long period of time.

This could be due to waiting for the garage to make repairs or for your insurer to pay. The majority of car crime occurs from criminals seeing opportunities and taking them. But you can easily outsmart the car thief by following the advice within this section.



Top tips for car security



Don't Leave Valuables on Show

It might sound obvious but leaving items on show is an invitation to the opportunist criminal - mobile phones, satnavs and mounts, power leads, money, wallets, handbags, sunglasses, coats, jackets and bags should always be removed from the car or hidden well out of sight.



Hide Keys & Fobs

Keys and ignition fobs should be kept safe and out of sight and reach. A common way to steal a car is to take the keys or ignition fob, so never leave them in the car, even if it is unattended for a moment. When at home ensure that your keys or ignition fob are kept well away from windows or doors so that they cannot be seen by a potential thief, and never leave them close to the front door where they can be accessed through letterboxes.

www.securedbydesign.com

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Lock Doors & Close Windows!

Always lock and close the windows of your car when you leave it unattended – be this on the drive, the petrol station forecourt, when de-icing your car in the winter or when getting a ticket to park. An unlocked car is the easiest to steal or steal from.



Fit an Alarm

If your car is not fitted with a manufacturers' fitted alarm and/or immobiliser, consider installing an approved system. Most new cars come with an alarm fitted, you can find out more from the Thatcham Research Centre: <https://www.thatcham.org>



Install a Tracker

Tracker systems can increase the recovery of your car if it is stolen. Many systems activate once the car is stolen and track the car via GPS and other systems. SBD have several members which specialise in this area and can advise you on the best system and fitting of the product for your car type.



Use Physical Security

Consider using physical security such as a steering wheel lock, wheelclamp or even a bollard or post on your drive to prevent removal of the car as modern car thieves prefer not to attack these types of physical security devices as they want to get away quickly without getting caught.



Secure your Number Plates

Fit theft-resistant number plate fittings. Stolen number plates are commonly used to hide the identity of stolen cars. Use one-way clutch head screws to secure number plates.

Parking your car at home



Consider fitting a garage alarm. If you have a house alarm system, consider connecting it to the garage. Further information about alarms can be found on our [SBD Alarm Advice Webpage](#).



Another option is to park your car on a drive. If your drive has gates, consider closing them at night or when you are not using your car.



If you don't have gates, a car bollard will provide an extra visible deterrent.



One area that is often overlooked is the security of the garage doors. Unfortunately, many older garage doors are very easy to break-into so you should consider replacing them with an accredited SBD product.

For further advice about any of the security tips listed above, or to find out how to buy police recognised security products, visit www.securedbydesign.com

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SECURED BY DESIGN SECURITY ADVICE GUIDE

Homes



Many burglaries are opportunistic, however home security can be improved with a few simple measures:



A home is only as secure as its weakest point of entry, which is why it is so important to have doors and windows that are as secure as possible. Doorsets – door, frame, locks, fittings and glazing – which allow direct access to your home should achieve the high security standard of the Police Preferred Specification.



Easily accessible windows, including easily accessible roof lights and roof windows, should also meet Police Preferred Specification standards.



If you have a door connecting the garage to the house make sure this has the same level of security.



Ensure all keys, including car keys, are out of sight and away from the letterbox, as a device could be used to hook keys through the letterbox.

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Always keep valuables like tablets and laptops out of sight from windows.



Store any high value items (i.e. jewellery, passports) in a properly secured safe or bank vault.



Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a property or police recognised forensic marking solution – this includes for valuable tools and bikes that are stored in outbuildings and garages.



Install a burglar alarm.



In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on.



Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.



Consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.



Always lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even when you're just out in the garden, remembering to double-lock UPVC doors (lift the handle and turn the key).

For further advice about any of the security tips listed above, or to find out how to buy police recognised security products, visit www.securedbydesign.com



Previous priorities and actions that have been taken:

Priority:

Action taken:

Violence on the streets of Thamesmead
Issued 14 November 2024

To conduct patrolling through the walkways and residential blocks.
Actioned 14 November 2024

Drug dealing in the Thamesmead Moorings and on surrounding areas
Issued 14 November 2024

Intelligence gathering, leading to warrants being carried out, with assistance of specialist teams.
Actioned 14 November 2024

Theft from Motor Vehicles including tow aways and Theft of Motor Vehicles.
Issued 14 November 2024

Inform residents of recent motor vehicle crimes that have occurred in their immediate area, with motor vehicle crime prevention information leaflets and SNT contact details.
Conduct patrolling hotspots with other police forces.
Actioned 14 November 2024

What should we prioritise :

What areas should we target :

And what days/times?

What other actions do you believe would be effective:

What crime prevention advice would you give to others based on what we have discussed today: