



Siobhain McDonagh MP

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
020 8542 4835 (tel)
mcdonaghs@parliament.uk

LABOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MITCHAM AND MORDEN

Sir Bernard Hogan Howe
Metropolitan Police Commissioner
New Scotland Yard
London
SW1H 0BG

25 June 2014

Dear Sir Bernard,

I should like to invite you to a community meeting taking place in Mitcham on 2 August. The meeting will start at 10.30am, and take place at St Mark's Church, St Mark's Road, Mitcham CR4 2LF.

As you know, there has been considerable concern about the re-provisioning of police services across London, and I have been contacted by a great many constituents in Mitcham who are concerned about the reduced quality of policing in Mitcham Town Centre.

In particular, residents believe the Controlled Drinking Zone is not being policed, intimidating behaviour by drinkers and other customers at the three town centre bookmakers is not being tackled, and evident drug dealing, especially in one of the barbers, is still continuing. They feel these were factors a week ago, when a young man was beaten and critically injured in the town centre in broad daylight, and parts of the town centre were closed for much of the weekend. Although a man has now been charged with attempted murder, residents feel that the attack was avoidable with better policing.

My constituents are also angry there is only one police officer covering the whole of Mitcham town centre; that police offices in Mitcham are no longer used, adding to the time officers are away from the town centre; that the reduction in PCSO numbers has led to fewer uniformed officers on the ground; and that the remaining officers have been given additional tasks, such as vehicle checks and visiting licensed premises, preventing them from doing the community work they previously engaged in. What is more, although the Mitcham sector accounts for 52% of crime in Merton resources are divided evenly across Merton's 3 sectors.

Given that my constituents feel that Mitcham is receiving a poor service from the police force, and that this is making them feel less safe in their town centre, I felt that it was important for the community to join together in an effort to tackle the issue. That is the reason for the community meeting on 2 August.

I am also inviting the chief executives of the bookmakers and local Councillors and other representatives to the event, and would be grateful for your attendance. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhain McDonagh