



Ferndale Area Residents Association & Neighbourhood Watch

25 February 2013

Dear Sir,

Re: MOPAC Consultations for the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017

I am writing as Chair of Ferndale Area Residents Association, a group which covers some 300 households in Leytonstone, Waltham Forest.

We have reviewed the consultation document with interest, and members attended the public meeting with Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for policing in London) in Walthamstow on 25 February. We feel very strongly that you should retain a front counter in the south of the borough.

Our concerns and comments are summarised as follows:

- We have seen that 4 out of 5 police stations in Waltham Forest are considered for closure – Waltham House in Leytonstone, Leyton, and both stations in Walthamstow. This would leave just Chingford as a front counter, which is unacceptable. Chingford is in the north of the borough (Waltham Forest being taller than it is wide). If someone in Leytonstone needed to visit Chingford Station it would involve 90 minutes travel either way on two buses. Newham would be nearer – in fact even Westminster would be quicker to reach on public transport! This is unacceptable – we must be served by a local, easily reached station.
- It is unclear as to whether the plans involve closing just the front counter, or the whole of police stations. If the whole station is closed, this would have an impact on Safer Neighbourhood Teams, who must be based in or near their ward in order to be effective and to offer a quick response to residents who call them. Suitable locations must be found.
- The additional police for Waltham Forest are being promoted as a victory, but this merely brings us up to the full complement of officers that the borough should have always had. Waltham Forest has suffered from understaffing in the past and FARA welcomes receiving the correct number of officers. However, we still have concerns that our SNT officers must be working in their designated ward, rather than seconded to other events and locations across London, as has happened in the past. They are our police and we want them to be available for us! We also note that the number of PCSOs will be cut.

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- We strongly oppose any closure of Waltham House – it is modern, fit for purpose, and in a central Leytonstone location right next to the Underground and bus stations.

Above all I would urge you to consider the needs and geography of the borough, and to retain a front counter in the south of the borough. FARA feels that Waltham House in Leytonstone would be ideal for this purpose.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Flash Bristow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Flash Bristow
Chair, Ferndale Area Residents Association

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