

# You said, we did

## Taking action to tackle anti-social behaviour in **Limehouse ward**



At the Community Safety Neighbourhood Walkabout in May 2019, you told us drug dealing from vehicles, drug use and anti-social behaviour (ASB) were your most serious concerns. Since May, the council, police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), ward panel and Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) have worked together to address your concerns. Through a dedicated action plan developed at the walkabout, we completed a number of actions and delivered a Community Action Day in Rectory Gardens.

## **Action taken so far include:**

### **Island Row and Norway Place**

#### **You said**

You were concerned that vehicles were parking outside Via Limehouse Hostel, selling drugs to the guests and causing ASB. You also wanted us to review the licence of the hostel and make the manager aware that their guests were loitering outside, drinking and causing noise nuisance which was seriously affecting residents.

#### **We did**

- We inspected all council owned street lighting to ensure the roads were well lit and deter drug dealing from vehicles and people loitering in dark areas and causing ASB.
- The SNT and a police licensing officer met with the hostel manager to discuss the issues raised. As a result, the hostel increased weekend security patrols and extended them to include the area outside the hostel; ensuring guests were stopped from loitering and causing ASB. The manager also agreed to provide weekly diary sheets to the SNT with details of any vehicles dealing drugs. This process continues and the SNT has reported no further complaints from local residents.

### **Three Colt Street, Gill Street and Rich Street**

#### **You said**

You reported this was a hotspot location for vehicles to stop and sell drugs. The park was also being used openly by drug users due to overgrown vegetation around the park, giving them places to hide.

#### **We did**

Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) trimmed back over-hanging trees and overgrown bushes to open up the area, making it less attractive to drug users. THH will continue to monitor the area and schedule pruning works as and when they are required.

## **Northey Street and Brightlingsea Place**

### **You said**

You were concerned that this was a poorly lit area with wide roads, where vehicles were dangerously speeding and stopping to sell drugs. You also told us the vehicles were parking up to play loud music, causing ASB and noise nuisance which seriously affected residents.

### **We did**

- We conducted a night inspection to review lighting in the area. It was found that all lighting was in good working order. Overgrown trees, however were obstructing some of the lamps, preventing an even spread of light. As a result, we trimmed back all the overgrown trees, making the area brighter and less attractive to drug-dealing vehicles.
- We asked you to report drug-dealing vehicles to us as part of our Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operation. Based on the information you have provided, we have helped the police to stop and search and seize vehicles where possible, sending a clear message that we will not tolerate drug dealers coming in to the borough.

## **Limehouse Marina**

### **You said**

You told us young people were using the concrete slabs on the marina to loiter, cause ASB and noise nuisance until late at night. This seriously bothered residents and the boating community. You also wanted the current security patrols to have more enforcement powers, as moving suspects away from the area was not solving the long term problem.

### **We did**

Councillor James King is working with Limehouse West Management Company to review the usage of the concrete slabs that are currently attracting congregation of young people and ASB issues.



## Rectory Gardens

### You said

You told us the park was unkempt and no longer a family-friendly space. It had been taken over by street drinkers, rough sleepers and young people congregating to take drugs and cause ASB. Residents who lived closest to the park told us the noise nuisance was unbearable and they did not feel safe to use the park.

### We did

- Our Parks Team mowed the grass and reduced the overgrown shrubs to open up the park and make it less hidden away.
- Veolia scheduled daily visits to the park to ensure it is cleared and monitored by the team leader.
- Community Park Rangers carried out spot checks and monitor the site during their patrols.
- Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) outreach workers conducted regular patrols to identify and engage with adults that have substance misuse issues and may require further support.
- The Street Outreach Response Team visited the garden on a number of occasions to offer support to those found rough sleeping. One rough sleeper was taken to the 'No Second Night Out Hub', a service that helps prevent people from returning to the streets. The Council then assisted Veolia with the removal of the encampment.

### Rough sleeper encampment



**Before**



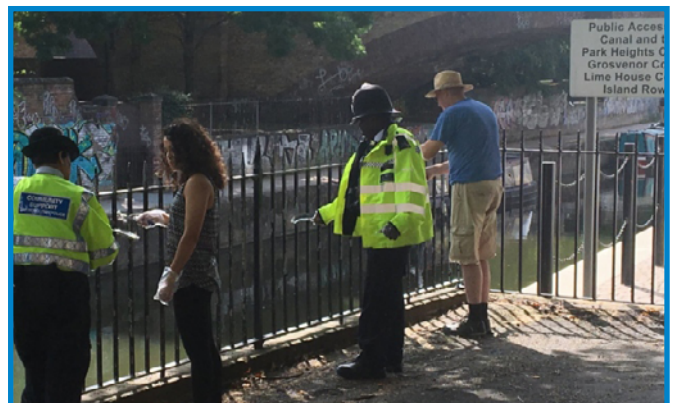
**After**



## **Community Action Day (Saturday 31st August)**

Following actions agreed at the Neighbourhood walkabout, over fourteen members of the community joined council staff, SNT and Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) to revamp and reclaim Rectory Park. As part of the Community Action Day, the following activities were completed:

- Lamp posts and railings along the canal were sanded and painted. The Parks Team will return to complete the job, which will also include the removal of overgrown ivy and vegetation near the residential blocks that had been a hotspot for rough sleepers.
- Two park benches closest to the residential blocks were removed to deter people from gathering and causing noise nuisance. The ASB Team will continue to monitor the impact from the removal of these benches before considering the removal of any further benches.
- Veolia led with a clear up and litter picking activity as part of the 'Big Clean-up' campaign. A number of litter bags were filled and the park cleared of rubbish.
- The SNT and THEOs conducted a weapon sweep and no drugs or weapons were found. A padlocked box was discovered hidden and attached to a railing, which the SNT suspect may be used for drugs storage. They will return with tools to remove the box and uncover the contents.
- As a longer term plan, the Parks Team will install a new welcome sign in 2020-2021

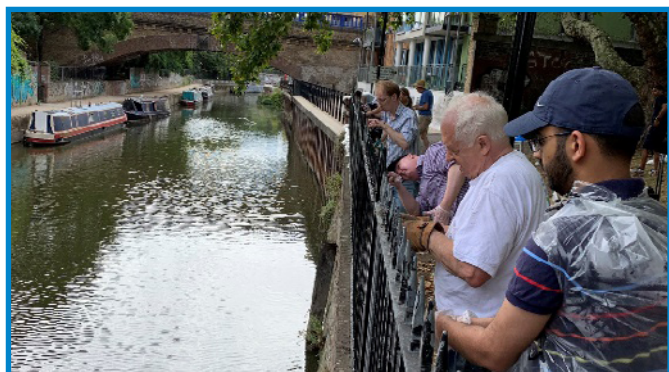




## ASB and Drug dealing reports

You have continuously told us that your biggest concerns relate to ASB and drug dealing in Limehouse and this is reflected in your police ward priorities. We measured the number of 101 reports three months before the Neighbourhood Walkabout and compared them to reporting data three months post the walkabout in May. This was to measure impact following a number of these actions being completed.

Performance measures	Total 101 reports three months before the walkabout (Feb, Mar, Apr 2019)	Total 101 reports three months after the walkabout (Jun, Jul Aug 2019)	% change in 101 reports since plan implemented
1. ASB	<b>98</b> Feb = 31 Mar = 28 Apr = 39	<b>157</b> Jun = 58 Jul = 66 Aug = 33	Up by 60.2%
2. Drug dealing	<b>12</b> Feb = 5 Mar = 5 Apr = 2	<b>6</b> Jun = 2 Jul = 3 Aug = 1	Down by 50%



ASB reports increased in the last three months; however this can be attributed to a seasonal issue where ASB reports tend to increase in the summer period. Drug dealing reports however were down by half compared to the first three months, with only six reports made from June to August.

It is important to note that the volume of reports concerning ASB or drugs in Limehouse is significantly lower than other parts of Tower Hamlets. For this period, Limehouse had the second lowest volume of drug related reports and the fifth lowest for ASB in the borough.

**Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs said:**

"I am committed to reducing crime and making all neighbourhoods across the borough safer for everyone".

**Chief Inspector - Neighbourhoods and Partnership, Dominic Barnes said:**

"My objective is to increase the visibility of frontline Neighbourhood officers across Tower Hamlets. Community engagement is key to our delivery and this will only be achieved if my officers are 'out and about' in public, providing reassurance and deterring crime".

**Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities, Cllr Asma Begum said:**

"We are working with the whole community and taking action to combat crime and antisocial behaviour in our borough"



## Information from you is vital

Tower Hamlets Council, police, and partners, will continue to listen to your concerns and take action to make Limehouse a safer place.

Help and support is available but we need you to report your issues to one of the numbers (or online) below:

**Police (in an emergency) - 999**

**Police (non-emergency) - 101**

Or use the following numbers/online reporting methods:

**Limehouse police - 0207 275 4225**

**Safer Neighbourhood Team**

**CEMailbox.Limehouse@met.police.uk**

**Tower Hamlets Homes**

**0207 364 5015 (Option 6)**

**or THH.ASB@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

**Report ASB to the council**

**[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ASB](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ASB)**

**Street Link - 0300 500 0914**

**or [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)**

(Rough sleeper referral)

**OWL - Online Watch Link**

**[www.owl.co.uk/met](http://www.owl.co.uk/met)**

(Register for latest messages and local crime alerts)

## **Environmental Health Statutory Noise Service 0207 364 5007**

(Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm. Emergency call out:  
Thurs-Sun: 8pm - 3.30am)

## **Streetline Team - 0207 364 5004**

(Free bulk rubbish collection.  
Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm)

## **Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111**

(To report or give information anonymously)

## **Councillor James King - 07736 371160**

**or [James.King@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:James.King@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**

(Surgery every Saturday, 12.30pm-1.30pm at  
Limehouse Youth Club, E14 8BN)

## **Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities,**

**Councillor Asma Begum -**

**[AsmaK.Begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:AsmaK.Begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**

For more information on Neighbourhood  
Walkabouts and Community Action Days,

visit **[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/)**

**NeighbourhoodWalkabouts2019**

**Thank you for your support.**

**We will continue to take action to address  
community safety issues in Limehouse.**