



Rob's Rapport

There will be no Communicator in September due to a very busy month ahead but normal service will resume in October.

I am sure you have all noticed that the GDPR has had a positive impact on the amount of spam emails you get. I remember getting a flurry of emails last month asking me to remain signed up to all sorts and I pressed delete on most of them. It appears that the delete button has been in use by many others too. Our previous police database of contacts that this newsletter was emailed to has been decimated to the point that it is no longer an effective platform to send this newsletter on.

So this is the last time I will send this out via our old contact database. From October the newsletter will be posted to a number of specific places where you can still access it:

1. If you have signed up to O.W.L. the newsletter will be emailed to you each month (join at www.owl.co.uk).
2. It will be posted to the Hillingdon NHW website at www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk
3. I will post it to the **Crime Awareness for all of Hillingdon Borough** Facebook page (this is a closed group but you can visit the front page to join if you have not signed up already).

If you have your own contact lists and you feel they would benefit from reading the

Communicator, then please feel free to share it with them.

Inspector Rob Bryan

Mythbusting

Any fact vs fiction article I write very rarely goes down well - I guess I am taking away the fun of believing everything you read on the interweb ☺

Since we went to the tri-Borough police model a lot of people believe this means we routinely send officers from Acton to Harefield to deal with a call or some other long journey. Not true. Each Borough retains its own emergency response team dealing with calls on that borough. They are each on a different radio channel and each team has a different duty inspector. 20 mile journeys to report a criminal damage is a myth.

What the new model does allow for is better sharing of resources when a critical need arises. For example, Hillingdon recently had a traveller incursion and the duty officer was able to get officers from Ealing to come across and assist with moving them on very quickly. The Ealing officers then went back to their borough. Those are the boring facts.

New sergeants

Two new acting sergeants have taken up posts vacated recently. The change affects the following wards: **Ickenham** and **Uxbridge North** are now looked after by A/PS Sarah Fordham (Sarah.M.Fordham@met.police.uk) and **Botwell** and **Pinkwell**'s supervisor is A/PS Amanda Buckland (Amanda.O'Brien@met.police.uk). Both have a lot of experience with Neighbourhood Policing and will serve those wards well.



Police Community Support Officers

There is no denying that policing is ever changing, and PCs and sergeants often move on from local policing just as you get to know them.

The real backbone of Neighbourhood Policing are the dedicated and long serving PCSOs, some of whom are approaching 15 years of service in Hillingdon - in all that time they have pounded their local beat, dealing with the mundane, building working relationships with the community and amassing a wealth of local knowledge.



I often go on about police heroics, or brilliant arrests and convictions in this newsletter. Local police work might not be sexy, but the customer service aspect of it is priceless. To the PCSOs of Hillingdon - thank you and well done.



Mythbusting 2

One more to straighten out the facts: police stations are being sold in the future - but right now, none of our buildings are gone. I so often read a comment on social media from someone claiming it has all gone downhill since we closed the local police station and brigaded everyone out of Hayes. That is just not true.

The facts are all that has changed is the relocation of the 24/7 front office from Uxbridge nick to

Hayes nick. Our emergency response teams continue to parade out of Hayes and Ruislip (like they have done for years). Our Neighbourhoods officers continue to work from Uxbridge, Hayes and Ruislip stations (unchanged) and our investigators still work at Uxbridge (as they have always done). I accept that people may feel different with the knowledge of future closures, but the reality on the ground is the only different today from three months ago is the location of the 24/7 front office.

Please also remember that whilst our emergency response teams parade out of Ruislip and Hayes, we are not a brigaded service just waiting at those sites to be despatched out to a call. The officers will receive a briefing and then get out there taking calls...and then the next call...and then the next. They don't come back in between to be sent out again. Please don't believe the myth that far flung locations away from Hayes have longer response times - the Hillingdon cops are all over the shop and the nearest available officer will always be deployed.

On your bike

Whenever I bring up cyclist and vehiclist respecting each other I always seem to put a cat amongst the pigeons.

It is pretty simple - cyclists should respect the rules of the road. That includes red lights. And vehicle drivers should respect vulnerable road users by giving those on bikes enough room and not cutting them up.

The mentality of them and us doesn't help. I bet some vehicle drivers are reading this now and thinking well the bikes don't stop at lights so why should I respect their space and some bike riders are thinking well I am always getting close passed or left hooked so why should I respect the rules. If we all stopped blaming others and took responsibility for our own behaviour on the road just maybe things would improve.

Just remember, whether you are a driver or a cyclist, when the two come into contact it never ends well.