

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Parks Police  
**QUARTERLY REPORT**



*Members of the RBKC Parks Police are sworn in at Walton Street Magistrates Court in November 1991.*

Holland Park was transferred to the Royal Borough from the Greater London Council in April 1986. In May 1991 the Environmental Services Committee, chaired by Councillor Timothy Coleridge, considered a report entitled: "Keeping – Holland Park" which set out a number of concerns in relation to the park. These included a lack of visible patrolling by uniformed staff; non-enforcement of byelaws, particularly relating to loose dogs; cycling and skateboarding; inadequate car park supervision; excessive vehicle traffic entering the park and unseemly behaviour, particularly after dark, and in the wooded areas. Amongst the park users mentioned were *"naturists interested in the diverse flora, fauna and wildlife available in the woodland area"*!

In order to address these concerns the Committee decided to establish a Parks Constabulary although the name was later changed to Parks Police Service. Advertisements were placed in Police Review which generated an overwhelming response. Constables would start at £14,631, Sergeants at £17,433 and the Inspector at £20,175. Norman Scullion, a former Superintendent with the Royal Ulster Constabulary was appointed as the first Inspector. Amongst the Constables appointed was Jan Cacchione, the only one of the original team still serving.

Training took place at Notting Hill Police Station, facilitated by the Metropolitan Police, and the first park patrols took place in November 1991.

Although operations were confined to Holland Park in the first year, services were then extended to cover the other twenty eight parks and open spaces as well as the cemeteries at Gunnersbury and Hanwell. A review of the service in 1993 reported that the introduction of the parks police had had a major impact, especially on Holland Park. The Leader reported that she was amazed at the number of people who had approached her to say: "Thank you for giving us back our park".

Since that time the Parks Police have patrolled the parks from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year. In 2009 a change of emphasis from a parks inspection regime, to a problem solving approach led to the establishment of a 'safer parks panel' drawn from park users across the Borough. The panel set three priorities each quarter and each of our three teams deliver on each priority. Dog fouling, reckless cycling and anti-social behaviour still top the list of concerns.

Amongst the lesser known 'parks' patrolled are the Grand Union Canal towpath, the Chelsea Embankment, the three square metres of Cluny Mews and Ifield Road playground.

In 2010, 4,672 patrolling visits were made to the outer parks (compared with 3,500 the previous year) and the parks police now deal with over 1,000 incidents a year. As well as patrols the service works closely with the Borough's Community Safety Team, especially on homeless issues and have recently been working closely with Dogs Trust on a range of animal welfare and education issues, as well as organising an annual dog show. A dog micro-chipping service is provided at a number of free events held across the Borough. Cycle marking and cycle safety events are also held and personal safety advice is always available. The Parks Police Blue Gazebo and 'sails' usually mark such events which are advertised on the RBKC website and in the local press.

The Service's UHF Radio network, which had remained virtually unchanged since 1991, has now been replaced by a 'high-tech' digital radio system with GPS tracking. All our units can be tracked on a computer based mapping system and the nearest unit dispatched to deal with an incident. The system is also being rolled out to colleagues in Markets, Environmental Health and Media & Communications. It provides a far greater degree of protection to lone workers who can summon urgent assistance at the press of a button. The CCTV Service are able to monitor the mapping system during their operating hours.

As part of 'Tri-Borough' discussions are taking place with colleagues at Hammersmith & Fulham which may see closer working arrangements develop with their Parks Constabulary over the next few years.

With a strength of one Inspector, two sergeants and fourteen (FTE) Constables, one police vehicle and six pedal cycles, the Service continues to deliver its mission statement: "To ensure the Royal Borough's parks and open spaces remain safe and welcoming places for everyone".

- The 2009-2011 Service Delivery Plan has been revised to incorporate this year's corporate targets which are on course for delivery within agreed timescales. It is available for public viewing on the RBKC website. Work has begun on the 2012-2015 SDP and suggestions and contributions are most welcome.
- We have shown overleaf a record of 'incidents dealt with' which gives a picture of the type and level of incidents encountered on a quarterly basis. The majority of byelaw offences were dealt with by means of verbal or written warnings.

| <b>Incident</b>       | <b>QTR 2<br/>July-Sept<br/>10</b> | <b>QTR 3<br/>Oct-Dec<br/>10</b> | <b>QTR 4<br/>Jan-Mar<br/>11</b> | <b>QTR 1<br/>Apr-June<br/>11</b> | <b>QTR 2<br/>Jul-Sept<br/>11</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 40                                | 9                               | 19                              | 49                               | <b>29</b>                        |
| Assaults              | 2                                 | 1                               | 2                               | 1                                | <b>2</b>                         |
| Breach of Byelaw      | 125                               | 39                              | 78                              | 120                              | <b>70</b>                        |
| Crime Reports         | 13                                | 9                               | 7                               | 14                               | <b>15</b>                        |
| Dog related           | 15                                | 10                              | 19                              | 16                               | <b>15</b>                        |
| Health & Safety       | 26                                | 5                               | 12                              | 17                               | <b>20</b>                        |
| Homeless              | 30                                | 26                              | 21                              | 93                               | <b>65</b>                        |
| Missing Person/Child  | 8                                 | 4                               | 1                               | 12                               | <b>6</b>                         |
| Drugs                 | 0                                 | 3                               | 4                               | 4                                | <b>5</b>                         |
| Vehicle Related       | 2                                 | 1                               | 7                               | 5                                | <b>6</b>                         |
| Other                 | 35                                | 8                               | 12                              | 31                               | <b>27</b>                        |
| Arrests               | 4                                 | 2                               | 4                               | 7                                | <b>3</b>                         |

- Visits to Parks are recorded on our database; **1,945** patrol visits to parks and open spaces (other than Holland Park which is patrolled continuously) were made in Quarter Two. The patrols are detailed in the table below:
- The majority of visits are made as part of a foot patrol pattern, with our vehicle being used to convey officers between parks and many patrols being made on our six pedal cycles.

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Albert Bridge Gardens SW3        | <b>42</b>  |
| Alec Clifton Taylor W8           | <b>15</b>  |
| Athlone Gardens W10              | <b>25</b>  |
| Avondale Park W11                | <b>53</b>  |
| Barlby Gardens W10               | <b>26</b>  |
| Battersea Bridge Gardens SW3     | <b>11</b>  |
| Brompton Cemetery SW10 (MPS)     | <b>16</b>  |
| Central Library W8               | <b>13</b>  |
| Chelsea Bridge Gardens SW3 (TFL) | <b>38</b>  |
| Chelsea Embankment Gardens SW3   | <b>128</b> |
| Chelsea Green SW3                | <b>88</b>  |
| Chelsea Leisure Centre SW3       | <b>1</b>   |
| Cluny Mews SW5                   | <b>42</b>  |
| Colville Square Gardens W11      | <b>47</b>  |
| Cremorne Gardens SW10            | <b>150</b> |
| Dalgarno Gardens                 | <b>1</b>   |
| Dovehouse Green SW3              | <b>122</b> |
| Elkstone Road Sensory Garden     | <b>2</b>   |
| Emslie Horniman's Pleasance W10  | <b>48</b>  |
| Grand Union Canal Path W10       | <b>11</b>  |
| Gunnersbury Cemetery W3          | <b>23</b>  |
| Hanwell Cemetery W7              | <b>22</b>  |
| Ifield Road Play Park SW10 *     | <b>5</b>   |
| Kensington Leisure Centre W11    | <b>11</b>  |

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
|                                  |            |
| Kensington Memorial Park W10     | <b>108</b> |
| Little Wormwood Scrubs W10       | <b>78</b>  |
| Meanwhile Gardens W10 *          | <b>5</b>   |
| Powis Square Gardens W11         | <b>50</b>  |
| Redcliffe Square Gardens SW10 *  | <b>75</b>  |
| Ropers Gardens SW3               | <b>103</b> |
| Royal Avenue SW3                 | <b>52</b>  |
| Royal Hospital Grounds South SW3 | <b>5</b>   |
| St Luke's Gardens SW3            | <b>187</b> |
| St Mary Abbots W8                | <b>23</b>  |
| Sunbeam Gardens W11              | <b>49</b>  |
| Tavistock Crescent W11           | <b>44</b>  |
| Town Hall W8                     | <b>13</b>  |
| Westfield Park SW1               | <b>129</b> |
| Yalta Memorial Gardens SW7       | <b>83</b>  |

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1,945</b> |
|--------------|--------------|

- The new CCTV camera has been installed in the Holland Park Car Park. This will provide added reassurance to park users and help with evidence gathering if any thefts from vehicles or incidents take place in the area. We have again achieved the 'Park Mark' Safer Parking Award for the standards set for this car park.
- The funding we were going to be receiving from the GLA for additional policing of our parks during the Olympics has been withdrawn. An appeal has been made by The Executive Director, however if not successful we will only have our existing staff and it is unlikely we can provide night cover during this period.
- Tri-Borough talks are progressing with WCC and LBHF on the development of the Animal Warden Service. There are some complicated legal and operational matters to be resolved, however it is hoped that a trial of a new system can take place in 2012.
- The MOTOTRBO Mapping Software has now been activated on six terminals across the network, including the Parks Police Office and the CCTV Control Room. This allows staff in possession of a GPS radio to be tracked and their exact location determined. All radio conversations are recorded and can be re-played. In an emergency resources can be sent to the exact location - a considerable advance in providing lone worker protection. The system is already in use by Parks Police, Market Inspectors, Noise & Nuisance staff and Media & Communications.
- The Safer Parks Panel continues to meet quarterly and nominates three key tasks they would like to see the team address. The three most recent taskings were: ASB in Cremorne Gardens & Westfield Park, Mopeds on Little Wormwood Scrubs and dog fouling in Holland Park. All three problems have subsequently shown a marked reduction in incidence.

**Mike Rumble**

*RBKC Parks Police Inspector*

0207 938 8187