

Dear John,

I am sorry that you feel you haven't had a suitable response to your question regarding the Walled Garden and the move of the Sunbury teams to Knowle Green. I believe that the local supervisor, PS Richard Conway has been in contact to clarify how the Walled Garden will be used.

As you are aware, the review of the Surrey Police estate in 2010 found that many of Surrey's smaller police stations are old, expensive to maintain and little used by members of the public. A survey conducted by the Surrey Police Authority early the previous year also found that less than a quarter of respondents believed keeping local stations was more important than maintaining frontline officer numbers. This prompted proposals to find alternative bases for neighbourhood teams within local communities and share buildings with partner organisations which were presented to the Surrey Police Authority and were implemented to reduce the budget deficit and invest in more police constables on the streets.

During the consultation period early last year, the then Chief Constable, Mark Rowley, and Surrey Police Authority were very clear in their communications around what would replace police stations, where local teams would be based and the function of any new locations to be used by Safer Neighbourhoods Teams. They stressed that no police stations would be closed before police posts were identified, as the organisation was committed to keeping a base within the local communities for their officers and investing in more frontline officers to police the borough.

As a consequence, the Spelthorne teams have benefitted from 6 additional police officers, one of which has been allocated to Sunbury and is currently being recruited. The relocation of the Sunbury and Shepperton teams to Knowle Green is not about removing officers from the streets, but in investing in further resources.

The Walled Garden will provide a base (with computer access) for the Sunbury teams in the heart of the community, so they will be able to spend the majority of their time on their beat. Whilst the teams will be starting and finishing their shifts at Knowle Green, there are excellent transport links, with buses every 15-20 minutes (25 minute journey to Sunbury Village) and additional vehicles are available to the officers. Following the relocation of other teams across the borough to SBC Offices there has been no impact on their accessibility and visibility to their communities.

I would also like to reassure you that we will be monitoring the situation very closely.

Kind regards,
Sarah.