

**KENWICK AND HIGH WYCOMBE — ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

*Grievance*

**MR N.W. MORTON (Forrestfield)** [9.50 am]: I rise today to grieve to the Minister for Police about several issues in my electorate. The issues are specifically around two suburbs, Kenwick and High Wycombe, but not limited to these suburbs. I have doorknocked nearly all the suburb of Kenwick over the last 18 months and have come to understand the issues in this part of the world reasonably well. Some of those issues relate to the minister's portfolio of police, specifically antisocial behaviour and hooning. A few months ago, I doorknocked the Kenwick Shopping Centre on the corner of Belmont and Kenwick Roads in Kenwick. It became clear that the shop owners were feeling rather disempowered. I would say they had possibly given up on ever seeing improvement in their local area, as no-one had seemed to take an interest in their plight previously through any means of advocacy. After talking to them, they understood that they too needed to take a role in this by providing information to law enforcement; however, my point still stands.

After speaking to the local business owners, it was clear to me that numerous antisocial incidents were occurring at the local shopping centre, including shoplifting, hooning and, most disturbingly for me, drug dealing in the car park. This was particularly concerning to me, given that there are two schools within a three to five-minute walk of the shopping centre. The prospect of young people either witnessing drug dealing, or being offered or pushed drugs, alarms me greatly, as I am sure it does the minister. Local business owners also reported a lower frequency of customers due to the general local knowledge that this kind of behaviour was occurring at the shops.

Furthermore, residents in the suburb of Kenwick have raised with me concerns about hooning, particularly on Belmont Road, Kenwick Road and Wanaping Road. This kind of behaviour is reckless and endangers the lives and property of people, the vast majority of whom are law-abiding citizens. I also have some more recent examples that I would like to describe today. I will write to the minister in due course to inform her of these issues. One resident has gone to the length of emailing me photos of several crashes that have occurred in the same location near the intersection of Brixton and Wanaping Roads and have caused damage to property but, thank God, not to life. I would suggest the limited damage is due to luck rather than good judgement. I have several images here that I will show the minister; they are quite graphic and depict some of the activity resulting from hoon behaviour. On Sunday I had a stall at a Christmas fair in High Wycombe where a lady named Elizabeth talked to me. She was still visibly shaken from an incident on the previous Friday night, when a hoon driver lost control of his car and smashed into her husband's car, parked in their front yard. That was on the back of a similar incident that she informed me occurred three weeks earlier when a car took out her front fence. She was definitely still shaken from those events on the Sunday, as I am sure members can understand. Of course, as their elected representative, it upsets me greatly to see residents enduring that kind of behaviour.

This segues nicely into the issues raised with me about the suburb of High Wycombe. A number of residents have spoken to me, either in person or by phone and email, about the hooning that occurs along streets such as Newburn Road, Edney Road, Wycombe Road and roads in the Jacaranda Springs Estate. During the campaign the minister came out to Newburn Road and we spoke with the residents about some of these issues. I remember doorknocking Newburn Road, for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it was one of the hottest summer days during the campaign with a temperature around 40 degrees. Thankfully, as I was doorknocking the street, many of the residents were kind enough to offer me a drink. However, the other and more important reason that I remember doorknocking that road is because every resident that I spoke to, when asked what their issues were, said hoon drivers. This is a street with two primary schools, a community recreation centre and a skate park, all within a kilometre or so of each other.

I am sure the minister would agree, waking up to a headline that states someone has been hurt or, God forbid, killed by this kind of behaviour is of extreme concern to me and to the residents in my electorate. I also make the point that this is not aimed at motoring enthusiasts. In fact, most motoring enthusiasts go to great lengths to look after their vehicles and therefore are not usually the type of person taking part in this behaviour. This is aimed at people who think it is okay to get into a motor vehicle and show complete disregard for the safety of others, themselves and property. On behalf of the residents in my electorate, I ask the minister to take strong action to mitigate the issues that I have raised here today and I look forward to her response.

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police)** [9.55 am]: I thank the member for Forrestfield for his grievance and I acknowledge the numerous representations he has made on behalf of his constituents to me in my role as Minister for Police and Road Safety. The constituents in the member for Forrestfield's electorate can feel quite confident that as soon as he identifies an issue, he is right on to it and on to whichever minister's portfolio it may fall under, to find a solution to the problem. In regard to the Kenwick Shopping Centre, I am pleased that after the member wrote to me, we were able to arrange a meeting on 6 November. Although I was unfortunately unable to attend that meeting, we did have representatives from my office, WA Police and the

shopping centre present to have a good roundtable discussion about the problems they are facing and the issues that they are trying to resolve. I am informed by everyone who attended that the meeting was positive and constructive, and that the concerns of the proprietors about the antisocial behaviour in the area had been explored. The local people are now working with police on some possible solutions that were discussed at that meeting. A positive thing we can draw from that is there is now increased cooperation amongst the shopkeepers to report suspicious behaviour of people who may frequent those premises. They are also reporting incidents of antisocial behaviour to the police. I feel that those people are now getting better targeted police attention and that a better relationship and partnership has been built between the police and the community in that area to try and crack the back of this problem.

I understand that Inspector Ridley and Sergeant Rimmer from Gosnells police explained to the shop owners the new Frontline 2020 local policing model being trialled in the south east metropolitan area. I believe the owners received that information well.

**Mr N.W. Morton:** Yes, they did.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Yes; and they were grateful that the contact details for local police were provided to them. I am advised that, following that meeting, Acting Sergeant Hoad from Gosnells police has been in contact with the proprietors and has provided further information, including an invitation to join the Neighbourhood Watch, which was also discussed at the meeting. Often there is a process involved in resolving these issues and I am sure that with this enhanced commitment and cooperation between shopping centre management, local government and police—overseen by the member for Forrestfield, I might add, as this does need someone to pull people together and drive it—there will be improvements to security and safety in this precinct.

Regarding the hoon drivers on Belmont Road, Kenwick Road and Wanaping Road in Kenwick, this is an area that I know well. I must say that my blood ran cold when I heard about the incident on the corner of Brixton and Wanaping Roads, because that is not far from where one of my sisters and my nephews used to live; I know that area very well and understand some of the issues with hooning in that precinct. WA Police said that it has conducted a number of marked and unmarked vehicle police patrols this financial year and has seized a large number of vehicles as a result of that. WA Police has also given me a commitment to continue targeting those areas. I ask the member and his constituents to continue to report any instances of hoon behaviour to police. Regardless of how small it may be, police will respond with increased patrols to try to resolve the problem. Vehicle speeding in school zones and some of those hoon issues have been raised with our traffic intelligence service and the infringement and operations area for consideration of traffic actions. We are analysing all the data that we are collecting and looking at further deployment of speed cameras in that area.

I recall the day I met with some of the member's constituents on Newburn Road about the increase in antisocial behaviour and hooning in High Wycombe. I believe there are some design issues with Newburn Road that could potentially be addressed. In addition, there is a compliance problem and police have agreed to target those roads in High Wycombe that the member mentioned. There are known local crime hotspots in that precinct and police are looking at deploying units right across the metropolitan region, including the regional operations group, the police rail units, specialist crime, the traffic enforcement group and the dog squad. I believe the member may have seen some mounted police through that area from time to time as well. That program is designed around cracking the back of that antisocial behaviour and the hooning problems that plague the constituents of High Wycombe, which the member has highlighted so regularly to me. Local police have also actioned Operation Granita, which targets burglars. This operation has resulted in the early arrest of offenders committing burglaries in the Forrestfield police district and the recovery of stolen property. Local police have made a determined effort to target high-volume crime and have successfully charged numerous offenders. The member should hopefully start to see some improvement with that high-volume crime in his areas as well.

WA Police have given me a commitment that they will continue to allocate resources to the known crime hotspots. They want to deter the criminal activity and antisocial driving activity that has been occurring in High Wycombe and Kenwick and indeed across that band where there appears to be a problem in the electorate of Forrestfield. Hopefully we will start to see some improvements in the issues the member has raised. I encourage him to continue to work with his constituents and to bring these matters to me. WA Police and Assistant Commissioner Budge, who is responsible for metropolitan operations, are very interested in achieving some outcomes in that south east metro district. The way they will achieve that, member for Forrestfield, is by having a targeted approach in those areas and on those roads the member has raised with me to ensure we can get some better results for his constituents. I thank the member for the grievance and look forward to continuing to work with him on resolving these safety, antisocial behaviour and hooning problems for his constituents of Forrestfield.