

Bar Risa, Birmingham - EDL Hosting – 11 October 2014 (Full Statement)

Statement from Bar Risa Regarding Hosting

We have been asked by the police to host the EDL during their protest as they wanted to contain them in one bar in order to help keep the streets of Birmingham safe.

We very firmly said no and asked them to find an alternative venue.

We did this because we do not, have not and will never support the EDL in any way, shape or form.

In addition, we know how much it upset some of the local community last year, and having helped the police last time, it seemed right that they ask someone else.

The police have since asked us several times and we have continually said no.

The police stance however is that Risa is the only bar big enough and close enough to the centre of the protest to house the EDL as one group. Their view is that Risa would be doing the city of Birmingham, the community and the police a great service.

As I'm sure you can understand, given the repeated police requests we had little option other than to help the police manage this situation.

We have therefore decided to help, but will not be making any profits from hosting this group. As we did last year, we will donate all profits made during the time they are with us to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Last year this sum was £1,500.

Before making this decision, we discussed the situation with the local community leaders who are currently assisting West Midlands Police in their planning for the EDL protest, and we have their full support.

Rajinder Rattu, Community Outreach Worker; Desmond Jaddoo, Community Activist and Habib Rehman from the Salfley Business Association, jointly released the following comment:

"We absolutely understand that Bar Risa does not support what the EDL stands for. They have very reluctantly made the difficult decision to assist West Midlands Police with this complex policing operation.

They continued: "By doing this we also recognise they are supporting the wider City of Birmingham and allowing this great city to continue functioning with minimal disruption. Bar Risa are also donating any profit from this event to the Air Ambulance charity which is a really positive outcome to this challenging situation."

West Midlands Police, Superintendent Richard Baker said: "Due to the complexity of managing a protest of this size and scale we approached Bar Risa again and asked them to host the EDL. From a

policing and public safety aspect it is always better to provide a meeting point for a large protest group and escort them to the protest location as this causes minimal disruption to the wider City.

"Bar Risa repeatedly said no to our request, and quite reasonably asked us to find an alternative venue given they hosted the EDL last year. However, Bar Risa is the best venue for this policing operation due to its size and proximity to the march. After a series of discussions, they have reluctantly agreed to open for a period of a few hours during Saturday 11th October to assist the policing operation.

"This was a difficult decision for them and we appreciate the support they are giving to this complex policing operation. We understand that Bar Risa is intending to donate their profits from Saturday afternoon to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity."

-ends-

Bar Risa, Birmingham - EDL Hosting – 11 October 2014 (Full Statement)

Statement from Bar Risa Regarding Hosting

We have been asked by the police to host the EDL during their protest as they wanted to contain them in one bar in order to help keep the streets of Birmingham safe.

We very firmly said no and asked them to find an alternative venue.

We did this because we do not, have not and will never support the EDL in any way, shape or form.

In addition, we know how much it upset some of the local community last year, and having helped the police last time, it seemed right that they ask someone else.

The police have since asked us several times and we have continually said no.

The police stance however is that Risa is the only bar big enough and close enough to the centre of the protest to house the EDL as one group. Their view is that Risa would be doing the city of Birmingham, the community and the police a great service.

As I'm sure you can understand, given the repeated police requests we had little option other than to help the police manage this situation.

We have therefore decided to help, but will not be making any profits from hosting this group. As we did last year, we will donate all profits made during the time they are with us to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Last year this sum was £1,500.

Before making this decision, we discussed the situation with the local communities and have their full support.

Xxx, president of xxxx said: "We fully support Bar Risa's decision. They were put in a very difficult position and really had no choice. We know they have no affiliation to the EDL and are only doing this to help the local communities and the City of Birmingham."

Yyy, of xxxx, said: "Risa were in a no-win situation, and we're very comfortable with what they're doing. Ultimately it is helping to keep the EDL off the streets. In addition, the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity is a great cause and we applaud Risa for donating profits to them."

West Midlands Police, Superintendent Richard Baker said: "Due to the complexity of managing a protest of this size and scale we approached Bar Risa again and asked them to host the EDL. From a policing and public safety aspect it is always better to provide a meeting point for a large protest group and escort them to the protest location as this causes minimal disruption to the wider City.

"Bar Risa repeatedly said no to our request, and quite reasonably asked us to find an alternative venue given they hosted the EDL last year. However, Bar Risa is the best venue for this policing operation due to its size and proximity to the march. After a series of discussions, they have

reluctantly agreed to open for a period of a few hours during Saturday 11th October to assist the policing operation.

"This was a difficult decision for them and we appreciate the support they are giving to this complex policing operation. We understand that Bar Risa is intending to donate their profits from Saturday afternoon to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity."

-ends-

EDL Community Reference Group Membership

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Business Community Reference Group

[Redacted]

Information about town centre protests

Dear KIN member

We are emailing to let you know that a protest taking place in Birmingham city centre on Saturday 11th October 2014.

The English Defence League (EDL) will be protesting in and have agreed with police to limit their time at the location to between

A counter demonstration will also be held in by groups opposed to the EDL. It is believed this will take place at the same time.

Both parties have conducted protests previously in the West Midlands and across the country at which a number of people have been arrested.

West Midlands Police have no powers to ban such events but we will be striving with our partners at Birmingham City Council to ensure the city centre is open as usual for people unconnected with either event.

We are committed to facilitating lawful and peaceful protests, but we understand that communities, locations or individuals may feel vulnerable.

We have spent many weeks planning for today's protest, talking to community representatives, businesses and organisations that may be affected.

Significant resources will be on hand to provide visible reassurance to all those visiting the town centre and we aim to ensure that the reputation of the city is not tainted.

Birmingham is a harmonious city with many different cultures living alongside each other in peace. Our policing operation will strive to ensure it remains that way.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the operation, we urge you to contact West Midlands Police by calling us on 101.

Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: www.west-midlands.police.uk or by following @WMPolice on Twitter.

Yours sincerely,

West Midlands Police

Protest in Birmingham City Centre on Saturday 20 July

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE and Birmingham City Council are working together to prepare for a protest due to take place in Birmingham City Centre on Saturday.

Supporters of the English Defence League (EDL) are planning to stage a static protest in Centenary Square on 20 July, whilst groups in opposition to the EDL, are holding a simultaneous counter demonstration in Chamberlain Square.

These distinct and central venues have been identified to assist with a carefully planned police and council operation.

ACC Sharon Rowe is the chief officer in overall command of the major policing operation being planned for the day. She is clear about the position the city finds itself in: "We recognise that people feel anxious about having these protests in our city, particularly after the recent events in Walsall and Tipton – and we believe that our resources would be better placed in local neighbourhoods, tackling local issues," she said.

"Having said that, we have a duty to facilitate people's right to protest, so long as it is peaceful, regardless of whether the group's views are supported by the majority or not.

"West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council do not have the power to ban static protests such as these – the right to protest peacefully is a sign of a healthy democracy and we have a duty to facilitate that right.

"We will have more than 1,000 officers on duty to ensure that the people who live, work, shop or visit Birmingham feel reassured and can go about their daily business in safety. The force is being supported by colleagues from the region and other forces from across the country.

"Let me be clear – if there is violent behaviour at either demonstration, or indeed in the wider community, it will be dealt with swiftly and robustly.

"We will identify and bring to justice anyone who is behaving in a criminal or anti-social manner – just as we have done when violence has broken out at previous protests and counter protests in Birmingham, Dudley and Walsall.

"We are working closely with local community representatives, businesses, politicians and all faiths to plan and share details of our operation.

"We are aware some communities, locations or individuals might feel vulnerable given the nature of the protests, as well as heightened tensions following the explosion in Tipton at the weekend. A large-scale, substantial and visible policing operation is in place across the whole of the West Midlands. This will not end when all those involved in the protests go home on Saturday night – we will continue to work with communities and provide additional patrols across the city long after the protesters have left.

Councillor John Cotton, community cohesion lead for Birmingham City Council added:
"Birmingham is a city of many communities, nationalities and creeds – all living and working side by side. We are committed to maintaining a city that is safe and inclusive, free from discrimination and all forms of extremism.

"People should go about their normal business and not allow the protest to undermine Birmingham's reputation as a city that champions tolerance, peace and understanding across all our neighbourhoods and communities."

Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: www.west-midlands.police.uk or by following @WMPolice on Twitter.

Further Questions and Answers: On demand

Why can't you ban the protests?

We have no power to ban protests because they are a static assembly of people, and as such are legal as long as they are peaceful and within the law.

Much has previously been made of West Midlands Police's decision not to ban a march as other forces have done in the past. The difference is that the planned event in that case was a 'march' or procession.

But in legal terms a march is a moving protest and at no time have we ever been notified of any intention to stage a march, so banning one has never been a realistic option.

There is a power for the Secretary of State to ban a march at the request of the Chief Constable and Local Authority. That issue does not arise in respect of 20th July protest.

Equally, police do not have the power to ban any such demonstration – regardless of recent events in the region.

How many officers will be in the city centre?

West Midlands Police will have a substantial and visible policing operation in place to ensure protesters are restricted to their site, and to maintain business as usual in the city centre. In excess of 1000 officers will be deployed as part of the operation.

Police will be closely monitoring the event and will review policing tactics in accordance with powers available under the Public Order Act and other policing powers.

There will be a visible uniformed police presence in the city centre seeking to engage with protesters to ensure there is no disorder.

The police will also have significant back-up to ensure a fast, efficient and robust reaction to prevent a repeat of the disorder seen previously.

What is your message to people intent on violence?

That message is clear– don't come to Birmingham.

At similar protests – for example in Walsall last year - some individuals sought to attach themselves to both the main protest group and other groups who came to stage a counter demonstration. They wanted to exploit the protest by behaving in a criminal or anti-social manner.

Anyone planning a repeat of that should be in no doubt that they will be identified by West Midlands Police and prosecuted.

How have other forces managed to ban a protest previously?

Other forces obtained an order to ban a march, not a protest. We have no formal application for a march and we cannot therefore ban it.

West Midlands Police is the second largest force in the country and have a very different level of resilience to other, smaller, forces, when it comes handling protests like this. The application to ban made by another force has to be seen in that context.

Much has previously been made of West Midlands Police's decision not to ban a march as other forces have done in the past. In legal terms a march is a moving protest and at no time have we ever been notified of any intention to stage a march, so banning one has never been a realistic option.

Equally, police do not have the power to ban any such demonstration and any decision to prevent a march from taking place would be agreed by the secretary of state, on the request of the police and local authority.

Are you giving preferential treatment to the Muslim community?

West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council enjoy excellent relations and consultation with all of our communities. We are listening to their concerns and are working hard to reassure them.

We are mindful that communities, locations or individuals might feel vulnerable given the nature of the demonstration and we have worked to ensure they are aware that WMP will police any demonstration within the law.

People attending both events being held in the city will have the same rights and be treated similarly by police in attendance, ensuring public order.

Hate crime will not be tolerated and WMP will take robust action if required.

West Midlands Police's role is to protect, reassure and support the people of West Midlands – regardless of faith, ethnicity, sex or gender.

WMP have said before that there would be no march but we see protesters 'marching' through the town.

Just as WMP do with football matches and all other major events, participants may be escorted to their event location or pre-arranged destinations in the town, from their transport links.

This escorted movement of people is not a march or procession but the best and safest way of ensuring their passage to the protest venue while keeping disruption to a minimum.

It will take the shape of a controlled movement of strictly monitored numbers of people from a series of muster areas to the protest site.

Have WMP sought assistance from any other forces? Why there are (other force) police vans everywhere?

As part of our national and regional collaboration there are officers from elsewhere in the country assisting in the operation. This ensures a sustainable level of local policing is maintained across the force during this time of additional demand.

Will you be policing areas that are vulnerable, such as mosques etc?

Despite the fact that there is a large scale policing operation taking place in Birmingham city centre, we will still have significant resources available across the region to maintain regular local policing and patrols.

These patrols will inevitably take in any locations that may be deemed vulnerable as a result of previous incidents or concerns raised by communities.

In addition, some of the resources available to the commander on the day will be on standby to respond to incidents across the region that are deemed to be connected to hate crime or linked disorder.

Is the West Midlands facing increasing division between its ethnic communities?

It is important to note that we have not seen any significant rise in tensions between communities of differing faiths or race, despite some of the events that have taken place in the region in recent weeks.

The attacks in Walsall and Tipton may well have been planned to divide or disrupt some communities but we have not seen evidence of this being the case.

Birmingham, and the wider West Midlands, is a multi-cultural, harmonious place to live, work and visit. People from differing cultures and backgrounds all happily live alongside one another and we do not see any reason for this to change.

Hate crime on the increase?

There has been a spike in reported hate crime across the country following the tragic murder of Lee Rigby.

We are absolutely committed to investigating hate crime. It is a force priority – we encourage anyone who believes that they have experienced such crime to contact us.

Times of protest

Between 1 and 4

WMP will invoke legislation that says protests can only take place at the venues as prescribed between 1pm and 4pm.

Numbers of protestors expected

Monitoring intelligence – too early to say.

At this stage we can't accurately predict no of protestors, sufficient no of resources to deal with large scale protest.

Venues are of sufficient size to host large scale protest

Policing plan will facilitate peaceful protest at both sites.

Information for city centre businesses, traders and taxi drivers

Saturday 11 October

West Midlands Police is aware of a planned protest by the English Defence League, which is due to take place in Birmingham on Saturday 11 October.

As on previous occasions, police have no power to ban a static protest and we have a duty to facilitate the democratic right to protest, as long as people act in a peaceful and law abiding way.

That said, we are mindful that given the nature of the protest, communities, locations or individuals might feel vulnerable.

Clearly we would much rather see our resources placed in local neighbourhoods tackling the sorts of crime that matters most to them.

However, if the protest goes ahead, officers will be in place on the day to ensure that everyone who comes to the city centre, be it to take part in the protest or to go about their day to day business, can do so in safety.

As with previous protests, any criminal or public order offences will be robustly dealt with. Following the last EDL demonstration in Birmingham a total of 56 protesters were charged with

offences linked to violent disorder in the city's Centenary Square.

People should go about their normal business and not allow the protest to affect them or undermine Birmingham's reputation as a harmonious city with people of many different cultures living alongside each other in peace.

The policing operation will strive to ensure it remains that way.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the operation, we urge you to contact Birmingham police on a dedicated phone line for this operation – XXXXXXXXXXXX.

Alternatively contact the Birmingham City Centre neighbourhood team on **101 ext 7861 6933**, or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

You can also contact us via e-mail: **birminghamcentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**

Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: **www.west-midlands.police.uk** or by following **@WMPolice** on Twitter.



Serving our communities, protecting them from harm
www.west-midlands.police.uk

Find us on



Information for city centre protest

Saturday 11 October

West Midlands Police is aware of a planned protest by the English Defence League, which is due to take place in Birmingham on Saturday 11 October.

As on previous occasions, police have no power to ban a static protest and we have a duty to facilitate the democratic right to protest, as long as people act in a peaceful and law abiding way.

That said, we are mindful that given the nature of the protest, communities, locations or individuals might feel vulnerable.

Clearly we would much rather see our resources placed in local neighbourhoods tackling the sorts of crime that matters most to them.

However, if the protest goes ahead, officers will be in place on the day to ensure that everyone who comes to the city centre, be it to take part in the protest or to go about their day to day business, can do so in safety.

As with previous protests, any criminal or public order offences will be robustly dealt with. Following the last EDL demonstration in Birmingham a total of 56 protesters were charged with

offences linked to violent disorder in the city's Centenary Square.

People should go about their normal business and not allow the protest to affect them or undermine Birmingham's reputation as a harmonious city with people of many different cultures living alongside each other in peace.

The policing operation will strive to ensure it remains that way.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the operation, we urge you to contact Birmingham police on a dedicated phone line for this operation – XXXXXXXXXXXX.

Alternatively contact the Birmingham City Centre neighbourhood team on **101 ext 7861 6933**, or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

You can also contact us via e-mail: **blirminghamcentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**

Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: **www.west-midlands.police.uk** or by following **@WMPolice** on Twitter.



Serving our communities, protecting them from harm
www.west-midlands.police.uk

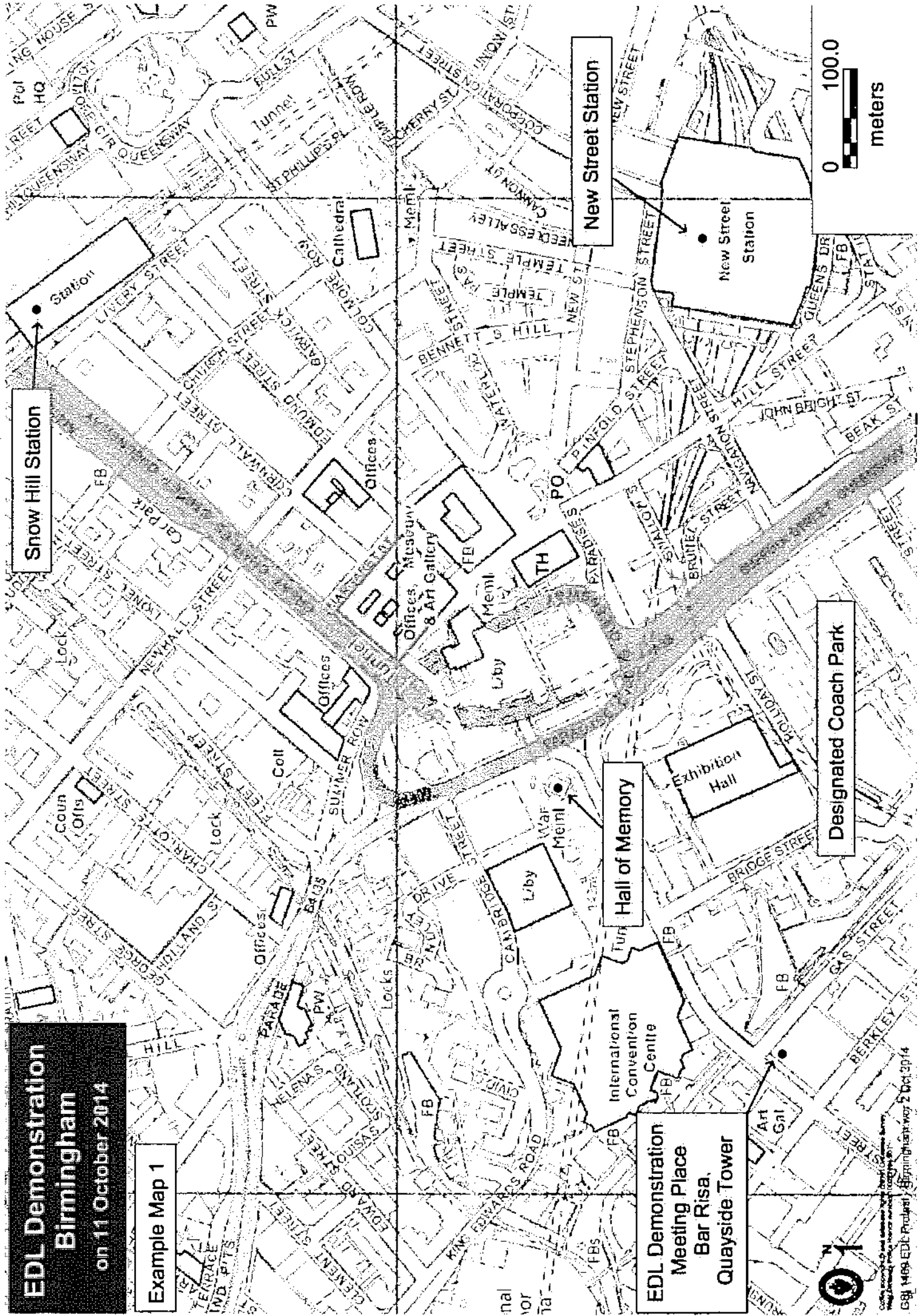
Find us on:



EDL Demonstration Birmingham

on 11 October 2014

Example Map 1



New Street Station

New Street Station

Designated Coach Park

Hall of Memory

EDL Demonstration
Meeting Place
Bar Risa,
Quayside Tower

0 100.0
meters



EDL Demonstration Birmingham

on 11 October 2014

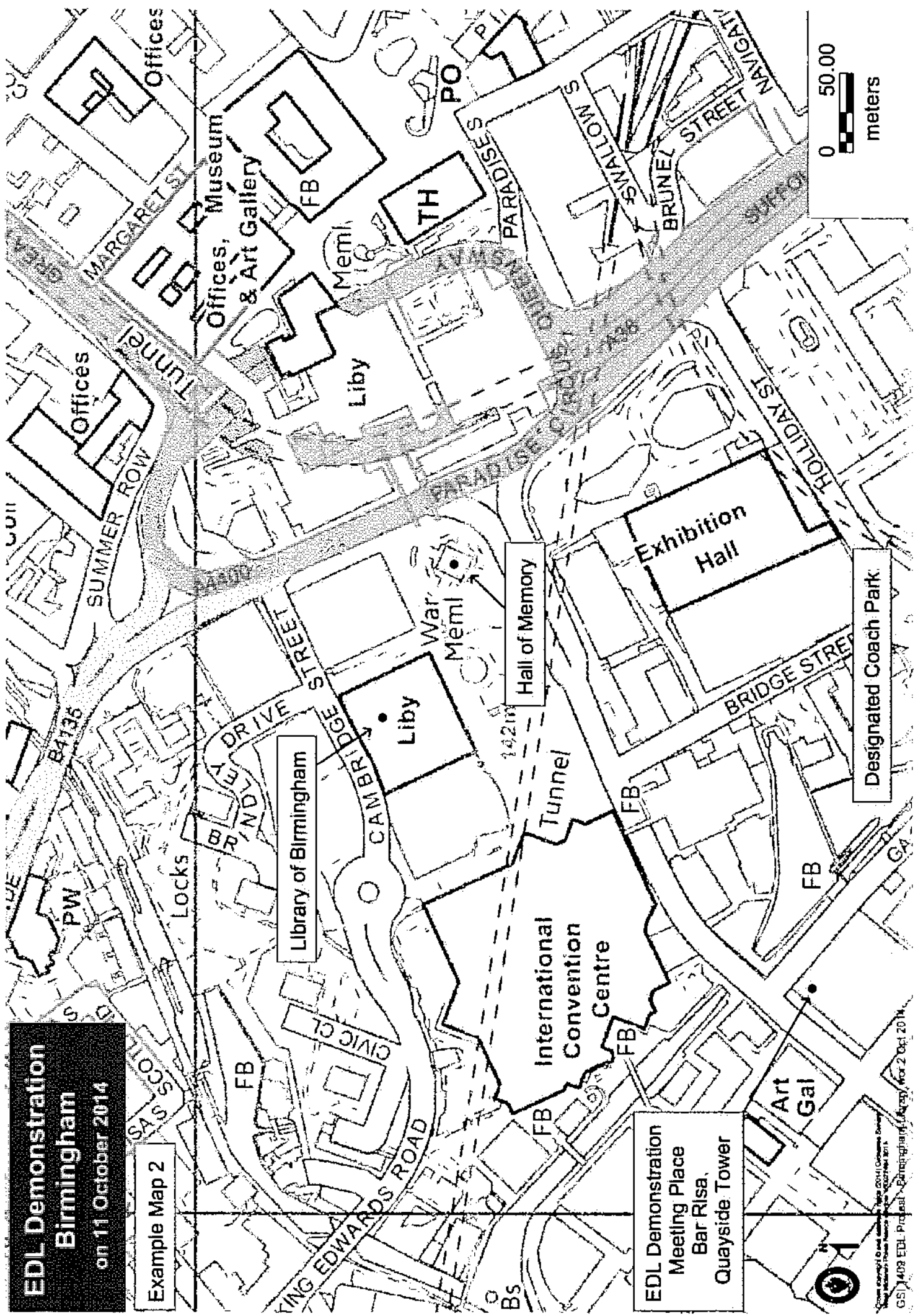
Example Map 2

Library of Birmingham

Hall of Memory

EDL Demonstration
Meeting Place
Bar Risa,
Quayside Tower

Designated Coach Park



Key Notes/Actions following EDL Meeting – 30 September 2014

Present: Councillor McKay, Mashuq Ally, Sharon Lea, Alistair Campbell, John Blakemore, Supt Richard Baker, Marcia Wynter

Following issues discussed:

(1) LOCATION

- LoB – Safety of visitors, protection of assets
- Police could step in under Public Order legislation to decide where demonstration takes place.
- Could bus demonstrators from New Street to Broad Street (as per last year)
- EDL not happy with location and have threatened not to engage with police and just turn up anywhere in city
- EDL want to be sited near the Hall of Memory
- BCC would prefer EDL to be located near Broad Street/ICC end and not near the Hall of Memory and have made strong representation to that effect. Only used Remembrance Sunday
- BCC need to make decision re temporary closure of Library dependent on agreed location
- There are currently works ongoing in Chamberlain Square (Action JB will check timescale for completion) as this would be the preferred location for any counter demonstration
- Victoria Square is currently booked. Will hold line until we have further intelligence/decision from police (Action RB to inform BCC of police decision as soon as possible to allow time for further representation)
- Police looking to employ softer tactics this year, although will have same police presence
- Police need to support Cancer Research walk which is due to take place in Centenary Square.

(2) ENGAGEMENT

- Need to look at managing down UAF counter demonstration
- Update requested by JM on engagement with Communities
- Key individuals with a presence on the day last year have discussed this year with JM
- Jeff Doke – West Midlands Police has been liaising with Josh Jones, UAF and Steve Eddowes - EDL as to location of protestors. Police due to make a decision this afternoon.
- There were between 50 – 60 UAF/Union representation last year.
- Some 200 protestors at most

- Community Reference Group and Retail Reference Group have met – Rep and LoB engaged
- Currently demonstration is not well advertised
- There have been some media enquiries – tentative response, but not confirmed.
- Will need to confirm by end of the week
- The focus of EDL is around the Muslim Community – CSE and Trojan Horse

(3) COMMS STRATEGY

- No proactive marketing
- Message through schools panels and mosque networks
- Want to see how plays out in media before starting more intensive briefings with communities/statements etc
- No statements this weekend – Eid celebrations (Action MA to advise on right time for community messages)
- Need to identify political lead to ensure consistent messages (Action JM to discuss with Cllr Ian Ward)
- Need clear statement re reason for allowing EDL in city and location of demonstration (Action JM draft statement on behalf of Broad Street Bid) – liaison with Mike Olley
- People seem to accept that EDL have a right to protest – more about how we can stop people coming into town and the potential to get arrested
- Following Scrutiny session last year a number of issues were highlighted - Photography in Chamberlain Square, Warwickshire police not adequately briefed. Therefore need to look at the practicalities and ensure key people are identified early for engagement on the day
- Could allocate passes and fluorescent jackets for community members (group of 5 or 6)
- All issues highlighted in report need to be covered (Action MA to send copy of report)
- Tabletop exercise on Monday (Action RB to send details to JM)
- Gold Meeting 7th October

Information for city centre protest

Saturday 11 October

West Midlands Police is aware of a planned protest by the English Defence League, which is due to take place in Birmingham on Saturday 11 October.

As on previous occasions, police have no power to ban a static protest and we have a duty to facilitate the democratic right to protest, as long as people act in a peaceful and law abiding way.

That said, we are mindful that given the nature of the protest, communities, locations or individuals might feel vulnerable.

Clearly we would much rather see our resources placed in local neighbourhoods tackling the sorts of crime that matters most to them.

However, if the protest goes ahead, officers will be in place on the day to ensure that everyone who comes to the city centre, be it to take part in the protest or to go about their day to day business, can do so in safety.

As with previous protests, any criminal or public order offences will be robustly dealt with. Following the last EDL demonstration in Birmingham a total of 56 protesters were charged with

offences linked to violent disorder in the city's Centenary Square.

People should go about their normal business and not allow the protest to affect them or undermine Birmingham's reputation as a harmonious city with people of many different cultures living alongside each other in peace.

The policing operation will strive to ensure it remains that way.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the operation, we urge you to contact Birmingham police on a dedicated phone line for this operation – **07824 824 468**.

Alternatively contact the Birmingham City Centre neighbourhood team on **101 ext 7861 6933**, or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

You can also contact us via e-mail: **brminghamcentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**

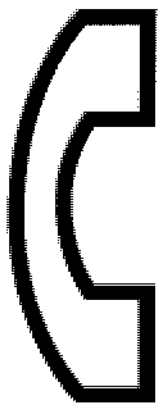
Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: **www.west-midlands.police.uk** or by following **@WMPolice** on Twitter.



Serving our communities, protecting them from harm
www.west-midlands.police.uk



**CALL WEST
MIDLANDS
POLICE**



101

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**



COUNCILLOR WASEEM ZAFFAR M.B.E., J.P.
 Chairman, Social Cohesion and Community
 Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor for Lozells and East Handsworth Ward
 Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham
 B1 1BB
 Tel: 0121-303 1217 (Office)
 07790 161889 (Mobile)
 E-mail: Waseem.Zaffar@birmingham.gov.uk

Bob Jones, WMPCC
 Sir Albert Bore, Leader, BCC
 Chris Sims, Chief Constable, WMP

www.waseemzaffar.com Waseem.Zaffar1
 Waseem.Zaffar Waseem Zaffar
 @waseemzaffar 272EE8CA

14th August 2013
 Ref: WZBJ002

Dear Bob, Albert and Chris

On behalf of the Social Cohesion and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee I would like to say how helpful and positive it was to have a discussion with all partners around the table to discuss the events of the 20th July including those from West Midlands Police, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Birmingham City Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank West Midlands Police and City Council officers on the joint and very effective working that took place both in planning for the event and in the organisation on the day. It was clear for all to see that the Police managed the protestors and counter-protestors very effectively leading to minimal disruption to businesses and ensuring the safety of shoppers and visitors to our city.

Members of the Committee were very impressed with the approach taken by the Police in briefing community and faith leaders. The feedback I have personally received from these leaders was that they found the approach positive and that it allowed them to effectively engage with the Police ensuring that they were aware of how both the protestors and those from local muslim communities would be managed and were able to raise issues and discuss their concerns. The strong statement from the PCC was also very well received by the residents of the city.

It was equally appreciated that senior police officers led by ACC Sharon Rowe were proactive in meeting with senior muslim leaders in the city (facilitated by the Central and Ghamkol Sharif Mosques) to explain the legislation governing demonstrations and to reassure them that the authorities would deal with the protestors within the constraints of the law. As a consequence faith leaders and community leaders were able to reassure the muslim and wider community that the Police were geared up to deal with the demonstrators effectively. The community policing approach taken by the Police is to be commended and should be replicated wherever possible in planning and implementing future operations of this kind.

I would however like to on behalf of the Committee raise a number of issues that it might be helpful to consider in the planning and organisation of future events.

- 1) Although we firmly believe in and wholly support the right of all citizens to freedom of speech, I would encourage you to consider whether there is any way that the costs of policing future demonstrations could be levied on those protesting. In this case the operation on 20th July is estimated to have cost West Midlands Police alone in excess of £1million which, in a time of financial constraints and budget cuts, represents an excessive burden on a police budget which is already under severe pressure.
- 2) The negative impact of the 20th July protest on businesses located on Broad Street needs to be taken into account. Although the Police managed the day very well, nevertheless, there were isolated incidents whereby shop-fronts were damaged leading to these businesses having to close to customers in the evening and consequently suffering a loss in revenue. I feel it is imperative that in future we ensure that businesses in areas where protests are due to take place are fully involved in and take part in discussions alongside other partners and residents and I would urge you to consider this as part of a wider communications strategy.
- 3) In order to provide maximum possible reassurance to the local community and as part of the communications strategy it would be helpful to try to ensure that the rationale as to why a particular location was chosen and as to whether other locations have also been considered, is explained as effectively as possible to those (including residents and businesses) affected by demonstrations such as the one held on 20th July. Concerns were raised that Centenary Square/Broad Street was a very prominent city centre location which had the effect of raising the profile of the protest. Overall there is no doubt that compared with 2009 this demonstration was handled far more successfully but there is residual concern in some communities about the prominence of the location chosen. This is something which the City may need to consider carefully in the future.
- 4) It is equally important that consultation includes other organisations that are planning meetings and or events in the City and particularly around the chosen protest area.
- 5) Members felt that the message conveyed through the City Council's communication with councillors, residents and businesses could have been stronger in reassuring everyone connected with the City. We believe the messaging and communications strategy could have been more effective and feel it is important to review this for the future.
- 6) In addition it was felt that the arrests on the day and the subsequent arrests and convictions of protestors could have been profiled to a greater extent to ensure that residents and businesses recognise the swift action taken by the Police in dealing with those demonstrators who stepped outside of the law. It is also worth noting that arrests and convictions following similar demonstrations in Walsall recently were not publicised to a high extent alerting future protestors to the consequences of law-breaking behaviour and to the local communities.
- 7) There was an isolated incident at the end of a successful day by Police officers that included what seemed to be racial profiling of Asian youths by photographing and taking their details. It was felt that this targeted behaviour was detrimental to community relations. However due to the actions and interventions of skilled and experienced community leaders and council officers the matter was brought under control and dealt with swiftly, ensuring that no further incidents took place.
- 8) Members were very impressed with the pro-active and effective community policing that took place. In future it might be worth considering appointing formally accredited community leads to enable police officers to identify them on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank community leaders Atif Iqbal, Majid Khan, Desmond Jadoo, Nuzmal Hussain and Rajinder Rattu. Police colleagues Chief Superintendent Rick Burgess, Chief Superintendent Clive Burgess, Superintendent Richard Baker, Inspectors Stuart Bill and Gail Rumble; City Council officers Mashuq Ailly, Waqar Ahmed, John Blakemore and Alistair Campbell and Mohammed Naseem (Birmingham Central Mosque) and Saleem Akhtar (Ghamkol Sharif).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Waseem Zaffar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr Waseem Zaffar

Chair Social Cohesion and Community Safety

cc Members of the Social Cohesion & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
Councillor Yvonne Mosquilo; Councillor James McKay; Clive Burgess and Rick Burgess, WMP;
John Blakemore, Alistair Campbell, Mashuq Ally, BCC; Mike Olley and Nichole Samuels, Broad
Street BID

There is no place in our city for messages of hate

With protests planned for the city centre this weekend, we, the undersigned wish to make it clear that Birmingham is not a city that tolerates extremism in any shape or form.

Together we are committed to a progressive, safe and inclusive city, free from discrimination and all forms of extremism.

This is a city of many communities, nationalities and creeds – all harmoniously living and working side by side. Any attempt to disrupt that harmony will not succeed and will merely have a detrimental effect on the city economy, damaging shops and businesses as people opt to stay away.

We support and defend everyone's right to free speech. But to any individual or organisation promoting messages of hate and intolerance, our collective response as a city is very clear: **You will not create divisions and you will not destroy our unity.**

There is no place in our city for messages of hate. There is no place for intolerance and there is no place for violence or extremism of any kind.

Signed by:

Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council

Cllr Mike Whitby, Leader, Conservative Party, Birmingham City Council

Cllr Paul Tilsley, Leader, Liberal Democrats, Birmingham City Council

Right Reverend David Urquhart - Bishop of Birmingham

The Most Rev Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

Rabbi Yossi Jacobs, Singers Hill Synagogue

Mr Abdul Rashid, Treasurer, Birmingham Central Mosque

Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi, Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

Major Samuel Edgar, West Midlands Commander, Salvation Army

Bhai Sahib Bhai Dr Mohinder Singh, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha

Mr Sewa Singh Mandla, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha

Bob Jones - Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime

Information for students

Dear student

West Midlands Police will be conducting a large operation in Birmingham city centre this week in response to plans by the English Defence League to stage a protest. A separate counter demonstration will be staged in the city at the same time.

Significant resources will be deployed to ensure the safety of those intending to take part in a peaceful and lawful protest.

During previous protests across the region, members of the EDL, as well as others staging counter demonstrations, have been arrested when disorder has occurred.

Anyone intending to cause trouble or disorder is likely to be detained by police and could face prosecution.

A criminal record often has a negative impact on people's ability to find employment so local students are reminded of the importance of not becoming involved in disorder or unlawful behaviour if they choose to take part in the event.

West Midlands Police, working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, and other partner agencies support the right to stage lawful and peaceful protests, but we understand that communities, locations or individuals may feel vulnerable.

We will endeavour to make it possible for people to go about their normal business on the day, as we try to ensure this event does not undermine Birmingham's reputation as a safe and harmonious place to live and visit.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the operation, we urge you to contact our officers from the city centre by calling 101.

Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: www.west-midlands.police.uk or by following @WMPolice on Twitter.

Information about town centre protests

Dear KIN member

We are emailing to let you know that a protest taking place in Birmingham city centre on Saturday (20 July).

The English Defence League (EDL) will be protesting in Centenary Square and have agreed with police to limit their time at the location to between 2pm to 4pm.

A counter demonstration will also be held in Chamberlain Square by groups opposed to the EDL. It is believed this will take place at the same time.

Both parties have conducted protests previously in the West Midlands and across the country at which a number of people have been arrested.

West Midlands Police have no powers to ban such events but we will be striving with our partners at Birmingham City Council to ensure the city centre is open as usual for people unconnected with either event.

We are committed to facilitating lawful and peaceful protests, but we understand that communities, locations or individuals may feel vulnerable.

We have spent many weeks planning for today's protest, talking to community representatives, businesses and organisations that may be affected.

Significant resources will be on hand to provide visible reassurance to all those visiting the town centre and we aim to ensure that the reputation of the city is not tainted.

Birmingham is a harmonious city with many different cultures living alongside each other in peace. Our policing operation will strive to ensure it remains that way.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the operation, we urge you to contact West Midlands Police by calling us on 101.

Updates regarding the policing operation on the day can be found at: www.west-midlands.police.uk or by following @WMPolice on Twitter.

Yours sincerely,

West Midlands Police

Information for town centre businesses, traders and taxi drivers

Dear Sir / Madam,

On Saturday 20 July the English Defence League will be holding a static demonstration in Birmingham city centre. A counter-demonstration will also take place in the city.

The English Defence League (EDL) will be protesting in Centenary Square between 2pm and 4pm. A counter demonstration by groups in opposition to the EDL is also due to take place in Chamberlain Square.

West Midlands Police will have a substantial and visible policing operation in place to ensure protesters are restricted to their site, and to maintain business as usual in the city centre. Any disorder will be dealt with quickly and robustly.

Officers will be working hard to minimise disruption caused to businesses, employees and customers.

Significant resources will be on hand to provide visible reassurance to all those visiting the city centre. Birmingham is a harmonious city with many different cultures living alongside each other in peace.

Anybody with concerns or questions relating to the operation is urged to contact the Birmingham city centre policing team on 101.

Updates regarding the policing operation can be found at: www.west-midlands.police.uk or by following the West Midlands Police twitter account at www.twitter.com/wmpolice.

Yours faithfully

West Midlands Police

Susan Brown

From: Bitty Corrigan
Sent: 26 September 2014 16:06
To: Stuart Johnson; Howard Lewis-Jones; Richard Baker
Cc: Sarah Astbury
Subject: FW: Op Baronet

Rich,

Thanks for flagging this. Are you comfortable with the following? I'd suggest that while we sign it off now ready for use, we don't do anything with it until we go live with the communications plan. Do we have a talking head from the LPU who'll be doing all interviews? That and a crime bronze are the only people we're missing on our 'owners' list.

As the venue with the second largest capacity on Broad Street and having safely hosted last year's event, Birmingham police have once again asked Bar Risa to act as the central meeting point for protesters.

West Midlands Police do not have any powers to stop any group drinking alcohol pre-protest so having one such venue makes absolute sense.

This has been a difficult decision for the bar's owners and we appreciate the support that Bar Risa is giving to this large-scale and complex policing operation.

Once again, the bar will be donating their profits from the two hours they are open to the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Regards,

Bitty Corrigan
Communications Manager
Corporate Communications
West Midlands Police

Tel: 101 ext 7630 3670
Direct Dial: 0121 626 5354
Mobile: 07766497555

www.west-midlands.police.uk
www.twitter.com/@wmpolice
www.facebook.com/westmidlandspolice
www.youtube.com/westmidlandspotice

Serving our communities, protecting them from harm.

From: Richard Baker
Sent: 24 September 2014 13:14
To: Stuart Johnson; Howard Lewis-Jones; Catherine Hickman
Subject: Op Baronet

Stu,
To keep you in the loop. I had a meeting last night with the National Operations Manager and COMms Manager for the company that own Bar Risa and a conference call with the CEO.

It is fair to say they are reluctant to have the EDL there again but on the basis it is assisting the police and the wider Birmingham Public they have ultimately agreed to do it.

For consideration of the plan, they are satisfied that WMP utilises our professional judgement based on experience and intelligence in relation to how the venue will be managed, so I do not anticipate requests for loads of officers to be inside. Even the Ops Manager stated last year did appear very oppressive. What would be of assistance is an early heads up to how WMP would want to police the location externally and internally (if we want some staff inside) as this would influence their security numbers. Last year because of the police presence they only had 4 door staff working.

They would be prepared to open 2 hours before the protest was due to start but again would be influenced by our advice if we wanted this to be a shorter time period. They would close when the protesters left the venue and not re-open until early evening.

Their main concern was around the Communications Strategy. I have touched base with Catherine about this already and their comms lead will directly link in with Cath to discuss wording etc. I think there is probably some scope to get BCC and the wider Community involved this year as they are only doing this at our request and to ensure the policing operation and wider public safety issues are managed effectively. They would again give all profits made from this event to the Air Ambulance Charity. I think there will need to be some work done from BS and ourselves about engagement with Students Unions as these were some of the most vocal last year and they did lose some business early on because of this.

I think that is it in a nutshell. Will catch you in the morning.

Rich

Superintendent Richard Baker
Birmingham West & Central Local Policing Unit
Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham
B4 6NW
Tel: 0345 113 5000 ext 7861 6500
Email: r.baker@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Mobile: 07867 166153