

TeamLondonBridge

September 2026

Community Safety Report

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September has been a particularly significant month for security and community safety.

The principal focus was the Millwall v West Ham fixture on 19 September, identified by the Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police as one of the highest-risk football fixtures they had experienced in more than a decade. The proximity of The Den to London Bridge, combined with the anticipated use of London Bridge as a key route for supporters created a significant potential risk for businesses. Team London Bridge responded through enhanced intelligence gathering, business engagement, a highly attended PubWatch meeting, detailed operational planning and a clear escalation process for businesses.

Alongside the football operation, September saw continued work with businesses, retailers, licensed premises and policing partners. This included Operation Honey Badger, engagement with businesses around Ask for Angela and drink-spiking awareness, neighbourhood policing discussions around phone snatching, a major security intelligence meeting and a live Tower Bridge emergency exercise involving a simulated marauding firearms attack.

The month has demonstrated the increasing value of the BID's security function as a connector between businesses, security teams, police and wider resilience partners, with a growing emphasis on prevention, intelligence and coordinated intervention.



Over 50 attendees at a pre match Pub Watch meeting at The Arches.



Match day officers on duty outside London Bridge Station

Millwall vs West Ham United

The Millwall v West Ham fixture on Saturday 19 September represented one of the most significant security challenges faced by the London Bridge area in recent years. The fixture was identified by the Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police as an exceptionally high-risk event, with some officers describing it as the highest-risk fixture they had experienced during their careers. The level of concern was heightened by extensive online content and social media activity surrounding the fixture, with supporters discussing and anticipating the event from the announcement of the fixture in early August.

The Den is only a short distance from London Bridge, with South Bermondsey station providing a direct rail connection to the stadium. London Bridge was therefore identified as a key thoroughfare for supporters travelling to and from the fixture, creating a significant potential risk for licensed premises, businesses, visitors and the wider community.

Team London Bridge recognised the risk at an early stage and worked closely with the police, Dedicated Football Intel Unit, Met. Police Licensing and local businesses to ensure that London Bridge was prepared. A decision was taken to hold the September PubWatch meeting at one of the area's largest available venues, The Arches, 8 Bermondsey Street. The meeting became the best-attended PubWatch meeting to date, with more than 50 attendees from across London Bridge and Bankside.

Businesses received a detailed operational briefing, including direct engagement with football officers and an open question-and-answer session. Clear expectations were established around venue security, opening arrangements, service of alcohol and escalation procedures. A number of businesses subsequently increased security provision and used polycarbonate vessels, while some adjusted opening arrangements in response to the identified risk.

On the day of the fixture, more than 400 police officers were deployed, alongside a significant wider policing operation. Live Facial Recognition activity resulted in six arrests, including the arrest of an individual found in possession of a knife, while three registered sex offenders were also arrested as part of the wider operation.

The most significant test of our approach came at approximately 16:30, when a licensed venue identified a group presenting a potential threat and, rather than attempting to manage the situation independently, followed the agreed escalation procedure. The venue contacted PC Lee Noble, the BID-funded officer, who escalated the intelligence to the Football Intelligence Unit and Gold Command. The group subsequently dispersed rapidly into the wider London Bridge area intent on identifying and attacking rival fans. The rapid escalation resulted in police intervention before serious disorder could develop, with several arrests made on St. Thomas Street.

The operation demonstrated the practical value of establishing clear communication channels and escalation procedures before a major event takes place. Team London Bridge and PC Noble received written thanks from the Met Police and our partnership approach has now been replicated for the reverse fixture in February at The London Stadium, and other high risk football fixtures in London.

Business Security Support

On 11 September, PC Noble worked with The Shard's security team to manage the arrival of an actor and politician Joseph Vijay Chandrasekaran, which attracted a crowd of over 1,000 fans. PC Lee Noble liaised with local partners to share intelligence and provide advance notification of expected crowd numbers, supporting effective crowd management and ensuring the event passed safely without incident.

Police & Neighbourhood Partnership

A meeting with Neighbourhood Superintendent John Reynolds and Alan Duncan focused on phone snatching and acquisitive crime, particularly around Southwark Street and Tooley Street. Police outlined targeted deployments using high-powered e-bikes, while Team London Bridge highlighted changing offending patterns and the importance of flexible patrols. More London security continues to provide high-visibility patrols during identified risk periods. The BID will continue to support intelligence sharing and targeted preventative activity with police and private security partners.

Intelligence, Resilience & Emergency Preparedness

The September Security Intelligence Meeting (17 September) brought together security partners and businesses to discuss emerging risks. Connor Blandford of Mitie Intelligence Services delivered a well-received briefing on the current security environment.

A significant emergency preparedness exercise also took place at Tower Bridge, testing staff responses to a simulated marauding firearms attack. The exercise provided valuable insight into communications, decision-making and emergency procedures under pressure. Congratulations to John Peacock and the Tower Bridge team for delivering a successful exercise, alongside the wider security partners, including Counter Terrorism Security Advisers from across the U.K.

Business Safety & Crime Prevention

Ask for Angela, drink-spiking awareness and Challenge 25 training was delivered to a licenced venues senior managers. Discussions explored extending the training across the wider area to improve consistency in safeguarding and staff confidence.

Operation Honey Badger

A BTP and Met Police Op delivered 5 arrests and 8 stop searches, targeting prolific offenders operating around London Bridge and surrounding areas. Continued joint activity with the MPS is beginning to have an impact, with several known offenders no longer being sighted in the area following previous arrests or proactive interventions. During the operation, theft-related incidents were reduced to zero, supporting the continued targeted approach. PC Lee Noble has also continued working directly with retailers, reviewing CCTV, identifying known theft offenders and supporting the submission of identification statements to assist with potential arrests.

Forthcoming Events

London Bridge Security Resilience Forum

Thursday 15 October 10:00–12:00 Norton Rose Fulbright

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the Borough Market terrorist attack, the forum will look back at the impact of the attack on businesses across London Bridge and Bankside. Our guest speaker is retired Met. Police Superintendent Dave McGillicuddy, a former Counter Terrorism Senior Investigating Officer who led the investigation into the Borough Market attack in 2017.

ACT Awareness Training

Monday 16th November – 10:00 - 12:00 The London Bridge Hive.

Delivered with CT Protect Officer Paul Johnstone, providing businesses with practical counter-terrorism awareness and preparedness guidance.