

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 28 FEBRUARY 2005

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mitchell (Chair); Councillors Barnett, Carden, Mrs Cobb (Opposition Spokesperson), Hawkes, Mrs Simson, Morgan, Williams, Willows and Watkins.

Sussex Police Authority: Tom Tyler.

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Curtis, Inspector Bill Whitehead,

Communities of Interest: Dorothy Engmann, Age Concern; Terry Davies, Brighton & Hove Business Crime Reduction Partnership; Bob Cristofoli, Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; David Smart, Older People's Council; Asmat Roe, Racial Harassment Forum; Derek Peacock, St James's Street Community Safety Group; Whitehawk Community Safety Development Project; Mick Meik, Fire & Rescue Service.

Brighton & Hove Council officers: Judith Macho, Linda Beanlands, Ruth Condon, Jonathan Fortune, John Patience,

Apologies received from: David Standing and Councillor K Bodfish

PART ONE

ACTION

29. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

29.A Declarations of Substitutes

29.1	<u>Substitute Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
	Morgan	Turton

29.2 Asmat Roe attended as a substitute for Kadir Arif, representing the Racial Harassment Forum.

29.B Declarations of Interest

29.2 There were none.

29C Exclusion of Press and Public

29.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

29.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items on the agenda.

30. MINUTES

30.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

31. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

31.1 There were none.

32. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN TO REDUCE DRUG MISUSE IN THE CITY

32.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Environment on anti-drugs work across the city (see minute book). The Communities Against Drugs Development Officer made a Powerpoint presentation giving additional detail on areas covered by the report and Chief Superintendent Curtis of Sussex Police spoke on reducing the supply of drugs through visible enforcement and covert operations.

32.2 A councillor asked Mr Curtis why she had received no feedback after reporting four separate instances of drug dealing. He replied that it was essential that all suspected cases were reported to the Police but that it was their policy not to give feedback as confidential intelligence might be involved.

32.3 Questions were raised about drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. It was noted that recent legislation was beginning to have a positive impact in that courts were imposing severe sentences. Mr Curtis advised that it was Class A drugs and not cannabis dealing that gave rise to complaints about anti-social behaviour.

32.4 The Communities Against Drugs Development Officer explained

the methodology used to compile statistics about the extent of drug use. He noted a member's concern that further work should be done regarding drug and alcohol abuse in the older population.

32.5 Councillor Hawkes expressed concern about children living in drug users' families. She also asked for information about the relationship between HIV/Aids rates and shared needle use. Asmat Roe asked for statistics relating to drug use/dealing and ethnicity. This information was not to hand at the meeting and letters would be sent to Councillor Hawkes and Ms Roe.

Communities
Against Drugs
Development
Officer

32.6 One member expressed the hope that resources would be applied to outer areas and not just to the hotspots. She drew attention to the adverse effect of having drug users as neighbours. Another member suggested an exhibition for parents telling them what signs of drug taking to look for in their children.

32.7 **RESOLVED** - To endorse the work being undertaken by this Local Authority and its partners to tackle substance misuse in the city

33. COMMUNITY SAFETY, CRIME REDUCTION & DRUGS STRATEGY 2005-2008

33.1 The Forum considered the Community Safety, Crime Reduction & Drugs Strategy for 2005-2008 (see minute book). The Head of Community Safety advised that the strategy was still in draft form. She requested the Forum to approve the thirteen priorities so that the Action Plans could be drawn up. She confirmed that, although not a separate category, older people would be included in all the thirteen areas.

33.2 The Head of Community Safety reminded the Forum that her team had a limited budget. Members of the Forum would be invited to an event shortly to consider working in partnership with other agencies to ensure service delivery in the priority areas.

Head Of
Community
Safety

33.3 Asmat Roe asked for statistical information on performance and outcomes to be provided to meetings of the Racial Harassment Forum.

Head Of
Community
Safety

33.4 **RESOLVED** – That the priority areas for the Strategy be approved.

34. POLICE REFORM PROPOSALS

34.1 The Forum received a presentation by Sussex Police about proposals for Police Reform (see minute book). Members welcomed the prospect of greater police accountability and increased local authority engagement in community safety.

34.2 A member considered that communities could relate better to

a local beat officer than to the neighbourhood policing teams. However, another member stated that the teams could provide cover 24 hours a day and there was no lack of provision when officers were on leave.

34.2 **RESOLVED** – To note the report.

35. PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

35.1 The Forum considered a report of the Research & Performance Monitoring Officer giving statistical information on crime in Brighton & Hove from 1 October to 31 December 2004 (see minute book).

35.2 Members were advised that the maps could be magnified on the Council's website if the printed versions were too small.

35.3 **RESOLVED** – That the information contained in the report be noted.

36. PROPOSED CAMPAIGNS TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

36.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning two forthcoming initiatives "It's Your Call" and "Ten Days in March", which aimed to tackle anti-social behaviour.

36.2 Councillor Cobb requested further information on the graffiti-busting and street cleansing activities, how they related to the three-year contract for cleaning and how the initiative could be maintained.

Head of
Operations
(Public
Safety)

36.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Forum supports the initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour.

37. REPORTS OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2004 AND 10 FEBRUARY 2005

37.1 The Forum noted the reports of the Sussex Police Authority dated 16 December 2004 and 10 February 2005 (see minute book).

37.2 Councillor Williams requested detailed information on the retention and recruitment of police officers. He was particularly concerned at the loss of officers seeking higher salaries in London.

Member
Support
Officer, SPA

38. REPORTS OF THE EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2004 AND 13 JANUARY 2005

38.1 The Forum noted the reports of the East Sussex Fire Authority dated 9 December 2004 and 13 January 2005 (see minute book). Mick Meik informed members that the ES Fire & Rescue Service could provide advice on fire safety in the home and in community centres

free of charge.

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005