

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 9 OCTOBER 2006

HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bodfish (Chair); Councillors Barnett, Mrs Drake, Mitchell (DC), Oxley, G Theobald (OS), Turton

NOTE: Councillor Watkins absent on council business

Sussex Police: Sergeant Peter Castleton, Superintendent Graham Bartlett

British Transport Police: PC James Hards

Communities of Interest: Bob Cristofoli, Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; David Smart, Hangleton & Knoll Project; Derek Peacock, St James's Street Community Safety Group; Ray Blackwood, Older People's Council; Faith Matyszak, Whitehawk Community Development Project; Arthur Law, Spectrum, Gail Gray, Women's Refuge Project

Officers: Jenny Rowlands, Linda Beanlands, Ruth Condon, Nigel Andain, Sue Bishop, Estelle Woodcock

PART ONE

ACTION

12 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

12A Declarations of Substitutes

12.1 There were none.

12B Declarations of Interest

12.2 There were none.

12C Exclusion of Press and Public

12.3 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.

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

13 MINUTES

- 13.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

14 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 14.1 There was nothing to report under this item.

15 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 15.1 The Forum considered a letter from the Chair of the Older People's Council concerning issues relating to personal and pavement safety (see minute book).

- 15.2 Door locks and chains: Ray Blackwood, representing the Older People's Council, requested that better information on Home Safety should be provided. The Forum agreed that there was a need for officers from Community Safety and Housing & City Support to liaise with ward councillors and residents groups about Home Safety and how to publicize it. It was also agreed that Sergeant Castleton should write to the Older People's Council setting out what services the Police can provide.

**Linda
Beanlands**

**Peter
Castleton**

- 15.3 Pavements: the Forum highlighted safety issues including the camber of pavements, potholes, and impediments such as tables & chairs, vegetable stalls, A-boards and cars on pavements. Ray Blackwood stated that all wards are affected. He said that the information on how to report cases should be in public libraries and City Direct offices. Councillor Theobald requested statistical information on insurance claims. He added that delivery lorries are responsible for much pavement damage. Councillor Mitchell encouraged members to report dangers. She stated that government guidelines exist on the acceptable gradient for slopes and ramps. The Director of Environment stated that the council had undertaken a number of surveys including a Scrutiny review. She undertook to collate the information and to send it to members with written details of what the council could do to help.

**Linda
Beanlands**

- 15.4 Cycling: Superintendent Bartlett stated that complaints were regularly received about cyclists' behaviour, particularly in central areas and the seafront. He advised that the police undertook Action Days, which involved warning cyclists breaking the law. In addition checks were made for stolen bikes. He added that it was

important for people to report incidents so that the police understood the extent of the problem. Ray Blackwood drew attention to problems in Baker Street and Dyke Road Avenue. Councillor Oxley requested that additional Action Days should take place when the police received many complaints about an area. Bob Cristofoli pointed out that cycling was likely to increase as the public became more aware of Sustainability. Members of the Forum felt that cycles should have visible registration numbers and that Community Police Officers should patrol the worst affected areas. Ray Blackwood advised that the Minister for Transport had indicated that he was prepared to consider action if the council wrote to him.

16 SAFETY ON AND AROUND BUSES AND TRAINS

- 16.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety (see minute book) written in response to Councillor Oxley's letter to the previous meeting setting out his concerns about anti-social behaviour on buses and trains. Roger French, General Manager of Brighton & Hove Buses and Anne-Marie Batson, Crime Education Officer, Network Rail attended the meeting.
- 16.2 Anne-Marie Batson spoke about her work educating young people on reducing antisocial behaviour on trains. She advised that, ultimately, her job was about saving lives. PC James Hards advised that crime, apart from robbery, had fallen recently. However the rate of robbery, 8 crimes in 2005, was considered to be low. The Forum noted that CCTV on trains was a deterrent, however Councillor Turton pointed out that carriage design meant unsafe areas on Southern Trains. Councillor G Theobald requested statistical information on crimes at Preston Park and referred to the unfriendly ambiance of the station layout and lighting there. It was suggested that the Manager of Southern Trains should be asked to comment. The Chair requested the Head of Community Safety to liaise with Ms Batson about Brighton & Hove participating in a "No Messing" Campaign for 10-16 year olds.
- 16.3 Roger French stated that Brighton & Hove Buses was part of the Business Crime Reduction Partnership. He hoped that upgraded CCTV, real time bus information and improvements to bus shelters would all help reduce the fear of crime. Mr French stated that the effect of antisocial behaviour was a problem and his company worked with schools to reduce this. He suggested that schools should share examples of best practice; for example, appointing Bus Monitors. Councillor Turton, supported by Councillor Oxley, requested that the Head of Community Safety report to the Children & Young People's Trust requesting them to take this forward.

**Linda
Beanlands**

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- 16.4 Councillor Oxley requested increased police support for staff driving buses and trains. Arthur Law raised the issue of the harassment of LGBT people and the Forum agreed it was desirable to produce a notice, which should also refer to racist crime, and could be posted on buses and trains.
- 16.5 Derek Peacock was concerned at bus drivers braking hard; he stated that this was very dangerous for frail people. Ray Blackwood referred to the difficulty of reading bus timetables; they should be large print and illuminated. He also suggested that bus routes should serve all rail stations.
- 16.6 Superintendent Bartlett advised that police on duty wearing uniform, travel on buses when practical to do so. He stated that CCTV evidence from buses is of good quality and has been used successfully in court. He advised that Police Action Groups meet to identify trends and put tactics in place; however, he stressed that all incidents must be reported by the public for these to be effective.
- 16.7 Roger French responded to questions from Councillor Barnett about removing antisocial individuals, including school children, from buses. He advised that a dozen Asbos had been served on individuals and that this appeared to be a successful measure. He thanked the Forum for feedback on the service he provided and assured members that he would work to address the issues raised.
- 16.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Head of Community Safety work with partners in the Children & Young People's Trust, Anne-Marie Batson, Roger French, British Transport Police and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership with the objective of increasing safety on buses and trains and reducing fear of crime.
- (2) That the Forum note that a key issue which needs to be addressed is identifying measures which will help increase reporting and which clearly communicate standards of acceptable behaviour on buses and trains.
- (3) That the Head of Community Safety report back to the Forum on taking the matter forward.

**Linda
Beanlands**

17 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

- 17.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety setting out the role and purpose of the Community Safety Forum and concerning the membership of the Forum (see minute book).
- 17.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Community Safety Forum invite Spectrum to become a co-opted organisation to the Forum and note that a full

review of membership will be undertaken early next year.

18 SPECTRUM REPORT

- 18.1 The Forum received a presentation by Arthur Law, Spectrum Coordinator. He reported on current community safety issues affecting local LGBT residents including the significant problem that bullying has on LGBT pupils. Mr Law recommended that data on crimes such as bullying, domestic violence and sexual assault should specifically show where these crimes affected the LGBT population. Copies of Spectrum's Annual Report were circulated.
- 18.2 Interest was expressed in the idea of a local "Rainbow Charter Mark" and it was hoped that local businesses and organisations would sign up to this.

19 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 19.1 The Forum considered a report of the Research and Performance Monitoring Officer giving statistical information on progress against targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2005-08 (see minute book) and on some recent activities. The Head of Community Safety advised that changes had been made to the format of the report to reflect the closer partnership work taking place with the Police under the National Intelligence Model. The targets set by the Government were high and many partnerships were struggling to meet these targets; however Brighton & Hove would continue to strive to meet the targets.
- 19.2 It was noted that, due to a computer error, some data on page 2 in the 2005/06 outturn column had been transposed. For example, there had been 168 homophobic hate crimes and incidents and 9313 acquisitive crimes in the period. Officers agreed to work with Spectrum to develop targets in respect of homophobic/transphobic crime.
- 19.3 **RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

20 DEVELOPMENT WORK WITHIN THE CDRP

- 20.1 The Forum received verbal updates on development work within the CDRP. This included a project inviting people to come up with new ideas around tackling alcohol misuse over the forthcoming Christmas/New Year period. Funding was available to take forward these ideas. Forum members were invited to contact Linda Beanlands for further information.
- 20.2 It was noted that the Domestic Violence Stakeholder Day had been postponed to allow officers time to undertake more work on

gaps analysis.

21 SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2006

21.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Sussex Police Authority meeting be noted.

22 EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2006

22.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the East Sussex Fire Authority meeting be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.05 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2007