

# **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

**4.00PM – 8 JANUARY 2007**

### **HOVE TOWN HALL**

#### **MINUTES**

Present: Councillor Bodfish (Chair); Councillors Barnett, Mrs Drake, Mitchell (DC), Pennington, Pidgeon, Simson, Watkins, Wrighton

Sussex Police: Divisional Commander Kevin Moore, Sergeant Peter Castleton, Detective Inspector Michelle Collins, Chief Inspector Kerry Cox

Communities of Interest: Bob Cristofoli, Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; David Smart, Hangleton & Knoll Project; Ray Blackwood and Joan Moorhouse, Older People's Council; Arthur Law, Spectrum; David Standing, Hove YMCA; John Stevens, Area Housing Panels

Officers: Jenny Rowlands, Judith Macho, Linda Beanlands, Ruth Condon, Nigel Andain, Sue Bishop, Estelle Woodcock, Cally Paddison, Catriona Macbeth, Aaron Devereaux, Ellen Jones

Apologies: Councillor Lepper and Derek Peacock

#### **PART ONE**

#### **ACTION**

### **23 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

#### **23A Declarations of Substitutes**

<u>23.1 Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
Simson	Oxley
Pennington	Turton
Pidgeon	G Theobald

#### **23B Declarations of Interest**

23.2 There were none.

#### **23C Exclusion of Press and Public**

23.3 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.

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

## **24 MINUTES**

- 24.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

## **UPDATE**

- 24.2 Sergeant Peter Castleton stated that he had liaised with John Stevens following the debate on door locks and chains at the last meeting. He would send the Older People's Council full details. **Peter Castleton**
- 24.3 The Head of Community Safety informed the Forum that the issue of homophobic and transphobic bullying had been raised with local transport providers and the Home Office had granted the city £5,000 to take work forward. Spectrum would be invited to a meeting with transport operators to discuss this new area of work.

## **25 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- 25.1 The Chair stated that, at the meeting of the full Council on 7 December, Brighton & Hove Council had paid tribute to the two fire officers who had died in the fireworks factory fire.

## **26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- 26.1 Mr Richard Scott asked whether the Police were required by the Disability Discrimination Act to publish a Disability Equality Scheme. He was advised that Sussex Police had already published their scheme in accordance with legislation. Chief Superintendent Moore stated that he would provide a copy for Community Safety Forum members (this is enclosed with the minutes). It was also suggested that it be discussed at the council's Equalities Forum. **Estelle Woodcock**

## **27 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW – POSITION AT END NOVEMBER 2006**

- 27.1 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).
- 27.2 Arthur Law regretted the increase in homophobic violence. He

stated that it was difficult to see underlying trends from the statistics provided and the Forum should receive the detection figures. However, he expressed appreciation for the targeted work the Police were doing. Councillor Watkins asked the age of victims and said that the argument that the rise in figures was due to people's readiness to report homophobic crime had been used for so long that it should be challenged. The Head of Community Safety advised that there were seasonal trends in hate crime and some of the increase in the homophobic crime figures could be attributed to the fact that domestic violence incidents were now included. She added that schools were not required to record incidents of homophobic/transphobic bullying separately; however, Spectrum was working with local schools to address the problem. DI Michelle Collins advised that in her work she had noticed more confidence in reporting and she would be finding out more about the reasons behind people reporting to the police by conducting a survey of victims. Arthur Law advised that further data might be obtained from the Count Me in Too survey.

- 27.3 The Chair reminded members that it had recently been agreed that the Forum should receive basic statistics with the agenda and that the Research and Performance Monitoring Officer should highlight areas of particular interest or concern at the meeting. He suggested that individual members should check the Performance report when they received the agenda and let the officer know if there was any detailed information that they required her to report on, or to send to them (her telephone number is 29-1103).

**All Members**

## **28 TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR THROUGH ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

- 28.1 The Forum received a presentation about joint approaches to be taken by the Children and Young People's Trust and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, aiming to reduce disorder and engender respect within communities. Members also considered a report of the Head of Community Safety setting out the background (see minute book). Aaron Devereaux, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Ellen Jones, Commissioning & Partnership Manager C&YPT, and Chief Inspector Kerry Cox made the presentation focussing on three areas of work: the Intensive Families Intervention Project, delivering Parenting Interventions and the work of the Youth Offending Team.
- 28.2 The officers described their success to date: a reduction in begging and street drinking; avoiding court cases by taking informal action; and the work undertaken in Operations Athlete, Prince & Quartz. The Intensive Families Intervention Project had resulted in a reduction in anti-social behaviour, in the number of children who

might have become looked-after and in families at risk of eviction.

- 28.3 A member enquired about the extent to which the young people were encouraged to join community projects. Nigel Andain and David Standing referred to some of the work of this nature in which they were currently involved.

- 28.4 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **29 TACKLING ALCOHOL MISUSE AND DISORDER**

- 29.1 The Forum received a presentation by Chief Superintendent Kevin Moore and Cally Paddison of the Drug & Alcohol Action team, about the range of activities that are being co-ordinated to tackle alcohol related harm and disorder, including that which happens on the streets in the centre of Brighton and in neighbourhoods. Members also considered a report of the Head of Community Safety giving background information (see minute book) together with a report of Sussex Police on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003.

- 29.2 Chief Superintendent Moore responded to members' questions. He confirmed that police offer to work closely with licensees before their licence is reviewed. The licensee was called in to the police station and an action plan for improvement drawn up. He agreed with Councillor Simson that it was desirable to have well-trained and experienced staff in pubs and clubs and the fact that many staff were badly-trained added to the problems. He confirmed that most people paid their £80 on the spot fine for public order offences to avoid a court appearance. To a question as to whether Sussex Police could sustain the current levels of policing around the night time economy, he replied that he did not know how long this would be possible in view of the funding situation, but that he would continue to manage this area of policing as effectively as possible with the limited resources available.

- 29.3 The Forum raised issues relating to individual areas of the city. Concern was expressed that closing the Toby Inn meant that Woodingdean now had only one pub; Chief Superintendent Moore stated that the licence could be reinstated if a suitable new licensee came forward. He advised that police were deployed late at night in Eastern Road but he did not have the resources to cover all the routes clubbers might use to get home; he recommended people to phone the police (not using the emergency number) to report issues of concern. To a comment that broken glass and rubbish were being left by drinkers in Knoll Recreation Ground, he confirmed that Dispersal Zone work was being undertaken there.

29.4 The Chair expressed regret about the magistrates courts' use of power to override the decisions of the Licensing Committee. He considered that the recent decision by magistrates to allow a nude lap dancing club to open would exacerbate the problems of drunken behaviour on the streets late at night.

29.5 It was agreed that Trading Standards should report to the next meeting on the subject of test purchasing for underage sales.

**Catriona  
Macbeth**

29.6 **RESOLVED** – That the report and the ensuing discussion on initiatives to tackle alcohol related harm and disorder in the city be noted.

**30 SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2006**

30.1 The Chair informed members that the Government had undertaken to enhance Police Authorities' ability to address terrorism and that he had taken part in an exercise preparing for possible nuclear attack.

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

**31 EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2006**

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

The meeting concluded at 6.10 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2007