

# BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 4 OCTOBER 2004

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
HOVE TOWN HALL

### MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mitchell (Chair); Councillors Carden, Mrs Cobb (Opposition Spokesperson), Kemble, Pennington, Mrs Simson, Williams and Young.

Sussex Police: Inspector Bill Whitehead.

Sussex Police Authority: Judith Corcho.

Communities of Interest: Michael Meik, East Sussex Fire & Rescue; Terry Davies, B&H Business Crime Reduction Partnership; J D Stevens, Tenants Representative; Abdul Khaliq, Racial Harassment Forum; David Smart, Older Persons Council; Bob Cristofoli, B&H Mediation Service; Kathryn Morris & Richard Davies, Victim Support; Khrys Christou and Jayne Morrell, Women's Refuge Project; Derek Peacock, Independent Advisor, Sussex Police; David Standing, Hove YMCA; Faith Matyszak MBE, WCD & SP.

Council Officers: Linda Beanlands, Head of Community Safety; Ruth Condon, Partnership Community Safety Team; Simon Court, Partnership Community Safety Team; Judith Macho, Assistant Director Public Safety, Nigel Lewis, YOT; Belinda Nash, Press Office; Jonathan Fortune, Head of Operations, Public Safety.

Apologies received from: Councillors Hawkes, Turton, Watkins and Willows, Chief Superintendent Curtis, Dorothy Engmann, Age Concern and British Transport Police.

### PART ONE

### ACTION

#### 14. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 14.A Declarations of Substitutes

14.1	<u>Substitute Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
	Pennington	Turton
	Young	Willows

14.2 Councillor Watkins had sent his apologies and his regret that no substitute was available.

#### **14.B Declarations of Interest**

14.3 There were none.

#### **14.C Exclusion of Press and Public**

14.4 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.

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

#### **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE MEETING**

The Chair stated that, in response to requests to make Forum meetings less formal, the present meeting would split into small groups to consider different aspects of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. This exercise would form part of the consultation process on the Strategy. The information reported under item 17 would set a useful background to discussion in these groups.

#### **15. MINUTES**

15.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2004 be approved and signed by the Chair, subject to substituting the words "Brighton & Hove" for "Sussex" in paragraph 9.3.

#### **ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

15.2 (Paragraph 4.8) John Stevens enquired whether any thought had been given to holding future meetings at Leach Court and whether representatives of the Over 60's Action Group would be invited to attend the Forum. The Chair stated that the possibility of meeting at Leach Court would be investigated. However, Councillor Mrs Cobb recalled that, when alternative venues had been used previously, members had preferred Hove and Brighton Council Chambers. The Head of Community Safety advised that the Forum was attended by a representative of the Older People's Council, however the importance of community safety as an issue for older people was recognised and the possibility of the Over 60's

Action Group attending meetings would be considered as part of the new strategy.

## **16. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

16.1 Mr R Scott spoke to this item. He stated that the previous Chair of the Forum had agreed that whenever a public question was raised, a copy of the reply should be circulated to all members. Not only was this not being done, but he had in fact not received a reply to a question he had raised at the March 2004 meeting. The Chair instructed officers to reply to Mr Scott.

**Committee  
Administrator**

## **17. SAFE IN THE CITY: PERFORMANCE & ACTIVITY REPORT**

17.1 The Research and Performance Monitoring Officer circulated her Performance and Activity April-June (Quarter 1) 2004 Report (for copy see minute book).

17.2 The Research and Performance Monitoring Officer explained the new format of the report and hoped that members would find it to be an improvement on the previous style. She stated that the report related to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and could be used to help to assess its effectiveness.

## **18. SAFE IN THE CITY: COMMUNITY SAFETY QUESTIONNAIRE**

18.1 A "Safe In The City: Community Safety Questionnaire" had been circulated throughout the city in the latest edition of City News. This asked the public to feed back what they considered to be priority areas for the council to focus on and whether the public supported the aspects selected by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The 11 aspects selected by the Partnership formed the basis for discussion during this item.

18.2 The forum split into 5 groups each looking at different priority areas relating to crime and disorder. They were also asked to consider what impact work in each area could have on fear of crime, older people and sustainability. At the end of the 40-minute session, the forum reconvened and the group facilitators summarised their group's findings, which would feed into the Strategy. The facilitators reported key points as follows.

18.3 Ruth Condon: Public Place Violent Crime. Anti-social Behaviour Orders were good but not enforceable; plastic bottles; happy hours should be replaced with sensible drinking; licensees could play a greater part in the Community Safety Partnership; dispersal; transport plan; the council taking over licensing under the new Licensing Act should be a positive move; the effect on tourism;

the need to look at the root causes of violent crime and people's assumptions; PCSOs to work longer hours to cover late night activities.

18.4 Ruth Condon: Domestic Violence. Arrests should be made wherever possible; resources for domestic violence should be better publicised; the need to break down people's reluctance to report cases; the need to be pro-active where black and minority ethnic cases are involved,

18.5 Simon Court: Children & Young People. More interaction between younger and older people is needed; PCSOs should check on children on the street asking whether they are safe; dedicated youth workers are needed; transport issues; early education; protection from drugs and alcohol; more help to communities to raise funds; initiatives should receive longer term funding, not just to set up projects initially.

18.6 Simon Court: Anti-Social Behaviour. There is a need to reassure older people by making statistics available in a suitable format; resources are needed for neighbourhood watch schemes; young people should be educated on the effect of their activities on older people; local weighting on salaries to keep police in Brighton & Hove; youth venues are needed; CCTV; PCSOs; safety awareness training for older people.

18.7 Judith Macho: Neighbourhoods, Streets & Quality of Life. Enforcement; follow up action; low level crime; communities.

18.8 Judith Macho: Drugs & Alcohol The Strategy needs to differentiate between these 2 issues & how to tackle them and their effect on communities; support given to families affected; information provided must be user-friendly; targetting treatment; the criminal justice system; treatment; enforcement taken especially for (a) drugs and (b) young people drinking alcohol; a holistic approach to this area of crime.

18.9 Bill Whitehead: Domestic Burglary. Contact with victims; crime prevention advice; work with landlords; CCTV, locks and spy holes; neighbourhood watch information to be incorporated with neighbourhood panels to include crime prevention advice; funding for neighbourhood watch, eg to cut shrubs back; press releases, eg about bogus callers.

18.10 Bill Whitehead: Vehicle Crime. Tackle seasonal crime, eg when people leave Christmas presents in cars; extra staff in car parks on a seasonal basis, especially at Christmas; dummy security cameras; name and shame campaigns in the local media, eg the worst car park; amnesty for abandoned vehicles; a local tax on vehicle sales, eg £50 to the council could be used for vehicle

removals.

18.11 Bill Whitehead: Homophobic & Transphobic Incidents. Support for victims can be poor; police officers need training on how to deal with victims; hot spots where crimes occur, taxi companies to provide late night cabs; late night buses. The Chair reminded members that the Number 7 bus service had been increased to cover St James's Street at night.

18.12 Linda Beanlands: Racist Incidents. Police response to businesses affected by crime (especially restaurants) needs to be improved; it is important to handle faith-based crime properly; public confidence must be restored; partnership solutions; a common reporting system.

18.13 Linda Beanlands: Prolific and Priority Offenders (To be a key area in the Strategy.) Establishing who the offenders are; a tracking and monitoring system; provision of resources for supervision; sending a clear message of zero tolerance; naming and shaming offenders; early intervention in the case of offending children; a commitment to provide resources for the duration of the strategy, A difficult challenge is to prioritise client groups and meet their needs, eg providing housing for the homeless offender, The Crime Prosecution Service would need to provide an enhanced service.

18.14 The Chair stated that the consultation exercise would continue and that, once written, the Draft Strategy would be presented to the Forum in the first instance.

**Head of  
Community  
Safety**

**19. REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2004**

19.1 The forum noted the report of the Sussex Police Authority dated 22 July 2004.

The meeting concluded at 5.35 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005