

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 10 JANUARY 2005

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis; Inspector Bill Whitehead; Sergeant Peter Castleton.

Sussex Police Authority: Ken Bodfish, Tom Tyler.

Communities of Interest: Terry Davies, B&H Business Crime Reduction Partnership; J D Stevens, Tenants Representative; David Smart, Older Persons Council; Bob Cristofoli, B&H Mediation Service; David Standing, Hove YMCA.

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; Jonathan Fortune, Head of Operations, Public Safety; John Irvine, LGBT Officer; Dennis Byrne.

Apologies received from: Councillor Watkins and Kadeer Arif, Racial Harassment Forum

PART ONE

ACTION

20. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

20.A Declarations of Substitutes

20.1	<u>Substitute Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
	Wells	Simson
	Morgan	Turton

20.B Declarations of Interest

20.2 There were none.

20.C Exclusion of Press and Public

20.3 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.

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

21. MINUTES

21.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2004 be approved and signed by the Chair.

22. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

22.1 There were none. However, John Stevens, Tenants Representative, asked whether members could discuss the loss of a fire tender and a number of fire officers. The Chair stated that there was no appropriate item on the agenda under which this could be raised. The report of the East Sussex Fire Authority meeting of 9 December had only just been received and would be circulated with the next agenda.

23. CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

23.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services that set out the co-opted membership of the Community Safety Forum (see minute book).

23.2 Requests from a member of the public that Brunswick Community Association be represented and from Councillor Willows that there be a representative from Hangleton Community were noted.

23.3 A member requested formal representation from the LGBT Community. The Chair stated that John Irvine had started work as LGBT worker in the Community Safety Team and that she would like to welcome him to the Forum. She recommended that Spectrum be invited to join the Forum.

23.4 Councillor Hawkes cautioned that there should be a good balance of the various communities on the Forum, particularly from neighbourhoods, as different interest groups could be represented in a number of ways.

23.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the co-opted membership be confirmed as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report subject to noting that John Stevens, and his substitute Pat Miles, represent all of the Area Housing Panels.

(2) That the Head of Community Safety report further to the Forum on representation which reflects the priority areas of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2005-2008.

**Head of
Community
Safety**

(2) That Spectrum be invited nominate a representative to join the Community Safety Forum as a co-opted member.

**Head of
Community
Safety**

24. PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

24.1 The Forum was given a presentation by the Research and Performance Monitoring Officer, who circulated her report for the period 1 July to 30 September. She stated that the increases in total crime and violent crime shown in the report were due to a change in police recording practice.

24.2 A member requested that the crime maps should be larger as they were difficult to read. It was also requested that the report should be circulated in advance in future to give members time to consider the information.

**Research &
Performance
MO**

24.3 A member suggested that there was a need to include figures on the time people spent waiting for the police to respond after reporting a crime. Chief Superintendent Curtis replied that when emergency calls were received, they were graded in order of priority. He requested that, if members had concern about a particular case, they should ring and ask for information on the delay at the time and not wait until a Forum meeting, when it would be harder to trace the details.

24.4 Councillor Williams was concerned by the apparent rise in homophobic crime and requested that officers should research and report back whether there were more incidents or whether it was due to more people reporting incidents. Councillor Wells requested information on the detection rate for this category of crime.

**Research &
Performance
MO**

24.5 Councillor Willows expressed the hope that Brighton & Hove would not allow pubs to open 24 hours a day.

24.6 Chief Superintendent Curtis responded to a query about reporting statistics by stating that anonymous reports were not

recorded as crime incidents, but were included in the hot spot statistics.

24.7 Councillor Cobb stated that one-day blitzes were not sufficient and there was a need for longer-term action to be taken.

25. TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN HOTSPOTS

25.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Environment that had been considered by the Environment Committee on 9 December 2004 (see minute book).

25.2 Councillor Willows expressed concern about drug selling on school premises and head teachers' reluctance to accept that this took place. Councillor Hawkes stated that, if the head did not take them seriously, such allegations should be reported to the police without delay. Councillor Williams stated that there was a problem with off licences selling to underage or street drinkers. The Chair replied that he should report them to Trading Standards.

25.3 To a question about taking a snapshot approach to audit anti-social behaviour and environmental crime, the Head of Community Safety confirmed that the purpose of this was to monitor performance. In fact, approximately 380 street drinkers had been helped by the Outreach Patrols over the period.

25.4 The Chair confirmed that community groups were given the opportunity to input to the audits. She also reported that the Home Office has provided additional funding for the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, including street outreach workers, which enables the audits to take place. The Police also prioritise this work.

25.5 Mr Standing referred to local residents reclaiming Stoneham Park from drug users. He requested that the council should ensure that lessons are learned from the successful work undertaken in Stoneham Park and ensure that this good practice is mainstreamed as far as possible.

25.6 The Head of Community Safety would consider whether a street audit of beggars could be taken over a weekend.

**Head of
Community
Safety**

25.7 **RESOLVED** – That officers report on city-wide anti-drugs work to a future meeting.

**Communities
against Drugs
Development
Officer**

26. AUDIT OF CRIME & DISORDER, FINDINGS OF CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY, CRIME REDUCTION & DRUGS STRATEGY 2005-2008

26.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety advising that the three-year Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy was under preparation based on the findings of the crime and disorder audit and the results of consultation about public concerns. They received a joint presentation by Sergeant Peter Castleton and the Head of Community Safety.

26.2 Members were informed that they would receive a copy of the finished document as soon as it was published. A member of the public requested that copies also be made available for public inspection.

26.3 Concerns raised at the present meeting were: security at university halls of residence; restoring public confidence in the police nationally and locally following adverse press reports; the use of ASBO's for domestic violence; the need for the Community Safety Team to work with Children, Families and Schools on the Drugs Strategy; funding issues; liaison with the LGBT community; safety at bus-stops.

**Community
Safety Team**

26.4 **RESOLVED** – That the report and presentation be noted.

27. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION, LOCAL POLICING PLAN, BUDGET AND PCSOs

27.1 The Member Support Officer, Sussex Police Authority, asked those present to participate in consultation on the Local Policing Plan, the budget and PCSOs. Forum members indicated their priorities (see Appendix.). The results would be presented to the SPA in their budget report.

28. REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2004

28.1 The forum noted the report of the Sussex Police Authority dated 7 October 2004.

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005