

# BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 11 JULY 2005

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
HOVE TOWN HALL

### MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bodfish (Chair); Councillors Barnett, Mrs Cobb (Opposition Spokesperson), Elgood, Mitchell, Mrs Simson, Turton, Williams and Willows.

Sussex Police Authority: Councillor Bodfish (member), Benita Shelley (officer).

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis, Inspector Bill Whitehead, Sergeant Peter Castleton, Inspector Richard Newman

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services: Michael Meik

Communities of Interest: David Smart, Older People's Council; Kadeer Arif, Racial Harassment Forum; John Stevens and Pat Miles, Area Housing Panels; Faith Matyszak, Whitehawk Community Development Project.

Brighton & Hove Council officers: Linda Beanlands, Ruth Condon, Jonathan Fortune, Nigel Lewis, John Patience, Peter Hatfield, Simon Court, Aaron Devereaux, John Mitchell, Doug Rattray, Patrick Allen.

Apologies received from: Bob Cristofoli, Mediation Service; Judith Macho; Councillor Lepper

### PART ONE

#### ACTION

#### 1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 1.A Deputy Chair

1.1 The Chair congratulated Councillor Mitchell on her achievements during the time that she was Chair of the Community Safety Forum and recommended that she should now be Deputy Chair of the Forum.

**Councillor  
Mitchell**

1.2 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Mitchell be appointed Deputy Chair of the Community Safety Forum.

## 1.B Victims of the London Bombing

1.3 Everyone present stood for a minute's silence to pay their respect to the victims of, and those bereaved by, the bombs in London on Thursday 7 July 2005.

## 1.C Declarations of Substitutes

1.4 There were none.

## 1D Declarations of Interest

1.5 There were none.

## 1E Exclusion of Press and Public

1.6 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.

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

## 2. MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

## 3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

3.1 John Stevens representing the city-wide Area Housing Panels requested that where written answers were sent in respect of public questions, Forum members should receive copies of the answer with the minutes of the meeting. This was agreed.

**Estelle  
Woodcock**

3.2 James Ledward of Gscene magazine referred to articles that had appeared in the press regarding the visit to San Francisco by two Sussex police officers and to comments attributed to Councillor Willows. Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis and Councillor Willows responded. Councillor Elgood proposed a vote of support, which was supported by a majority of members of the Forum, as follows:

3.3 **RESOLVED** - That the Community Safety Forum thanks the team of officers working with the LGBT community for the good work they have undertaken and expresses support for their on-going work.

3.4 Richard Scott stated that it was difficult for individuals to enjoy a swim in the sea because no lockers were provided on the seafront. Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis and Councillor Mitchell responded to this, referring to liaison between the police and the Seafront Service and to on-going initiatives to ensure public safety on the seafront.

3.5 Kadeer Arif thanked Sussex Police, the Community Safety Team and Sergeant Peter Castleton on behalf of the Brighton & Hove Muslim Forum for liaising with mosques and supporting the community on racial harassment issues. Councillor Williams stated that Asian businesses across the city, especially restaurants, felt vulnerable after the London bombings. Councillor Elgood stated that this was an Equalities issue. As there was no meeting of the Equalities Forum until October, he recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee should consider the matter in the first instance and the issue be taken forward by the Equalities Forum in the long term.

**Maggie  
Squire**

3.6 Arthur Law stated that Spectrum and the LGBT Forum would be holding a Community Safety Forum on 15 September. The two police officers who had recently visited San Francisco would be in attendance to share their experiences.

#### **4. PERFORMANCE REPORT**

4.1 The Forum considered a report of the Research & Performance Monitoring Officer giving statistical information on crime in Brighton & Hove from 1 January to 31 March 2005 (see minute book).

4.2 Sergeant Peter Castleton presented the report. He confirmed that there was still under-reporting in respect of racial and homophobic incidents.

4.3 There was discussion about anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that the Director of Children Families and Schools should be requested to report back to the Forum on the measures taken by his department to prevent truancy.

**Linda  
Beanlands/  
Bill Goodwin**

4.4 David Smart, Older People's Council, praised Sergeant Delacour's work with younger people in Hangleton & Knoll.

4.5 **RESOLVED** - That the information contained in the report be noted.

## **5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT**

5.1 The Forum received a presentation by the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator about the Intensive Family Intervention Project (see minute book), which works with families causing problems in their neighbourhoods.

5.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator stated that the common criteria in families referred to the Project were anti-social behaviour, the risk of eviction and the risk of a looked-after child. Other council departments, particularly the Housing teams, made the referrals. He confirmed that his team also acknowledged its responsibilities to those affected by the families' behaviour.

## **6. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2005**

6.1 The Forum received a presentation by officers from the Youth Offending Team on the key areas of the Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 (see minute book for Executive Summary).

6.2 The Head of Youth Offending Services invited members to contact him if they wished to receive the full document. He responded to members' questions and confirmed that his team had a good working relationship with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. A member requested that additional categories be used in future to differentiate autism and learning disability from mental health, and another member requested less use of jargon.

**Nigel Lewis**

## **7. SHOPLIFTING PROJECT**

7.1 The Communities Against Drugs Development Officer introduced Peter Hatfield, a Project Worker who supports the Business Crime Reduction Partnership, by working with prolific shoplifters and helping them to change their lifestyles. Mr Hatfield made a presentation about the work of the project. He stated that it involved a number of different council departments, police and other agencies. The results so far had been positive in that individuals had decreased their shoplifting and their drug taking. The Communities Against Drugs Development Officer stated that, although European EQUAL funding had been secured, additional funding was required for future work.

## **8. REPORTS OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD ON 21 APRIL 2005 AND 9 JUNE 2005**

8.1 The Forum noted the reports of the Sussex Police Authority dated 21 April 2005 and 9 June 2005 (see minute book).

8.2 The Chair responded to questions: he confirmed that the Sussex

Police Authority was aware of problems relating to policing demonstrations at the EDO Factory and had considered the matter of civil injunctions. The Full Council would consider Brighton & Hove representation on Sussex Police Authority. The police were addressing problems with the local, non-emergency, police phone number. The Chair accepted that there were differing views on the value of Police Community Support Officers. He stated that the results of the Best Value Survey would come before the Forum at an appropriate time.

**9. REPORTS OF THE EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2005 AND 9 JUNE 2005**

9.1 The Forum noted the reports of the East Sussex Fire Authority dated 10 February 2005 and 9 June 2005 (see minute book).

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005