

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 3 OCTOBER 2005

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

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

[NOTE: Councillor Lepper was absent on council business.]

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

Sussex Police: Sergeant Peter Castleton, Inspector Bill Whitehead, Superintendent Kevin Moore, DCI Graham Bartlett, DI Paul Furnell, Paul Knight.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services: Michael Meik

Communities of Interest: David Smart, Older People's Council; John Stevens and Pat Miles, Area Housing Panels; Robert Cristofoli, B&H Mediation Service; Gail Cray, Brighton Women's Refuge Project; David Standing, Hove YMCA.

Brighton & Hove Council officers: Linda Beanlands, Ruth Condon, Armon Williams, Nigel Lewis, Simon Court.

Apologies received from: Councillor Lepper; Councillor Elgood; Chief Superintendent Jeremy Paine; Graham Stevens, Drug & Alcohol Action Team; Derek Peacock, St James's Street Area; Asif Mohammed, Victim Support.

PART ONE

ACTION

10 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

10.A Declarations of Substitutes

10.1 Councillor Morgan for Councillor Turton.

10.B Declarations of Interest

10.2 There were none.

10C Exclusion of Press and Public

10.3 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.

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

11. MINUTES

11.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

12.1 Mr Richard Scott referred to his question at the last meeting. He stated that he considered that the minutes should give more detail, including the fact that the Chief Superintendent had informed the Forum that, as far as the Police are concerned, there is no issue of theft of belongings from Brighton & Hove beaches.

12.2 A member requested that statistical information giving the number of uniformed officers, PCSOs and other support staff be brought to the next meeting.

**Linda
Beanlands**

12.3 A member requested information on an item of local news, where the Fire & Rescue Service had not attended to help a disabled lady in trouble. Mick Meik refuted any allegation that the non-attendance was due to the Labour Party Conference. On the basis of the information received, officers decided that the lady was not in risk of danger and it was inappropriate for the Rescue Service to attend. An ambulance had attended and given assistance. No complaint had been received.

12.4 The Chair reminded the Forum that it was beyond its remit to discuss individual cases, however, this did raise a general point about use of the emergency services' resources during the conference.

13. PERFORMANCE & ACTIVITY REPORT

13.1 The Forum considered a report of the Research & Performance Monitoring Officer giving statistical information on crime in Brighton & Hove from 1 April to 30 June 2005 (see minute book).

13.2 Inspector Bill Whitehead presented the report and responded to questions. It was agreed that the Performance & Monitoring Officer should clarify data presented on environmental enforcement in future reports.

Ruth Condon

13.3 The Chair confirmed that the council and police were ready to use the greater powers the new Licensing laws would give them against premises disobeying the terms of their licences and causing nuisance in their community. He anticipated that officers would report to the next meeting about any action taken from the time the Act came into force on 24 November and the Christmas/New Year period.

13.4 A member suggested that cycling offences should be included in the statistics, including cycling on pavements and disobeying traffic signals. It was agreed to request the Director of Cultural Services and PCSOs to take action to ensure that cyclists dismount when they are in the Royal Pavilion grounds. Other members expressed concerns about children on bikes and that bikes should be manufactured with lights and bells built in and not as optional extras.

Tony Miller

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

14. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SAFETY STRATEGY 2005-2008

14.1 The Forum received a presentation by the Children & Young People's Safety Officer. He advised on the process leading to the Children & Young People's Safety Strategy and the thirteen priority areas contained in it. The officer drew attention to the crime statistics; he stated that many crimes against children are not reported to the Police. He responded to members' questions, invited them to view the "Safe in the City" website and to contact him if they needed further information.

**Armon
Williams**

14.2 A member suggested there should be a PCSO presence on routes children use to walk to and from school, particularly where two schools' paths cross.

14.3 The Forum noted that the Strategy had already been considered by the Children Families and Schools Committee and the Children's Trust.

15. OPERATION REDUCTION

15.1 The Forum received a presentation by officers of Brighton & Hove Police. DCI Bartlett, Crime Manager, spoke about Operation Reduction, a Home Office funded initiative to rehabilitate and treat drug users. He explained that currently there was a large, open drugs market in Brighton & Hove. When a drug dealer was imprisoned, demand still existed, so another dealer would move in. The aim of Operation Reduction was to treat users to lower the demand for drugs. It would also reduce theft and shoplifting.

15.2 DI Furnell, Intelligence Manager, detailed a pilot operation in Leeds, which had been successful. It had reduced crime and disorder, made local communities feel safe and had, undoubtedly, saved lives.

15.3 The officers responded to questions and noted comments. A member hoped that removing the open market from the city centre would not drive the problem on to the city's estates. She asked the police to monitor the situation carefully. Another member suggested that former drug users should participate in drugs education in schools.

15.4 DCI Bartlett regretted that it was not possible to give the public immediate feedback when intelligence was received but he undertook, when issuing press releases about successful operations, to include the information that the operation had succeeded as the result of help from the public.

**Graham
Bartlett**

15.5 **RESOLVED** – That it be recorded that the Community Safety Forum fully supports Operation Reduction and requests the Home Office and the Chief Constable to note that the Forum regards this as a very important issue.

16. ACQUISITIVE CRIME

16.1 Paul Knight made a presentation about his work as Acquisitive Crime Reduction Officer. He stated that this was a temporary post funded by government initiative funding.

16.2 He described initiatives to tackle business crime, to cut vehicle crime and crime against students and to reduce burglaries.

16.3 He said he had also set up a system using screens in doctors' surgeries to give crime-stopping advice and that he hoped to extend the successful scheme of posting images of wanted criminals on council and hospital staff intranets to private firms.

**17. REPORTS OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD ON
21 JULY 2005**

17.1 The Forum noted the report of the Sussex Police Authority dated 21 July 2005 (see minute book).

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2006