

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 3 JULY 2006

HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bodfish (Chair); Councillors Barnett, Mrs Drake, Lepper, Morgan, Oxley, Pennington, G Theobald (OS), Watkins & Wrighton

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Jeremy Paine, Chief Inspector Lawrence Hobbs, Sergeant Peter Castleton, Renee Clark

Communities of Interest: Dorothy Engmann, Age Concern; John Stevens and Pat Miles, Area Housing Panels; Bob Cristofoli, Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; David Smart, Older People's Council; Derek Peacock, St James's Street Community Safety Group; Nigel Andain, Youth Offending Team

[Note: Inspector Ancell of British Transport Police sent apologies]

Officers: Jenny Rowlands, Linda Beanlands, Judith Macho, Ruth Condon, Jonathan Fortune, Tim Nichols, Simon Court, Cally Paddison, Christine Thornton, Estelle Woodcock

PART ONE

ACTION

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A Declarations of Substitutes

1.2 Substitute Councillor For Councillor

Pennington	Bodfish
Morgan	Turton

1B Declarations of Interest

1.3 There were none.

1C Exclusion of Press and Public

1.4 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.

- 1.5 **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 9 January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Chair referred to paragraph 23.4 of the January minutes. A request had been made that the council's website should show licensed premises and their conditions of licence. She advised that licensing information was available on the council's website, but a more accessible public register was currently being developed.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 4.1 Arthur Law of Spectrum expressed horror on behalf of the entire LGBT community at the Buju Banton event due to be held at the Concorde. He referred to the Count Me in Too survey, which has found that LGBT residents have safety concerns in the city. He stated that to have someone promoting hatred against the LGBT population was not in the public interest. Stella, a representative of the transgender community, stated that it was unacceptable for the performance to go ahead, even if the offensive song was omitted.
- 4.2 The Chair, Councillor Mitchell, stated that Brighton & Hove council regarded anyone coming to the city to sing incitement to murder as a very serious issue. She referred to the resolution passed by the full council in 2004. She had already telephoned Concorde to try to stop the event, but was prevented from speaking to a manager. Chief Superintendent Jeremy Paine stated that the Police abhorred anything that promotes hate crime and joined the LGBT community in rejecting this individual. The Police would like the performance to be cancelled. It was noted that both the Police and the Council could only use their powers within a legal framework. The Police could respond to disorder at the premises, but could do nothing in advance. The council could take retrospective action by reviewing the licence and a letter had been sent to Concorde informing them of this. Chief Superintendent Paine promised a strong police presence in the city if the event went ahead.

- 4.3 Members asked whether the council had requested the Home Secretary to ban Buju Banton from the country but the information was not to hand.
- 4.4 **RESOLVED** - It was agreed that the Chair would attempt to speak to Concorde management again. It was also agreed that officers should look into action the council could take as landlord. If the event did go ahead, council officers would attend as observers. The police would also be monitoring the concert. Officers would ascertain whether they could legally record the event, in case the patois was not immediately understandable. Officers would ask Trading Standards to look at the Concorde website, which allegedly sells the music.
- 4.5 The Chair asked for a show of hands so that she could gauge the strength of feeling before speaking to Concorde and the meeting was unanimous in wishing the event to be stopped.
- 4.6 Richard Scott enquired whether Brighton & Hove would follow Bournemouth's lead and provide a safe lock up system for swimmers' valuables. The Chair responded that there were no immediate plans for this, however the council had invested in the seafront by providing security personnel and notices. Mr Scott requested that the police consider the matter in the context of their "Safe by Design" initiative.
- 4.7 A public question from John Stevens was circulated. This contained suggestions relating to police response to burglaries, where elderly and vulnerable people were involved. He suggested that a follow up visit might be made by a PCSO, who could suggest a whole range of measures to improve home safety. Mr Stevens will receive a written reply.

Tim Nichols

Linda
Beanlands

5 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- 5.1 Councillor Oxley had submitted a letter (see minute book) setting out his concerns about anti-social behaviour on buses and trains. He suggested that the Forum should provide advice on acceptable behaviour for travellers.
- 5.2 There was a feeling among members that school children are responsible for much of the public concern and that head teachers and parents need to be made aware of the problem. The Chair requested a written report setting out the extent of the problem and recommending the way forward. The Forum considered that the local bus company is proactive by providing CCTV and allowing police officers to travel free and hoped the general manager would attend the next meeting.

- 5.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Head of Community Safety report to the next meeting and that Roger French, General Manager of Brighton & Hove Buses, be invited to attend.

**Linda
Beanlands**

6. REVIEW OF THE CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998

- 6.1 The Head of Community Safety made a presentation on the local implications of changes to government policy, in particular the need to manage change arising from the review of the Crime & Disorder Act. She also reported on the National Community Safety Plan, the Police & Justice Bill and the Respect Agenda.
- 6.2 The Head of Community Safety stated that Brighton & Hove is already implementing many requirements contained in the review and several members gave examples of current good practice in their wards. Councillor Oxley thanked the police for participating in ward surgeries.
- 6.3 Councillor Wrighton suggested there should be a database showing who, from the large fund of community support available, can help in different situations.
- 6.4 Chief Superintendent Paine stated that partnership initiatives worked well in the city and foresaw positive results from the new legislation. He said the Police were working towards closer liaison with communities by appointing specialist community teams.
- 6.5 John Stevens requested the Forum should be more responsive to neighbourhood issues. The Chair agreed, but stated that this would be achieved within the neighbourhoods: the Forum must not become unwieldy.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

- 7.1 The Forum considered a report setting out the national and local policy context for action to be taken to reduce crime & disorder and improve safety & quality of life in neighbourhoods (see minute book). The Head of Community Safety made a presentation about new arrangements to reduce crime and improve safety in neighbourhood renewal and hot-spot crime & disorder areas. The Head of Operations (Public Safety) then reported on the work of the Environment Improvement Team and the Neighbourhood Liaison Officer on the work of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team.
- 7.2 Councillor Pennington requested a copy of the slides and asked to be informed in advance of Environment Improvement Team initiatives in Regency ward. The Head of Operations was also asked to contact Councillor Lepper about action to be taken on Saunders Park Estate.

**Jonathan
Fortune**

7.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Community Safety Forum supports the plans which are underway to target police, council and partnership actions to reduce crime and improve safety in neighbourhoods and neighbourhood renewal areas.

8. “OPERATION MARBLE” AND THE IMPACT ON THE CITY OF THE NEW LICENSING LEGISLATION

8.1 The Forum received a report of Chief Inspector Lawrence Hobbs concerning the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 (see minute book). He stressed that it was early days in terms of implementing the Act. Public place violent crime had gone up overall but crime involving injury had decreased due to earlier police intervention. Planning how to deploy police officers was difficult because pubs and clubs now decide when to close according to business on the night.

8.2 It was suggested that there should be a condition in pubs and clubs’ licences specifying the minimum number of staff required to be on duty. The council’s Head of Licensing advised that licences could be called in for review if there was evidence to support doing so.

8.3 To a concern raised about police using the new Ion Trak, Chief Inspector Hobbs confirmed that the police would use the device where appropriate to create a safe environment. He emphasised that there is a serious drug problem in the city.

8.4 **RESOLVED** – To note the report.

9. PERFORMANCE REPORT: END OF YEAR REPORT & FUTURE TARGETS

9.1 The forum considered a report of the Research and Performance Monitoring Officer concerning activities and progress against targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2005-08. The report also presented headline targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy for 2006/07 (see minute book).

9.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the priorities and work carried out under the Community Safety, Crime Reduction & Drugs Strategy and the processes which monitor progress against indicators and targets, be noted.

(2) That members of the Community Safety Forum consider the content of the quarterly Performance and Activity Reports that are presented to the Forum and

- assist in the interpretation of information contained in the reports

from the perspective of the interests they represent;

- use the opportunity of the Forum to raise current issues relating to the thirteen crime reduction priorities and action plans in the Strategy;
- think about and take forward opportunities to support the achievement of Strategy targets within their own sphere of influence within the community of Brighton & Hove;
- communicate information on work that is going on to support the Strategy in order to spread the message that good and effective work is being done to tackle identified problems. This is in terms of i) relaying information in the Performance and Activities Report to the wider community and ii) feeding back relevant information from their own areas of expertise into the Forum.

(3) That the importance of sharing information on partnership activities in support of the Strategy for alleviating fear of crime be noted.

(4) That the targets set for 2006/07 be noted.

10. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006 AND 7 APRIL 2006

10.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Sussex Police Authority meetings be noted.

11. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2006

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

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2006

