

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 23 APRIL 2007

HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bodfish (Chair); Councillors Mrs Drake, Mitchell, Simson, G Theobald, Turton, Watkins

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, Inspector Bill Whitehead and Paul Knight, Crime Reduction Officer

Communities of Interest: Bob Cristofoli, Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; Ray Blackwood, Older People's Council; David Standing, Rachel Brett and Stuart Johnson, Hove YMCA; John Stevens, Area Housing Panels; Faith Matyszak MBE, Whitehawk Community Development Project and Racial Harassment Forum; Gail Gray, Women's Refuge Project; Derek Peacock, St James's Action Group; Arthur Law, Spectrum; Jim Baker, Age Concern

Officers: Judith Macho, Linda Beanlands, Ruth Condon, Simon Court, John Irvine, Estelle Woodcock, Martin Warren

Apologies: Councillors Barnett, Lepper & Wrighton and Inspector Ansell

PART ONE

ACTION

43 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

43A Declarations of Substitutes

43.1	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
	Simson	Oxley

43B Declarations of Interest

43.2 There were none.

43C Exclusion of Press and Public

43.3 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.

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

44 MINUTES

- 44.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair, subject to adding Derek Peacock to the list of attendees.

45 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 45.1 The Chair advised on changes to the Forum. Jim Baker would represent Age Concern in future instead of Dorothy Engmann. Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce was attending for the first time. The Committee Administrator for future meetings would be Martin Warren instead of Estelle Woodcock.

46 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 46.1 There were no public questions.

47 WELCOME TO CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT PAUL PEARCE

- 47.1 The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, who stated that he was delighted to be in charge of a division that was performing extremely well. He confirmed that he would listen to what the community wanted. The division was currently tackling drug and alcohol misuse, which was causing distress, particularly in terms of anti social behaviour. The Local Policing Plan for Brighton & Hove 2007-08 was circulated at the meeting.
- 47.2 Chief Superintendent Pearce undertook to send Ray Blackwood a copy of the Road Policing Partners Plan.
- 47.3 Derek Peacock requested the Police to set a target to decrease the number of violent crimes committed in the St James's Street area, which had risen sharply over a decade. Chief Superintendent Pearce replied that he would be reluctant to set such a target as this rise was partly due to increased confidence in reporting domestic violence and other hate crime but he hoped violence would decrease as a result of action to tackle crime relating to alcohol misuse.
- 47.4 Councillor Simson stated that local residents did not just wish to see more police and PCSOs on the street; they wished to see them taking

action.

- 47.5 Faith Matyszak reported a serious assault on a woman from the BME community and the Chair requested her to speak to the Police after the meeting. Mr Pearce emphasised that such assaults should be reported to the Police rather than relying on voluntary sector agencies.
- 47.6 John Stevens was concerned that the Police are prevented from spending time on the street by a large amount of paperwork. Mr Pearce replied that it was essential to complete the paperwork in case there was a court case and that the regulations on recording come from central government.

48 PERFORMANCE REPORT – POSITION AT END OF YEAR

- 48.1 The Forum considered a report of the Research and Performance Monitoring Officer giving statistical information on crime trends and progress against targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2005-08. A revised version was circulated at the meeting containing fuller information not available at the time the agenda was printed (see minute book).The officer's presentation was followed by a question and answer session about the statistics.
- 48.2 Councillor Theobald enquired about the rise in common assault and was advised that this was due to changes in the laws relating to powers of arrest and recording. Derek Peacock requested that racial and religious crime be recorded separately in future. Arthur Law requested that there should be a target for Homophobic and Transphobic Crime.
- 48.3 The Chair and Opposition Spokesperson both considered that there was a case for considering in more detail Brighton & Hove's crime performance within the context of the city's group of most similar Crime and Disorder reduction Partnerships.

49 GOOD PRACTICE RESPONSES TO ACQUISITIVE CRIME

- 49.1 The Forum received a presentation by Paul Knight on his work as Crime Reduction Officer for Sussex Police and his involvement in the following projects: the Secure Accommodation Scheme; the Nominated Neighbour Scheme/artifice (distraction) burglary; the Vehicle 25 Watch Scheme; Burglary Alert; Crime Prevention Advice; the Hotel Watch Scheme and Novel Ways to Promote Crime Prevention Advice.
- 49.2 Councillor Turton asked for further information about the distribution of 130,000 leaflets. Bob Cristofoli requested that more be done about cyclists on pavements and drivers using mobile phones; local people

should be encouraged to report these acts.

- 49.3 Jim Baker will ascertain whether Age Concern can work with the police to deliver information to older people.
- 49.4 Mr Knight acknowledged the concerns raised and Chief Superintendent Pearce stated that development of neighbourhood teams was a priority.

50 THE WORK OF HOVE YMCA WITHIN THE CDRP

- 50.1 The Forum received a presentation by David Standing, Rachel Brett and Stuart Johnson of Hove YMCA on the wide range of projects and services in their work with children and young people. They reported on: Youth Inclusion Projects; the Park Safe Project; the evaluation of the Safe Space Project which had been completed since the last meeting; and the YMCA advice and support services. They stressed the importance of taking a holistic attitude to tackle all the problems in young people's lives and raise their aspirations.
- 50.2 Derek Peacock asked whether it was possible to continue to help individuals over the years and received the reply that this was done as far as possible, but depended on funding and, of course, the YMCA was no longer the appropriate agency when they became adult.
- 50.3 To a question from Councillor Theobald, Rachel Brett detailed the work of the LINX services in Patcham, which focuses on helping parents of primary age children. Stuart Johnson responded to a question from Councillor Turton about work at Falmer School. Arthur Law asked about bullying and Ms Brett replied that when young people are asked about their concerns, bullying always features highly. The Chair felt that fear of bullying was an important issue and suggested that a report on bullying should be considered at a future meeting. He added that he was impressed with the range of work covered by the YMCA.

Linda
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51 INCREASING SAFETY ON BUSES AND REDUCING FEAR OF CRIME

- 51.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning actions which are planned to be taken by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to maintain and increase actual and perceived safety on buses (see minute book). The Head of Community Safety made a presentation on work in progress.
- 51.2 Councillor Mitchell felt that the Steering Group should discuss action to stop intoxicated persons causing problems on buses. She was pleased to see that action was being taken to make drivers feel less isolated. Derek Peacock had witnessed a driver turning a disabled,

elderly lady off a bus, as the date on her pass had expired. He stated that drivers should have more discretion in such cases.

- 51.3 Further matters were suggested for the Steering Group. John Stevens asked whether cameras on buses are adequate as they seem not to cover the stairs. Ray Blackwood asked whether drivers should keep doors shut to prevent ill doers from leaving. Arthur Law referred to the original request that a notice should be placed on buses about respecting all members of the community. He suggested the Steering Group should consult vulnerable sections of the community. He added that LGBT drivers were subject to victimisation but had no time to write a report on incidents at the end of shifts.
- 51.4 Councillor Watkins felt the report was overly sympathetic to the bus company's resources; the company made a profit, which should be used to improve safety by providing bus conductors. Bob Cristofoli agreed.
- 51.5 Members were interested in the possibility of the public texting when incidents occurred on their bus. Faith Matyszak recommended that young people should be involved in work to undo damage caused; this had been successful in Whitehawk. It was agreed that the bus company should be advised of all the points made by the Community Safety Forum under this item.
- 51.6 **RESOLVED** – To note the action to be taken during coming months with the objective of increasing safety on buses.

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52 EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2007

- 52.1 **RESOLVED** – To note the minutes of the East Sussex Fire Authority meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2007