

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 2 JULY 2007

HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Oxley (Chairman); Councillors Carden, Kennedy, Lainchbury, Marsh, Morgan (OS), Roy, Smart, Simson and Theobald (Deputy Chairman).

Sussex Police: Superintendent Graham Bartlett, Sergeant Peter Castleton, Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, Inspector Bill Whitehead.

Communities of Interest: Jim Baker, Age Concern Brighton, Hove & Portslade, Kerry Bridge, Hangleton & Knoll Forum, Dr. Kath Browne, University of Brighton, Bob Cristofoli, Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; Ray Blackwood, Geraldine Desmoulins, Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People, Older People's Council; David Standing, Hove YMCA; John Stevens, Area Housing Panels; Faith Matyszak MBE, Whitehawk Community Development Project and Racial Harassment Forum; Gail Gray, Women's Refuge Project and Arthur Law, Spectrum.

Officers: Nigel Andain, Youth Offending Team, Bec Davison, Crime Reduction Initiative, Aaron Devereaux, Anti Social Behaviour Team, Anna Gianfrancesco, RU-OK? Children & Young Peoples Trust, Judith Macho, Assistant Director, Public Safety, Linda Beanlands, Head of Community Safety, Ruth Condon, Research and Performance Monitoring Officer, Graham Stevens, Drug and Alcohol Action Team Co-ordinator and Martin Warren, Committee Administrator.

Sussex Police Authority – Cllr Geoffrey Theobald

Apologies: Derek Peacock (Police Independent Advisory Group)

PART ONE

ACTION

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 There were none.

1B Declarations of Interest

1B.1 There were none.

1C Exclusion of Press and Public

- 1C. 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.
- 1C. **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 23 April 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 Chairman invited the Head of Community Safety to update members as to progress on the text based bus safety project. The Forum heard that meetings had been held with Brighton & Hove Bus Company and that the project was being given priority.
- 3.2 Chairman introduced Nicola Chanamuto (Voluntary Sector Forum, attending as observer) and welcomed a new representative, Kerry Bridge (Hangleton & Knoll Forum).
- 3.3 Chairman emphasised the importance of the role of the Community Safety Forum as a link within the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). He also recognised its function within the councils democratic process and its' ability to facilitate consultation with the public, local communities and communities of interest. Chairman was keen that the Forum play a more significant role in helping to improve the effectiveness of all the tasks of the CDRP and its statutory responsibilities.
- 3.4 Chairman invited Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce to address the meeting on the consequences of the recent, foiled terrorist attacks in London and Glasgow and the implications for Sussex.
- 3.5 Chief Superintendent noted that no specific link has been established within Sussex, but as it was a popular destination and a densely populated area, residents would see an increase in visible policing. Armed Officers would be detailed at locations around the area and more use of the 'stop and check' regime authorised by Section 44 of

the Terrorism Act would be evident.

- 3.6 Chairman noted that the council had been in contact with leaders of the Muslim community in the city to discuss any possible consequences of the terrorist attacks and to reassure them that any backlash would be dealt with. Members of the Forum endorsed the approach taken by the Police and partner agencies.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 4.1 There were no public questions.

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 5.1 Chairman noted that he had requested time be afforded at the Forum for members to raise issues of importance to them (preferably these should be brought to the attention of officers prior to the meeting).
- 5.2 Chairman invited Arthur Law and Dr. Kate Browne to inform the meeting of the initial findings of the 'Count Me In Too' survey. (See Appendix A)

6 THE CRIME & DISORDER REDUCTION PROGRAMME, REFORM PROGRAMME 2007/08

- 6.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety that outlined the changing framework under which CDRP's operate. These changes are in relation to the Crime and Disorder Act review and the Police and Justice Act 2006 (for copy see minute book).
- 6.2 Members welcomed the report and its potential proposals and noted several existing bodies that could be considered to deliver aspects of the suggested work, including the Whitehawk Community Forum and The Hangleton & Knoll Forum. Members also welcomed an opportunity to consider a scrutiny role for the Community Safety Forum and were keen to establish how the 'Community Call for Action' would fit within the councils' current democratic structures.
- 6.3 Members noted the proliferation of Local Action Teams developing across the city and were eager to explore increased links and structures to ensure that information was shared and appropriate action was taken.
- 6.4 Head of Community Safety detailed the current reporting structure (See Appendix 'B').
- 6.5 Arthur Law noted the swift timetable for implementation and advised caution in that some Communities of Interest would find it difficult to

meet the deadlines. He felt it was important to determine how to engage with these communities *before* the timetable was set.

- 6.6 Geraldine Desmoulins supported the point and asked if the Local Action Teams were only being developed in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. Head of Community Safety explained that the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas would be prioritised but that the aim was to develop Local Action Teams across the city.
- 6.7 David Standing noted that some groups or communities may need an advocate as they had difficulty in making their voices heard; for example, young people.
- 6.8 Kerry Bridge noted that young people in Hangleton & Knoll ensured that their voice was heard by making use of the existing structures, for example, via the youth forum 'Change Round'.
- 6.9 Councillor Smart noted that resources for the development and implementation of the project were limited and asked how this would be managed. Head of Community Safety explained that some Local Action Teams had been able to identify funding for activities, however the funding was not necessarily sustainable. It was important that LATS' agreed clear Community Safety priorities which could then be integrated within future action plans and strategies.
- 6.10 **RESOLVED** – That the implications of the new proposals for the CDRP and the options for the future role of the Community Safety Forum be noted. A further report be bought back the Forum as soon as guidelines are received.

7 TACKLING DRUG ABUSE

- 7.1 The Forum received a series of presentations noting work on tackling drug abuse in the city; Graham Stevens outlined the work of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Supt. Graham Bartlett detailed the impact of 'Operation Reduction' and Bec Davison spoke about work supporting people with drug dependency issues (see Appendix C).
- 7.2 Members welcomed the presentations and noted the work ongoing. Councillor Simson was encouraged by the support and information offered to families, but was concerned about drug use by young children. She asked if 7-13 year olds were targeted with information warning them about the dangers. Drug and Alcohol Action Team Co-ordinator explained that it had proved more resource effective and successful to target secondary school pupils and encourage schools to take part in the 'Healthy School Scheme'. When approaches had been made to younger children it had appeared to have had an adverse impact on parents and raised concerns about *promoting* drug use. Youth Offending Team manager noted a survey carried out

**Nigel
Adain**

in February 2007 in relation to work in schools and offered to circulate this to members.

- 7.3 Councillor Kennedy noted the reduction in resources and the end of ring fenced funding for some schemes, she asked if the Administration would commit to identifying and protecting funding for the future. Chairman acknowledged the importance of the work currently undertaken.
- 7.4 The Forum welcomed a suggestion from the Chairman to arrange a visit to a drug treatment centre.
- 7.5 Gail Gray noted that more joint working was required to tackle the incidence of drug and alcohol use in cases of domestic violence.
- 7.6 Councillor Smart was interested to learn that cannabis use was higher in the city than elsewhere in the country and that demand for drugs never dropped. He asked if the general familiarity with cannabis and its reclassification had resulted in a wider acceptance of its use. PC Bartlett noted that persons in possession of cannabis could be arrested but would more often be issued with a formal 'cannabis warning', this approach seemed to be paying dividends as it made users aware of their criminality and stalled escalation to harder drugs.
- 7.7 In response to a question from Councillor Marsh, Bec Davison outlined the many partner agencies that her team worked with. She noted that the team had effectively taken over the work of 'Addaction' and were working in partnership with (amongst others), Eb4u, the Rough Sleepers Team, Domestic Violence Team, and Housing. Their treatment was aligned to psychosocial intervention rather than clinical approach.
- 7.8 **RESOLVED** – That the presentations be noted and that a visit to a drug treatment centre be arranged.

**Linda
Beanland
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8. PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 8.1 The Forum received a presentation from Sgt. Peter Castleton in respect of the Performance of CDRP. (See Appendix D)
- 8.2 Sgt Castleton noted that the theme of the next meeting would be alcohol abuse as this was by far the greatest contributor to anti social behaviour and violence in the city.
- 8.3 Arthur Law was concerned that there was a big difference in the 'key crimes' as identified as performance indicators and of those experienced by victims. It was vital to report to the Forum, all reports of domestic violence, LGBT and Hate Crime on a regular basis. Arthur also noted that the figures as reported in the local press for LGBT

crimes were different to those reported to the Forum and that it would be useful for information to be provided prior, rather than at, the meeting.

8.4 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

9 EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2007

9.1 John Stevens asked if the Fire Authority had a representative involved in the Planning process. The Chairman and Councillor Carden shared the concern and agreed that there ought to be representation.

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

10 SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2007.

10.1 It was noted that the minutes of the meeting were not yet available and would be presented to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6.25 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2007