

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL: WEST HOVE & PORTSLADE AREA

2.00pm 11 DECEMBER 2018

SANDERS HOUSE, INGRAM CRESCENT

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Moonan (Chair)

Representatives: Ted Chapman (Vice Chair - Clarendon and Ellen RA), Roy Crowhurst (Woods House RA), Vic Dodd (Ingram Crescent RA), Ann Packham (Ingram Crescent RA), Ann Tizzard (Knoll), Graham Dawes (Philip Court RA), Muriel Briault (NPRA)

Officers: Peter Wileman (Community Safety Manager), Hilary Edgar (Housing Service Operations Manager), John Currell (Housing Asset Strategy Manager), Eddie Wilson (Mears), Pat Liddell (Resident Involvement Officer) and Anoushka Clayton-Walshe (Democratic Services Apprentice)

44 APOLOGIES

- 44.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Dawn Barnett, Alison Gray, Pat Weller and Joan Westmoreland.

45 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 45.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

“At the recent citywide conference, residents expressed an interest in learning more about recycling. In response to this, we would like to offer residents the opportunity to visit the material recovery facility at Hollingdean. Please let Hilary Edgar know if you are interested. There are lots of steps in the building, so please bear that in mind when deciding whether this is something you would like to do”

- 45.2 Hilary Edgar, Housing Service Operations Manager, stated there would be a recycling feature included in the next issue of Homing In.

- 45.3 In response to residents, the Chair stated that the initiative focussed on minimising landfill and that the recycling rate had continued to increase across the city. She added that it would be valuable for residents to report back to the panel on their information gathered from visiting the material recovery facility at Hollingdean.

46 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

46.1 Hilary Edgar, Housing Service Operations Manager, gave the following update on Clark Court:

“There is no change to the work content of the project, however the S20 consultation is in progress and due to end on 24th December 2018, subject to any observation received.

The provisional start date for the project is January 2019, the exact date depending upon resources and the need to respond to any observations received in relation to the S20 consultation”

47 RESIDENTS QUESTION TIME

1) Maintenance and protection of green areas

- Residents raised concern over the council not applying for Tree Protection Orders (TPOS) on their own land and that in specific cases an arboriculturalist’s decision could be overruled by the council.
- The Chair responded that from a planning perspective of the council it was very rare for a tree to be cut down for development; however when it was, a like-for-like replacement tree would have to be planted.
- In response to residents, officers stated that the Housing team worked in partnership with City Parks over the maintenance and protection of green areas.
- Residents raised concern for the lack of communication by the council between local communities and the tree surgeons regarding the reasons for tree removal on some occasions.
- The Chair stated that if these situations occurred or if residents had any other emergencies involving a trees to call on 01273 292929 or email arboriculture@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

2) Estate Development Budget (EDB) underspend

- In response to residents, officers stated that the environmental improvement budget was allocated from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and was separate to the EDB.
- In response to residents’ concerns over the fairness of funding allocation across the city, officers stated that funding was divided on the number of properties in each area and that unspent money returned to the main EDB ‘pot’ for allocation across the city in subsequent years. They added that this enabled all areas to benefit from the underspend.
- Residents raised concern for the continually declining RA members and that some areas lacked an association entirely. They added that there were areas

that needed improvements and it was unfair that other areas of the city tapped in to the west areas unspent funds.

- Pat Liddell, Resident Involvement Officer, stated that residents did not have to be part of a residents association to bid for EDB projects. She added that she engaged in door knocking and surveys in the area and had helped many places develop useful bids, however often it was that people did not want to participate

48 COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

- 48.1 Peter Wileman, Community Safety Manager, briefed the panel on the work of the Community Safety team. The Community Safety team lead four pieces of work that included domestic and sexual violence, the prevention of extremism concerning vulnerable people that were at risk of committing terrorism offences, 'county lines' that described a national issue of urban gangs supplying drugs and the coordination of anti-social behaviour and hate incidences. He stated that the two teams within Community Safety coordinated, commissioned and supported frontline work with officers in the council and private sector.
- 48.2 In response to residents, Peter Wileman stated that central areas tended to experience higher crime rates due to the inflated street population and the activity hotspots of the night time economy, however the general work of the Community Safety team was not area specific and high profile cases were spread over the city. He added that resources were spread in line with the threat, risk and vulnerability associated with specific reports.
- 48.3 The Chair asked for an explanation of anti-social behaviour, what resident's concerns should be and the best way to report activity.
- 48.4 Peter Wileman stated that for housing areas anti-social behaviour would include nuisance and annoyance to residents. For non-housing areas behaviour would include harassment, harm and distress. The most serious cases include physically threatening incidents, verbally abusive, criminal damage or open drug use. He added that if problems arose from council tenants the best route of complaint would be via the Housing Customer Service team and if there were problems with drug litter residents should contact City Clean.
- 48.5 In response to residents raising concerns with reporting domestic violence, officers stated that victims would be offered priority transfer for alternative accommodation and special procedures were in place to ensure the victim's needs were put first.
- 48.6 Officers stated that in terms of anti-social behaviour residents were able to report anonymously and officers could legally present on their behalf.
- 48.7 The Chair encouraged residents to report incidents in order for patterns in the city to be revealed which could aid future investigation.
- 48.8 Officers stated that if any residents needed to report or seek advice on community safety concerns then they should refer to the following contact details:

- BHCC tenants and leaseholders should report anti-social behaviour and hate incidents to 01273 293030 or Housing.CustomerServices@brighton-hove.gov.uk.
- Non BHCC tenants and leaseholders should report to 01273 292735 or CommunitySafety.Casework@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk.
- All persons, irrespective of tenure can report online https://selfservice.brighton-hove.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-3e1dc4c1-8ee4-46a5-9379-76383b64f084/AF-Stagee7f0a746-752b-4d1c-ab51-f17488fb8297/definition.json&process=1&process_uri=sandbox-processes://AF-Process-3e1dc4c1-8ee4-46a5-9379-76383b64f084&process_id=AF-Process-3e1dc4c1-8ee4-46a5-9379-76383b64f084.
- Drug litter and graffiti should be reported to City Clean.

49 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

- 49.1 Hilary Edgar, Housing Service Operations Manager, briefed the panel on the progress of the environmental improvement budget proposal which was set to go to the Housing & New Homes Committee in January where a more detailed report would follow. She stated that the proposals that had been well received and that councillors saw the need for investment in neighbourhood projects.

50 HOUSING MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 50.1 Hilary Edgar, Housing Service Operations Manager, introduced the July to September 2018 council housing performance report.
- 50.2 Residents stated that the council had performed well in rent collection.
- 50.3 The Chair stated that performance on the whole was good.
- 50.4 **RESOLVED:** That the panel agreed to note the report.

51 CITY WIDE REPORTS

- 51.1 **RESOLVED:** That the panel agreed to note the reports.

52 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 52.1 Hilary Edgar, Housing Service Operations Manager, stated that Sharon Davies, Housing Business Programme Manager, would be invited to the next panel to discuss the new contract for the future delivery of housing repairs, planned maintenance and capital works.

53 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- 53.1 The date of the next meeting would be 19 February 2019.

The meeting concluded at 15:25

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

