

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – MONDAY 7 JULY 2008

COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor G Theobald (Chairman); Councillors Carden (OS), Cobb, Duncan, Elgood, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart, Watkins and Young.

Sussex Police: Sergeant Peter Castleton Superintendent Rose.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service: Craig Thomson (Borough Commander for the City of Brighton and Hove).

Arthur Wing (Sussex Probation Service)

Communities of Interest: John Stevens, (Tenant Representative), Derek Peacock, (St. James St. Community Safety Forum), Bill Gandey & Sylvia Howell (Bevendean LAT), Faith Matyszak MBE (Racial Harassment Forum & Whitehawk Community Development Project), Chris El-Shabba (Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum), Ted Harman & George Brooker (Coldean LAT), Rev. Stephen Terry (Portland & Clarendon LAT), Paul Tilley (Community & Voluntary Sector Forum), Francis Tonks (OPC)

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Head of Community Safety), Judith Macho (Assistant Director, Public Safety), Simon Court (Anti-Social Behaviour Solicitor), Aaron Devereaux (Anti-Social Behaviour Team), and Christian Brown (Democratic Services Officer).

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A Declarations of Substitutes

- 1.1 Councillor Cobb declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Hyde. Councillor Watkins declared that he was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Elgood.

1B Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none.

1C Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 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 Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

2 MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chairman confirmed that under his role as Cabinet Member for Environment, being the Chairman of the Community Safety Forum was his remit.

3.2 The Chairman informed the Panel that the dates of the meetings scheduled to be held in December 2008 and March 2009 would have to be changed by one week. The meeting scheduled for Monday 1 December would now be held on Monday 8 December, the meeting scheduled for Monday 2 March would now be held on Monday 9 March.

4. CALLOVER

4.1 All Items were taken for discussion.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

5.1 There were none.

6. LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR MORGAN

6.1 Councillor Morgan cited from his letter (for copy see minute book).

6.2 Sgt. Peter Castleton stated that he had included in the agenda the full powers of PCSOs. He stated that PCSOs do have the power to issue Fixed-Penalty Notices (FPNs) and that they are expected to issue tickets. It was recommended by the Forum that PCSOs should be made aware that they do have the power to issue FPNs for this offence.

- 6.3 Ms Macho stated that the council employed 4.1 posts as animal welfare officers but stated that the issue of dog mess was a difficult area to enforce. She stated that the officers would first have to catch dogs fouling and then wait to see whether the owners picked up the mess. Ms Macho said that the council approach to the problem focussed around issues of education and information. Ms Macho added that the new Dog Control Orders would see a uniform system across the city which would help to satisfy concerns.

7 THE COUNCIL'S NEW CONSTITUTION, OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS AND ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

- 7.1 Ian Glossop, Interim Head of Scrutiny, gave an overview of how scrutiny would work under the new governance arrangements (for copy see minute book). He stated that the scrutiny committee of relevance and interest to the Forum would be the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 7.2 Councillor Morgan extended an open invitation to all Members of the Forum to come and view a meeting, as the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which had issues pertaining to community safety at its heart.
- 7.3 Mr D Peacock, of St. James' Street Community Safety Group, stated that he was concerned that under the new arrangements, the Forum would move further away from its grassroots level of involvement and become too "technical" for people to feel involved. He stated that he was concerned about the level of participation that people would need to put in to the relevant groups following the governance change.
- 7.4 Councillor Duncan stated that he was concerned about the capacity of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee and whether it would be able to persevere under a potentially very heavy workload. Councillor Duncan stated that he wanted to believe that the Committee would be able to cope with workloads but that he was pessimistic. Mr Stevens, Area Housing Panels Representative, expressed a similar sentiment and requested that there be enough resources available so that the Committee is not overloaded by work requests.
- 7.5 Mr Glossop stated that he would ensure that the work programmes for the Scrutiny Committees were robust and properly resourced and that he wanted to develop a Scrutiny focussed on outcomes. Ms Beanlands stated that the Community Safety Forum would have the same functions as before, and that the Forum would continue to ask questions and examine ideas/reports. Ms Beanlands stated that the Forum could call for reports and if the Forum was not happy with outcomes, she stated that the Forum could call for scrutiny and request that a matter be considered for inclusion within the work programme.
- 7.6 Councillor Morgan stated that he wanted to see a crossover between the CSF and the ECSOSC but that he wanted to avoid duplication.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK BY 2020 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- 8.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance and Acting Director of Cultural Services on the Development of a Community Engagement Framework by the 2020 Community Partnership (for copy see minute book).
- 8.2 Ms Angie Greany said that the document before the Forum was dependent on partners that make up the Forum as she wanted to determine what community engagement means and how community engagement would be able to get the best outcomes for the community. She stated that these outcomes would develop into a citywide framework for community engagement. Therefore, she drew attention to the recommendation that groups at the forum should take the consultation document back to their respective individual organisations for discussion and to provide a response. She stated that it was important that all groups undertook this consultation in order to develop a framework to which all groups adhered.
- 8.3 Mr Francis Tonks, Older People's Council, stated that he would like to see older people represented as they were a very significant community within the city. Ms Emma McDermott stated that older people were on the Local Strategic Partnership and that the council was working with the Chair of the Pensioners' Forum and the Older People's Council.
- 8.4 Mr Bill Gandey, of the Bevendean LAT, asked how organisations would get involved with the development of the Community Engagement Framework if they were not part of any listed group.
- 8.5 Many Members of the Forum expressed concerns that they had other commitments during the week when officers were available to meet with them and asked that alternative options for consultation be arranged. The Chairman suggested that officers be available some Saturdays to meet with the community groups.
- 8.6 It was noted that there was to be a separate session arranged for Councillors of Brighton & Hove City council on the Community Engagement Framework.

9 CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

- 9.1 Sgt. Peter Castleton introduced the statistics detailing crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove in April and May 2008 with the same period last year (for copy see minute book). Sgt. Castleton stated that in the months of April and May that total crimes had reduced 20.9% compared with the same period in the previous year, well in excess of the target. He said that there was a significant increase in domestic burglary, but that this was the only crime showing a notable increase.

- 9.2 Councillor Duncan stated that he was concerned at the significant upward trend in domestic burglary and asked if this was in some way related to the current economic climate.
- 9.3 Councillor Kennedy stated that she was again pleased to see a fall in the total crime rate but that she was concerned by a sudden increase in domestic violence incidents.
- 9.4 Sgt. Castleton stated that a lot of crime in the city had alcohol as a contributory factor. He stated that 70-80% of arrests in the city can be linked with alcohol in some way.
- 9.5 Sgt. Castleton confirmed to the Forum that many violent criminals were 'home grown'. Sgt Castleton stated that it was not an influx of people from outside the city that caused many of the statistical charts to spike in the summer but rather that more people were out on the streets and that there was more chance of encountering conflict. He stated that many victims and offenders were local.

10. **CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TARGETTED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE**

- 10.1 Ms Beanlands gave an overview on the development of a new targeted youth support service. Ms Beanlands stated that the scheme, being led by Aaron Devereaux, aimed to lead young people away from crime. The scheme aimed to change the behaviour of young people in order to keep them out of the Criminal Justice System.
- 10.2 It was stated that two hubs for the service would be established in each of the central, east and west areas of the city. These hubs would provide a new targeted youth support service working to deter young people from getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 10.3 Members of the Forum praised the work being undertaken, and that the fact that the work was being done in-house.
- 10.4 Members of the Forum expressed concerns that the reason for the anti-social behaviour was a lack of facilities for young people.
- 10.5 Councillor Young stated that in her role as a Cabinet Member for Finance, that she intended to look more at youth provision in the city.

11. **SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2008**

- 11.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

12 **SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2008**

- 12.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

13. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2008

13.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

14. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2008

14.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this day of 2008