

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00 PM MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2004

**BRIGHTON TOWN HALL
(The Council Chamber)**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mitchell (Chair); Councillors Mrs Cobb, Elgood, Framroze, Hawkes, Kemble (OS), Meegan, Mrs Simson, Willows and Wrighton

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis, Sgt. Peter Castleton, Richard Newman, Richard Siggs, Paul Price.

Sussex Police Authority: Judith Corcho and Tom Tyler.

Communities of Interest: Robert Cristofoli (Brighton & Hove Mediation Service); Terry Davies (Business Crime Reduction Partnership); Abdul Khaliq (Racial Harassment Forum); Michael Meik, (East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service); Sharon Otoo, (Racial Harassment Forum); Derek Peacock (St. James's Community Safety Sub-Group).

Council Officers: Linda Beanlands, (Community Safety Manager), Ruth Condon, (Research & Performance Monitoring Officer, Community Safety), Simon Court (Lawyer, Community Safety Team), Amanda Davey, (Partnership Support Officer, Community Safety Team), Aaron Devereaux (Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Community Safety Team), Jonathon Fortune, (Head of Operations, Public Safety Division), Louise Hanrahan, (Legal Services), Patricia Harrill, (Anti-Social Behaviour Caseworker), Nigel Lewis, (Head of Youth Offending Services), Judith Macho, (Assistant Director, Public Safety) and Edi Mandala, Community Safety Officer, Domestic Violence, Community Safety Team.

Apologies: Patrick Elliott, Area Housing Panels, David Smart, (Older Peoples Council), David Standing, (Hove YMCA).

PART ONE

ACTION

22. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

22A Declarations of Substitutes

22.1 There were no substitutes.

22B Declarations of Interest

22.2 There were none.

22C Exclusion of Press and Public

22.3 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.

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

23.A MINUTES

23.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2003 be approved and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment recording that Derek Peacock had sent his apologies.

23 B CHAIR'S REPORT

23.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She was pleased to announce that Chief Superintendent Curtis had been awarded the Queen's Policing Medal in the New Year Honours List. She congratulated Chief Superintendent Curtis on behalf of the Forum.

24. QUESTION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

24.1 There were no questions.

25. TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME IN A PUBLIC PLACE

25.1 The Forum received a presentation from Sgt Peter Castleton, in the absence of Jean Smith, Violent Crime Reduction Officer, who was unable to attend due to a minor car accident (copy of presentation slides attached).

25.2 Sgt Castleton informed the Forum that the police wanted to create a safe late night environment with safe venues for customers and safe streets outside venues. It was also important to take local residents' views into account. He outlined the challenges for the police, including large numbers of licensed premises, clubs and pubs and 7000 people in West Street at 2.00 a.m.

25.3 60% of violent crime took place in West Street and the lower promenade between 8.00p.m. and 3.00 a.m., however there had been a 11.9% reduction in public place violence in the central police district.

25.4 Sgt Castleton set out the issues that needed to be addressed. There had been a national increase in violence associated with binge drinking which had been encouraged by drinks promotions such as happy hours. The police needed to work with businesses to try to prevent binge drinking which had also led to an increase in anti-social behaviour.

25.5 Sgt Castleton set out the local response to the challenges including the introduction two years ago of a Violent Crime Task Force. 18 months ago the police had negotiated a Local Public Service Agreement to reduce violent crime over a three year period. A licensee Association had been formed and was proving very successful. Well trained and friendly door supervisors could also make a difference.

25.6 Sgt Castleton set out the achievements that had helped lead to a 9% reduction in violent crime in Brighton & Hove. This included an increased use of late night buses, illumination on the seafront until 3.00 a.m, extra funding for CCTV and the launch of "Beach Safe" and "Night Safe" radio/communications.

25.7 Ongoing work included a Licensee Forum, work with transport companies, better lighting, and door supervisor training.

25.8 Councillor Meegan asked about the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 which would allow pubs and clubs to apply for a 24 hour licence. Sgt Castleton replied that it would probably not be viable for many businesses to open for 24 hours, however, the police and local authority was potentially vulnerable during this period.

25.9 Councillor Elgood congratulated the police on the 9% reduction in violent crime and asked how the police were tackling homophobic crime in areas such as St James's Street. Sgt Castleton replied that the police had focused on the areas with the most violent crime but were looking at homophobic and racist crime.

25.10 Derek Peacock said that there was violent and racist crime in St James's Street. Dispersal and noise was also an important issue to tackle.

25.11 Councillor Simson stressed the importance of close working between the police and Tradings Standards and of working in schools to teach children the dangers of drinking. She was concerned that some traders would be working together to agree a 4.00 a.m opening hour. She thought that the idea of the legislation

was to have staggered hours. Sgt Castleton agreed that working with Trading Standards was very important. Meanwhile, there was a need to monitor extended hours very carefully. Judith Macho reported that the Licensing Committee had produced a draft licensing strategy, which would be monitored.

25.12 Chief Superintendent Curtis stressed that the police should take credit in reducing violent crime. This was not happening elsewhere in Sussex. However, this success came with a price. The police employed a significant number of officers in West Street.

26. DEALING WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – A CITY-WIDE STRATEGY AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

26.1 The Forum considered a presentation from members of the Community Safety Team.

26.2 Aaron Devereaux, Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator informed the Forum that he had been in post since April 2003. He displayed a slide showing members of his team, which was jointly managed by Nigel Lewis (Youth Offending Team) and Linda Beanlands (Community Safety Team). (copy of slide attached).

26.3 Mr Devereaux presented an introduction to the anti-social behaviour agenda, the national context and the Brighton and Hove context. (copy of slide attached).

26.4 Denis Byrne, Youth Inclusion Support Project Manager gave a presentation on the Youth Inclusion Support Project (YISP) (copy of slide attached).

26.5 The Forum received a presentation from the Street Outreach Workers whose posts were jointly managed with the Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI) and the Partnership Community Safety Team. The CRI had taken control of the Rough Sleeper's Contract in February 2000. (copy of slide attached). In July 2002 the Local Authority had asked the CRI to look at rough sleepers and anti-social behaviour. During 2003 joint working commenced with Hove Police (Operation Dodger/Impact). The Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) commenced in August 2003 to reduce street drinking. Meanwhile, there had been funding for a persistent shoplifting scheme.

26.6 Following the presentations, members of the Forum put questions to officers.

26.7 Councillor Mrs Simson asked the Youth Inclusion Support Officer how he envisaged working with families who did not want support. She was informed that participation was voluntary and no monitoring was required. The main referrals were from people who

had some relationship with the families concerned. The work was first and foremost about building on this relationship.

26.8 Councillor Willows referred to the work being carried out with children and young people aged between 8-13, and asked if local schools were involved in this work. He mentioned that ward councillors had local knowledge that might be useful to officers.

26.9 Mr Byrne replied that there were good opportunities for working with local schools and within schools there were teacher co-ordinators. Meanwhile, he would appreciate other offers of help and would meet with local councillors.

26.10 Derek Peacock asked if the Youth Inclusion Support Project would be rolled out to other areas of the City. Mr Byrne replied that the project was being piloted in Hangleton and Knoll. The Community Safety Manager reported that the Youth Inclusion Support Project was one of a number of initiatives and was short-term funded work. The YISP would be making bids to continue the good practice.

26.11 Councillor Hawkes stressed the importance of Children's Fund money and taking a broader view, the setting up the Children's Trust would make it possible to reach families in different communities throughout the City. She was very heartened by these developments. On Track had been successful as it connected with children in classrooms.

26.12 Councillor Meegan made the point that street drinking was a social activity involving groups of people, moving from one place to another. He asked what measures were being taken to stop street drinkers meeting in groups.

26.13 The Street Outreach Workers replied that group leaders and individuals with the highest level of need were being identified and known hotspots such as Norfolk Square were being targeted by the Street Outreach Workers, Police Community Support Officers and police.

26.14 Abdul Khaliq was concerned that begging and homelessness were being connected to anti-social behaviour. He stressed the importance of monitoring and asked how the Local Authority was able to monitor the reduction in homelessness.

26.15 The Community Safety Manager replied that the key to successful working was not only working in partnership but having the capacity to work with individuals in a detailed way. Detailed monitoring was taking place with known individuals on a monthly basis in a confidential manner. Officers would be able to see what

tangible results were being made.

26.16 Councillor Framroze commended the new framework of working in partnerships. He mentioned the success of such an approach in Coldean where levels of anti-social behaviour had dropped significantly.

26.17 Judith Corcho felt that the holistic approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour was excellent, and would have positive knock on effects.

26.18 Councillor Wrighton supported the approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour, which was helping people to access services. She asked if there was evidence for people taking up street drinking services and whether extra resources were needed for organisations such as Equinox. She was informed that there had been a significant investment in Equinox and that services were in place to engage and treat people. Numbers accessing services had reduced during the colder weather but were expected to rise in February/March.

26.19 Sharon Otoo asked the Community Safety Team to share plans they had for working with perpetrators of anti-social behaviour with a racist element. She was informed that a great deal more work was required on this issue and work with witnesses was needed. Mr Byrne replied that work within the YISP was being carried out with victims and perpetrators.

27. SELF ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK TO BE APPLIED TO THE CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP (CDRP) AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM (DAAT)

27.1 The Forum considered a report of the Community Safety Manager concerning the Home Office requirement that a self-assessment framework was applied to all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's) Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAAT's) and that an Improvement Plan would be submitted by March 2004. The self-assessment provided an opportunity to support the development of improved partnership working and the report made recommendations about how the framework could be implemented and an improvement plan drawn up (for copy see minute book).

27.2 **RESOLVED** –That the process that is to be followed in order to carry out the self-assessment of the CDRP and to prepare a partnership Improvement Plan, be noted. A draft response to the prescribed questionnaire and a draft Improvement Plan will be circulated to Forum members with a request for their comment and responses.

**Linda
Beanlands**

28. CONSULTATION ON THE POLICING PLAN 2004/05

28.1 The Forum considered a paper, which summarised the National Policing Plan 2004/07 and outlined the Local Policing Plan 2004/05. An additional paper "2004-05 Budget Settlement and Budget Framework" was circulated at the meeting. This paper reported on the outcome of the provisional finance settlement for 2004/5 and considered the options for the budget framework (for copies see minute book).

28.2 Judith Corcho informed the Forum that Sussex's standard general revenue grant funding was increased by £4.992m or 3.26% compared with 2003/4. During the current year the Authority had provided more Police Community Support Officers, extended police station opening hours, concentrated more police officers in central Brighton and had worked in neighbourhoods through Neighbourhood Policing teams and Neighbourhood Support Officers. The Authority was on target for having 3,140 police officers in post by the end of March. Comments on the Policing Plan could be sent to Judith Corcho, via Tom Tyler, at the Sussex Police Authority.

28.3 Derek Peacock asked for reference to be made to the night time economy in paragraph 4.2. of the Local Policing Plan Draft Contents report.

28.4 Councillor Framroze asked if there was still a problem with police officers leaving the force for London or neighbouring authorities.

28.5 Chief Superintendent Curtis replied that this was still a problem for the Authority. For example, the Authority had lost ten detectives to the Metropolitan Police who were able to offer better pay and conditions. As a result large numbers of police officers had less than two years service.

28.6 Finally the Community Safety Manager reported that the Local Policing Plan and National Policing Plan would be delivered through the Community Safety Strategy.

28.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Summary of the National Policing Plan and outline of the Local Policing Plan 2004/5 be noted.

(2) That the 2004-5 Budget Settlement and Budget Framework be noted and that comments should be sent to the Authority via Tom Tyler.

29. CONSULTATION PAPER : POLICING : BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

29.1 The Forum considered a report of the Community Safety Manager, which informed Members that the Home Secretary had invited responses to a consultation paper from the public, the police, local authorities, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) and all organisations with an interest in community safety. The consultation paper, entitled "Policing: Building Safer Communities Together" set out the Government's broad thoughts on the future direction of police reform and invited comments by 27 January 2004. The Forum further received a report of the Sussex Police Authority, which gave a response to the Government paper (for copies see minute book).

29.2 The Community Safety Manager reported that a written response would be submitted by the council by 27 January 2004.

29.3 **RESOLVED** – That it be noted that the Responsible Authorities Partnership considered the key issues and questions highlighted in the consultation paper at its meeting on 12th December 2003 and agreed that the following response is sent from the RAP:

**Linda
Beanlands**

- Welcoming the positive recognition in the consultation paper of the Basic Command Unit as the focus for delivering police services on the ground and at local level
- Confirmation of our good experience in achieving effective joint working with the Brighton & Hove BCU which is co-terminus with city boundaries
- Confirmation of our good experience of the joint work between the BCU and CDRP also fitting with Force wide and national priorities and a history of effectively localising those priorities.

(2) That it be noted that the Responsible Authorities Partnership also agreed that individual partner agencies may separately respond to the consultation paper. The response from Brighton & Hove City Council will be circulated to Forum members for information.

(3) That the response from Sussex Police Authority be noted.

30. COMMUNITY SAFETY TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE : UPDATE DECEMBER 2003

30.1 The Forum considered a report of the Research & Performance Monitoring Officer setting out the progress on performance measures related to areas of work contained in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2002-05. Monthly trend data were presented (for copy see minute book).

30.2 **RESOLVED** –That the report be noted.

31. REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2003

31.1 The Forum considered the report of the Sussex Police Authority meeting held on 9 October 2003 (for copy see minute book).

31.2 **RESOLVED** –That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.09 p.m.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2004