

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – 1 MARCH 2004

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

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

In attendance: Councillor Pennington for item 35.

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis, Sgt. Peter Castleton, Sgt Tim Hemsley and Jean Smith.

Sussex Police Authority: Councillor Mark Dunn and Tom Tyler.

Communities of Interest: Robert Cristofoli (Brighton & Hove Mediation Service); Terry Davies, Patrick Elliott, (Housing Panel Representative); Abdul Khaliq (Racial Harassment Forum); Mike Memé (Voluntary Sector Forum); John Mitchell, (EB4U); Sharon Otoo (Racial Harassment Forum); Derek Peacock (St. James's Community Safety Sub-Group) and David Smart (Older Persons' City Council).

Council Officers: Linda Beanlands, (Community Safety Manager); Denis Byrne (Youth Inclusion Support Project (YISP) Manager); Ruth Condon (Research & Performance Monitoring Officer, Community Safety); Simon Court (Lawyer, Community Safety Team); Jonathon Fortune (Head of Operations, Public Safety Division); Nigel Lewis (Head of Youth Offending Services); Judith Macho (Assistant Director, Public Safety); Nahida Shaikh (Racial Harassment Caseworker) and Dilvinder Shergill (Team Leader).

Apologies: Judith Corcho (Sussex Police Authority) Bernadette Dawes (Hangleton and Knoll Project), Dorothy Engmann (Age Concern) and David Standing (Hove YMCA).

PART ONE

ACTION

32. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

32.A Declarations of Substitutes

32.1 Substitute Councillor For Councillor

Giebeler

Mrs Cobb

32.B Declarations of Interest

32.2 There were none.

32.C Exclusion of Press and Public

32.3 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.

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

33. MINUTES

33.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2004 be approved and signed by the Chair, subject to an amendment to paragraph 25.11 which should read that Councillor Simson was concerned that under the new licensing legislation, some traders would be forced to agree a closing hour.

34. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

34.1 Mr Scott asked the following questions relating to the security of light weight powered two wheeler vehicles.

"In the context of the Council's very welcome expansion of the number of motorcycle parking bays equipped with security rails, and especially in light of the sustainability benefits of encouraging the use of 'lightweight powered two-wheelers', such as mopeds and scooters, instead of cars, but also as a welcome to tourists visiting us with large and expensive motor bikes, I have the following questions:

1. What formal arrangements have been, or will be, made between the Police and the Council for specific CCTV monitoring of each secure parking bay?

2. What print or Internet publicity (including location maps) has been or will be published about secure two-wheeler parking bays,

especially to help visitors?

3. Given that 'lightweight two-wheelers' are often the only affordable and practicable motorised transport for those on a low income, what action can be taken to modify the existing Police recovery contracts so that stolen machines can be collected by their owners (after completion of forensic examination etc.) from the Police pound within the City boundary (such as the Holland Road Traffic Unit, John St Police garage, or the Hollingbury custody site etc.) at much lower, or even no, cost to the victim compared with the present expensive requirement to collect from the recovery pound north of the Downs?

4. What secure overnight parking, such as individual lockers for mopeds and scooters, will the Council be providing at low rent in the suburbs and housing estates to encourage use of these more sustainable vehicles, especially where the more hilly areas of our City make the use of a bicycle impractical for shopping and getting to work?

5. What instructions have been, or will be, given to Police Community Support Officers(?) and/or BHCC/NCP Parking Enforcement Wardens to monitor and report any attempted sabotage of the parking bay security rails, and when can a notice with a 24/7 telephone contact number for users to report any insecure condition be fitted to each set of rails (with an ID no. also)?

6. Some installations seem to have a condensation drip-hole drilled through the top of the horizontal rail, instead of the underside, which may lead to accelerated internal corrosion of that rail from trapped moisture. What actions will the Council be taking to minimise weakening from such corrosion?"

34.2 The Chair informed Mr Scott that he would receive a detailed written reply to his questions.

35. UPDATE ON PROBLEMS SURROUNDING DRINKERS IN NORFOLK SQUARE SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE DPPO

35.1 The Forum considered a letter from Councillor Pennington concerning the problems being experienced in Norfolk Square with regard to street drinkers since the advent of the DPPO (see minute book).

35.2 Councillor Pennington informed the Forum that there had been good progress in the square with physical improvements to the gardens and a proposal of a craft fair and possibly a playground. A notice board had been erected and the Friends of Norfolk Square

had been founded.

35.3 The Community Safety Manager reported that Councillor Pennington had been extremely helpful in taking the initiative to tackle long standing problems in Norfolk Square. Meanwhile, there had been a number of public meetings and resident association meetings.

35.4 There had been a sustained process of action included enforcement action by the joint police and outreach patrols in dealing with individual drinkers. Changes to the environment included planting and levelling of walls. Wider changes included managing the street population and tackling a client group whose anti social behaviour was limited to alcohol and drug use. 80% of drinkers were in supported housing or local authority tenancies. Officers would be able to carry out detailed work with the housing providers.

35.5 Communicating with the local community was considered essential to make Norfolk Square a pleasurable area for residents and local people to use.

35.6 Derek Peacock mentioned that dispersal was still a problem. He had been inundated with complaints from residents in the St James's Street area following significant action in Norfolk Square. He asked if a strategy was to be adopted for drinkers who were not capable of being treated.

35.7 The Community Safety Manager replied that there were many drinkers who would never stop drinking. Sadly, they would either die or reach a point of crisis where they would come into treatment. That fact was recognised and Equinox worked with such clients. The work was long term.

35.8 David Smart asked if the policy worked outside the city centre. There had been instances of drunk and disorderly behaviour in Hangleton and Knoll, which had been reported to the police, who had taken no action.

35.9 The Community Safety Manager replied that there was a city wide order, but the joint patrols and police action had to be targeted to be effective. Resources had to be prioritised but information on problems being experienced should be forwarded to the sector police inspectors or Richard Siggs. This would be used as intelligence.

35.10 Abdul Khaliq stressed that there were significant problems in the Hove Street and Islingword Road areas. He felt that priorities were decided according to people's status rather than need. This

was a serious matter for his community.

35.11 Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis disagreed with Mr Khaliq and stressed that the police reacted according to the needs of incidents, not according to the individuals concerned.

35.12 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Pennington's letter and the response by officers be noted.

36. CRIME AND DISORDER DATA INFORMATION EXCHANGE (CADDIE)

36.1 The Forum had before them a report of Sussex Police and the Partnership Community Safety Team concerning Brighton & Hove's participation in the Crime and Disorder Information Exchange (CADDIE) (see minute book).

36.2 Sgt Tim Hemsley gave a presentation on the CADDIE system. He explained that CADDIE was a simple internet-based system, which collected data on crime and disorder. The public could access limited information and carry out searches. Information could be obtained on current projects carried out by the partnership and there were polls and questionnaires. Good constructive information was being received from the public. Meanwhile, more detailed information was available for partners, including hot spot mapping. Members had access to a library and could see the work being carried out in other areas. A more detailed presentation would be given at a future meeting.

36.3 Sgt Hemsley explained that the Home Office financed CADDIE and his post was funded fully by the Home Office.

36.4 Derek Peacock asked if he would be able to obtain passworded Internet access to the system, as he was carrying out work on homophobic crime. Sgt Hemsley replied that Mr Peacock could apply to obtain a password by accessing www.caddie.gov.uk.

36.5 Patrick Elliott expressed concern that criminals might access crime data on the site and go elsewhere to commit crime. Sgt Hemsley replied that this was unlikely to be a problem as data was downloaded once a month and detailed information was only available to partners.

36.6 Councillor Hawkes asked if there was information about young offenders on the system. Sgt Hemsley replied that Sussex police offender data would be placed on the system in the future. This would include data from Brighton on the Youth Offending Team.

36.7 Councillor Meegan asked if photographs of wanted criminals

could be placed on the system. Sgt Hemsley replied that there was a need to look at issues of Human Rights and Data Protection before having a top ten rogue's gallery.

36.8 Councillor Simson asked if it was possible for her Local Action Team in Woodingdean to link in to the site. Sgt Hemsley replied that this would be possible.

36.9 The Chair thanked Sgt Hemsley and informed the Forum that there would be update reports.

37. UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

37.1 The Forum considered a report by Linda Beanlands, Community Safety Manager and Sgt Peter Castleton setting out the core focus and aims of the Partnership Community Safety Team (see minute book).

37.2 Sgt Castleton informed the Forum that the Partnership Community Safety Team had moved to 162 North Street, Brighton, 3 weeks ago. Forum members would be welcome to visit the premises, which would be publicly accessible in due course.

37.3 Councillor Mrs Cobb asked how the public would hear about the premises. Sgt Castleton replied that the service had a web site (www.safeinthecity.net). He stressed that marketing the team was essential. The premises were in a good location and the signage would hopefully bring people to the building. Meanwhile, there would be printed publicity for use in outlying areas.

37.4 Patrick Elliott asked if there were any plans to send staff to the Area Housing Panels. Sgt Castleton replied that the team would welcome the opportunity to speak to the Area Panels.

37.5 Councillor Framroze asked how the service would be funded. Sgt Castleton replied that there would have to be charges for some services, such as training, in the future.

37.6 Councillor Kemble asked whether the project was financially secure. The Community Safety Manager replied that the Partnership had secured funding for 2 years. Officers had negotiated the best deal for the lease of the building. The Partnership would be making future funding bids and would continue to raise money to help the project.

37.7 Derek Peacock asked if small rooms would be available for meetings. Sgt Castleton replied that a small meetings room was available but it was not accessible for disabled people.

37.8 Abdul Khaliq informed the Forum that his community looked forward to working with the Partnership. The team's success depended on co-operation.

37.9 **RESOLVED** – That the report and presentation be noted.

38. IMPLEMENTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH RACIALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES AND INCIDENTS

38.1 The Forum received presentations by Sharon Otoo, Policy Co-ordinator, Racial Harassment Forum, Dilvinder Shergill, Team Leader and Nahida Shaikh, Racial Harassment Caseworker.

38.2 Sharon Otoo explained that the Racial Harassment Forum was a multi agency partnership, which represented the black and minority ethnic community. She was the main point of contact for the Forum. The website address was www.safeinthecity.net/racism/

38.3 The Forum, which was chaired by Abdul Khaliq, met every two months at Brighton Town Hall in order to discuss good practice and experience of racial harassment. A leaflet about the Racial Harassment Forum was circulated to members at the meeting. A pocket guide to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2002-05 was also circulated.

38.4 Abdul Khaliq explained that his role was to chair meetings and make it possible for all parties to communicate to the Forum. The Forum had been very well received by the people in the city.

38.5 Dilvinder Shergill, Team Leader, showed members a slide of the partnership team and explained frontline services. The aim of the team was to provide a front line service to victims, increase reporting and prosecutions rates and mainstream good practice through training. The team worked closely with Brighton Police, particularly the Anti-Victimisation Unit. 5 people worked in the Racial Harassment Team. The team leader managed front line hate crime services and front line aspects of the two PCST buildings, Hove Town Hall and 162, North Street. There were also a Racial Harassment Caseworker, an Advocate for Victims of Racial Harassment and an AVU Race Liaison Officer.

38.6 The Team provided training to the voluntary sector and to community groups who worked within the Brighton & Hove area. The Team was also working in neighbourhoods, particularly Hangleton and Knoll. The Team would be recruiting a Turner EB4U Racial Harassment Caseworker and hoped to increase reporting in both areas in order to achieve successful interventions.

38.7 Nahida Shaikh, Racial Harassment Caseworker informed the

Forum about the Racial Harassment Report form, which was a Pan-Sussex initiative led by Sussex Police and the council. Ms Shaikh also informed the Forum about Operation Tape, which had been set up by Sussex Police. This involved members of the enforcement team taking photos of examples of graffiti in the city. Racist graffiti could be interpreted by Ms Shaikh, who collated the data.

38.8 The Chair thanked the Team for their helpful presentation.

39. SELF ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE CDRP AND THE DAAT

39.1 The Forum considered a report of the Community Safety Manager which reminded Members that the Home Office required that a Self-Assessment framework is applied to all CDRPs and DAATs and that an Improvement Plan is completed by March 2004. This report set out the initial findings of the self-assessment, and in particular those activities that have been identified for inclusion within an Improvement Plan (see minute book). The results of the Self-Assessment and the Improvement Plan would need to be returned to the Home Office by 31 March 2004.

39.2 **RESOLVED** – That the findings of the assessment process be noted and that the activities which are recommended for inclusion within the Improvement Plan, be confirmed.

40. COMMUNITY SAFETY TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE : UPDATE

40.1 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).

40.2 **RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

41. REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

41.1 Members noted the minutes of the Sussex Police Authority of 18 December 2004 and had before them draft Local Policing Plan for Sussex 2004-2005 (see minute book).

41.2 Councillor Mark Dunn Chairman of the Sussex Police Authority attended the meeting and presented the Sussex Policing Plan. He explained that the production of the Policing Plan was a team effort. He stressed that resources were limited but the Authority was acutely aware that some members of the community had difficulty paying council tax and had decided not to raise the precept to a higher level. Two improvements on a practical level were the increase in Police Community Support Officers and the implementation of a Central Crime Recording and Investigation Bureau. Telephone contacts to the police would be greatly strengthened and crime reporting would be improved.

41.3 Patrick Elliott mentioned that Woodingdean had lost its beat officer and was trying to establish a successful Local Action Team. He asked if officers would live in the community. Councillor Dunn replied that the police had to allocate resources where they were most needed. Meanwhile, the PCSO's were coming from the community.

41.4 Derek Peacock requested the following amendments in the draft plan. Reference to the LGBT Forum in paragraph 2.5 Partners should be deleted, as the Forum was no longer in existence. He asked for the line "The work of the AVI partnership has been instrumental...." to be altered to "The work of the AVI partnership has been focused on increasing trust and confidence."

41.5 Mr Peacock was pleased to see mention of the "night time economy" in paragraph 3.18. He suggested that paragraph 3.35 should include reference to Lewes Bonfire. Under Hate Crimes, Mr Peacock asked for the inclusion of age, religion, disability and transphobia. Under Counter Terrorism, he suggested that community impact assessment be added.

41.6 Councillor Dunn asked Mr Peacock to send the suggestions in writing. The Chair asked Mr Peacock to send a copy of the letter to the Community Safety Manager.

41.7 Councillor Simson raised the issue of the call centre. Councillor Dunn explained that the Authority were working hard to provide a good service but were concentrating on crime aspects of the call centre. Councillor Simson made the point that the PCPSO's had limited powers. She agreed that there needed to be joint working but stressed the need to rebuild confidence. Councillor Dunn replied that although he appreciated there was much ground to make up, he felt that the community needed to embrace and encourage police officers.

41.8 Chief Superintendent Paul Curtis informed Members that the Police Community Support Officers would not obtain enhanced

powers, because they were not replacement police officers. They were filling a gap police officers could not fill at the moment and were providing assurance and dealing with quality of life issues. There would soon be 45 PCSO's.

41.9 The Chair thanked Councillor Dunn for his presentation.

41.10 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the report of the Sussex Police Authority meeting held on 18 December 2004 be noted.

(2) That Councillor Dunn's presentation of the latest draft Sussex Policing Plan be noted.

42. REPORTS OF THE EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2003 AND 12 DECEMBER 2003

42.1 The Forum considered the reports of the East Sussex Fire Authority.

42.2 **RESOLVED** – that the reports be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 p.m.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2004