

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL: NORTH AREA
7.00pm 9 DECEMBER 2019

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Fowler (Chair) , Hill and Knight

Representatives: Lola Schofield, Terence Hill, (Bates Estate), Ian Bick (Hollingdean R.A), Desmond Jones (Hollingdean R.A), Catherine Lawrence (Hollingdean R.A), Ray Goble (Elwyn Jones Court), Alan Cooke (Craven Vale, East Area), Di Parkin (U3A), Andrew Hunter (Resident EMTRA), Jane Hunter (Chair EMTRA), Heather Hayes (Chair of Independent Coldean Group), Jenny Simmonds (Deputy Chair of Coldean Group),

Officers: Ododo Dafe (Head of Housing Income, Supply & Customer Service), Geof Gage (Acting Head of Service Property & Investment), Hannah Barker (North Community Engagement Officer)

Guests:

31 APOLOGIES

31.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Amanda Grimshaw, Martin Reid and Sam Warren.

32 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

32.1 **AGREED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2019 were an accurate record.

33 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

33.1 The Chair stated that they took part in the “World’s big sleep out” at Hove Lagoon and gave a brief overview of their experience. It was noted that this had raised £520 and over £50k across the City.

34 RESIDENTS QUESTION TIME

34.1 (Item 1 – Door Entry Systems)

34.2 Residents had the following enquiries, concerns and statements:

- Concern was expressed at the lack of BHCC intervention on anti-social behaviour.
- It was noted there drugs and anti-social behaviour had been present.
- Concern was expressed on the issue of anonymity when providing evidence.

- 34.3 Officers responded to residents enquiries, concerns and statements with the following:
- It was noted that all relevant parties would be consulted with and residents were urged to contact BHCC immediately in future.
 - Residents were further urged to contact BHCC via the channels provided and were reassured that maximum anonymity was guaranteed.
- 34.4 **AGREED** – that the response was satisfactory.
- 34.5 (Item 2 – Fire at Hollingdean Refuse and Recycling Depot)
- 34.6 Residents had the following enquiries, concerns and statements:
- A resident expressed concern regarding an article in the Argus which stated that the review was being held by BHCC and Veolia and that this constituted a conflict of interest.
 - It was stated that a personal survey had been carried out which revealed that many residents were unaware that a fire had occurred and that this could be evidence of BHCC having concealed information.
 - Residents enquired if the Final Report would be taken to ET&S Committee and a future Area Panel.
 - It was requested that SIGs members be invited for a tour of the premises.
 - Alternative methods of communication was suggested as many residents were unfamiliar with social media.
- 34.7 Officers responded to resident's enquiries, concerns and statements with the following:
- It was stated that the response was from a coalition of different sources and that an important aspect of the response was that the final report was still due to be finalised and published by East Sussex Fire and Rescue.
 - Emphasis was placed on the necessity to wait for a full response.
 - It was stated that this could be brought to a future area panel meeting.
 - It was speculated that the issue began with used barbecues taken in from the seafront and that the residual heat may have reignited potentially hazardous waste.
- 34.8 The chair further supported officers' calls to wait for the final report for further concrete information before making any judgements.
- 34.9 **AGREED** – that the response was satisfactory.
- 34.10 (Item 3 – EDB)
- 34.11 Residents noted that they still had not received a bench that was procured via the internet and that the EDB group was looking in to this process.
- 34.12 An officer stated that the process entailed liaising with Mears and that CEOs would engage with residents in future.
- 34.13 **AGREED** – that the response was satisfactory.

35 CITY WIDE REPORTS

35.1 **AGREED** – that the reports were noted.

36 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET UPDATE

36.1 An Officer gave a brief overview of the Environmental Improvement Budget Update. The panel were advised of the concept behind the budget and provided images of before and after cases depicting the positive effect that a quick response scheme provided for residents had.

36.2 Residents had the following enquiries, concerns and statements:

- A resident sought clarification regarding the difference between Estate Development Budget (EDB) bids and Environmental Improvement Budget (EIB) bids.
- It was stated that 1400 surveys were sent out and only 4 responses were received and that this was reflective of poor communication.
- Clarity was sought as to whether residents who didn't keep untidy gardens could be prosecuted.

36.3 Officers responded to resident's enquiries, concerns and statements with the following:

- An officer clarified that EIB bids were to be utilised for a quick route to having works carried out that were not overly major. It was noted that if bids were too large then they would have to be scrutinised.
- It was stated that extra effort would be made to provide better communications in future.
- A "don't walk by" policy was enacted which compelled officers to follow up any issues they witnessed.

36.4 Councillor Knight echoed residents' concerns of poor communications and that this was a reason for low attendance rates.

36.5 **AGREED** – that the report be noted.

37 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COUNCIL HOUSING PRESENTATION

37.1 Mr Cooke and Ms Parkin provided a comprehensive presentation regarding 100 years of Council Housing in Brighton and Hove.

37.2 An officer noted the possibility of publishing the presentation on the BHCC Website.

37.3 **AGREED** – that the panel noted the presentation.

38 TENANT AND RESIDENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES

38.1 A resident noted their Christmas Party success.

38.2 It was stated that St Georges hall work have been carried out including the removal of shrubs.

39 PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2

39.1 The panel considered a brief overview of the results and findings found in the Quarter 2 Performance Report. It was noted that of the findings, lift response times had improved and that there were still some challenges in areas such as around help desk response times.

39.2 **AGREED** – that the report be noted.

40 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

40.1 **AGREED** – that the RAMS paper be noted.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of