

**RATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETING**  
**RATTON SCHOOL, PARK AVENUE, EASTBOURNE**

**3.45 PM 21 October 2008**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

David Tomlinson – Chairman  
C.Councillor Michael Tunwell  
Councillor Colin Belsey  
Councillor Sandie Howlett  
Councillor Barbara Goodall  
Police Sgt Fiona Munro - Sussex Police  
PC Keith Rockingham– Sussex Police  
PCSO Austin Milson – Sussex Police  
PC Lee Willsher- Sussex Police  
Stuart Collingham – Community Enforcement Officer EBC  
Michael Marchant – Community Enforcement Officer EBC  
David Linsell – Head Teacher Ratton School  
Jan Newens – Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch  
Alf Pulfer – Ratton Neighbourhood Watch  
David Lee – Rodmill Residents  
Harry Stanley – Rodmill Residents  
Sandy Boyce-Sharpe – Friends of Hampden Park  
Darren Gunn – Park Lane Residents  
Derek Briggs – Rodmill Residents  
Barrie Wennington – Rodmill Residents  
Sarah Trainor – Ratton School Student  
Samantha Joubert – Ratton School Student  
Jill Tomlinson – Minutes

**APOLOGIES**

Charlotte Schram – Sunrise Senior Living  
John Harmer – DGH  
George Williams – Little Ratton Residents Assoc.  
Norman Russell – Rodmill Retailers

**OBSERVERS:**

John Carey – Langney residents

**CHAIRMAN – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed Darren Gunn on behalf of Park Lane residents, Police Sgt Fiona Munro, who has replaced Sgt Keith Wells, P.C Lee Willsher,

Stuart Collingham, and Michael Marchant - Community Enforcement Officers, Eastbourne Borough Council, Barrie Wennington and Derek Briggs from Rodmill Residents, John Carey – Observer from Langney and Rattton School Students, Sarah Trainor and Samantha Joubert.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes circulated and accepted.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman confirmed that the Rattton Neighbourhood Panel website is now fully operational as part of the Eastbourne Neighbourhood Panel website, details of which can be found by logging on to [www.eastbournenp.org](http://www.eastbournenp.org). It is encouraging to note that the site has already received a good number of hits.

Austin Milson advised that options for publishing details of persons convicted of theft from retail premises was still under consideration and he hoped to report back at a future meeting.

Councillor Barbara Goodall outlined progress on applying funds from the Devolved Ward Budget for Rattton. To date, it is intended to plant a tree surrounded by a bench adjacent to the Post Office in Wish Hill. Following an approach from Norman Russell, cycle racks will be installed for those using shops in the Rodmill area and visiting nearby. It was confirmed that any surplus remaining is likely to be carried over to the next financial year.

### **REVIEW OF PROGRESS 2008**

The Chairman reminded members that the first meeting of the Panel was held in February with only two residents present. Since that time, membership has reached a total of thirty members.

Considerable progress has been made in addressing three early concerns identified by residents:

1. Litter
2. Traffic Management
3. Communication with agencies.

Following the installation of additional litter bins in Park Avenue, supported by increased visits by SITA and school litter patrols, significant progress had been made in reducing the amount of litter in Park Avenue. It is proposed to install additional litter bins in the Chalvington/Selmeston Road areas early in the New Year.

Following extensive discussion throughout the year including a visit by County Cllr. Matthew Lock, the Lead Cabinet Member responsible, a number of concerns expressed by residents about traffic issues have been highlighted. As a result, it is hoped that a traffic calming survey for Park Avenue and the surrounding area will be undertaken in 2009. Also, the need for a footpath in Park Lane will continue to be kept under review and it is anticipated that a consultation process for Park Lane residents and others likely to be affected will take place in 2009.

Because of comprehensive discussion and circulation of contact details, many of the problems expressed by residents who had trouble in contacting agencies and organisations, notably Eastbourne Borough Council has been eliminated. There is no doubt that the introduction of a Borough wide Eastbourne Neighbourhood Panel website ( [www.eastbournenp.org](http://www.eastbournenp.org) ) has proved to be a useful point of contact and information for local residents.

The issue of all day parking in the Rodmill area continues to remain as a major concern for many residents. Concern was also expressed over the difficulty experienced by refuse vehicles and other large commercial vehicles when seeking to gain access to a number of residential properties. Cllr. Belsey was able to confirm that proposals to introduce Traffic Orders aimed at restricting parking in some areas of the Rodmill estate were now well advanced although some work remains to be done, it is anticipated that formal consultation with the Rodmill community will commence as early as late January 2009. He undertook to update Panel members in due course.

#### **PROPOSED CHANGES – NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL FORMAT**

Sgt. Fiona Munro, who has recently replaced Sgt Keith Wells, addressed a number of concerns raised by Panel members over the proposed introduction of additional Panels that would be likely to cross Ward boundaries and impact on the role of the Ratton Neighbourhood Panel. She was able to provide an assurance that apart from some minor changes, it was anticipated that the Ratton Neighbourhood Panel would be largely unaffected by any proposed changes elsewhere in Eastbourne.

#### **DEVELOPING THE ROLE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

It was recognised that Neighbourhood Watch Panels sometimes suffer from a low profile and are seen by some as what amounts to a 'peeper's charter'. At the same time, it was acknowledged that an effective Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can act as a valuable role in both supporting the Police and preventing crime.

Due to time constraints, it was not possible to address the issue in detail. As a result, a short presentation was given by Jan Newens and Alf Pulfer followed by distribution of latest Neighbourhood Watch information. The item will be placed on the agenda for more detailed discussion and review of what can be achieved in Ratton, at the next Panel meeting in January 2009.

#### **NOMINATIONS – CHAIRMAN RATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

The Chairman advised that he had been in post for almost one year and others may wish to have an opportunity to be considered for the role. He asked that nominations be forwarded to him in time to be considered for the next Panel meeting on 13 January 2009.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman reminded members that the Panel had benefited from a number of high profile speakers who had addressed the Panel throughout the year. He asked for names of persons who members believe should be invited in 2009, to be forwarded to him in due course for consideration by the Panel.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2009. 3.45 pm Ratton School.