

**RATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETING**

**RATTON SCHOOL, PARK AVENUE, EASTBOURNE**

**3.45 PM 30 APRIL 2009**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

David Tomlinson – Chairman  
C.Councillor Michael Tunwell  
Councillor Colin Belsey  
Councillor Barbara Goodall  
Michael Marchant – Community Enforcement Officer EBC  
David Linsell – Head Teacher Ratton School  
David Lee – Rodmill Residents  
Sandy Boyce-Sharpe – Friends of Hampden Park  
Alf Pulfer – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator  
Darren Gunn – Park Lane Residents  
John Crane – Park Lane Residents  
Philip Batten – Park Lane Residents  
PC Keith Rockingham – Sussex Police  
Jo Haffenden Student Ratton School  
Beth Davies Student Ratton School

**APOLOGIES**

Police Sgt Fiona Munro - Sussex Police  
Jan Newens – Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch  
Harry Stanley – Rodmill Residents  
Clyde Barnett – Park Lane Residents  
John Harmer - DGH  
Charlotte Schram – Sunrise Senior Living  
Councillor Sandie Howlett  
PCSO Austin Milson – Sussex Police

The Chairman confirmed that Norman Russell, Rodmill Post Office had resigned from the Panel as a result of timing of meetings which clash with his busy afternoon period of business. George Williams Little Ratton Residents Association also resigned as a result of additional family commitments but will endeavour to find another representative to sit on the Panel for the Association.

**CHAIRMAN – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed Elizabeth Bowring, East Sussex County Council Trading Standards and Philip Batten on behalf of Park Lane residents.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes circulated and amendments to the item dealing with the 'Park Lane Petition Update Report' dealt with.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

John Crane sought clarification over the way in which the petition had been conducted and in particular the reason for variation between numbers announced at the last meeting and those recorded later in the Minutes. The Chairman reminded members that at the last meeting, he had said that the figures announced at the meeting were provisional and did not take account of those associated with Ratton School who had signed the petition. John Crane considered that the way in which the question on the petition had been phrased was misleading since there were more opposed to the petition than the numbers appeared to suggest.

Cllr. Belsey advised that he and fellow Councillors had canvassed the views of residents in Park Lane on their views about the need for a footpath and he believed the numbers against the proposal for a footpath to be greater than the petition appeared to reflect. The Chairman proposed that the matter be discussed in more detail when the issue was reached on the agenda.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRMAN**

David Tomlinson confirmed that he was standing down as Chairman with immediate effect in view of other commitments.

He advised that David Linsell had agreed to act as interim Chairman. The new Chairman, David Linsell confirmed that he was willing to undertake the responsibility of Chairman on an interim basis only since he believed that responsibility for Chairing the meeting should sit, very properly, with a resident from the Ratton community rather than himself as Headteacher of Ratton School.

On assuming the role of Chairman, David Linsell asked that on behalf of members, appreciation be recorded for the way in which David Tomlinson had undertaken the role of Chairman on behalf of the Ratton community.

## **COLD CALLING ZONE PROPOSALS**

Elizabeth Bowring, on behalf of East Sussex County Council Trading Standards, outlined the way in which Cold Calling Zones could be developed including details of the consultation period, opportunity for objection and cost. Sandy Boyce-Sharpe sought clarification on how long from first approach to implementation and was advised that two months was a typical time scale. Further discussion took place on responsibility for placing signs, implementation and responsibility. Alf Pulfer suggested that there may be a role for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators to link in with the consultation process with residents prior to implementation.

It was suggested that at some stage, the whole Borough of Eastbourne could come a Cold Calling Zone, but in the meantime, the most appropriate areas for Ratton were seen as Little Ratton, Rodmill, comprising Burton Road at its junction with Rodmill Drive and part of Willingdon Village.

David Tomlinson advised that had Harry Stanley been present at the meeting, he would have been able to confirm that he had consulted with the majority of residents in Burton Road who were in favour of a Cold Calling Zone. It was agreed that there might be an opportunity for funding from either the Devolved Ward Budget or Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership.

Sandy Boyce Sharpe agreed to take the issue to the Old Ratton Residents Association and seek views on a proposed scheme for the area.

Elizabeth Bowring was thanked for her valuable presentation and confirmed that she would be pleased to attend a future meeting to provide further information should it be required.

Proposals to be addressed in detail at the next meeting.

#### **PARK LANE PETITION – UPDATE REPORT**

A lengthy discussion took place over the way in which John Crane considered the petition had been carried out since it only asked residents and others if they supported a request to provide a footpath in Park Lane for use by residents. There was no option, in his view, for those who were against the proposal to respond. It was suggested by one member that an option was available to residents who could conduct a further petition inviting response from those against the proposal for a footpath. However, this was not seen as a viable option. David Tomlinson pointed out that the issue had been under discussion for almost a year and a number of residents, parents of students and others, felt very strongly about the need for a footpath. He went on to say that, it was by no means certain that East Sussex County Council would proceed with the matter but in any event, it was important to place the matter before the County Council for consideration and invite wider consultation when every view could be considered.

Philip Batten asked if there had been any consideration given to the proposal for a 20mph speed limit in Park Lane. Cllr. Tunwell confirmed that he had been actively involved in considering a wide range of traffic management issues for the area including a variation to current speed limits but it was unrealistic to expect immediate action in view of financial implications for the County Council.

#### **RATTON CRIME UPDATE**

PC Keith Rockingham confirmed that crime in the Ratton Ward continued to remain low and the general position for Ratton remained good. A comparison with crime figures for a similar period on 2008 showed only slight variation. Cllr. Belsey asked for clarification on police response following an incident when seven cars were damaged in one night. PC

Rockingham was unable to comment on reports other than to say that it is important for people to report any crime in the area in order that the police have a true picture of criminal activity within the Ratton area.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD DISTRICT PANEL REPORT**

Cllr. Tunwell confirmed that he had attended on behalf of Ratton Neighbourhood Panel since the Chairman was committed at another meeting taking place at the same time. The changed format for Neighbourhood District Panel meetings has resulted in a significant number of those attending which now include Borough and County Councillors, Chairs of each Neighbourhood Panel and others involved in the work of Neighbourhood Panels. As a result, the Police have taken the decision to split the District Panel Forum into a number of separate groups. Questions remain over the viability of this approach by the Police. Cllr. Tunwell confirmed that the priorities for Ratton remain as:

1. Traffic Management – speeding, traffic calming and Park Lane footpath requirement.
2. All day parking in Rodmill.
3. Litter

Although the issue of litter has been reduced significantly in recent months as a result of positive action by Ratton School.

### **RODMILL PARKING UPDATE**

Cllr. Belsey confirmed that the consultation process is now over and it could be expected that good progress would be made towards implementation as discussed at previous Neighbourhood Panel meetings.

Cllr. Tunwell confirmed that the Eastbourne Borough Council will now take over the issue within a formula laid down by East Sussex County Council. He went on to confirm that junction protection is the priority and expressed surprise that the question of restricted hours on parking – say 4 hours, did not appear to have been considered at this time. However, we should wait the results of consultation before drawing any conclusions. Following a question from David Lee, Cllr. Tunwell confirmed that he would expect the process of implementation to start in about two months but that could be affected by any objections that need to be heard by the Committee set up for that purpose.

David Lee advised members that a meeting on parking in general would take place in Eldon Road at 6pm on Thursday 7 May 2009 at the same location as the previous meeting earlier in the year.

Cllr. Belsey confirmed that he would be attending.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH DEVELOPMENTS**

Alf Pulfer circulated the latest Neighbourhood Watch booklet containing a wide range of information for the benefit of residents. He went on to confirm that a new co-ordinator, David Wilkins, Averil Gardens had agreed to act as co-ordinator for the Park Avenue area. He was able to confirm the establishment of a significant number of different schemes but expressed concern at the condition of a number of Neighbourhood Watch signs in the area.

Concerns about anti-social behaviour in the Selmeston/Chalvington Rd area were thought to have been caused by students from Ratton School. The Chairman outlined action he had already taken to address the issue and confirmed that he would be discussing further measures with Sgt. Fiona Munro.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

David Lee expressed concern that the hedge at 99 Selmeston Road is in need of being trimmed back in order to prevent obstruction to pedestrians. Michael Marchant agreed to follow up on behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council.

David Lee went on to express concern at the amount of litter abuse thought to be the responsibility of Sussex Downs College students in the area of the bus stop in Kings Drive. Michael Marchant confirmed that he would follow up the point and where appropriate, issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Cllr. Belsey confirmed that he was already seeking action to relocate the bus stop where many of the problems arise adjacent to a damaged wall and he was now in discussion with Stagecoach.

Concern was expressed about the amount of fly tipping at the rear of shops on the Rodmill Parade. It is to be hoped that CCTV can be installed in due course. In the meantime, Michael Marchant agreed to discuss the issue with property owners and others in order to identify the source of the problem.

Darren Gunn raised concerns over the amount of weeds on the footpath between Park Lane and Park Avenue along the side of Ratton School – designated as a public right of way. Michael Marchant arranged to follow up the point for action.

Concern was expressed that tree roots are causing some damage to the surface within the area of the pedestrian controlled traffic lights in Kings Drive and as a result, the surface is now in a dangerous condition. Michael Marchant agreed to follow up on behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 9 June 2009, 3.45 pm Ratton School.