

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
PC Keith Rockingham– Sussex Police
PCSO Austin Milson – Sussex Police
David Linsell – Head Teacher Ratton School
Alf Pulfer – Ratton Neighbourhood Watch
Charlotte Schram – Sunrise Senior Living
Eve Carter – Sunrise Senior Living
David Lee – Rodmill Residents
Harry Stanley – Rodmill Residents
Norman Russell – Rodmill Retailers
Sandy Boyce-Sharpe – Friends of Hampden Park
George Williams – Little Ratton Residents Association
David Kemp – Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership
Roisin Rampley– Ratton School
Laksha Thulasitharan– Ratton School
Jill Tomlinson – Minutes

OBSERVERS:

Ian Weeks – Sovereign Harbour – Neighbourhood Panel
Jan Weeks – Sovereign Harbour – Neighbourhood Panel
Tracy Moles – North Langney Forum

CHAIRMAN – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed David Kemp on behalf of Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership, Jan and Ian Weeks from Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel, Tracy Moles Vice Chair for North Langney Forum, PC Keith Rockingham, Sussex Police, Eve Carter, Sunrise Senior Living on behalf of residents, Roisin Rampley and Laksha Thulasitharan, students attending from Ratton School.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Barbara Goodall
Councillor Sandie Howlett
John Harmer – DGH
Sgt Keith Wells – Sussex Police
David Selby – Sussex Police
Jan Newens – Vice Chair Eastbourne Neighbourhood Panel

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes circulated and accepted.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman invited Cllr Belsey to update the Panel on the application for Westlords to be given Village Green status. Cllr Belsey confirmed that he had now received three responses to support the application to define community use of the site.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Chairman outlined a number of ongoing traffic management issues which had been discussed in recent months including:

Park Lane – request for footpath.

Park Avenue – request for bus lay-by.

Rodmill – vehicle congestion.

Park Avenue – traffic calming.

Peak time traffic flow – congestion.

Wish Hill – Walnut Tree Walk – Willingdon Road – right of way indicator for vehicles.

Speed restriction – Willingdon Road.

A new issue was identified by Charlotte Schram who expressed concern on behalf of residents who were experiencing difficulty crossing the busy Willingdon Road in the area adjacent to the Sunrise Senior Living premises.

The Chairman confirmed that a number of residents had put forward proposals for consideration including an option for a one-way system in Park Lane and Park Avenue, no-right turn from Park Avenue into Kings Drive and the need for a feasibility study to examine congestion and peak time traffic flows.

County Cllr Michael Tunwell was invited to provide an update on how some of these issues might be progressed in the coming months. He reminded the Panel that last May, County Cllr Matthew Lock had taken a number of these issues away for consideration but there were no short term solutions and finance would always be a significant consideration. He confirmed that he would seek to have traffic calming for Park Avenue on the agenda on the next Financial year. He also advised that traffic flow and congestion will be taken into consideration as part of the traffic calming survey next year. County Cllr Michael Tunwell went on to outline the latest position following the introduction of parking enforcement for the Borough of Eastbourne.

Cllr Belsey advised that it would be most unlikely that approval will be given for a pedestrian crossing in Willingdon Road adjacent to Sunrise Senior Living since it would not meet the criteria required on this busy section of road.

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL WEBSITE

At an earlier meeting of the Panel, it was recognised that there was a need to develop a system to improve the means by which the Panel could both communicate its message and

become aware of concerns within the community including the importance of identifying priorities.

The Chairman invited Ian and Jan Weeks to outline details of the proposed Eastbourne Neighbourhood Panel website which aims to address a number of these issues. He confirmed that a meeting with the Police Commander for Eastbourne, Dick Coates, had already taken place when it was confirmed that Sussex Police would support the proposed website and provide funding. The Panel was reminded that it would fall to individual Panels to ensure that current information was available on each Neighbourhood Panel area of the Borough wide website. Ian Weeks confirmed that a practical demonstration of the new website would be made at the conclusion of the meeting for those who wished to see a working model of the website. For information, the website can be accessed at www.eastbournenp.org

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL PROPOSALS

It had been hoped that Inspector Tony Wakefield would be present to outline proposed developments for additional Neighbourhood Panels throughout the Borough of Eastbourne but he was unable to be present because of other commitments.

The Chairman confirmed that he had attended a meeting earlier that day called by Inspector Wakefield when he advised that the Police would like to see a total of twenty-one panels in operation for Eastbourne and this might mean some change to boundaries for existing Neighbourhood Panels. Further details will be made available in due course.

RATTON COMMUNITY PRIORITIES – UPDATE

The issue of parking congestion and access for commercial vehicles in the Rodmill area continues. Residents and retailers have expressed frustration at the apparent lack of action; as a result, there have been calls for a public meeting aimed at getting key organisations together to address the problem. The issue has been the subject of ongoing discussion by Panel members for some months and Cllr Belsey advised that Control Orders would be in place in due course, perhaps as early as December. However, he warned that the consultation period can sometimes take many months resulting in further delay to resolve the issue.

Norman Russell advised that following the decision to focus greater attention on the problem of retail crime and crime prevention, some success had been achieved resulting in several arrests of theft. He asked why the Police could not give more publicity to identifying alleged offenders including the publication of photographs. The Police agreed to take the issue away and seek further advice. The Chairman also undertook to see what action could be taken to address the point.

LATEST CRIME TRENDS AND RESPONSE

The police confirmed that Ratton remains as one of the lowest areas in Eastbourne for crime added to which it was reassuring to know that some success had been achieved in tackling retail crime and related matters on the Rodmill Shopping Parade. Sandy Boyce-Sharpe asked the police to say what was being done to tackle the activities of criminals who had been displaced from the town centre because of police action and were now targeting areas such as Hampden Park on the outlying parts of the town. The police confirmed some success had

been achieved resulting in a number of arrest and police operations would continue in these areas.

EASTBOURNE CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

David Kemp gave a most stimulating and reassuring outline on the work being undertaken by the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership. He reinforced the importance of Neighbourhood Panels such as the Ratton Panel in building community confidence through a partnership approach to tackling crime. A number of Panel members took up the invitation to provide contact details in order to receive more information about the role of the Partnership. Copies of the latest Partnership Newsletter together with priorities and latest crime figures for Eastbourne were circulated for information.

DEVOLVED WARD BUDGET

Councillor Belsey advised that no decision had been taken so far on how to allocate spending for the 'Devolved Ward Budget' allocated for the Ratton Ward. He would however be circulating a News Letter shortly inviting suggestions on how the money might be spent.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be considered by the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd December 2008 at 3.45 p.m Ratton School

NB THE MEETING WILL END NO LATER THAN 4.45 p.m DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS AT RATTON SCHOOL.