

RATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETING
RATTON SCHOOL, PARK AVENUE, EASTBOURNE

3.45 PM 9 September 2008

MINUTES

PRESENT:

David Tomlinson – Chairman
Councillor Bob Lacey OBE – Chairman East Sussex County Council
C.Councillor Michael Tunwell
Councillor Barbara Goodall
Councillor Colin Belsey
Councillor Sandie Howlett
Sgt Keith Wells – Sussex Police
PCSO Austin Milson – Sussex Police
David Linsell – Head Teacher Ratton School
Jan Newens – Vice-Chairman Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch
Alf Pulfer – Ratton Neighbourhood Watch
Charlotte Schram – Sunrise Senior Living
David Lee – Rodmill Residents
Harry Stanley – Rodmill Residents
Norman Russell – Rodmill Retailers
Phoebe Cunningham – Ratton School
Bryony Bruzon-Edwards – Ratton School
Sarah Trainor – Ratton School
Cameron Wiltshire – Ratton School
Blue Dyer – Ratton School
Hannah Oving – Ratton School
Jill Tomlinson – Minutes

OBSERVERS:

Jan Weeks – Sovereign Harbour – Neighbourhood Panel

CHAIRMAN – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed the Chairman of the East Sussex County Council, Cllr Bob Lacey, as the guest speaker together with new members of the Panel, Norman Russell on behalf of Rodmill Retailers, Harry Stanley on behalf of Rodmill residents, and six students attending from Ratton School. Jan Weeks, was present as an observer from Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel.

APOLOGIES

Sandy Boyce-Sharpe – Friends of Hampden Park
John Harmer – DGH
David Selby – Sussex Police
Tony McWall – Neighbourhood Watch
George Williams – Little Ratton Residents Association.

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 was still waiting for responses to support the application to define community use of the site over a number of years.

The Chairman confirmed that there had been only limited support of a proposal to develop a Ratton Neighbourhood Panel newsletter, added to which, significant delivery problems had been identified. Panel members were provided with details of a community based Government funded internet based project that enabled people to report, view, or discuss local problems they have identified, to their Local Council. Details of the website www.fixmystreet.com was circulated for the information of Panel members who were invited to ensure that the information is more widely circulated for the benefit of the community.

The Chairman expressed concern that a headline reading ‘County Council slammed for ignoring Little Ratton’ created an impression that no action had been taken to address the issue of roads and pavements in the area when in reality Ratton Councillors had been actively involved in addressing the issue. It was felt that an opportunity had been lost to address the issue when County Cllr Matthew Lock attended a previous Panel meeting.

ESCC PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS

The proposal to introduce Traffic Regulation Orders for Eastbourne was dealt with in detail by County Cllr Michael Tunwell and the latest position is set out in his report (attached).

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Chairman reminded Panel members that it had been agreed at the last meeting that the Panel would continue to support David Linsell’s view that he would like to see the provision of a footpath in Park Lane and the provision of a school bus lay by in Park Avenue. It was acknowledged that no short term solutions are available.

Both Harry Stanley and David Lee presented details of irresponsible parking by commercial vehicles parking on corners particularly Rangemore Drive and Selmeston Road where Tuesdays and Thursdays are the worst days. Sgt Wells undertook to ensure that Police activity would continue to address the issue.

A number of further traffic issues were discussed after which, County Cllr Michael Tunwell presented a report to the Panel outlining the latest position (report attached).

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman Cllr Bob Lacey OBE, after congratulating the school on achieving excellent GCSE results this year reinforced the importance of Neighbourhood Panels such as that for Ratton. He presented a stimulating outline on a range of issues being actively addressed by East Sussex County Council.

Cllr Belsey raised concern over the issue of vehicles parking on pavements, when Sgt Wells confirmed that to do so can amount to an offence and where appropriate, a fixed penalty ticket will be issued to offenders.

CRIME TRENDS AND RESPONSE

Sgt Keith Wells presented an outline on crime trends and Police response in Ratton and the adjoining Hampden Park Ward. Although crime in Ratton continues to remain low with only 27 crimes reported in the month of August, he confirmed that there have been significant problems in the Hampden Park Ward and as a result, a comprehensive Police operation to deal with the problem continues. Sgt Wells confirmed that successful Police operations in the town centre had resulted in local offenders taking an opportunity to commit crime in the Hampden Park area and the current Police operation was taking account of the trend.

Norman Russell, on behalf of Rodmill Retailers, raised concerns about unlawful drug taking, urinating in the car park adjacent to the shops on Rodmill Parade and the continuing problem of theft from shops. Sgt Wells confirmed that the Police will continue to take appropriate action in response to the issues.

UPDATE REPORTS – COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

At the request of a number of residents, the item was placed on the agenda in order that Ratton County and Borough Councillors would have an opportunity to bring to the attention of the Panel any matters they might wish. County and Borough Councillors advised that there were no update reports to present for the information of the Panel at this time.

RATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL OPEN MEETING

Following an outline of experiences elsewhere in the town, it was proposed by Sgt Wells and agreed by the Panel, that at this time a Ratton Neighbourhood Panel open meeting would not be the most appropriate method for bringing issues to the notice of the community.

CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

In the absence of David Kemp on behalf of the Crime reduction Partnership, who had been called upon at short notice to deal with another commitment, it was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda for the next Panel meeting.

DEVOLVED WARD BUDGET PROPOSALS

Panel members had been invited to put forward any proposals to Borough Councillors that might meet the criteria for spend in the sum of £10,000 on work that would have maximum positive impact within the Ratton Ward. At this time, only one project meets the strict criteria namely, the provision of wooden bench in Willingdon Village at a cost of about £2,000. Two further projects, the purchase of suitable equipment to improve the quality of life of former Ratton school pupil, Royal Marine Joseph Townsend, seriously injured during an attack in Afghanistan and a one off purchase of equipment to be used at the Eastbourne

District Hospital. However, it was recognised that these two additional projects fell clearly outside the strict criteria for spend – a point confirmed by Cllr Belsey.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

At the request of Sussex Police, the Chairman read out a note setting out the brief circumstances concerned with the sudden death of a young man earlier in the day.

Jan Newens invited Panel members to continue in their efforts to put out the Neighbourhood Watch message in order to attract more participants.

County Cllr Tunwell asked if a response had been given to the message from Sandy Boyce-Sharpe on behalf of Friends of Hampden Park, over a number of concerns about criminal activity in the area. The Chairman confirmed that a response had been given and a meeting with Sussex Police already arranged.

At the invitation of Sgt Wells, the Panel identified three priorities for action in the coming months:

1. Unlawful and irresponsible parking in the area of Framfield Way.
2. Retail crime and crime prevention issues for retail premises on Rodmill Parade.
3. Traffic management with particular emphasis on all-day on street parking.

Apologies for the next meeting on 21 October were offered by Councillors Howlett and Goodall.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21 October 2008 – 3.45 pm at Ratton School.

Meeting closed at 5.20 pm.