RATTON AND RODMILL AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

Present: Chairman Sandy Boyce-Sharpe, David Wilkins, Carolyn Gould, EBC/ESCC Councillor Colin Belsey, Neil Peters Neighbourhood First, Dr Isaac Suleman MBE, Mary Smillie NW, Bernadette Stack NW, Derek Briggs NW, Consuelo Calypso Sheppard NW, minutes secretary Janice Vango.

Apologies: EBC Councillor Colin Murdock, EBC Councillor Tony Freebody.

Chairman welcomed everyone and briefly explained the origin and aims of Neighbourhood Panels. Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of last meeting on 13 June 2018 approved.

Matters arising from previous meeting:

a) Public meeting re cycleway. Explained and discussed. The original ESCC proposal was amended by the Officers when put to Cabinet and was modified regarding the cycleway on A2270 in our Panel Area, and the traffic calming on Park Avenue, as a result of the feelings expressed at the public meeting. The resurfacing in Park Avenue has resulted in a much improved road surface.

b) Verge parking ban. Town-wide ban not feasible, but Panels can request specific areas. Verge parking in Kings Drive and Park Avenue West can be reported to the parking department, who are able to attend and book the culprits. Cllr Belsey can provide the contact details if required.

Correspondence None

Speedwatch update Neil who is trained up, explained the system. Speeding car drivers are sent a warning letter. In the case of excessive speeding, a PCSO will visit the driver to issue a warning. Streets may be nominated on the Speedwatch website, but can only be those with a 30 mph limit, and prior to approval need to be risk assessed. Suggestions put forward for Babylon Way, Park Avenue and Park Lane. Neil to follow up and confirm to Chairman. Local Councillors still intending to become trained.

Councillors’ report (Colin B arrived at 5 pm and Neil left at the same time)

Little Ratton Archway Colin B has discussed this with the Ratton Academy and is hoping they will adopt the site for classes in horticulture and preservation. Ownership of the structure is still unclear though thought to belong to EBC. Isaac, who initially reported the residents’ complaints re student vandalism, confirmed he has not received any more complaints recently.

Double yellow lines for Burton Road Ongoing, Colin M is liaising with the residents.

Westlords changing facility Ongoing. Needs funding. Possible converted container, or unused classroom portakabin. Councillors to follow up.

Pathway widening in Ratton Woods Debris has been cleared to allow tractor access.

Devolved budget A portion of the budget was spent on speed signs for Ratton estate. Derek reported speeding cars coming down Selmeston Road, Rodmill. Further report of speeding down Parkway. Potential further use for sign when current exercise completed was discussed.

Neighbourhood First Report

Neil advised that Carly has now left on maternity leave but the team is up to strength again with the appointment of two new officers Jordan and Joanne. Neil to forward their contact details.
Posters at roundabouts etc., have been removed. Road name plates in Parkway replaced, and another installed at the end of the road. Road name plates can be cleaned or replaced by Neighbourhood First. Road direction sign issues/overhanging foliage are the responsibility of EBC and can be reported to Lee Michael, EBC Open Spaces Special Advisor tel 01323 410000. Trees on highway obscuring signage need to be reported to ESCC Highway Stewards online. This can be via Councillor or Neighbourhood First. Trees on private land obscuring signage are the responsibility of the owners, but ESCC still needs to be informed.

**Beach Clean Events**  Saturday 15 Sept, meet 10.00 am at the Redoubt, Sunday 16 Sept, 10.00 am at the Pier.

Report from Carly re waste on Linkway bridleway. Complicated ownership issue. Apparently houses in The Combe own the land out to and including the bridle way and the fences at the bottom of their garden have been erected a few feet short of their boundary. Therefore it is not unreasonable for them to tip their garden waste over their fences, it will land on their land. However, heavy rain on the Downs picks up this waste and brings it down the bridle way, onto Ratoon Drive and potentially could be responsible for blocking drains, gullies, etc. Neil advised he had had meetings in the past re this issue but would discuss with colleagues the possibility of arranging a meeting between the Chairman of the Panel, the Chairman of the Combe Residents Association, the Public Rights of Way Team, ESCC, and Neighbourhood First so that the issue could be aired again. Neil to follow up and liaise with Sandy Boyce-Sharpe.

Stinging nettles on footpath near Wish Hill have now been cut.

Neil and Carly personally litter picked the footpath along A2270 from roundabout to Church Street and more than a bin liner full of rubbish removed. Keir have been advised and asked to be pro active.

Rats. Problems at Hampden Park, Ratton Estate, and Sussex Downs College. EBC have expressed difficulty re the use of poison in areas accessed by the public, children and pets. Treatment plan to target island in Hampden Park Lake. However, clearly a boat is needed for this task and EBC advise they don’t have a boat. The Friends of Hampden Park contributed towards a boat for Trevor Weeks some while ago, possibly this could be utilised? Problem arises as people will feed bread to the ducks, they are over fed and the excess is happily feeding the rats. There are signs at the Park requesting the public not to feed the birds; there is no law against it. Neil will report progress on this ongoing issue.

**Police Report**  Fiona is currently on secondment. There have been a couple of burglaries in the area. Further details requested.

**Neighbourhood Watch Report**  Consuela was introduced to the meeting by Isaac as the new liaison to this Panel for Neighbourhood Watch for our Panel area. She was warmly welcomed and congratulated on having brought to the meeting local co-ordinators responsible for different districts. Very useful to have local input to situations.

Isaac had to spend a significant amount of time helping a resident over the bank holiday. The resident was suspicious and worried about a man saying he was from Neighbourhood First who cold-called on the bank holiday, making enquiries regarding personal details apropos the electoral roll. Isaac e-mailed Colin B, reported it on 101, and called the Police. It transpired, as Neil explained, that EBC do employ staff to undertake electoral roll clarification calls on properties as extracurricular activities in their own time, paid as overtime/upon results. They find this the most cost effective way of keeping the records up to date particularly with holiday properties, second homes, etc. However, concern expressed that domestic householders do not expect visitors from Council employees at weekends, evenings and Bank Holidays, particularly as, at those times, it is impossible to telephone their office and verify that they are legitimate. Colin B to follow this up with EBC.

Colin B stated a similar EBC employee had also gained entry, without permission, to the sheltered housing in Framfield Way. When challenged on site by Colin Murdoch, the man claimed to have got permission from the manager! Colin M is the Manager and could therefore challenge the intruder. Both Councillors have reported this incident, which was clearly not correct.
Consuela reported that 3 elderly ladies in Chalk Farm Close had contacted Neighbourhood Watch through her, regarding 2 hooded youngsters hanging around and seen taking pictures of one of the properties which is known to be often empty due to inpatient in DGH. The Police were called, but did not attend until 3 days later. Consuela reassured the ladies, discussed various security measures, and provided Neighbourhood Watch stickers etc. Chairman will report this and ask for a report from the local Police. Perhaps a PCSO could be requested to attend that area from time to time?

Consuela has been contacted by a lady in Poplar Walk (off Hazelwood Avenue) regarding defibrillators, as there are a lot of elderly residents there. Colin B explained the residents would have to buy one themselves, and maintain it themselves. In the area, there is already one at Ratton Academy, the Bowls Club in Hampden Park, Ballantynes, Green Street Surgery in Old Town, and Willingdon Golf Club. Colin may try to organise one for the Framfield Way shops. The ORRA Facebook page is collating a map of the town with the position of defibrillators to be shown.

**Ratton Academy Issues** No issues reported. E-mail received, stating their merger with Ocklynge School has had a successful 9 months, and the schools are working more closely together.

**Rodmill and Ocklynge district Issues** - none reported.

**Ratton and Willingdon Village Issues** - none reported.

**Other reports:**

Consuela reported difficulty accessing Victoria Drive from Southdown Road. The “keep clear” box is frequently blocked by vehicles. Advice is that ‘keep clear boxes’ are not enforceable by law, unlike yellow grids. Highways have been unable to help. Colin B will enquire as to whether this can be amended.

**Any other business**

a) **Cross Levels Way planning application.** The meeting was advised that there is a planning application with EBC regarding a car sales showroom, two pubs/restaurants and a service road proposed for the strip of land between Cross Levels Way and the Hospital perimeter. Consultation regarding this has now closed and it is not clear when it will come before the Planning Committee. There have been many objections but the CEO of the DGH had advised Cllr Belsey that they had not been formally advised of the application. It did not appear on the 28 September Planning Agenda so in all probability it will go to Planning at their September meeting. The Ratton Councillor advised they intended to attend. It is a speculative application. The land is owned by ESCC.

b) **Events planned to be held in Hampden Park in 2019.** Events such as “Feastival” may possibly be taken off the seafront and moved to Hampden Park, but details unclear as yet. Cllr. Murdoch to be requested to advise what plans he is aware of.

**Thanks to our hosts,** Sunrise Senior Living.

**IMPORTANT – there will be NO Panel meeting in December 2018.**

**Dates of next meetings:**

- Wednesday 9 January 2019
- Wednesday 10 April 2019
- Wednesday 10 July 2019
- Wednesday 9 October 2019.

Please be sure to put these in your new diaries at the earliest convenience.