

**Notes of meeting of the
Hampden Park West Neighbourhood Panel
22nd September 2009**

Attending :

Wayne Dunn – ETC School Council	William Pratt – ETC Community Officer
Emma Jordan – EBC Community Enforcement	Cheryl Bowditch – Raglan Housing Ass
Anthony Nichols – Raglan Housing Ass	Annette Spence – 1 st HP Scouts
John Spence – HP Scout Hut	Keith Pryke – The Filling Station
Sam Chapman - Paperlane	Pam Rollison – Neighbourhood Watch
Zoe Wood – Crime Reduction Partnership	Jeanie Sowerby – Neighbourhood Watch
Olive Woodall – Borough Councillor	Brian Stimpson – Park Denture Practice
Lin Costen – Hampden Park Infant School	Angie Hubbard – Hampden Park Infant Schl.
Sophia Harvey – ESCC Library & info. Service	PCSO Sue Robinson – Sussex Police
Andrew Tilney – EBC Parks & Gardens Dept	Sgt Fiona Munro – Sussex Police
Gary Dell – Southern Trains	Rita Herbert – Trustee Railway Club
Mike Thompson – County & Borough Councillor	Fr Robin Tree – St Mary's
Sandy Boyce-Sharpe – Chairman of Neighbourhood Panel and of Friends of Hampden Park	

ACTION

Apologies:

Jane Greenstock – Eastbourne Homes
Mary Pooley – Borough Councillor
John Rollison – Neighbourhood Watch
Chris Handford – Library and Information Service Hampden Park

Zoe Wood offered to take the minutes for this meeting for which, grateful thanks.

Welcome :

Sandy welcomed our guests to this meeting. County Councillor Matthew Lock who is the lead cabinet member for Highways at East Sussex County Council, who was accompanied by David Weeks and Mark Valleley, Highways Engineers with East Sussex County Council. She also welcomed our MP Nigel Waterson who was able to join us as Parliament is not currently sitting.

The question before the meeting today, and the reason for inviting Cllr Lock and his colleagues to speak to us, is : *What is ESCC Highways strategy, long term, for parking and traffic movement in Hampden Park Village?*

Cllr Matthew Lock thanked everyone for coming and apologized that he had not been able to accept the invitation sent to him prior to the recent elections. He confirmed that he had undertaken a 'walkabout' with the Chairman immediately prior to this meeting to assess and understand the problems and concerns being experienced by traders and shoppers in the village.

He went on to confirm that there is to be a review of parking in Eastbourne Town Centre in October on the anniversary of the new parking enforcement order and, following this, the outlying areas will be reviewed and hopefully 'hot spots' where control is needed will be identified. An holistic approach will have to be taken of necessity as, with any action there is a knock on effect, and although the problem of commuter parking is acknowledged, it would be useful to receive input from the local bus company as to whether their busses meet train arrival and whether they can give any advice on the onward journeys of passengers they pick up.

It had been identified at a previous meeting with Network Rail that there was a need for commuter parking at Hampden Park Station, together with an area where taxis and cars dropping off/collecting rail passengers could turn around. At present this had to be undertaken using residential roads opposite the station. Not considered satisfactory.

Concern was expressed by shop keepers regarding the parking bays lost when the crossing had been installed; plus the affect on the village of the closure of the local supermarket and the ability to use its car parking areas for shoppers to briefly use the local shops. With the enforcement of parking restrictions, wardens and the issuing of fines for illegal parking or using bus bays, customers were reluctant to use the local shops unless they could park

legally and with the majority of residential roads being full from 7am to 7pm, primarily it appeared with commuters, this was making trade difficult.

Questions were raised about traffic movement with Hampden Park being one of the busiest level crossings in Europe, the installation of the pedestrian crossing and the decision to change the configuration of the pavement opposite Brodrick Road causing further delays from traffic turning right backing up through the village.

It was identified that in an area like this primarily dating to the early part of the last century, off road parking for individual houses had not been provided and residents needed local roads for their own cars day and night, even in they were using the train to commute to work in other towns.

It was decided that a full survey not only of traffic flow but of identifying the cars on the residential roads near the village centre as to whether they had travelled in from further afield to commute or whether they were, in fact, local cars needing on street parking. Cllr Lock agreed that his officers would undertake such a survey within the next couple of months and there would be local consultation for everyone to have an opportunity to air their views and problems. It may be that some roads could be lined to allow deliveries safely; others could have waiting limits put on one or two bays immediately adjacent to Brassey Parade, primarily to facilitate brief shopping visits or hair dresser appointments; and certainly the area adjacent to the station, which provided no facility for a taxi or other car to turn around, must be addressed.

It was generally agreed that this problem was exacerbated by the unavailability of parking in the supermarket car park but this was private land; was subject to redevelopment; the current owner refused to make this available. This therefore could not be taken into the equation with regard to the provision needed in the area.

The idea of compulsive purchase of the land owned currently by Aldi was proposed and the possibility of NCP running it. Cllr Woodall agreed to make enquiries and report back.

Representatives from the local Library agreed they would be happy to be the conduit for consultations and proposals regarding a walking bus for local schoolchildren. Other proposals included cycle lanes perhaps on wide pavements; taxi rank facility at the station; shuttle bus for students and workers.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lock for listening to the frustrations and problems being experienced by residents and traders in this panel's area and welcomed the proposal for a comprehensive survey, looked forward to participating as and where we could and to advice regarding when it was expected to be commenced and completed, at which time she hoped Cllr Lock and his officers would come back and explain their findings and proposals and the time scale for implementation.

At this point Cllr Lock and the officers were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting if they wished or to please feel free to leave. They thanked the meeting for inviting them and Cllr Lock agreed he would be delighted to stay for the rest of the meeting. He was in the process of establishing just such a panel in his ward and welcomed the opportunity of sitting in.

Matters Brought Forward :

The minutes of previous meetings being available on the panel website, the matters arising were :

- Sandy read out a letter received from Network Rail regarding the hoped for provision of commuter parking.
- Rail safety was a concern of Gary Dell the Southern Trains manager and Network Rail had agreed they would be visiting every school in the area emphasising the dangers of trespassing on the rail lines
- In addition, there was to be a level crossing awareness day before the end of the school term, date and time to be advised.
- Nigel Waterson drew everyone's attention to the problems arising of confusing dangerous trespass with criminal behaviour.
- Wayne confirmed that school colleagues he knew thought it was cool to place coins on the line at the Hazelwood Ave crossing area.

ACTION

Cllr Woodall

ESCC

- It had been discussed at previous meetings that objects were regularly thrown at trains in the Brodrick Road bridge vicinity.
- Places for People had accepted ownership of the Mallard Close twitten and would be arranging for it to be cleared and kept maintained in future.
- The meeting was reminded that the Sustainable Neighbourhood Assessment Meeting will be held on 11/11/09 in the Community Centre between 3-6pm. There will be an exhibition and everyone's views would be sought.
- Eastbourne Homes run a local area meeting every month and the police are to join with them running a Surgery. It is to commence in October and to be held first Friday in the month at the Brodrick Road Community Centre and the 2nd Friday at Willingdon Trees Community Centre.
- The BMX Track and Skate Park has so far raised 20K but will cost 60K plus needing Planning Permission.
- Congratulations were offered to Hampden Park in Bloom for winning Silver and getting a Silver Gilt for the Diana Memorial Garden.

ACTION

Emma

Councillor Reports :

Cllr Mike Thompson encouraged everyone to attend the Sustainable Neighbourhood Strategy Assessment meeting on 11th November as the results would guide Councillors and officers when planning future housing in Eastbourne and thoughts of local residents were needed to feed in to this decision process.

Cllr Mike Thompson said he had toured the area with an Eastbourne Highways Engineer and there are problems with the traffic calming in Lindfield Road. Young People are using it as a race track. The problems are particularly bad at night.

Queries raised for Councillors :

- Hazelwood Avenue/Brodrick Road has lost 3 car parking spaces and a local builder has no where to put his van.
- Annette Spence raised the question to Councillors of young people cycling on the pavement and she is worried about them hitting the children by Hampden Park Infants School.
- Raglan questioned controlling cars going at ridiculous speeds in Mallard Close. Could there be traffic calming here? Matthew Locke said it was a budget thing but they would take a look at it.

ESCC

Cllr Matthew Locke said the Police needed to be informed and these incidents recorded. He also said that if there is something you want raised the quickest route was to have a petition and present this to Cllr Mike Thompson.

Achievements to be reported :

- the hole in the pavement outside Lloyds has been repaired
- the broken bollard outside NatWest had been repaired
- EBC were working with Keep Britain Tidy group in Eastbourne and encouraged everyone to participate
- The missing waste bins in the village had been replaced.

Police Report :

Sgt Fiona Munro advised reported crime in August '08 had been 105, including Arson. This year it had dropped to 78 reported crimes, the lowest for 2 years. Congratulations were expressed from everyone present. Our police team in HP seemed to be on top of the case.

Regarding the K9 event planned for Saturday next, this is aimed at addressing all dog owners in Eastbourne, not just Hampden Park, in an endeavour to educate them to being responsible for the litter left by their dogs. Arrangements were all now finalised and Sandy asked for volunteers from amongst the panel members to help man the stand the Neighbourhood Panel would have to bring awareness of our work to the visitors and residents at the event. Michaela and Emma confirmed they have been undertaking educational visits to local schools to make the children aware of the need to 'scoop the poop' and had devised an illustrated book for the children. Sandy commended them on their pro active approach.

Youth Projects

We were hoping for news of the BMX track and funding but as Everol was not here this was carried forward to the next meeting.

Everol

He had, however, advised Sandy that estimated costings for the drop in centre discussed would be in the region of : Venue – Community Centre, Brodrick Road. Renting basement appx. £9 - 10 p.h. for long term lease, therefore 3 hrs per week say £30 therefore 52 weeks £1,560. Youth Leader £3-4,000 p.a. Assistant – £3.5,000 p.a. Zoe Wood agreed to advise availability of funding contribution possibly from Crime Reduction Partnership.

Neighbourhood Watch :

Sue Rollison was able to report that NW is growing slowly. They have taken on 1 co-ordinator and another few are interested in Croxden Way. These will be pursued. Sandy thanked her for the update and confirmed that it was her belief that via this group and our Councillors was the best way for this panel to obtain the wishes of the local residents.

Priorities for this panel :

It was agreed to reaffirm the top three priorities are :

Parking
Litter and Fly Tipping
Youth Facilities

Any Other Business :

Sandy Boyce-Sharpe advised that the Friends of the Hampden Park had arranged with EBC and Wyevale that children from four different schools will be planting 2,000 bluebells in the park in the next few weeks, with the help of John, the new park keeper, who has been appointed to work solely in our park.

Date of next meetings :

The next meeting will be Tuesday 3rd November 10am at the Eastbourne Railway Club

Future meetings : 15 December 2009
26 January 2010
9 March 2010
20 April 2010
1 June 2010
13 July 2010

Thanks to our hosts :

The Chairman thanked our hosts for their hospitality, the use of the room and the coffee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed

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