

**Notes from meeting of the
Hampden Park Neighbourhood Panel
5th October 2010**

Attending :

The Chairman welcomed everyone to a very full meeting. As attendance was in excess of 40 people and as listing would take up practically a page it has been decided to state attendees were: traders in the village; local residents; representative of the Eastbourne Academy School Council and the Governing Body; Officers from EBC and Councillors from EBC and ESCC; Scouts; Local Partnership for Children; Eastbourne Homes, Neighbourhood Watch; Sussex Police; Age Concern; the Library; Eastbourne Homes Area Panel.

Welcome :

The Chairman particularly welcomed Mark Singleton and Allison Murray from Tesco and invited advice from them on the plans for the opening of Tesco in the village in the near future.

Mark set out the plans for the store for everyone to view at leisure and confirmed that it will basically be a food store not selling electrical equipment, etc., though it would include a pharmacy and bakery. Opening hours would be 6am -11pm weekdays and 11am – 5pm on Sundays. Official opening will be 29th November 2011. A wide range of questions were put to Mark and Allison including timings of deliveries; entry and exit sites; parking restrictions; provision of disabled parking; attitude to alcohol; security provision; re siting of the recycling bins (that have been recently located outside the gate) back into the car park when it is resurfaced; and the promise that Tesco want to be part of the community and will be appointing a Community Champion, when open and staffed, who will attend these meetings in the future.

The Chairman thanked them for attending and the offer of a conducted tour for a few members of the panel was received with thanks. Mark and Allison then left the meeting.

Apologies re attendance received from:

Fr Robin Tree; Roy Statham; Marjorie Adams; Mo McCann; Jane Greenstock; Sgt Fiona Munro; Carol Humphris

Minutes of meetings : The notes taken of the last meeting had been circulated to everyone on the panel distribution list via email and is available to download from the panel website www.eastbournenp.org by navigating to Eastbourne North, Hampden Park West and then to Meeting Notes. Should anyone wish to be placed on the email distribution list please ensure your email address is on the attendance list being circulated. To those without email or internet access Chris Handford at the Library will print off a copy of the meeting notes or agenda if requested. Grateful thanks to Chris for this kind offer.

Matters arising :

- Parking Survey – C.Cllr Matthew Lock has offered to give a presentation to the Hampden Park Neighbourhood Panel of the result of the independent survey on parking which has been recently undertaken. There will therefore be an Extraordinary Panel Meeting here at the Railway Club 10am Wednesday 27th October at 10am and everyone is welcome. Posters to be attached to the minutes and everyone asked to promote this public meeting throughout the village.
- Parking provision by Network Rail – no further news on this but to be followed up post the results of the survey.
- The condition of the land that is earmarked by NR for commuter parking bays has been brought to their attention. The fly tipping has been removed and there is a promise of the undergrowth being strimmed, tidied and removal of railway materials. An email was read out from NR advising that they appreciate it being brought to their attention and wish it to be aesthetically pleasing to their neighbours and customers.
- Bridge over railway at Brodrick Road – County Cllr Lock had sent an update which was read to the meeting and advised the proposed cage could not be bolted to the existing bridge and discussions had reached the conclusion that the bridge would have to be replaced or closed. The approx. cost of replacing is £250k. An alternative has been proposed to NR that they investigate other options for enclosing the structure but he further advised that a significant financial contribution from NR would be expected.
- Tree outside 100 Brodrick Road – Richard Stevens, Principal Highways Engineer, had sent an update to advise that unfortunately resources had been needed to deal with Dutch Elm Disease cases recently, but they do hope to be able to address the question of tree roots making the footpath un passable for wheelchairs and pushchairs would be addressed soon.

ACTION

ALL

ACTION

- Flooding in vicinity of Hydney roundabout – Richard Stevens had also advised that they have no further news from Southern Water but advised that work on the investigation for the Eastbourne surface water management plan has commenced and consultants have been engaged. He will emphasise the problems of this area.
- Signal Box repainting – No news as yet but being followed up.
- Brassey Parade parking area wall – the Chairman confirmed she had followed this up and the managing agents Marcus King had agreed to attend the next panel meeting to listen to concerns and it was hoped to arrange a walkabout at the same time.
- CCTV – there is no further news regarding this initiative to site a camera on the signal box but this is still being pursued.
- Christmas lighting for the village – Brian Stimpson had given the Chair estimates of costs but confirmed only 7 businesses had offered to contribute. The local Councillors offered a donation from their Devolved Ward Grant but requested that this be match funded. Possibility of sponsorship from businesses was proposed. Fr Robin had asked that a village event be considered, carol singing, etc. A street market was considered. Stephen Lloyd had offered to be involved. Negative and positive aspects were discussed fully and it was agreed that Brian liaise with Stephen and a sub-committee be formed to bring this together for Christmas if possible.
- A letter has been received from EBC soliciting volunteers to serve on the Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel. Contact David Robinson, Local Democracy Manager at the Town Hall.
- A document had been received from EBC setting out information regarding their sex encounter policy. This was available at the meeting for anyone to peruse.
- A letter published in the local paper was discussed regarding empty shops, etc. All points raised were aired and there were no licences or laws being breached.
- The recent request for ‘grot spots’ identified y members of the panel had been forwarded to EBC by the Chairman and acknowledgement has now been received. The Alleyway behind flats 38-40 would be dealt with shortly; ditto Twitten between Elm Grove Field and Mallard Close; Parks & Gardens Dept have been asked to address pedestrian pathway to the Highfield Allotment site and at Midhurst Road the overgrown nettles, brambles and rubbish ; the area of Hamshaw Court and Gladstone close was not too bad when visited but we were requested to monitor it and provide further information if it deteriorated. Further areas were nominated as Southerland Court and Cage Street.
- EBC Community Enforcement Officer Emma Jordan had written to advise that ‘Operation Cruella’, a joint agency operation to tackle dog fouling offences would be implemented by plain clothes officers in the next few weeks.
- Sue Criddle the EBC Dog Warden reported on the Dog Show held in the Park in August. The volume of entries was great and £800 had been raised which had been distributed equally between the Basil Fund and the P.D.S.A. She has been asked to arrange another one for next year and the date will be 6th August. Anyone able to offer assistance on the Steering Committee; sponsorship; etc., please contact Sue.

Brian

Emma

Report from Vice Chairman on items raised last month :

- Tugwell Park play area gates - Keith advised that the gates were anticipated to be installed on 22nd October.
- Tugwell Park play area - there is always a quantity of rubbish in the play area. Cllr Thompson agreed to follow this up.
- East Hampden Park – Keith gave a report on the problems experienced with street sweeping which had been reported to EBC. The operative had been replaced but the quality of sweeping did not seem to have improved. Cllr Thompson agreed to follow this up.
- Regarding the provision of a ‘no cold calling zone’ – Keith advised that to implement this every house in the proposed area had to have a leaflet delivered. He was in discussion with Sgt Munro regarding the area proposed and what facilities could be identified to help with this.

Cllr Thompson

Cllr Thompson

Keith

Councillors’ Report :

- New use for the old rifle range area in the park – Cllr Thompson advised there had still not been a meeting of the steering group but he had obtained some costings from Parks and Gardens Dept regarding possible equipment that might be incorporated. However, he still awaited advice on the essential initial work necessary before anything could be done such as levelling and drainage. An offer of possible sponsors was being considered and it was hoped members of this Panel, the youth groups, sports clubs, etc., would join the Steering Committee. Date of forthcoming meeting to be advised.
- Missing orienteering signs – Parks and Gardens Dept had stated earlier in the year that they hoped to be able to replace these during this financial year and Cllrs Woodall and Pooley confirmed they would follow this up and report back.

Cllr Thompson

Cllrs Pooley & Woodall

ACTION
Cllr Woodall
Cllr Pooley

- Cllr Woodall advised the meeting that Hampden Park in Bloom had been awarded a High Silver award by South and South East in Bloom. They had only ever received a silver before. Congratulations were offered by the traders on the work the ladies did with the troughs in the village. It is hoped that the bed beneath the tree at the end of Brassey Parade will be planted with spring bulbs this year.
- Cllr Pooley was concerned regarding the window that had been broken at the Community Centre and advice was received that quotes were being sought for security mesh.

Police Report :

PC Rockingham reported that there had been 82 violent crimes last month which was +9 year on year and this included domestic and street crime. Burglary y-on-y was -1 and criminal damage -8. Public place crime was +2. Vehicle theft was +4. Overall our crime totals were 3 less than Meads area and Hampden Park continued to be one of the lower crime areas in Eastbourne.

It was requested that police give particular attention to the area around Cage Street flats where fences seem to be damaged nightly. Everyone present was requested to 'phone in reports on any criminal activities observed either to the police line 0845 60 70 999 or to the Crimestoppers freephone number 0800 555 111. Reports to either number could be given anonymously.

PC Rockingham advised that following the recent successful Synergy Operation there was a new initiative to be called Quality Street where one street at a time would be addressed by a multi-agency group, and this would commence in the Hydneye area within the next 4-6 weeks.

Neighbourhood Watch Report :

Presentations will take place at CommunityWise on 12th October and at the Venton Centre on 18th October. A new NHW scheme has been set up in Firwood Close and further ones are planned for Brassey Ave. and Elm Grove. Overall now 1500 premises are covered by NHW in Hampden Park. Congratulations were offered from everyone on the work done by John and Pam Rollison for NHW.

All were asked to make their groups aware of a 'scam' recently carried out in Burton Road, a non-cold calling zone. A lady was contacted by an alarm company by phone regarding installing a free alarm system, also akin to life line (all she had to pay was for the monitoring). She was given a 7 day cooling off period but the equipment was fitted the very next day. She then decided she could not afford to pay the £5,500 monitoring fee and with the help of her neighbour got back in touch with the alarm company as she was still in the cooling off period. However, as the equipment was fitted already, she has to pay for the removal of the equipment. Firstly they wanted £900 to remove the equipment but this was later reduced to £400. She is still waiting for this to be done and it appears will be several months before the £5,500 is credited back to her account.

It transpires this company is 'known' and being investigated by Trading Standards nationally. If Googled apparently there is a report relating to their underhand and high pressure sales techniques. They did not break the 'no cold calling zone' rule as they had telephoned first. Unfortunately we cannot name the company for legal reasons with investigations pending.

The question of trees and a shed on land near Binstead Close raised at the last meeting is being addressed by Stephen Lloyd. The area was identified by Lord Gregor and, as it is adjacent to The Eastbourne Academy, William Pratt offered to liaise with this.

Rail Watch :

Unfortunately Denise Hamilton-Harris of BTP was not at the meeting but a report was received subsequently as follows. Since July 13th Level Crossing Awareness Campaign there have been:

- 3 trespass incidents between Hampden Park and Eastbourne
- There had been one stone throwing incident damaging the train
- There had been 2 failing to conform to level crossing signals in Hampden Park and both offenders have been prosecuted

Funding for a site survey of the Brodrick Road foot bridge re the caging of the footbridge is still being sought and once agreed NR plan a site visit.

NR are looking into installing a camera which will provide number plate recognition and record offences on the crossing; and have sponsored a CCTV equipped van to carry out surveillance at level crossings throughout the area. This programme will start this month.

Youth projects :

Unfortunately, due to expansion of girls playing rugby, the club were not able to open the proposed facilities this year but hoped to do so next.

Everol advised he had received funding to extend the Friday evening youth club facility from 6-9pm now.

Everol further advised he had identified approx 30 children in the area known to have been involved in trespass, wall and roof climbing and was arranging to enrol them in the 1066 Academy. Further funding would be useful. It was suggested he liaise with Fiona Ras, co-ordinator for the Local Partnership for Children who could potentially find funding for equipment and youth projects.

Everol & Fiona

Panel's top priorities :

These were discussed at some length. Youth facilities are still needed; we still suffer from ASB; parking and traffic flow hasn't been solved, and possibly 'Op.Cruella' will address the dog fouling. The bridge question hasn't been resolved so it was agreed that these priorities are still relevant.

Youth facilities
Anti Social Behaviour
Parking & Traffic Flow
Dog Fouling

Urgent action point – footbridge from Brodrick Road

Report from Local Panels District Meeting :

There was no report.

Any Other Business :

- Fr Robin Tree had asked that everyone be reminded about the Remembrance Service to be held at the War memorial in the Park (opposite the Children's Play Area). If attending please be there approx 10.40am and if you wished to lay a wreath please advise the Chairman.
- Regarding parking for the disabled it was reported that the Eastbourne Access Group were meeting tomorrow to discuss this and Robert Cooper would report back to the next meeting.
- Question was raised re bench promised for Queens Parade some 2 years ago. Cllr Pooley advised she would make enquiries.
- The provision of benches in the village was proposed and Councillors enquired re possible position. The area under the trees outside the post office was one suggestion which the Councillors would follow up.
- Concern was expressed re the condition of the benches near the toilets and the level crossing. The Councillors advised they would investigate and report back.
- The Friends of the Hampden Park had once again invited all the schools in the area to bring their children to the park to plant a new bluebell dell and 5 schools had accepted the invitation. The first planting would take place on 12th October with others at intervals up to 4th November.
- The meeting was advised that on 30th October the Eastbourne Homes Area Panel will be having an Open Day at the Community Centre, Brodrick Road. NHW plus other local agencies and groups will be attending and there will be a number of stall, Caribbean food, etc.

Robert Cooper

Cllr Pooley

Councillors

Councillors

Date of next meeting :

It was agreed that the next Panel meeting would be on Tuesday 16th November 2010 at the Railway Club, Station Approach, Hampden Park.

If there are any other points members feel they would like discussed at future meetings please email hamchairman@eastbournenp.org so that they can be included in the Agenda.

Thanks to our hosts :

The Chairman thanked our hosts once again for their hospitality, the use of the room and the coffee, and looked forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.35am.

The Chairman then accompanied a few members of the panel to the site visit at Tesco. Mark Singleton had advised that he hoped to be able to invite more people to a further site meeting following our next meeting in November when the store would be almost ready for opening.

----o0o----