

Notes from meeting of the Hampden Park Neighbourhood Panel 17th May 2011

Attending:

Approx. 30+/- people attended the panel meeting and signed the attendance register. As there were so many visitors today the Chairman invited them all to introduce themselves and the groups they represented.

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed all present particularly their new Councillor Mrs Pat Hearn. She also welcomed visitors William Nichols Principal Planning Policy Officer of EBC and his colleague Matt Hitchin also from the Planning Dept. who had been invited to address Panel Members on the document entitled Eastbourne Local Development Plan, particularly with regard to Neighbourhood 7, Hampden Park.

William and Matt circulated the proposed core strategy summary and maps of the area explaining the distinct areas in Hampden Park that had been identified for residential opportunity; employment opportunity; community use opportunity, allotment opportunity, etc. The map was colour coded to identify shopping centres at Broadway, Brassey Parade and Queens Parade (all of which were considered sustainable) and explained that planning policy would be to maintain these as shopping areas and not allow change of use from retail. Discussion then took place regarding parking availability in the village; the large areas of all day free on street parking taken up by commuters; the lack of provision of commuter parking facilities; the lack of even pick up area at the station, etc. There had been no sight as yet of the parking and traffic flow survey requested of ESCC some 2 years ago and no news of their proposed 'local street by street survey' promised when they last attended one of these Panel meetings.

The LDF identified a change of use on the Highfield North Industrial Estate, as Morrison's had been granted planning permission for a retail outlet. This new employment potential would not be reflected in statistics with regard to levels of unemployment in our Panel Area though as records kept by planning department do not include employment in the retail sector in its statistics, only industrial or office jobs are counted.

Discussion took place on why the boundaries of this LDF document, Neighbourhood 7, were different from our Panel boundaries and, in turn, these were different from the political Ward boundaries and Police patrol boundaries. It was commented that this makes things very confusing for everyone.

It was proposed that what the area lacked was a degree of mobility and perhaps ambition which could be put down to the limitation of job prospects. William and Matt advised that the designations and proposals considered the area as a whole and EBC worked closely with Wealdon. New job prospects were planned for Polegate and Stone Cross areas. The comment was made that it was hoped improvements in public transport would be put in place to allow this panel's residents access to these prospects.

Further aspects of the LDF document were discussed under the headings of protecting and enhancing retail provision; reduction of levels of deprivation; encouraging intensification of industrial estates; improvements to the public realm; the importance of protecting greenspaces; the increase of provision for facilities for children and young people and the creation of interchange facilities at Hampden Park Station, among others. Strong objection was raised by some members regarding the wording at the heading of the green paragraph on the rear of the document wherein it referred to 'deprivation in Hampden Park'. The vast majority of residents did not feel they lived in an area of deprivation and the Officers were asked what criteria dictated their using this word to describe a neighbourhood, the use of which in turn reduced the feeling of self worth of the residents and downgraded property value, etc. It was explained that there were Government guidelines regarding criteria to describe an area but the wording chosen would be revisited.

William and Matt were questioned on a number of points in the document including references to the public realm, etc., however it became clear that this is still a strategy document and there is, as yet, no detail on how these objectives are actually going to be achieved. Promises were made that when there is more flesh on any of the proposals representatives from Planning would come back to the Area Panel Meeting to discuss and explain policy. William and Matt were thanked for attending and covering so many issues and at this point left the meeting.

The main agenda of the Hampden Park Neighbourhood Panel was then addressed.

2. Apologies:

Fr Robin Tree; Denise Hamilton-Harris BTP; Sue Criddle EBC; Keith Pailthorpe and William Pratt The Eastbourne Academy; Cllr Mike Thompson and Cllr Jim Murray.

3. Matters arising not itemised on the agenda:

▪ Marcus King controlled property

No further information at this point. They were not responding to emails again.

▪ Sub-station renovation

Work required still outstanding but in the programme.

4. Correspondence:

A long letter from Chief Inspector Jayne Dando, Eastbourne District Commander was read out which advised that as people were using modern methods of contacting their police and in future the police station in Grove Road would be opening from 9am-8pm Mon-Sat and closed on Sunday though 999 calls would be responded to as usual.

5. Chairman's Report

District Panel Meetings were only held quarterly and there had not been one since our last meeting but the Chairman had attended the Network Rail Community Safety Partnership Group and made available to members charts depicting Route Crime Hotspots in Sussex which showed Willingdon Junction area as 7th in the region, an increase on the previous period, and only just below Clapham Junction and East Croydon for crime. There had been reported 2 incidents of throwing projectiles at trains, 5 of placing obstructions on the track, 1 of vandalism of fencing or access points and 4 of trespass on railway or infrastructure. A very unhappy situation and the Chairman was endeavouring to ensure representative Safety Officers from EBC and ESCC attend these meetings in future to see if we can address 'joined up thinking' to combat this crime.

The Chairman of CSPG had advised that they had now obtained funding for a survey of the Brodrick Road footbridge but were having some further discussions with ESCC regarding risk assessment issues.

Southern had agreed they would signpost Hampden Park from the station; the repainting of the signal box is still 'in hand' since last November. This is to be actioned. Network Rail have again agreed to bring forward discussion on the possibility of providing commuter parking on the land between the platform and Mallard Close but, in the interim, have promised to expedite clearing this of debris and cutting back the undergrowth. A business case for provision of commuter parking depends on the results of the ESCC parking recommendations as currently commuters have free on street parking all over the village.

The newly provided CCTV vehicle used to monitor and prosecute those jumping the lights at level crossings was justifying its investment with a number of prosecutions and, Councillors present were asked to comment on their safety initiative with NR and ESCC. Cllr Thompson was quoted *'The trains crossing the busy road in the way they do has the potential to cause a real danger for pedestrians and drivers alike. It is vital that everything is done to improve safety at the crossing. Already there have been too many accidents'*.

Cllr Hearn advised the Panel that a petition was being handed in to ESCC at Lewes today regarding the dangers of the level crossing. MP Stephen Lloyd had written to the Chairman of ESCC and Network Rail proposing that a yellow hatched box be painted on the highway either side of the level crossing. This was proposed as the gates were closed so regularly it was felt dangerous as traffic was driving onto the rails when the exit was not clear for them to proceed. Discussion took place between members regarding driving safety and the Highway Code advice on level crossings. It was noted that rail signalling prevented a train approaching a level crossing unless the barriers were down.

Cllr Hearn confirmed she would keep the Panel advised

6. Deputy Chairman's Report

No Cold Calling – Phase 1 Winkley Farm Estate - Keith Fillery confirmed that printing and distribution was still at the planning stage.

ACTION

Chairman

Chairman

Chairman

Winkley Farm Estate Garages – Fly tipping at the garages it had been brought to the Panel’s attention some while ago. Meetings had taken place and this matter had been resolved satisfactorily.

However, the issue of one particular garage overflowing with furniture, etc., was brought up again as local residents had recently called the Fire Brigade concerned that it was a hazard. An EBC officer had advised this panel at a previous meeting that the matter was being resolved through Eastbourne Homes. The Brigade recommended that it was a potential hazard and recommended the contents be cleared. Hilary Hannah and Emma Jordan to follow up on this.

ACTION

Hilary /
Emma

7. Councillors’ Reports

ESCC land at Binsted Closed – The Neighbourhood Watch facilitators who originally raised this issue confirmed this is still an ongoing problem. Cllr Hearn confirmed the MP had written to the Academy but she was not aware of the detail of the problem. To be followed up.

Cllr Hearn

Damaged paving slabs in pedestrian way from parade to health centre beside the new Tesco – The Chairman observed that these had been repaired when she looked this morning on the Tesco owned land and the publically owned portion. The Tesco representative confirmed that her company had carried out all the repairs at no cost to the community. Grateful thanks from all present were offered to Tesco for their public spiritedness and the expense incurred.

Redundant signage for St Luke’s Church - Ex Councillor Woodall confirmed this had been reported to Highways as stated at the last meeting but to the best of everyone’s knowledge the work hadn’t been done. Cllr Hearn confirmed she would follow this up.

Cllr Hearn

8. Police Report

Due to cut backs there are no analysts available to provide the figures and they are all manually calculated. The year on year figures are on the chart below

	April ‘10	April ‘11
Total	77	63
Burglary	2	1
Criminal Damage	26	26
Vehicle crime	35	27

One burglary to a dwelling in Brassy Ave; Non Dwelling break-ins : 3 breaks, one garage, lead off a communal entrance in Midhurst Road; a she break in and quad bike stolen in East HP. Criminal damages 17 reports in all, 11 in West HP and 4 in East with 2 in Willingdon Tree. There had been graffiti on ladies toilets in Brassy Ave; 4 calls to a children’s home and 2 broken windows at Park Practice.

One arrest and 2 charged with damage in Mallards Close. There have been 4 arrests for possession of drugs. A male arrested for possession in Attfield Walk. A youth had a bike stolen by an older youth and this is the subject of an ongoing investigation.

Of the thefts from and of motor vehicles, 26 in all, 20 in East HP, 2 in West HP and 3 in Willingdon Trees. Brett, Lee and Zoe had attended street meetings and explained Operation Themis to the Panel.

9. BTP

Apologies from Denise Hamilton-Harris but report provided:

- Throwing of fireworks at trains
- Malicious obstruction – metal bar thrown on to tracks near Percival Road – small fire ensued
- Vehicles failing to observe traffic signals at level crossing x 2
- Theft of cycle from station x 1
- Trespass at Willingdon Trees x 1
- Trespass off the station platform at Hampden Pak x 1

10. Network Rail/Southern

I Love My Local Station initiative is being run by Hampden Park in Bloom who are awaiting advice regarding a meeting to cover safety on the platform, etc. This to be arranged soon.

Olive
Woodall

11. Neighbourhood Watch:

Since the last meeting attended NHW can report they gave three presentations in March and had a stand at the Winter Gardens Lifestyle Show which was very well attended. They also supported the Quality Street meeting at Roselands Recreation Ground. In April they had a stand at the Croxden Court Open Day which was opened by NHW Chair Jan Newens. They attended the Quality Street meeting at St Clements Court and gave a presentation at St Michael's Church Hall. There are now new schemes being set up to cover all properties in Elm Grove and a new volunteer street coordinator is being processed. Many thanks were given to John and Pam Rollison for all their hard work.

12. Youth projects:

BMX Track the Steering Group consisting of Councillors, YMCA and Friends are arranging an Open Day for providers of BMX equipment to demonstrate it and all the young people to try it out. This will be on 18th June 12noon to 3pm. Entry will be free though all must register attendance. It will be held in the car parks of Sussex Downs College and burgers, ice cream and music from local school bands will be there.

Old Rifle Range also under consideration by the Steering Group. The site is to be surveyed to establish the cost of drainage.

13. Other Reports:

Disability Involvement Group: Nothing to report at this point. Robert Cooper promoted an invitation to the 'Green Spaces' Opening Event 7 May. All agencies and neighbourhood panels are invited to have a stall. Hampden Park in Bloom will be amongst exhibitors.

The Friends of the Hampden Park: The Chairman was pleased to report that the pond work is due to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks though she was still trying to find extra money to enable the northern outlet stream to be completed whilst men and plant were on site. It had not been possible to include this in the main contract but a sensible price had been agreed and it was hoped the work could be funded.

14. Review of priorities

Hampden Park Panel's top priorities. These were discussed. Whilst progress has been made these priorities were revisited and retained as:

- 1 Youth facilities
- 2 Anti Social Behaviour
- 3 Parking & Traffic Flow
- 4 Brodrick Road Footbridge
- 5 Cold Calling zone

13. AOB

There was no further business

Date of next meeting:

Next meeting Tuesday 28th June 2011. Agenda and notes are available on the website.

Future Agenda items:

If there are any other points members feel they would like discussed at future meetings please email hamchairmanman@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 provided. We feel extremely privileged to have such a facility regularly offered to the Panel free of charge.

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