

MINUTES OF UPPERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY 24TH MARCH 2022 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Kathy Ballard (KB) Chair, Rod Pizzey, Sue Relf, (SR) Ralph Lucas, (RL) Roger Dakin, (RD) Roy Peacock (part of meeting) (RP), Matthew Earl (ME), James Towner (JT), Miranda Meaden – Neighbourhood First, PCSO Nick Cox (NC), Leslie Squire (LS), Clive Jarman, Emma Millar – 3VA, (EM) Alex Hough, (AH), Gill Morris minuting

APOLOGIES: Councillor Patrick Rodohan, Antonia Lucas, Rev. Paul Tabraham, Andrew Goodwin

COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION GROUPS – These are a new initiative and will be chaired by a representative from the Police, if they cannot find anyone to Chair. They will discuss solely Police issues. Councillors Rodohan and Maxted had discussed the possibility of forming a Community Association, such as the one in Meads. **RP** has spoken to various people about this and felt there is no need to change the format of Panels, who deal with Civil matters, but the number of Panels would be down from 22 to 9. Representatives who live outside the Panel area can be invited to meetings. **NC** said the meetings would be similar to Panel meetings and issues discussed would be taken to the Joint Action Group. Funding may be available. **RL** felt the proposal would be a mistake and it would not be a good idea to start fragmenting Panels. The general consensus was that we remain as Upperton Neighbourhood Panel.

ROAD SAFETY AROUND GILDREDGE HOUSE SCHOOL - JT showed a video prepared by Year 9 students about their thoughts and feelings from a student prospective around traffic to and from the school. Their concerns were: Pollution, Danger to students, Gridlock for parents and other road users. The objective is to reduce the number of cars by using alternative methods of transport. Road safety could be improved by making Borough Lane one way and having more pedestrian crossings. Alternative access to the school could be via Paradise Drive.

They are engaging the local community, parents, students and staff and working with Council and Highways Agency to improve safety and air quality around the school. **JT** said from a school perspective they recognise that the congestion in the area twice a day is due to the school. When they have engaged with the Council and local community to have road closures these have been a success. A petition has been started by a group of parents and

local residents and there is a parents working group focused around pollution and traffic. They asked parents their thoughts and feelings around when the driveway to the school was closed and the feeling was that the traffic improved and the staff managed the traffic flow through the school.

KB reported that Councillor Maxted, after consultation with other stakeholders, had agreed to apply to close Compton Place Road between Park Close and the school for five days between 8am and 9am and 3pm and 4pm. This will occur during the Eastbourne Walking Festival in September and is a first major step towards creating a School Safe Zone. It is not certain East Sussex County Council will approve the application.

NC reported that the use of the car park at the bottom of the school driveway worked very well and Mr Bull mentioned that they could explore adjusting the car park for dropping off students. **NC** will pass the issues around car parking and pavements to the Safer Roads Team and they will assign a Traffic Manager to assess the roads and liaise with highways.

20 IS PLENTY CAMPAIGN – Eastbourne Borough Council had introduced a motion for a 20mph speed limit in certain areas of the town, especially around schools. **RP** suggested we invite someone from East Sussex Highways to the next meeting. Pauline von Hellerman from the Gildredge House Traffic Group is putting the petition to East Sussex Highways. **KB** would be happy to ask Pauline and a representative from East Sussex County Council to the next Panel. **JT** had no objection.

ACTION: KB

LIGHTING IN GILDREDGE PARK – Additional lighting in Gildredge Park will be installed in May. There have been problems with the Contractor. The money is there and it is hoped it will be completed very soon. **RL** asked whether they could see an example of the lights and how far their light will spread. **KB** will pass this requested to Councillor Maxted and ask him to report.

ACTION: KB

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY FRIDGE – **KB** had contacted Rev. Paul Tabraham. **ME** reported that he and Rev. Paul Tabraham, who gave his apologies for the meeting, had visited the Victoria Baptist Larder and the Langney Community Larder to see what was involved. They have reserves about whether they will have space at their new Church as they will have a lot to do setting up. They hope to open the Church at the beginning of next year and to be able to have a

Community Fridge, but would be dependent on volunteers. Victoria Baptist and Langney would be willing to help setting up.

EM reported that 3VA have started supported people setting up fridges in community centres around churches. There are some unused buildings which could work in the interim. There is a list on their database. **EM** offered **ME** help with this and gave her contact details: emma.millar@3va.org.uk

VINTAGE FESTIVAL – **KB** reported that it is proposed to hold this again. **RD** had several concerns and had been in contact with the Licensing Department last year as he felt the event was against the law. The Council had obtained a TENS licence which is for an event for up to 500 people or less and there were supposed to be 3,000 people attending. There was not enough security and people could come in without tickets. There was a lot of noise over three days.

Rod Pizzey agreed with **RD** and also mentioned that the stallholders were treated very badly. He suggested that the event be cancelled or postponed. **SR** agreed that a TENS licence is for a small event and is for licencing reasons and therefore not suitable for the Vintage Fair. **RD** said that a licence is meant to be applied for by an individual. It was Carrot Event who applied and the Council were aware. It should have been a public licence which requires consultation. It is difficult to get in touch with the Council as you have to go through Customer First. **KB** offered to contact Councillor Maxted, who is on the Licencing Committee and report back.

ACTION: KB

COUNCILLORS UPDATE INCLUDING DEVOLVED BUDGET – Some money from the devolved budget has been spent on repairs to the roof of the Hermitage in Manor Gardens, Travel Maps for Gildredge House School, allotments and bins in St Anne's Road and Hurst Road. **JT** reported said the Travel Maps were very good and much appreciated by the school.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST – report had been circulated. Fly tipping is a big problem with 44 cases over December, January and February.

POLICE REPORT – **NC** advised that crime statistics in the Upperton area month by month can be found through the Sussex Police website. The main issues are anti social behaviour and criminal damage to vehicles. There have been thefts of mopeds in Old Town and Upperton and fly tipping around Upperton

Gardens. **NC** is the Coordinator of Community Speedwatch and it is hoped to re establish groups of PCSOs doing more speed checks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – KB reported that Eastbourne Borough Council is seeking residents' views on a proposal for a new Public Spaces Protection Order to tackle anti social driving. The consultation will remain open until 5pm on Monday April 25. To complete the survey visit: lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/drivingPSPO.

Rod Pizzey had concerns about E-Scooters and felt they should be stopped. **EM** reported that Eastbourne Access Group are holding a big meeting next month which anyone can join. **EM** will ask Gill Morris to circulate the details to Panel. Details can also be found on the Eastbourne Access Group Facebook page.

ACTION: EM/GM

RL reported that the Queen's Green Canopy is going very well thanks to Gildredge House School and the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club. They would welcome views on the Escarpment. www.eastbourneqgc.org.

JT said there had been a lot of interest from the school since COP 26 and they are very keen to be involved. He has met with other schools in the town and there is a lot of enthusiasm.

Rod Pizzey reported on several issues: an increase in rough sleepers in Gildredge Park in the past few weeks. They are not causing problems and he felt that the Council should not remove their possessions without giving them notice. They do not like sleeping in hostels. **RL** offered his support with this. **AH** said there are places the homeless can get free food every day in Eastbourne. **SR** said there is a list on the Community Wise outside notice board. Rod will advise the rough sleepers of this. **EM** said Matthew 25 in Seaside also offer food twice a day.

People are still walking dogs in Manor Gardens without a lead and it is becoming an issue. Rod had written to Neighbourhood First.

If people want to hold street parties during the Jubilee weekend, Rod advised there is a lot of paperwork required and it needs to be done 4-6 weeks prior to the event.

RD thought an update on the Vintage Fair would be needed before the next meeting.

KB thanked **EM** for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 8.10pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 19th May at 7pm.