

MEADS NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

Meeting Held 3rd August 2011

Present: Roy Peacock Chairman (RP), Jane Ekin-Wood, Secretary (JE-W), PC Lisa Cousins, Sussex Police (LC), Councillor Nigel Goodyear (NG), Andrew Keefe Brighton University (AK), Abbi Houghton (AB) Centre Manager-EAC, Emma Thomas (ET) Residential Conference Co-ordinator, Brighton University, Glen Baxter Welkin Halls Site Manager(GB), Ewen Summers (ES), Mrs Valerie Blaxland (VB), Lionel Lacey-Johnson (LL-J), David Heath (DH), Stephen Ekin-Wood (SE-W), Derek Scott (DS), Stanley Wilson (SW), Emma Thomas (ET), Mary Keveney (MK), Sue Buswell (SB), Graham Buswell (GB), Terence Darrell (TD), Brenda Baker (BB), Marie Linwood (ML), Rita Ankelen (RA), Ron Hart (RH)

Apologies: Michael Blackmur, Barry Ayres, Sue Enfield, Nick Chapman, Andrew Dakyns, Ian McKirgan

Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2011

These had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. Action on Main Issues

2.1 Brighton University

LC reported that she had done much work with the University over the last two years and that by everybody pulling together the results have been very good. She had not received any reports of any trouble recently.

RP and IM met with Sabine Wagner and had a positive meeting. AK told the meeting that the suggestions made by RP and IM at the meeting with Sabine will be put into the Handbook given to new students at the start of the academic year. This included the information that the Welkin site is in a residential area, which had been omitted before. He also mentioned that Terry Preston is now President of the Students Union and therefore not always able to attend the Panel meetings, but will delegate someone else to come. AK informed the meeting that the sites will now have two security guards on duty on Friday and Saturday nights. There are no changes to the list of telephone numbers to contact if there is a problem.

L.C. will be giving her usual talk to the Freshers at the start of their year.

Summer Students

The meeting then moved on to the problems experienced by the residents with the summer school students using the University premises. SB and GB live opposite the sports facility in Denton Road and said that the noise this year had left them nervous wrecks. The students gathered at the entrance to the sports facility and on the pavement in Denton Road, dropping litter and that no-one seems to be supervising them. There have been between 300 and 400 foreign students present on the sites. A lot of the problems are in Gaudick Road, Denton Road and Carlisle Road. When coaches leave at 9am in the morning the students are gathered in the road for about one and a quarter hours before they leave and the residents are wondering why the coaches are picking up outside residential houses. On a previous occasion over 100 students left the sports centre at 10.40pm and music was being played on the grass outside the centre at gone 11pm. SB said that they had been unable to have their windows open due to the noise.

LL-J commented that students had been gathering in groups round by the garage block in Gaudick Close, smoking and dropping cigarette ends. SE-W said that the noise and general behaviour of the language students in the street had been a disgrace this year with a total disregard for the residents in the area, and questioned the nationality of the students as they seemed much worse than the usual noisy Italians. JE-W said that many seemed to be Middle Eastern and Eastern European, and were particularly bad at dropping litter. It was generally thought particularly by the residents in Denton Road to be a completely unacceptable situation.

AH informed the meeting that the language school had employed litter pickers. ES felt that the litter laws should be explained to the students. AH said that they had tried hard to address the residents concerns and she had given

out her mobile number so that residents could 'phone her direct and that this had been successful RP commented that on one occasion he had gone out into his rear garden at Meads Brow, some considerable distance from the University site and could hear a high level of noise. He also asked AH that if they had so many people on site supervising the students how come there were so many problems. LL-J asked why the coaches could not park nearer the golf course in Gaudick Close. It was pointed out that there is not enough room to turn the coaches round. AH felt that the students should be moved around in smaller groups. AK suggested that residents contact the Environmental Health Department and they can address the problems. The last students will leave on the 28th August.

2.2 Traffic-speeding and parking. (Pavements / Verges)

LC reported that she had not had a chance to use the radar gun that she had spoken about at the previous meeting. Sgt Julian Williams and his team had been checking speed in the area but had not had to book anyone. RP mentioned that parking on grass verges had started again in Meads Road.

3. Up-date on other issues already raised

3.1 Cycling on pavements including the promenade

With regard to cycling on the pavements and promenade RP reported that he had only seen children doing this, but MM had approached three men cycling on the promenade and when reprimanded they had attacked him. His work hours are currently 9am to 5.30pm and he has requested a shift pattern of cover, looking to finish at 8pm. LC requested that MM dial 999 if under threat. NG said that MM is enforcing an existing bye-law which has no provision in it to collect names and addresses. The bye-law would have to be amended to do this.

NG said that Scarlett McNally of Bespoke had said that they no longer wanted cycling on the middle promenade. The proposed cycle path running past St Bedes would be too congested and that although shared pavement use is now the norm in the UK this area of the promenade is not suitable. RP also informed the meeting that 18 Holywell chalets had been broken into on two nights in a row with considerable damage done. LC reported theft of lead and copper piping in the Meads area, but there were no leads so far.

LC and MM had received complaints about people camping on the Downs and LL-J asked if there was still a Downland Ranger. There is **not** but two people are responsible for looking after the area. There are also reports of loud music coming from the area but it has not been possible to identify where it is coming from.

3.2 Overgrown shrubs, hedges and trees.

It was noted that the Council and residents had been cutting back overgrowth throughout the season and apart from 6 Beachy Head Road (over the footpath) and in Darley Road there had not been any other reports.

3.3 Helen Garden and St Bedes Lighting

RP reported that the MCA has taken an interest in the state of the gardens and there are no further reports of lighting issues at St Bedes School.

RP informed LC that there is a new group of men gathering in the evenings at Helen Garden and she will investigate. **Action : LC**

3.4 Dog Fouling

It was reported that there is a bad smell from dog fouling on the cliff walk starting at the cafe aside St Bedes school and that dog walkers are using plastic bags to collect droppings and hanging them on the bushes instead of disposing of them in the bins provided. **Action : MM**

From May to September dogs are banned from the sea between the Wish Tower and the Pier. ES requested that this apply to an extension beyond the Wish Tower towards Hollywell for the same period of time and for all dogs to be on a leash on the beach and promenades. NG, ES and RP undertook to take this to the next stage. **Action : NG, ES, RP**

3.5 State of pavements and roads.

RP said that some roads had improved and asked residents to use the website to report any repairs needed. NG announced that Gaudick Close will get yellow lines and that pay parking on the seafront will cease at the junction with Silverdale Road. In answer to a residents query, caravans can be left on the seafront provided they are taxed, have rear reflectors and are parked the same way as the traffic.

3.6 Paradise Wood.

A meeting on the evening of 4th August chaired by Mike Smith is scheduled to discuss cycling trails. NG said that the cycle group will have responsibility for the day to day running of use of the trails but that the Council will oversee them. No motorised vehicles will be allowed and they will be separated from walkers.

4. Identification of other issues.

RP mentioned that he is very concerned about the amount of lead being stolen and MM reported that a lot of drain covers and signs were being stolen. This is an epidemic all over the country. RP informed the meeting that in regards to cold calling NPower will be stopping this practice within their company. RP requested that any residents having a problem with this to inform the Police. LL-J asked if anything could be done about telephone cold calling from India about so called problems with computers, but it is not possible to stop international calls from abroad.

5. Agreement of the priority issues.

Continuation of the previous two issues (see above) was agreed.

6. Meads Ward NP Website.

RP forwards updates for this regularly

7. District Panel Meeting.

RP is unable to attend the meeting scheduled for the 12th September, but NG has agreed to attend.

8. Panel Membership.

This remains open to anyone in the Meads area covered with issues or not

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 5th October in Hillbrow, Denton Road, Room to be confirmed) and following that the next one will be on the 7th December.

The meeting closed at 21.25