

## **MEADS NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**PRESENT:** Roy Peacock (RP) Chairman, Valerie Blaxland (VB), Ian McKirgan (IM), Ewen Summers (ES), Roger Stiggers (RS), David Pryse (DP), Carol Pryse (CP), John Regan (JR), Fiona Towse (FT), Diane Oosterveld (DO), Terry Preston (TP) Students Union, Glen Baxter (GB) University of Brighton, PC Lisa Cousins (LC) Sussex Police, PCSO David Smith (DS) Sussex Police, Andrew Keeffe (AK) University of Brighton, John Riding (JRi), Bob Jameson (BJ), Hugh Deeks (HD), Ron Hart (RH), Rosemary Watson (RW), David Heath (DH), Stanley Wilson (SW), Don Foster (DF), Cllr Barry Taylor (BT) EBC, Jane Elkin-Wood (JEW), Steve Elkin-Wood (SEW), Cllr Nigel Goodyear, (NG) EBC, Elizabeth Barton (EB) University of Brighton, Lionel Lacey-Johnson (LLJ) Secretary.#

The meeting opened at 7pm with the Chairman welcoming all, especially the newcomers and team from the University of Brighton.

**APOLOGIES:** Simon Evers, Michael Blackmur, Derek Scott, Barry Ayres, Andrew Dakyns, Michael Marchant and Tricia Sneath

Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010. These had been circulated following an amendment to the draft and were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. ACTION ON MAIN ISSUES**

### **2.1 BRIGHTON UNIVERSITY**

Discussions on University issues formed the major part of the meeting not ending until 9.20 pm

EB began by explaining the measures now adopted by the University, both in Eastbourne and Brighton, to alleviate any problems connected with the behaviour of students. She reported that matters had improved over the last year, but JEW intervened with reports of past and present problems. RP asked if any other residents had experienced problems during the summer months and mentioned that one resident had actually written to say that they thought things had actually improved. JEW explained that some relatively minor incidents had occurred during the "Freshers Week". DP on the other hand told of some more serious problems in Naomi Close connected with the Overseas students. EB went on to say that if the University is informed of any bad behaviour the perpetrators would be dealt with quickly. This prompted IM to ask exactly what action was taken. In reply both EB and AK explained that all students were bound by contracts to behave in an acceptable manner and that they could be dealt with through "breach of contract". As regards the overseas students RP said that Operation "Columbus" had been successfully applied and LC spoke of the good work by PC Bishop who is the officer responsible for Columbus.

Turning to more recent events at the University RP asked LC to give a report of the recent "Freshers Week". LC said that things had gone relatively quietly thanks to some excellent co-operation from the University and extra policing. There had been two days, the Sunday and

Monday, when things did not go quite as well due to a breakdown in the transport arrangements which had led to some students taking to taxis with the result that there were some incidents of noise being created as the students exited the taxis in Carlisle Road. LC's overall assessment was that the extra Police effort and the co-operation by the University, particularly by TP and his friends, had led to an improvement over past events of this nature. RS wished to record his thanks to the Police for a job well done and LC spoke highly of the work of PC Donna Bagguley, the University dedicated PC, and TP added that a more harmonious atmosphere had been created by Police and students mingling well.

Before ending the reports on recent events RP asked AK if he had had success in obtaining the leaflets or guides to good behaviour referred to at the August meeting. AK regretted that he had not yet done so other than to get a copy of the standard and general advice to students which he then passed around for all to see. He would pursue the matter further. **ACTION : AK**

RP then introduced Rosemary Watson (RW) from Langney Road, (Town Centre Panel) explaining that although this Panel is concerned with students living in the Meads area there were many more students who were attending the University but who are resident in other parts of the town. RW spoke of troubles with students returning to the houses late at night. Her complaints invoked a lengthy discussion on the responsibilities of landlords and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Apparently there are some 3,000+ students residing throughout the town and NG said the EBC is aware of the potential problems connected with the placing of students in suitable homes. RP suggested that this problem should become a subject for the District Panel meetings. LC offered RW details of the University Environmental Officer who she thought might be able to help in some cases. AK reminded the meeting that any problems connected with students from the University, no matter where they live, can be reported to the University or the Local Council.

Moving on to problems connected with rubbish left by students, ES said that students, because they were forbidden to smoke on the campus, were in the habit of coming on to Denton and Gaudick Roads, lighting up and then throwing the butts down on the pavements. He asked where the designated smoking areas are situated and what signs were in place. AK said that he had been in contact with the Estates Manager about changing the positions of some signs and that he was still in the process of pursuing this problem. DP said that this problem was very prevalent at the start of the overseas students' visits but that action had been taken to curb it. RP suggested that the smoking policy might be referred to during the introductory briefings if not already the case.

## **2.2 TRAFFIC - SPEEDING AND PARKING**

RP said that further checks had been carried out and LC reported that several warnings had been given to drivers of speeding vehicles, mostly along King Edwards Parade. RP again reminded the meeting of the value of Operation Crackdown and urged people to make more use of the provisions of this ongoing Police operation.

RP said that the Parking problem had re-emerged with the return of the students. LLJ asked if any advice about parking on pavements was given at the introductory briefings to students, LC did not think so. DS said that if a vehicle was parked on a pavement and was preventing free

passage for pedestrians people should take the registrations numbers and report to him. NG said that the overall town parking plan had yet to be finalized but the EBC was working on it. JR spoke of coaches parking in the area of Eastbourne College and BT said the Council were considering a plan to prevent all parking, except coaches, in the Blackwater, Grange and College Road areas. The result of the consultation is due to be made public on the 19/20 October next and he suggested that any concerns by members of this Panel should be addressed via the Chairman to EBC. RP concluded this section of the agenda by reminding people that if PCSO Dave Smith should be unavailable to channel any reports via the **Police on 0845 60 70 999**, or, if the case involved parking on yellow lines, call the **ESCC Car Parks on 0845 6801129**.

## **2.3 CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS**

NG announced that there is to be a display of the ESCC's plan for cycle tracks in the Town Hall between 2 and 7pm on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> October. Further meetings are planned to finalise the proposals. RS asked what the policy is on cycling on pavements as there seemed to be much confusion nationally. NG spoke of the problems of enforcing Bye Laws and RP said that at a recent meeting of the MCA he had actually asked Mr Stephen Lloyd, MP for Eastbourne and Willingdon, if he was aware that our local Bye Laws could not be enforced: Mr Lloyd said that he was not aware of this and that he would look into the matter.

## **3. UPDATE ON OTHER ISSUES**

**3.1 Overgrown shrubs** RP said that he had given a list of problem areas to Michael Marchant, of the Enforcement Team, who had done some sterling work, not only by attending to the places on the lists given to him, but by pointing out to the Council that areas along the Seafront, for which they are responsible, also needed attention. A problem along South Cliff Road is being dealt with by the Hydro Hotel.

**3.2 Helen Gardens** There appears to have been no further action on the proposal to introduce a one way system on Cliff Road. As regards the lighting problem at St Bedes School, it appears that there is a safety issue connected with the emergency evacuation of the Sports Centre. Likewise extra lighting is required in the new bus park due to the fact that vehicles are returning and parking late at night. BJ said that he is continuing to press the School for some answers to his questions and there is a possibility that a new line of approach may be based on the fact that the School falls within an area of Natural Beauty. RS suggested that the Planning Application might be looked at more carefully. **ACTION : RS**

**3.3 Litter** RP said that we had already had some discussion on this subject (see 2.1 above) but in spite of no further reports he thought this item should be retained on the next meeting agenda.

**3.4 Horses on footpaths** No further problems. It was agreed that the item be dropped from the agenda unless problems re-emerge when the horse(s) are back in the area.

**3.5 Parking of Camper Vans** Although there are a number of vans parked in the area none are illegal or causing an obstruction. Item dropped from next meeting agenda.

**3.6 No 1 Meads Street.** This problem has been solved and agreed it is to be omitted from future agendas.

**3.7 Google Street.** No further problems; agreed item be dropped from future agendas.

**3.8 Dog Fouling.** Nothing new but item is retained on next meeting agenda.

**3.9 State of pavements generally.** The question of the need to monitor contracts was raised again. All contracts should have a reinstatement clause but the problem is that EBC often do not have the resources to inspect all sites when contractors have finished their work. RP to keep in touch with BT and NG and BT suggested that RP ask ESCC for a list of all planning infringements, using the name and authority of the Meads Panel to do so.

**3.10 All Saints.** RP produced a life size illustration of a sign that EBC Parks and Gardens are proposing to erect at the entrances to the newly opened All Saints Gardens; he had been asked to comment on how and where the signs might be erected. No exact location was suggested by members other than at the entrances but the sign revived the discussion on whether those parts of the sign, forbidding some activities, could be enforced and the lack of portrayal of others. The value of the sign was questioned and whether the Town Crest should be used on the sign.

#### **4. IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER ISSUES**

IM voiced concern over damage to pavements caused by lorries attending building sites, especially in the area of the Congress Theatre. BT assured the meeting that much effort has been put into ensuring that any damage done in that area will be fully restored. RH spoke of the University work-site in Gaudick Road. RP remarked that people should report any damage to pavements or other property by vehicles should be reported to the Police using the 0845 number and giving the vehicle details, name of company, exact location and date/time.

DH spoke of more break-ins to garages some of which may not have been very well secured. There have been no further complaints about washing lines.

**5. THREE MAIN PRIORITY ISSUES** To remain as:- University, Traffic and Cycling on Pavements.

**6. MEADS WARD WEBSITE.** Running well and is up to date.

**7. DISTRICT PANEL MEETINGS.** RP had attended the last meeting, Meads Ward featured little but some incidents in Devonshire Ward probably fell in the Lower Meads area. NG remarked that he was very impressed by the representation at Panel meetings for both Devonshire and Meads.

**8. PANEL MEMBERSHIP.** RP said he was pleased to see the newcomers and urged them to come again and put any problems to the next meeting.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** This has already been set as **Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.**