

## **MEADS NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

**Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Present:** Roy Peacock, Chairman (RP), Jane Ekin-Wood, Secretary (JE-W), Sgt Gareth Evans, Sussex Police (GE), Councillor Barry Taylor (BT), Councillor Nigel Goodyear (NG), Michael Marchant, EBC Enforcement (MM), Nick Chapman, St Andrews School (NC), Terry Preston, Students Union (TP), Ian Oddy (IO), Terence Darrell (TD), Michael Blackmur (MB), Stanley Wilson (SW), John Regan (JW), Barry Ayres (BA), Ian McKirgan (IM), Marie Linwood (ML), Lionel Lacey-Johnson (LL-J), Bob Jameson (BJ), David Heath (DH)

**Apologies:** PC Lisa Cousins, PSO Brian Burton, Andrew Keefe, Kevin Mannall, Freddie Lewis, Roger Stiggers, Andrew Dakins, Steve Ekin-Wood, Ewen Summers, Valerie Blaxland

### **Minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011**

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

RP reported that PCSO Dave Smith had retired and he asked that the meeting join him in thanking Dave for the sterling work that he had done in the Meads neighbourhood over the last few years. PCSO Brian Burton has taken over from him.

## **2. Action on Main Issues**

### **2.1 Brighton University**

RP and IM have looked at the Code of Conduct that the students have to sign up to and feel that there are some points that are worthy of change.

With reference to the five students living in Brighton who were involved in a court case as a result of anti-social behaviour affecting an adjoining neighbour, KM had informed RP that they had not responded to advice and a request from him to modify their behaviour. As a result they were subject to a disciplinary hearing, their records amended, but they still failed to respond. As a result they now have criminal records, which will impact on their future. IM commented that he thought that it was a pity that it had come to this and that sanctions should have been enforced by the University earlier. RP stated that both he and IM have informed the University through AK that they would like a meeting to discuss the Code of Conduct further aimed at alleviating anti-social behaviour.

**ACTION : AK and RP & IM**

JR asked whether the rules concerning noise in the grounds of the Welkin site could be altered. At the moment any noise should cease from 11pm but residents in Saffrons Park who have children at school, have asked that this be changed to 10.30pm.

**ACTION : AK**

With regard to a couple of incidents regarding noisy students in Carlisle Road waiting for taxis, TP reported that as a result of LC complaining, messages have gone out to heads of departments and these have been passed on to the students by e-mail. JE-W reported that it seems that a noise problem arises when ordered taxis are late and the students gather in Carlisle Road to wait for them.

GE reported that there has been positive feed back from the town centre about recent student behaviour.

MM informed the meeting that he had not received any feedback about smoking pouches, neither has TP, but website details have been posted.

RP confirmed that a new light has been installed in the alley leading from The Dentons to Beachy Head Road and the foliage has been cut back, much improving the walkway. MM confirmed that a new rubbish bin has been requested. RP thanked the Council for dealing with this, making the passageway much safer to walk through. RP asked that once the bin has been installed that it is looked at again regarding the ground cover aside the footpath.

## **2.2 Traffic.**

GE reported that speeding in the Meads area has been a priority for some time. 23 verbal warnings have been given to vehicles travelling between 30-35mph. The area outside St Bedes School has been patrolled regularly and the school will put a notice in their newsletter regarding parents parking. RP reported that speeds in Beachy Head Road appear to be coming down.

A request was made to put double yellow lines in Meads Road opposite the entrance to Saffrons Park, as it can be difficult to exit. NG stated that the general response to installing double yellow lines in problem areas has improved and he will pursue this. It was commented that this area is becoming faster and measures need to be taken. It was suggested that perhaps a mini roundabout could be installed but this would cost approx £50,000.00. Silverdale Road was also identified as another problem area for speeding.

Various issues were raised about parked cars. IM mentioned the matter of covered parked cars being left on the road. Provided the vehicle is taxed and has a viewable current tax disc nothing can be done. MM complained that the DVLA were not prosecuting motorists failing to display valid tax discs. He has approached the DVLA and they say that prosecution is not worth it. It was decided that the local MP should be spoken to about it. GE also mentioned the Dutch wholesale flower lorry which is parking overnight on the sea front, and other areas where it is not permitted. A driver has been spoken to but it seems he is not responding generally. IM reported on how frustrating it is that laws are in place but for various reasons they are not enforced. BT also raised the issue of Moira House School mini buses and the speed at which they are travelling. A general discussion ensued regarding the speed of town buses.

RP asked NC if St Andrews School reminds parents about parking on the pavements and grass verges. He replied that they did but various people said that these were quite damaged.

## **2.3 Cycling on Pavements including the promenade**

There had not been any reports since the last meeting although RP reported that he had seen two separate cases.

MM reported that he had warned several people seen riding on the promenade regarding, and that some were generally shocked that they could be fined £500.00 for doing so.

NG is talking to the local planning officer with regard to the cycle lane proposed outside St Bedes School. BT has requested that the proposed consultation be held in Meads.

### 3. Update on other issues already raised;

#### 3.1. Overgrown shrubs, hedges and trees

There have been some problems with overgrown shrubs and residents in Beachy Head Road have been spoken to, as has a householder in Cranborne Avenue regarding overgrown Leylandi trees. MM advised that if residents did not conform to requests to cut back overgrown foliage, then the Highways Department can deal with the problem and bill the householder for the costs. JR mentioned a tree belonging to a house in Naomi Close that needs pruning as it is overhanging Meads Road.

**ACTION : MM**

#### 3.2 Helen Gardens and St.Bedes Lighting.

BJ reported that a homeless man has taken over the pavilion at St Helens Gardens, where he now has a camp bed and invites friends to join him. GE stated that they have increased patrols to try to tackle the problem.

BJ reported that there was a stalemate regarding the lights at St Bedes School and he was awaiting a reply to his last letter. RP will discuss this with him after the meeting. **ACTION : RP & BJ**

The building Silverdale Court has been re-possessed by the bank and whoever buys it will have to deal with the repairs.

#### 3.3 Litter.

There was nothing to report

#### 3.4 Dog Fouling.

MM reported that the links area in Gaudick Road leading to the golf course, were covered in faeces and owners were not picking up after their dogs. Dog fouling is also a problem in Bolsover Road and the walkways down to the promenade. Sue Criddle has asked that the public get a description of the walkers and their dogs involved and said that they will then be spoken to about picking up.

**ACTION : Residents**

#### 3.5. State of pavements and roads

With regards to potholes in roads, these are due to be repaired shortly and RP asked that the contact details for reporting them be added to the minutes. To telephone, call the local highways office on 0345 60 80 193, or E-mail highways @east.sussex.gov.uk, or use the report a problem page at [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk). The County Council will be spending about £2.3 million to repair the potholes. It was questioned as to whether the repairs were being done properly. LL- J asked whether pressure could be brought on the County Council to provide more money for repairs, NG replied that there was no more money available.

ML reported that parking on pavements in Meads Village has resulted in broken slabs. JE-W mentioned that the new red tiles placed in Carlisle Road are now breaking up badly.

**ACTION : RP & Residents**

## 4. Identification of other issues

### 4.1 Paradise Wood

NG has been involved with a proposal from a local group of mountain bikers for something to be done to stop the mis-use of cycle trails in the wood. Trails for bike riding are separate from the walking paths, and are unlikely to attract out of town bikers as they are not too difficult or long enough. A Planning Application seeks to formalise the trails and riding in the wood as well as proposed improvements. The boundary area between Meads and Old Town will now come under the National Park Authority and those responsible for this area will wish to endorse it.

MM mentioned that members of the public holding barbecues on the Downs have been directed to places where barbecue facilities are available.

MM also questioned as to whether National Park status will affect local bye-laws. BT explained that most local authorities will be involved in the planning for the National Park, but that he was unsure about the bye-laws. He will check on this.

**ACTION : BT**

### 4.2 Walking Bus

In response to JR, NC said that as far as he knew, St. Andrew's School had not given any thought to organising a "walking bus" to and from school for some of their pupils. RP said that he had seen pupils assembling in Chesterfield Road and assumed they would be walking to St. Bedes school.

## 5. Agreement of the three priority issues

It was agreed that these would remain the same.

## 6. Meads Ward NP Website

RP reported that the draft meeting minutes were sent to the web-master at the same time as distributed to members and Meads Ward NW Coordinators. Also, that he sent the approved version after the meeting along with the next meeting details. The local NPT were also submitting reports.

## 7. District Panel Meeting

RP told the meeting that he had met the new Inspector, Steve Tullett who is standing in for Inspector Barrow whilst she is on maternity leave, at the last DP meeting. He was very supportive of the work being undertaken by Neighbourhood Panels and appreciated the different approaches being taken by them to conduct their business.

## 8. Panel Membership.

**No change to the current practice.**

### **Date of Next Meeting.**

This has already been set for **Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> June**. It will be held in **Room G41, Hillbrow, Denton Road**.

**The meeting closed at 21.30.**