

Town Centre Neighbourhood Panel
29th September 2011

Present:

Margaret Bannister	EBC Ward Councillor
John Bradshaw	Resident
Alison Cairns	ESCC Eastbourne Library
PC Scott Franklin-Lester	Police
Nigel Goodyear	EBC Ward Councillor
Bob Gough	Crime Reduction Partnership
Joe Hayler	Vernon House Hotel
Mrs Hayler	Vernon House Hotel
Marie Hennelly	Resident
Julie Hickling	EBC Env. Health Pollution Team
Adrian Ley (Chairman)	Resident
David Mitchell	Resident
Netta Nielsen	Resident
Jay Patel	Resident
John Pattenden	Resident
Roy Peacock	Neighbourhood Watch
Chris Richards	EBC Town Centre Manager
John Soars	Advice/Counselling Centre
Martin Taylor	Resident
Steve Wallis	EBC Ward Councillor
Georgina Wood	Resident

1 Welcome and Introductions:

The Chairman welcomed new attendees to the meeting and introductions were given around the table.

2 Apologies :

Ray Barron	Resident
Srg Gareth Evans	Police
Pam Hagon	Resident
Beryl Healy	ESCC Ward Councillor
Kareen Plympton	EBC Licensing Manager
Stephen Priestley	Resident
Dianne Vernon-Dixon	Resident
Rosemary Watson	Resident

3 Role of Environmental Health Pollution Team

JH gave an overview of the work of this team.

The service may be accessed by residents when the pollution is so significant as to affect them in their homes. The first stage usually involves the resident keeping a log of incidents. They should record time, date what is occurring and how this is affecting them. If the team see that the log demonstrates that it is having a significant impact then they will seek to gain first hand evidence to support future action. Recording equipment may be used to gather evidence in relation to noise but first hand observations are more effective if the case progresses to the Magistrates Court. A progressive approach is used which may involve asking the offender to desist, the issuing of an Abatement Notice and subsequent court action if this is not complied with.

Noise – Deal with noise from private dwellings and commercial premises including if it spills out into the street but not general noise in the street which is a matter for the Police.

Dog Mess – Officer needs to witness incident for action to be taken.

Rubbish and Litter – Will deal with rubbish on peoples premises if there is a health risk. General litter in the streets is dealt with by the EBC Cleansing Department.

Bonfires – Not usually a matter for them unless there is a regular pattern or it is very severe.

Panel members may contact JH on 415379.

4 Street Markets

CR gave an update on the EBC Consultation on changing the Street Trading Policy to allow street markets on a wider basis by reassigning most streets to “Consent Streets”.

Details of the consultation which lasts until 2nd January 2012 may be found at <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/consultations/street-trading-and-market/>

Printed versions may be obtained by contacting the Council.

5 Neighbourhood Management

BG reported on the work that has been conducted since the last Panel meeting.

A major focus has been the area outside the Eastbourne railway station. Ownership of the land has been clarified and a programme of deep cleaning has been started. Options for some form of floral display are being investigated. BG thanked MH for her involvement in this project.

The last Town Centre Management meeting focussed on the Town Centre Area Action Plan Consultation. Representations were made concerning paragraph 4.33 as it was thought this was to a degree ambiguous and did not give sufficient weight to the Cumulative Impact Policy as a means of limiting further disruption in the Town Centre.

A Neighbourhood Management Steering Group to be chaired by Stephen Lloyd MP is being established and will meet for the first time in November.

BG now receives copies of Licensing Applications. The Police are reviewing Operation Marble which may impact on how they police the Town Centre.

There needs to be another meeting of the Elms Avenue Group involving the General Manager of the Pier.

The next meeting of the Town Centre Neighbourhood Management Group is on Thursday 3rd November 2011 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall. Items to be considered include provision for youths, encouraging a more active membership and the Street Trading consultation.

6 Council Consultations

AL reported on two new consultations

There is a session for neighbourhood panel members on the Eastbourne Borough Council Corporate Plan on Thursday 13th October 2011 at 6pm in the Court Room at the Town Hall. <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/strategies/>

The draft Cycling Strategy for Eastbourne has been published and there is a short questionnaire to give comments.

7 Police Update

SFL circulated information on Operations Kraken and Crackdown as well as reporting on other police activities.

On 27th September the Police introduced a new hub model across East Sussex Division. One of the hubs is located at Eastbourne. At the hubs the CID and Response Teams work closely together as a RIT team focusing on the investigative side of policing. The aim is to enable response teams to return to their response areas rather than spending time in the office dealing with prisoners or conducting interviews.

97 Dispersal Orders were issued in June, 15 in July and 41 in August.

Four new seats are now in place outside the Post Office.

Brighton University have funded additional Police Officers for Freshers Week and the Police gave their usual briefing on acceptable behaviour to the new students.

8 EBC Licensing Update

Al gave an update on behalf of KP.

Freshers Week has been carefully managed, with several proactive visits undertaken to advise venues about responsible marketing of alcohol, noise management and the need to respect businesses and residents in the locality.

Funktion Rooms is looking to re-open in mid October under the name Tonic. This will be subject to satisfactory operating procedures and management structures.

Vernon House Hotel has had a Noise Abatement Notice served.

The Dispersal Order has resulted in a marked improvement in the town centre with regard to alcohol related anti social behaviour, particularly amongst the street drinking fraternity.

The Langney Place Cultural Crescent has a number of events planned within it, and the benches previously used by street drinkers have been removed, and replaced with 4 individual seats. KP will keep the number of seats under review and may increase the number of seats available.

9 Vernon House

AL has received an answer from Inspector Charles Connaughton.

Following police intervention in the premises during February 2011 the police have received 5 related calls to these premises.

The primary Offence that was considered was that of underage sales, where all of the witnesses were teenagers belonging to a private school. After significant discussion, and liaison with the concerned school, all of the witnesses bar one, declined to give evidence. This considerably weakened the case, and Inspector Connaughton made the decision for the two persons 'on duty' at the time of the incident to receive cautions.

10 Residents Concerns

CR reported that Stage Coach drivers were permitted to change over near to the Memorial Roundabout. SFL reported that the Police will monitor this area and act if dangerous obstructions occurred.

In response to a question SFL reported that the possibility of gating the alleyway off Elms avenue had not been resolved.

11 Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 24th November 2011 at 1900 hrs at the Town Hall

AL and BG will draw up a list of dates for the Town Centre Neighbourhood Panel and Town Centre Neighbourhood Management meetings for 2012.