

Minutes of the 16th Meeting
of the
Seaside Neighbourhood Panel

Date: 13 July 2011
Chair: Bill Whaley (BW)
Location: St. Agnes Hall, Whitley Road
Time: 7.00 p.m.
Minutes taken by: Jean Whaley (JW)

Members present:

Police

PC Lisa Cousins (LC)

Councillors

Beryl Healy (BH) (County)

Others

Reps from St Andrew's School

In addition there were approximately 24 members of the public.

Apologies:

Jane Dubery (JD)

Margaret Bannister (MB)

Steve Wallis (SW) (*but provided a written report*)

Neil Stanley (NS)

Updates on Priorities from 15th Meeting held on 11 May 2011:

Priority 1 – Inconsiderate parking in and around Norway Road:

SW had pursued the matter with ESCC highways and the police. ESCC highways intimated that this was a police issue and the best they could do was to offer a traffic review at some point.

LC had spoken to the head of St Andrew's School regarding this matter. As a result, the head of the school, Carol Meakins (CM), and the caretaker, Mark Comford (MC), were present at the meeting. CM responded to the suggestion that the back gate of the school should be closed by saying that this would condense the problem of traffic into Winchelsea Road. She was planning to introduce the idea of a walking school bus from a drop off point by Wartling Road Bridge to take the children to and from school from September 2011. BH intimated that this idea had proved successful in other schools. It was agreed that this may remedy the parking problems.

The suggestion was also made that 'sleeping policemen' or 'Slow – Children' signs could be introduced along Norway Road to reduce speeding traffic. BH said that reports showed that a 'chicane' system was more beneficial. She had spoken to the appropriate department about this issue and would follow this up.

Priority 2 – Speeding on one way system in Dursley Road area – 12 midnight to 5 am Friday and Saturday

LC reported that the police had not received any further complaints about this issue. There had been significant police presence during the problem times and the issue seems to have been resolved. A local resident present at the meeting commented that the situation had greatly improved.

Priority 3 – Anti-Social behaviour - Regency Park:

LC reported that there were still issues to deal with on this estate but regular patrols and high visibility had kept anti-social behaviour to a minimum. The summer holidays were approaching however and this would be a testing time.

Community Resolutions

LC advised that a new initiative had been introduced and she had brought leaflets with her to the meeting. The new initiative gives police officers and PCSOs the option of dealing with some types of incidents, usually low level ones, without having to go through the Criminal Justice System. So far, good results had been obtained through discussions with the victim, offender and police officer concerned.

Other actions/Priority Discussion issues:

1. Dispersal Zones

SW had been advised that a problem that had been reported to him about drinkers congregating on the beaches in the Treasure Island area and engaging in anti-social behaviour. The police had been consulted on this matter and they have been patrolling the area in an attempt to eliminate the problem. It was reported however that on one occasion the police had advised a complainant to move to another beach to get away from the problem. LC advised that this approach was incorrect.

It was voiced with some concern that the dispersal zones were merely moving problems to other areas.

LC would take these points to Sgt Gareth Evans who was responsible for this initiative.

2. Parking

SW reported that ESCC highways are currently consulting on additional parking zones in and around the town centre. Winchcombe/Dursley Roads have not formed part of any proposed improvements so he will be liaising with the local residents and BH to see what help can be offered by ESCC to ease the parking problems in this area. He had also written to ESCC regarding improving short stay parking for local businesses in Langley Road. He was still waiting to hear from the highways department regarding the closure of Burfield Road.

BH reported that new proposals had been put forward for parking meters in the area near CODA. The Board of Governors for Bourne School had been consulted regarding the dangerous driving area near the school.

3. Rubbish Bins in Seaside/Leslie Street and Burfield Road.

SW reported that he had looked into this matter. Those currently located outside the new flats on the corner of Leslie Street/Seaside will be repositioned at the rear of the property once the building works had been completed. The wheelie bins located in Burfield Road are more of a challenge as the alleyways that they thought they could be moved to have no real space or access so an alternative solution is being sought.

4. Work of the Neighbourhood PCSOs

There was no report as there was a current shortage of active PCSOs in the area and LC was endeavouring to cover the deficit.

5. Neighbourhood District Panel Briefing (from 13 June 2011 meeting).

JD had been unable to attend but she reported through Gareth Evans (GE) that people have been seen drinking in the gardens of The Pavilion Tea Room opposite the Langham Hotel. GE advised that this is within the current Dispersal Order area, and Police will pay passing attention.

6. Grot Spots

A letter had been received from the Cleansing Monitoring and Enforcement Officer asking for a list of potential grot spots by 5 August 2011.

The following suggestions were made:

- At the top of Marine Road outside the EDF electrical substation.
- The area by the river from Lottbridge Drove by KFC to the bridge at Wartling Road/Princes Park.
- The back alley of Dursley Road with Cavendish Avenue. The trees/shrubs are hanging into the alleyway blocking the light.

7. Other Items

Alcohol problem at Christchurch

It was reported that the number of people drinking alcohol outside the church and in the bus shelter was increasing. LC said she would follow this up.

Drug dealers in Marine/Burfield Roads

It was reported that new drug dealers were being seen in the Marine/Burfield Roads area. LC requested as much information as possible so that the appropriate action could be taken.

The Seaside Centre

Ray Allaway from The Seaside Road Advice Centre had attended the meeting to inform about the centre and its activities. The address is 95 Seaside Road and

telephone number is 412412. Advice covers matters such as benefits, general advice, people matters, street learning, arts and crafts and English for the community.

List of Events in Eastbourne

A discussion took place on the difficulty of finding out what was going on in Eastbourne. There was often information about the big events but the smaller events were not always well publicised. Could there be a central list where all events could be advertised? Perhaps NS could assist with this?

New direction signs

There had been mention some time ago about new signage along the seafront but none had been seen. NS to be asked to update on this matter.

Cycling and Walking lanes on the seafront

There was a representation from a local action team regarding the above issue. It was felt that the lanes were on the wrong side of the promenade. Children walking on the outside lane had to cross the busy 'bicycle' lane to get to the beach. A cyclist commented that he agreed that cycling where there was a predominance of stray pebbles was not ideal. It was felt that a health and safety review and risk assessment was required.

Treasure Island

Concern was expressed about the situation with regard to Treasure Island. SW reported that the administrators are still trying to resolve the financial issues and seek a buyer. In the interim action has been taken to tidy up the area so it does not become an eyesore.

Priorities:

It was agreed that the priorities for this period would be:-

1. Drug Dealing in Marine/Burfield Roads.
2. Regency Park anti-social behaviour particularly Batemans House and Penshurst House.
3. Anti-social behaviour in the Vine Square area.

Date of Next Meetings:

14th September 2011 and 9th November 2011 (all at St Agnes Hall, Whitley Road).