

Seaside Neighbourhood Panel
Minutes of Meeting 25th February 2009

Attended by:

Sergeant Julian WILLIAMS CW508
PC Louis THOMPSON CT488
PCSO Kathryn HILL 26997
PC Lisa COUSINS DC191
Cllr Beryl HEALY (County Councillor)
Jan NEWENS (Neighbourhood Watch)
Jane DUBERY (Seaside Recreation & Redoubt Neighbourhood Group)
Sue CRIDDLE (Councillor Dog Warden)
S ROOKE
L ROOKE
G SMITH
M J SHEPPARD
B CORCORAN
S ENGLERT
L SIDDEERS
A SIDDEERS
A SAMBORA
J PARICER
P JAMES
H McCABE
S RAY
G LEONARD
A SYGROVE
D HILL
Fr. Seamus (Catholic church)
M BROWNE

Apologies: PCSO Steve PARSONS

- Introduction and explanation of Neighbourhood Panels given by Sgt WILLIAMS.
- Confirmation that Local Action Teams can remain in place but request made that the chairs from these meetings groups attend the Neighbourhood Panel Meetings. Neighbourhood Panel will invite partner agencies to attend as specific issues require.
- Sgt WILLIAMS presented the group with the Devonshire Ward statistics – Eventually statistics will be provided at Panel level. On the whole, across the Devonshire Ward reductions in crime are visible and this is due to a combined effort by all organisations who deal with crime reduction. The statistics however do not show Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and it is accepted that ASB is probably at the top of the priorities lists for each panels.
- A chair was requested for the Neighbourhood Panel. Jane DUBERY volunteered to take on the role initially. Helen McCABE agreed to record the minutes of the next meeting.

A general discussion was held regarding issues and problem areas relevant to Seaside Neighbourhood Panel.

- Street Drug dealing was raised by the residents to be a particular concern. On the 12th February, 8 warrants were executed across the Eastbourne area by Police where a large quantity of drugs were seized along with 3 taser guns. Street drug dealing is more difficult to combat than drug dealing from premises however there are Policing Operations that can, and do combat street drug dealing which would be looked at if this was identified as one of the top three priorities. Sussex Police would like to know of times and places where the drug dealing is taking place.
- The suggestion of gating alleyways was mentioned and if there is a specific alleyway causing issues then this will be looked at
- Cycling on the pavements was raised by residents. It is against the law for anyone over the age of 10 to cycle on pavements, however, we don't wish to encourage youngsters onto the road, but if reckless cycling then advice should be given and parents spoken to. Adults however could be issued with fixed penalty notices and targeted operations would be completed if this was identified as one of the top three priorities. A suggestion was made that the schools cycling proficiency scheme could push this message out. This will be completed by Police.
- Anti-Social Behaviour by young children in the streets – Pc THOMPSON emphasised that youths that are persistently causing anti social behaviour could be entered into an acceptable behaviour order (ABC's) as a pre cursor to a anti social behaviour orders (ASBO). This was followed by a discussion into ABC's and ASBO's. ABCs are a contract between parents/children and the police to improve behaviour, they are not compulsory. If youths fail to keep to an ABC or refuses to enter into one then ASBOs are the next route. The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for Sussex Police is PC Ginny JUPP. There are currently two youths causing ASB in the Seaside area who are in the process of receiving either an ASBOs or ABC. ASBO's can order curfews, orders not to associate with other nuisance youths, orders not cause alarm, harassment or distress, just about anything that is justified. When an ASBO is breached, if the Police have the evidence the offender is usually arrested and charged straight away. If there are continuous breaches then the courts may send the youth to a Young Offenders Institute. Pressure can be put on landlords if the offender is in rented accommodation and in a worse case scenario can close down houses which are the centre to persistent anti-social behaviour in the community.
- CCTV operation. The CCTV monitoring room has moved to Brighton. This did cause initial performance problems for the Police. Shopwatch also lost its link with the CCTV room, but a system is being purchased to rectify this. The system will soon be changing from analogue to digital and PCSOs and PCs are being trained to monitor and download CCTV from their desktops in the stations. Due to these imminent changes the effectiveness of CCTV overall will be better than when the system was

monitored in Eastbourne. There was a suggestion by a member of public about installing more CCTV in area such as Whitley Recreation ground, Cllr HEALY said that to install each camera costs in the region of £25,000.

- Street drinking of all age groups was also raised. New legislation - Section 27's (order to leave locality) are now being used by local Police officers on a daily basis for street drinkers, this is having a temporary effect on the problem. To deal with the long term problem of street drinking ASBO files are currently being compiled against key offenders. PCSO HILL explained how Operation Blitz worked to tackle underage drinking and anti-social behaviour by young people. Blitz packs were offered to those who wanted them. A suggestion was made to remind the language school students that drinking is forbidden in the street and on the beaches. SMART water is another initiative going to be used to identify where underage people purchase the alcohol (this is also already in use in schools and commercial premises to identify stock and people that have broken into the premises) Members of the public were concerned about the knock on effect of Christchurch opening the doors to the homeless people during the day – OASIS. The coordinators of OASIS will be invited to the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting. Test purchase operations have been conducted by local Police and trading standards to deal with licensed premises selling alcohol to youths, the staff selling receive an £80 fixed penalty notice and if caught twice then the licensee may be called to have their license reviewed.
- “Boy Racers” was raised particularly along Seaside. Section 59s can be issued to the driver and car. Two section 59s and the car is seized. This costs the owner over £100 to recover the car and storage fees per day.

Following further discussion amongst the group it was decided (not by the Police) that the top three priorities for this Neighbourhood Panel to deal with are:

- 1. Street Drug Dealing**
- 2. Street Drinking**
- 3. Cycling on pavements, in particular along Seaside.**

Other issues will be looked at on an individual basis.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 1900 in St Agnes Church Hall, Whitley Road where the Police will report back with what they have been doing to deal with the local priorities.