

**Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel
Notes from Meeting of 29 September 2011
Held at Sovereign Harbour Lifeboat Station**

Agenda

1. Welcome to Panel and Visitors
2. Apologies
3. Notes of Last Meeting (21/07/11)
4. Issues Arising Since Previous Meeting
 - Cycling on Marina Walkways
 - Graffiti and Vandalism
 - Speeding on Pacific Drive
 - Dogs off the Lead
 - Anti-Social parking in Macquarie Quay
5. Update Reports
 - Police
 - Councillors
 - Premier Marinas
 - Waterfront Traders
 - Environmental Health
 - Enforcement Update
6. AOB
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Attendees

Members:	Community Associates:
Jan Weeks (Chair)	P.S. Ed Ripley
Rick Runalls	P.C. Louis Thompson
Adrian Tickell	P.C.S.O. Martin Hylands
Alison Attwood	Cllr. David Elkin
Malcolm Nevins	Cllr. Patrick Warner
	Cllr. Philip Ede
	Clair Banks (EBC – Enforcement)
	Janet Taylor (Premier Marinas)
	Paul Metcalfe (Lifeboat Operations Manager)
	David Hawkins (Victoria Quay Management Co.)
	Dave Love (Port Police)

Welcome

Jan Weeks welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced visitors David Hawkins from the Victoria Quay Management Company and Dave Love from the Port Police. She explained that David Hawkins would be talking about parking problems at Macquarie Quay, whilst David Love was getting experience of Neighbourhood Panels in the context of his job, He explained that this involved anti-terrorist work along part of the South Coast.

Apologies

JW reported that apologies had been received from members Brian Holmes, Adrienne Brecher, John Rabbitt, Norman Cruse, Des Davies and community associates P.C. Ed Faulkner, Cllr. Jenkins, Bruno Di Lieto (Waterfront Traders), Jan Newens (Neighbourhood Watch), Sue Criddle (EBC – Dog Warden), Nicola Fenner (EBC – Environment) and Antony Small (NSL).

Notes of Last Meeting

Notes of the meeting of 21 July 2011 were agreed without changes.

Notes of Meeting

1. Issue Arising Since Previous Meeting

• **Cycling on Marina Walkways**

As a result of emails received JW clarified confusion that had arisen amongst some residents regarding where formal cycling paths existed around the Harbour and where

cycling was tolerated on the basis of reasonable behaviour towards other walkway users. The confusion had arisen because of errors in a drawing presented at the recent consultation event at SHYC. She reported that she had a copy of the correct drawing should members be interested in viewing it.

- **Graffiti and Vandalism**

PCSO Hyland reported that the car park to the existing medical centre was being left unlocked out of 'normal hours' to allow workmen building the new centre to park there. As a result garden waste had been dumped there. This car park will be robustly blocked once the new medical centre and car park are complete.

JW reported that A4 posters on the 'Save the DGH' campaign were not being posted sensibly. Complaints had been received. Two posters had been glued to the Perspex doors of the SHRA noticeboard even though a poster was already fixed inside the cabinet. The use of glue on Perspex had resulted in damage to the doors. PCSO Hylands agreed to check the security camera records covering the area to identify who had done this. **Action: PCSO Hylands.**

RR commented that a case of graffiti had also arisen recently on the wall of the lower walkway on the Waterfront. This appeared to be written with chalk so should be easy to wash off. He also noted that empty glasses were again being left on the wall outside the Harvester, and a notice board with an electrical feed into it had been left lying down adjacent to the Harvester. Janet Taylor confirmed that Premier had taken this down and were awaiting their electrical engineer to disconnect it.

- **Speeding on Pacific Drive**

Paul Metcalfe reported cases of motorcycles speeding along the bottom end of Pacific Drive, past Phoenix Drive. This occurred in the periods 06:00 – 08:00 and 17:00 – 18:00 hours and their speeds were estimated at between 60 – 80 mph. In addition two 4x4's had also been seen driving at unreasonable speeds. PS Ripley stressed the importance of taking registration numbers of speeding vehicles, but accepted that this was difficult in the case of motorcycles. He agreed to review whether it would be possible to get speed guns resourced during these hours. **Action: PS Ripley**

- **Dogs off the Lead**

JW and JR expressed concern that some dog owners were not keeping their dogs under control and allowing them to run free. Although this has not yet resulted in someone being bitten it can intimidate pedestrians, particularly children who can be terrified by boisterous dogs. JR illustrated this from the experience of visitors with a 3-year old daughter. JW reported an incident she had experienced with two young boxer dogs. Unfortunately in both cases the dog owners responded badly and failed to restrain the dogs. Clair Banks offered to follow these complaints up. **Action: Clair Banks**

- **Anti-Social Parking in Macquarie Quay**

JW introduced the issue by saying that on 31 August a meeting has already been held between resident members of the Victoria Quay Management Company, ESCC Highways Department and Cllr. Elkin with JW and RR present as representatives of the SHNP and SHRA.

David Hawkins described the problems being experienced in Macquarie Quay, with parked cars resulting in the inability of lorries to carry out refuse collection, an ambulance being impaired in getting to a casualty and residents vehicles being blocked in to the road. To avoid the situation that had developed where vehicles parked on both sides of the road, obstructing pavements and putting safety at risk the Management Company, with the agreement of the Council, had installed bollards down one side of the road. He described that earlier issues of getting residents to use the parking areas below their flats has been rectified and that a significant impact on the parking density arises from visitors using the beach and other developments.

As a result of the meeting Lawrence Stringer (ESCC Highways) had agreed to review whether it would be appropriate to use an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) as a short-term expediency to enable enforcement of parking restrictions. The alternative would be putting a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place, which would have to go through a comprehensive consultation process before coming into force.

Cllr. Elkin reported that he has since had feedback from Lawrence Stringer that the proposal to use an ETO had been rejected, but a commitment had been made to review parking issues and existing TRO's across the whole Harbour, recognising that parking problems exist in several areas. This work will be undertaken by Mark Weston as a priority.

David Hawkins expressed concern that this will delay a Macquarie Quay solution. However, Cllr. Elkin assured him that the urgency is recognised and the Council will 'pull out all the stops'.

2. Police Report

The Police Report was presented by P.S. Ed Ripley who highlighted that at present the low levels of criminal / anti-social activity on the Harbour were such that there were no 'Priority Areas' at the moment. He asked the SHNP to give consideration to this. **Action: SHNP.** He then updated the meeting on a number of issues:

- Following on from previous concerns the Police had been notified of intimidating behaviour outside Seamoors on the waterfront. This had involved a group of girls about 15 years old and a group of older youths with bull terriers. Sue Criddle and Clair Banks have agreed to do some follow-up work between about 18:30 – 20:30 hours. **Action: Sue Criddle & Clair Banks.**
- On a neighbourhood patrol PCSO Hylands approached two youths who were fishing under the Key West bridge. They did not respond positively and in his opinion they may have been associated with the burning rubbish previously reported on Key West by a local resident. The youths were not residents of the Harbour and he has not seen them since.
- No further illegal drug activity has arisen since a successful drugs raid was carried out on Henley Park.
- Over the summer holiday period anti-social behaviour has been the 'normal problem'. Two operations were carried out by the Police in response to anti-social behaviour, bullying and criminal damage in the Langney area and other play parks across Eastbourne. PS Ripley will first consult with Councillors on the outcome of this and present a report at the next SHNP.

3. Councillors' Report

- Cllr. Elikin congratulated Police and PCSO Martin Hylands on their highly visible presence in the area. He updated the meeting on the traffic calming measures that had been agreed for Ramsey Way. The solution being used would be 'pinch points' rather than 'traffic platforms' and confirmed that in the public consultation 2 out of 3 residents supported this.
- Cllr. Ede explained that he had received a complaint from a resident over berth holders parking their vehicles on Madeira Way for prolonged periods. He asked whether Premier Marinas would put up a 'be considerate' notice. Janet Taylor confirmed that Premier were aware of the issue and had previously put notices on cars to ask berth holders not to use the 'drop off' point in Madeira Way for long-term parking, but instead to use the car park provided at the bottom of Atlantic Drive. She described that there is no mechanism for compelling berth holders, but agreed to once again take action to encourage them to act reasonably. **Action: Janet Taylor**
- Cllr. Warner highlighted that his main area of effort was with Sovereign Harbour Trust (SHT) through his seat on the board of Trustees. His objectives are to get a higher standard of openness and transparency in the running of the Trust and lower running costs to residents. RR suggested there would be value in a meeting with SHRA to exchange information on progress with this and with the Environment Agency.

4. Premier Marinas Report

Janet Taylor reported that starting in the week commencing 7 November, one of the hydraulic rams on the North Harbour bridge will be changed. This will take about 10 days and should not have a significant impact on pedestrian traffic, although boat traffic will be affected to some extent.

She also reminded the meeting that the annual maintenance period for the lock gates was approaching and this year work would be carried out on the southerly lock. As long as no emergent issues arise, the routine maintenance should take about 16 days and start on 28 November.

Janet reported that the summer period had been relatively 'quiet' and free from significant events, although there have been quite a few near misses. The main problem is with members of the public ignoring red lights when the bridges are being operated and this situation has worsened with more people now visiting the Harbour. She is looking at upgrading safety warning signs on the bridges.

5. Waterfront Traders Report

No report was submitted.

6. Environmental Health & Enforcement Report

Clair Banks reported that dog fouling continues to be a problem and cited the West Harbour area as being particularly bad. She also updated the meeting on the issue of weeds which were badly affecting some of the walkways. The intention was to spray the weeds earlier in the year, as usual, but the weather conditions prevented this. Paul Marsden is now dealing with the work.

7. A.O.B.

- AA made a brief report on the intention to enter a float in the Eastbourne Carnival, which would take place on 1 June 2012 after a hiatus of several years. She highlighted that the proposed date is not ideal given what is going on around that time, but at present that is what is being proposed by EBC. She described the organisations already committed to supporting the Harbour entry and invited anyone with useful skills or facilities, or just enthusiasm to come forward and help the effort.
- David Hawkins alerted Premier to a potential safety hazard at Macquarie Quay. The electrical cabinet serving the 'beach gate' has rusted through on its bottom, exposing electrical wiring. Janet Taylor said she would address this. **Action: Janet Taylor.** David also expressed his view that more 'dog bins' were needed along the North Harbour beach frontage and he was looking into this. JW / AA replied that on the basis of previous work they had carried out on getting more dog bins around the Harbour the proposal may not be viable. A key requirement is for vehicular access close to the dog bins, so they can be serviced and this is likely to be problematic along the beach frontage.
- Paul Metcalfe alerted the meeting to the launch of a new appeal in support of the Tamar Class lifeboat that will be installed on the Harbour next year at a total cost of nearly £3M. The launch will take place on 31 October at the Town Hall and invitations will go out to any organisation who may want to be involved.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at the Lifeboat Station, starting at 4pm on 15 December 2011, unless otherwise notified.

Thanks once again go to Paul Metcalfe and the RNLI for their hospitality in allowing use of their board room.