

**Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel  
Notes from Meeting of 15 December 2011  
Held at Sovereign Harbour Lifeboat Station**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome to Panel and Visitors
2. Apologies
3. Notes of Last Meeting (29/09/11)
4. Issues Raised Since Previous Meeting
  - Vandalism (Lifebelts)
  - Speeding on Pacific and Atlantic Drives
  - Uncontrolled Dogs
5. Update Reports
  - Police
  - Councillors
  - Premier Marinas
  - Waterfront Traders
  - Environmental Health
  - Enforcement Update
6. AOB
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**Attendees**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>Community Associates:</b>
Jan Weeks (Chair)	P.S. Ed Ripley
Rick Runalls	P.C. Ed Faulkner
John Rabbitts	P.C.S.O. Martin Hylands
Adrian Tickell	Cllr. Gordon Jenkins
Alison Attwood	Bruno Di Lieto (Waterfront Traders)
Malcolm Nevins	Janet Taylor (Premier Marinas)
David Hawkins	Paul Metcalfe (Lifeboat Operations Manager)
	Dave Love (Port Police)

**1. Welcome**

Jan Weeks welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

JW reported that apologies had been received from members Brian Holmes, Norman Cruse, Des Davis and community associates P.C. Louis Thompson, Cllr. David Elkin, Cllr. Patrick Warner, Cllr. Philip Ede, Clair Banks (EBC, Enforcement) and Antony Small (NSL).

**3. Notes of the Last Meeting**

Notes of the meeting of 29 September 2011 were agreed without changes.

**4. Issue Arising Since Previous Meeting**

- JW highlighted that reports had been received of vandalism to the life rings supplied on the Harbour. RR explained that in his experience this usually involved those rings mounted along the outer harbour promenade, which are frequently the target of young men and women walking back after drinking sessions at the Waterfront, or parties. He commented that when they are approached to leave the safety equipment alone they are frequently abusive, however they generally discard the rings which are replaced by residents or Premier staff. On one occasion he had been told by a resident that they had observed a ring / rope being used to drag wooden pallets, which were later burnt on the beach by the breakwater and that the ring had been destroyed too, but there was no evidence of a missing ring in this area. RR expressed his view that there was nothing more to be done about this nuisance since easy access to the rings is essential for their use and consequently greater security is not possible. However, given the safety importance of this equipment vigilance is critical.
- JW reviewed that speeding issues along Pacific and Atlantic Drives had consistently been identified by residents and specific vehicles (motorcycle and two 4x4's) and

suggestions had been made that further deployment of speed guns may help. P.S. Ed Ripley responded by saying that the Police had been monitoring the situation, but they had not identified the offending vehicles previously mentioned. It was confirmed that the problems from these vehicles had dropped off. P.S Ripley confirmed that there was a Police focus on speeding vehicles in the broader area and there is a systematic approach to addressing it. The situation on the harbour would continue to be monitored.

- JW informed the Panel of a meeting with ESCC, Highways Dept. on 8 December in Macquarie Quay to discuss a review of parking restrictions on North Harbour, following the experience with 'yellow lining' on Pacific Drive. She described that this was enabled when the final road adoptions on North harbour took place. A similar exercise will eventually be expected on South Harbour, but is currently delayed because road adoptions have not yet been completed. On North Harbour the current discussions are focussed on where to place the double yellow lines on Pacific Drive given experience over the last two years, the extent of yellow lining required in Macquarie Quay, which has particularly acute parking difficulties and finally on Harbour Quay to secure passage of boats being trucked to the boat lift. MN asked for it to be noted that the situation in Macquarie Quay is potentially dangerous with emergency access being periodically obstructed. JW assured him that the meeting arranged by David Hawkins, who sits on the Victoria Quay Management Company, was fully aware of this and similar issues and it were these that had prompted the meetings with ESCC. JW highlighted that the SHRA web site contained an invitation for residents to comment on parking problems, so these could be forwarded to ESCC for the parking review.
- JW briefly reminded the Panel that she had received a number of complaints about dogs being inadequately controlled. Although nobody had been bitten the behaviour of the dogs had been noisy, or intimidating to adults and children.

## **5. Update**

### **5.1 Police Report**

The Police Report was presented by P.S. Ed Ripley who highlighted the following:

- Crime remains at very low levels on Sovereign Harbor with no specific areas on concern. The whole of Eastbourne has experienced a 10% reduction in crime and the downward trend is continuing, which tends to endorse neighbourhood policing policy and the impact of the Neighbourhood Panels. The exception to the downward trend is recent experience with burglaries. These had been occurring at a frequency of about 6/month, but over the last 3 months there had been around 100 reported. This may have been aggravated by the recession. The Police are addressing this through their intelligence on known local criminals.
- Operation Blitzen has been launched and there is an increased Police presence in the town centre over the Xmas period to address the increase in shoplifting and bag thefts that this attracts.
- Jan Newens has moved from the Eastbourne area and has been replaced as chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch by Phil Herne.
- Neighbourhood priorities arising from the recent Divisional Panel are anti-social behavior, speeding vehicles and dog fouling of which an increase had been noted by Sue Criddle (EBC Dog Warden) around West Harbour and Madeira Way.
- The next Quality Street Meeting will be held on 20 December at Langney Shopping Centre from 10:00 – 12:00 hours.

### **5.2 Councillors' Report**

Cllr. Jenkins reported that the ward councillors had no complaints from residents over the period, but support for the Ramsey Way traffic calming plans had been received. It was confirmed that allocations from the Devolved Ward budget had been made towards the Eastbourne Carnival (£500) and an information board being provided on South Harbour (£500).

### **5.3 Premier Marinas Report**

Janet Taylor updated the Panel on Harbour maintenance work recently undertaken. The work to replace the hydraulic rams on the North Harbour bridge is complete and the work on the lock is nearly complete. The lock is expected to be flooded up on 19 – 20 December. She also reported that the fisherman had complained about their skips being interfered with and also some anchors being stolen. A blue transit van had been observed in the area, but no evidence of stolen material was found when it was stopped.

#### **5.4 Waterfront Traders Report**

Bruno Di Lieto reported that there had been no significant security problems over the period and, but for a few initial issues, the new CCTV security camera system had been working well. The problems reported in respect to the area outside of Seamoor's have been picked up and the landlord has written to the owners expressing concern over the way it is being managed. Signage is being used to make sure that bikes are not locked to posts, blocking passage of pedestrians. The issue of an intimidating atmosphere outside the business is more difficult to address, as is the smoking issue, but the landlord is trying to deal with it. Bruno reported that from 13:00 – 14:00 on Sunday 18 December there will be 'carols with sacks' at the Waterfront and there will be children's carols between 17:00 – 19:00 on Thursday 22 December.

#### **5.5 Environmental Health & Enforcement Report**

Clair Banks reported to JW that she had visited a resident in Caroline Way after dog poo bags had been thrown over a fence. However, she made the point that there is nothing that can be done unless residents identify the dog owners involved.

#### **6. A.O.B.**

- DH raised the problems that had been reported to him several weeks ago with the smoking of cannabis and late night parties in one of the Macquarie Quay flats. The police reported that they had attended the flat about 2 weeks ago and residents' have fed back that since then the problems have stopped. The receiver is dealing with the flat and legal advice is that taking legal possession and evicting the current tenants is viable if they decide to do this.
- Cllr. Jenkins noted that on the issue of speeding cars the JAG had approved purchase of a speed gun for residents' use and that training would be given in the use of this. JW replied that she had heard this and would follow it up.
- Paul Metcalfe notified the Panel that the RNLI were going to have a 'by invitation' open day at the lifeboat station and panel members are invited to attend between 10:00 – 16:00 hours on 21 January. It was confirmed that the new Tamar class lifeboat is expected to arrive on the Harbour on 28 May and the following weekend it will take part in a pageant on the Thames for the Queen's Jubilee.
- AA updated the Panel on progress on the Harbour's Eastbourne Carnival entry. Engagement in the project has increased and she has some good people involved. The next requirement is to find someone who has an engineering background and could make the technical drawings of the float.

#### **7. Date and Time of Next Meetings**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**One again thanks go to Paul Metcalfe and the RNLI for their hospitality in allowing use of their board room.**