





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	25 February 2013
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Barnett (Opposition Spokesperson), Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Bowden, Carden, J Kitcat, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Shanks, Pidgeon and Simson, Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Ross Keatley Democratic Services Officer 01273 291064 ross.keatley@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

Representatives from Statutory Services:

Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust	Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
British Transport Police	Youth Offending Team
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	Partnership Community Safety Team

Representatives of Local Action Teams

Bevendean	Moulsecoomb
Brighton Old Town	North Laine Community Association
Bristol Estate Community Association	Patcham
Brunswick & Adelaide	Portland Road & Clarendon
Brunswick & Regency Neighbourhood Action Group	Portslade
Central Hove	Preston Park & Fiveways
Clarendon	Queens Park
Clifton, Montpelier & Powis Community Alliance	Queens Park & Craven Vale
Coldean	Rottingdean
Coombe Road	Saunders Park Partnership
Craven Vale	Seafront
Craven Vale Community Association & LAT	St James's Street
Elm Grove	Stanmer
Goldsmid	Stanmer & Coldean
Hangleton & Knoll Community Action Forum	Tarner
Hanover & Elm Grove	West Hove Forum
Hollingbury	West Saltdean
Hollingdean	Whitehawk
Kemptown Action Group & Tarner	Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum
London Road	Withdean
Marina	Woodingdean
Meadowview & Tenantry	

Other Co-opted Members

Age Concern	LGBT Community Safety Forum
Area Housing Panels	Sussex Central YMCA
Brighton & Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum	Neighbourhood Watch
Brighton and Hove Federation of Disabled People	Older People's Council
Brighton and Hove Mediation Service	Racial Harassment Forum
Business Crime Reduction Partnership	RISE
Independent Advisory Group Sussex Police	Victim Support
Domestic Violence Forum	Young People's Centre

AGENDA

35. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

36. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) **Declaration of Substitutes:** Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) **Declarations of Interest:**
 - (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests not registered on the register of interests;
 - (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
 - (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

- (d) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading either that it is confidential or the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 8

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2012 (copy attached).

38. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

39. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented by members of the public to the full council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 18 February 2013;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 18 February 2013.

40. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

41. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

This standing item will provide an opportunity for relevant issues to be raised or updated on.

42. NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES WHICH IMPACT LOCALLY: STANDING ITEM

Please note there are none for this meeting.

43. LOCAL ISSUES: STANDING ITEM

a) **Crime Trends and Performance Figures**

9 - 22

Report of the Commissioner: Community Safety (copy attached)

b) **Service Offer: Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime**

Verbal presentation including:

- Managing Public Demonstrations.

c) **Improving the Physical Environment**

Verbal presentation

d) **Safety Net: Priorities for Young People**

Verbal presentation

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

e) Drug Commission Consultation

For information (link to the consultation set out below).

<http://www.safeinthecity.info/independent-drugs-commission>

f) Party Houses

23 - 24

This item is for information and noting only (noted attached).

44. SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2012 **25 - 30**

Copy attached

45. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2012 **31 - 36**

Copy attached

46. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The **AGREED** dates for the 2013/14 municipal year:

- 10 June 2013
- 7 October 2013
- 9 December 2013
- 3 March 2014

(All meetings will to take place at 4 p.m. at Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove).

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Ross Keatley, (01273 291064, email ross.keatley@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 10 DECEMBER 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Duncan (Chair); Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Bowden, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Shanks, Pidgeon and Simson

Sussex Police: Graham Bartlett & James Davidson.

Statutory Services: Katy Bourne (Police & Crime Commissioner), Dr Tom Scanlon (Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust), Mark Rist (East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service), Leigh Rogers (Surrey & Sussex Probation Trust).

Communities of Interest: Ray Freeman, Alan Cooke, Colin Tribe, Clare Tikly, Dave Murtagh, Nicloas De Conde, John McPhillips, Clive Gross, Francis Tonks, Charlie Gibbs, Mr Asaduzzaman, Asmat Roe, Ahmad Jamee, Mr Chowdhury, Geogry Havi and Dr Yagoub.

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Commissioner, Community Safety), Peter Castleton (Community Safety Manager), Simon Court (Senior Solicitor), Nahida Shaikh (Community Safety Manager – Cohesion) and Ross Keatley (Democratic Services Officer).

PART ONE

22. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

22a Declaration of Substitutes

22.1 Councillor Marsh was present in substitution for Councillor Carden.

22b Declarations of Interest

22.2 There were none.

22c Exclusion of the Press and Public

22.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Community Safety Forum considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of

the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I of the Act).

22.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public are not excluded from the meeting.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

23.1 It was noted that Mr Freeman's name had been omitted from the minutes.

23.2 **RESOLVED** – That, with the above addition, the minutes of the Community Safety Forum meeting held on 8 October 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

24. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

24.1 The chair noted that the Sussex Police Authority had now been abolished and replaced with the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC); there was now a Police & Crime Panel that would be able to scrutinise the PCC who had already met, but it was too early to update on budgets and initiatives.

25. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

25.1 There were none.

26. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

26.1 There was none.

27. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER: INTRODUCTION AND OPEN SESSION

27.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner, Ms Katy Bourne, gave a brief introduction and stated that her role would be to set the strategic policy for police and crime in Sussex; she was currently working on writing the budget, and there would be more information on budget specifics later in the month. Ms Bourne highlighted that part of electoral campaign had been around supporting community safety partnerships, especially in relation to their local knowledge; however, she would be writing to Council Leaders explaining that next year all community safety partnerships would be asked to justify the funds they received and prove they were working. Ms Bourne stated that in Sussex a lot of funding had been used to tackle drugs related crime, and she felt that alcohol related crime had been neglected; which was an important local issue for the city.

Open Session and Questions

27.2 Councillor Meadows asked a question in relation to the '101' non-emergency number, and explained that residents had been reporting low level to crime, but the operators would not record or report it further. Councillors Meadows highlighted that this type of low level crime could build up. In response Ms Bourne asked Councillor Meadows to

email her with further details so that she could look into the matter further. Councillor Bowden added that he would be grateful for more details in relation to this matter.

- 27.3 Mr Chowdhury of the Sussex Bangladeshi Community highlighted criminal activity targeted against the community he represented; he stated he had called the office of the PCC but had not had a response. Ms Bourne stated she was aware of the request, and her office would arrange a meeting shortly.
- 27.4 Dr Yagoub of the Racial Harassment Forum highlighted problems reaching communities due to financial restraints, and noted that a lot of the problems related to the reporting of crime; Ms Bourne noted that this was something that could be considered in the future.
- 27.5 Mr Gross of the Brighton & Hove Mediation Service asked how early intervention would be addressed at a strategic level. In response Ms Bourne explained that she considered early intervention and prevention the key to addressing crime, and it would be part of her agenda going forward; she wanted to talk to community safety partnerships groups about how this could be tackled at a local level.
- 27.6 Mr Peacock of the Sussex Police Independent Advisory Group asked about measures that could be taken to address the fear of crime; Ms Bourne replied that there were no straight forward answers to this question, but she felt the Police Authority had not engaged well with the public and she wanted to see these relations improve.
- 27.7 Councillor Simson spoke about the night-time economy in the city, and in particular highlighted that the management of the licensed trade was often difficult due to the restrictions of the Licensing Act and asked if pressure could be put on Central Government to overhaul the Act. In response Ms Bourne noted these problems, and highlighted some of the new powers local authorities would have in terms of Licensing.
- 27.8 Mr Gandy of Bevendean LAT asked how Ms Bourne would provide an effective service across such a large area; and in response she explained that she had eight full-time staff as well as a CEO and CFO. Ms Bourne also encouraged local groups to stay in operation and to communicate with her office; a member of her team would also regularly attend the Forum.
- 27.9 Mr De Conde of Moulsecoomb LAT asked question in relation to improving communication through social interaction, and in response Ms Bourne explained that she would be undertaking volunteer work in communities and would encourage her team to do the same. The Commissioner: Community Safety also added that the Community Safety Team already did a lot of this sort of thing through its own initiatives.
- 27.10 Dr Yagoub noted he felt racial crime had recently fallen off the main agenda, and Ms Bourne noted that she had been elected on a promise to put victims, and asked that any community feedback racial crime.
- 27.11 A member of the public also noted that more time should be taken to address the emotional concerns of some women in ethnic minority groups; she said that currently there was lack of funding, but the situation also needed full supports from partnerships who worked in this area. Ms Bourne stated that he would be very happy to come and

discuss this with some of the groups, but she highlighted that community had to be proactive themselves in these matters.

27.12 Councillor Morgan stated that funding was an issue for many of the local groups, and some policing services were shared with neighbouring forces, and asked how would Ms Bourne ensure Sussex received its 'fair share'. In response she explained that she would be working hard at Central Government level on behalf of Sussex; but also noted she hoped more working could be done with Surrey where it would be cost effective and promote best practise.

27.13 A representative of the Youth Offending Service asked about young people and alcohol and drug abuse, and stated the importance of keeping these matters high on the priority for the PCC. In response Ms Bourne noted these concerns and highlighted she would be spending a day with the team soon.

27.14 Mr Scott, a local resident, expressed his concern about the high specification of Police vehicles and the potential cost implications of this. In response Ms Bourne explained that this could be considered, but it would form part of her immediate programme.

27.15 Mr Tonks of the Older People's Council asked question about protest groups in the city and the potential to ban them. In response Paul Betts of Sussex Police was able to clarify that Mr Tonks was referring to 'March for England', and this could be discussed further on the agenda at the appropriate item.

27.16 The Chair thanked Ms Bourne for attending, and speaking to the Forum.

28. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

28.1 Mr Chowdhury explained an incident in relation to a break in his sister's house; the initial response of the Police had been very good, but highlighted the poor service that had been subsequently received. In response Chief Superintendent Bartlett apologised for this, and stated that he would take this matter further and ensure he was in receipt of the full details.

28.2 Mr Rise of East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service highlighted an increase in deliberate fires in the city centre; the service had given out advice to traders, but Mr Rist also wanted to raise this at the Forum and highlight that advice that could be given from the service.

28.3 Ms Zahmed from the Ladies Multi-Cultural Group discussed robberies targeted at the Bengali community in the Hangleton area, and highlighted that one of their main concerns was the lack of CCTV cameras in the area. Chief Superintendent Bartlett said that he would ensure an Officer attended the next meeting of the group to discuss appropriate measures and ways forward.

28.4 Mr Chowdhury discussed the issue of taxis blocking access to Brighton Railway Station for deliveries; and the Chair agreed this could be taken up with the Head of Regulatory Services to be discussed at the next taxi forum.

- 28.5 Councillor Simson highlighted that fear of crime was often made worse by areas looking untidy and scruffy; she noted that graffiti had increased generally which made people feel unsafe. The Chair agreed to report back on this matter at a future meeting of the Forum.
- 28.6 Mr De Conde asked what measures were being taken to address gambling in the city, and in response Councillor Duncan explained that this was a licensable activity regulated by the City Council.
- 28.7 Mr Gandy discussed the 'Alley Cats' scheme where local residents had acted as sponsors to monitor the condition of their local area, and the Chair agreed this could be raised at the next LATs Chair's meeting.

**29. NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES WHICH IMPACT LOCALLY:
STANDING ITEM**

- 29.1 There were none.

30. LOCAL ISSUES: STANDING ITEM

30A CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE FIGURES

- 30.1 The forum considered a report of the Commissioner for Community Safety describing recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14; statistical updates relating the first five months of 2012/13 – April to October 2012 were also highlighted. Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2008 to October 2012 were provided which set recent data in the context of both longer term trends and seasonal crime cycles. An explanatory note was also circulated on Domestic Violence following an action from the previous meeting.
- 30.2 Councillor Morgan noted that there were some areas of good news in the report; he asked if there was any evidence to suggest that the increase in acquisitive crime was related to funding drug misuse or any other motivations that could be quantified. In response it was explained the big concern was in relation to theft from person. Action had been taken by the large pubs and clubs and this had helped to address the rates; as well as measures by phone manufactures such as tracking of devices.
- 30.3 Councillor Simson asked about better use of language in relation to domestic violence crimes, and went on to state that she was pleased to see that graffiti was classified as criminal damage. In response Chief Superintendent Bartlett clarified some of the language used in relation to domestic violence, and stated that although the Police would normally know who the person responsible was they needed sufficient evidence from the victim to put the person before a court. Despite this there was always ongoing casework and support services for victims.
- 30.4 Councillor Bowden asked what measures could be taken in relation to the underreporting of LGBT hate crimes. In response The Commissioner: Community Safety explained that there changes in the Casework Team to recognise that some people would not want to report a crime to a Police Officer; there would be Civilian

Officers in place working closely with the Police for partnership approach; there would also be dedicated LGBT Officers.

- 30.5 Mr Crooke of Craven Vale LAT asked if budget cuts had contributed to increases in crime, and in response Chief Superintendent Bartlett explained that budget cuts had not affected the operational work of the Police.
- 30.6 Councillor Marsh highlighted the importance of preventative measures and a policy of zero tolerance, and it was suggested some benchmarking could be undertaken with other similar authority to get an idea of over or under reporting of crime. It was also noted that although there were approximately 275k residents in the city; there were 8 million visitors each year.
- 30.7 Mr Haki from the Sudanese Coptic Community noted that a number of taxi drivers had problems with late night customers who refused to pay fares, but stated that they received good responses from the Police. Mr Haki went on to state that taxi drivers were often not supported by SIA security staff who were on duty at licensed premises; in response it was explained that incidents where other people in 'guardian' positions were not assisting should be reported, and that SIA staff were a regulated and licensed workforce.
- 30.8 Mr Peacock pointed to a spike in crime in September and asked if this had been linked to Pride; he also pointed to reports in local papers that added to the fear of crime. In response it was acknowledged that sensationalised reporting could add to the fear of crime, and work was undertaken with the local media in relation to this.
- 30.9 Councillor Bowden asked for information on attacks on homeless people, and it was explained that a lot of work had been done around this area and there was a lead to address vulnerable members of the street community. Measures were also being taken to increase reporting of these crimes where people were fearful to do so. It was agreed that Officers could come to discuss this matter at a future meeting. The Commissioner: Community Safety emphasised the amount of work that was done to help protect homeless people. It was also agreed that the provision of a free phone number for homeless people to report crime to could be considered.

30B PROTEST LIAISON

- 30.10 A presentation was given, and it was stated that there was a dedicated Protest Liaison Team in the Planning Events Team with two Officers. There were 15 nationally trained protest liaison Officers, and the city was the second biggest protest location nationally after London, and it was important that the Police build up long-term relationships. Officers sought to engage with groups to facilitate peaceful protests for all people, and it was important to balance the rights of groups to protest against the need to protect against unlawful behaviour. Negotiation was key to providing a link between the commanders and the protestors, and they worked proactively to initiate changes. From the outset Officers would operate in a clear and transparent manner, and would act as operational Police Officers during the protests. The Officers had received a lot of good feedback, and helped to reduce threat levels during protests.

- 30.11 The Chair highlighted the positive feedback he was aware of from protest groups, and that the City Council would work to facilitate protests wherever possible.
- 30.12 Councillor Morgan commended the work of the Police in this area, but drew a distinction with potentially dangerous protests that could create fear and distress. Officers agreed that some protests were much more challenging; they had no powers to 'ban assembly', but could apply to ban procession. It was important to note that whilst many people may not agree with the views of some groups they still had a right to protest.
- 30.13 Councillor Bowden asked what work could be done with the licensed industry in the city to prevent protestors arriving in the city and going straight to premises to get intoxicated. It was confirmed that this type of work was already undertaken, and steps had been made that year to ban alcohol at a protest using by-laws.
- 30.14 Mr Peacock asked if a special case could be argued for the city for better financial provision to manage protests due to the high numbers. In response it was explained that this had been successful for the management of Political Party conferences in the city, but this had been unsuccessful on other occasions.
- 30.15 Mr Gandy asked about the potential hidden effects of protests, and highlighted that some elderly people would not leave their homes during such events. It was agreed that this could be fed back into the work of the team.
- 30.16 A local resident stated that despite all the work undertaken there was still a minority of people that would not feel comfortable leaving their homes when certain protests were taking place, and they would have to plan their day around this in advance. The Chair noted that it was important to take a balanced view, but neither the Police nor the City Council had the power to ban the protests. Officers confirmed that they were limited by legislation, but would work to protect groups by adding conditions to protests; for example to prevent them from entering areas that could be considered sensitive.

30C DEALING WITH PARTY HOUSES

- 30.17 This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Forum for a full report.

31. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

- 31.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

32. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

- 32.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

33. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 33.1 The date of the next meeting was Monday 25 February 2013.

34. EAST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - MEDIUM TERM PLAN

- 34.1 The Chair asked that members of the Forum take the time to respond to the consultation via the website or the freepost address.

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

Report to Community Safety Forum – 25th February 2013

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove, Position up to January 2013

Contact Officer: Name: *Ruth Condon* Tel: 29-1103

E-mail: ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report describes recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the [Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14](#). It also provides statistical updates relating to the first ten months of 2012/13, ie. April to January 2013.
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2008 to January 2013 are also provided. These set recent data in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) The Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in this report and is invited to:
 - i) Feedback on any developments from their community or organisation's experience which may help the understanding and interpretation of the data and trends contained in this report.
 - ii) Consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety priorities within their own organisation or local community.

3. INFORMATION:

Total police recorded crime

- 3.1 Total crimes recorded by the police declined year on year between 2004/5 and 2011/12. However, in the current year this decline has levelled out. Between April 2012 and January 2013 there were a total of 19,985 police recorded crimes, 130 crimes more than in the same months of 2011/12 (0.6% increase). Theft and handling offences have increased by 5% so far this year and this is influencing the trend in total crimes since they have made 49% of total crime in 2012/13 to date. However, this is an improved position compared with the position three months ago when theft and handling was showing a 9.5% increase and total crimes were up by 2.4%.

Neighbourhoods and quality of life

- 3.2 In the first ten months of 2012/13 (Apr to Jan) the long term downward trend in criminal damage recorded by the police has continued, being 15% lower than in the same months of 2011/12. Street appearance surveys of levels of litter, graffiti and flyposting continue to be carried out by Cityclean and levels remain within target, although there are signs from these surveys and from Sussex Police telephone surveys of public perception that levels of litter may be increasing. Levels of cleanliness across the city have been recognised by the award of 4 Stars in the Large Population Category 2012 of the Clean Britain Awards which are run by the British Cleaning Council and the Chartered Institution of Waste Management. The Hove Business Partnership has recognised the work done by the Cleansing Team in Hove by awarding them a Hove Heroes award for 2012.
- 3.3 The new Safe in the City website is now live (www.safeinthecity.info) and focused on providing residents with information they need (getting help section) and with providing opportunities for them to help improve safety in the city (getting involved section). It also holds key documents for the partnership, such as the current version of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy.
- 3.4 To obtain a wider reach into the community, open up the work of the Safe in the City Partnership to new audiences and strengthen our communication network, the Projects Team (Environment Improvement Team) began using the Twitter micro blogging social media site at an early stage. Twitter has enabled us to interact with a substantial network of the wider community of Brighton & Hove, and also within professional networks and partnership organisations. The Safe in the City twitter account now has over 1,000 'followers' including local and national politicians, professional organisations, local and national media, the voluntary and business community in Brighton & Hove and city residents. Interactions on this network continue to increase.

Drugs Misuse

- 3.5 In November 2012, national data for drug related deaths that occurred during 2010 were published. The Brighton & Hove rate of 14.8 deaths per 100,000 population remained the highest in the UK, but the total of 32 deaths represented a 35% reduction on the previous year, when there were 50 reported deaths. Interim local data indicate that numbers have subsequently dropped with 21 deaths occurring between Jan and Sep 2012.
- 3.6 In May 2012 the Independent Drugs Commission was set up locally to examine the harm caused by drugs in Brighton & Hove. Draft findings and recommendations are open for consultation during the month of February 2013 and a copy of the report is available at <http://www.safeinthecity.info/independent-drugs-commission>. Questions addressed fall into four themes:
- Are the current strategies to prevent drug related deaths sufficient to achieve a significant reduction in the coming years?
 - Are the policing, prosecution and sentencing strategies currently pursued, effective in reducing drug related harm?

- Are we doing enough to protect young people and to enable them to make informed decisions around drug use and involvement in drug markets?
- To what extent does the treatment system meet the treatment and recovery needs of the citizens of Brighton & Hove?

3.7 Following the UK Recovery Walk in Brighton & Hove in September 2012, a grant has been given to Impetus, a local charity to provide support to Cascade Creative Recovery. This is set up by local people in recovery, to work towards creating a permanent facility based on fund-raising and peer support.

Reducing Offending

- 3.8 There is an increase in all acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) of 6% in the first ten months of 2012/13 compared with the same months of 2011/12. However, the position is showing a clear improvement over the last three months with numbers over this period at about the same level as they were a year ago. This improvement is on account of the recent drop of theft and handling offences mentioned in para. 3.1 above. While the vehicle crime trend continues to drop, there is a current problem with domestic burglaries. The number of domestic burglaries was particularly low during the autumn months of 2011, but have climbed consistently over the last twelve months; in the first ten months of 2012/13 they are showing a 43% rise compared with the same months in 2011/12.
- 3.9 Brighton and Hove Police have instigated some changes in order to address the domestic burglary problem. These have included removing officers from other duties to patrol 'hot-spots' identified by our analysts, plain-clothes operations targeting burglary suspects/affected areas and uniform officers cold-calling home addresses of those suspected of being involved. This operation has so far lead to numerous arrests and the recovery of property from several burglaries. Many of those arrested have been remanded in prison by the courts and though it is early days there are signs of a reduction in the number of burglaries. The police are intending to encapsulate some of the changes into their normal policing of Brighton and Hove.
- 3.10 Partnership work aimed at stopping reoffending and tackling the underlying reasons behind offending is ongoing. Additional funding has been secured to help different partner agencies to identify and assess the health needs of offenders and to direct them to treatment. Other planned work includes involvement of volunteer peers mentors engaging with offenders to help them rebuild their lives and reconnect with services and people in their local community.

Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder

- 3.11 Alcohol-related hospital admissions were on an upwards trend from the beginning of 2010 until October 2011, but this trend appears to have reversed over the last few months, with numbers recorded between April and October 2012 being 7% lower than in the same months of 2011.
- 3.12 The number of injury violence crimes climbed up from a low point in February 2012 and continued on a rising trend until September (peaking later in the year than in previous years) although it has dropped again since then. In the first ten months of 2012/13 there has been an increase of 2.5% in injury violence crimes compared with the same months in 2011/12, and against a 3% reduction target.

- 3.13 To encourage a move away from 'traditional' drinking patterns, work has been taken forward in conjunction with the council Arts Team to continue to develop alternative events throughout the year which help to encourage responsible drinking and promote the city as a focus for cultural activity. Examples include expanding the Pink Fringe, and exploring the creation of an extended programme of specific alcohol free events for young people.
- 3.14 Work is underway to develop a network of designated best practice retailers who commit to specific measures such as better proxy purchase detection, limited alcohol promotion and better information for consumers (eg. units of alcohol and associated calories purchased).
- 3.15 The local Alcohol Programme Board has responded to the government consultation on the National Alcohol Strategy. Aspects being proposed which are supported by the Board include: setting a minimum unit price for alcohol sales and restrictions on multi-buy offers at supermarkets, reducing outlet concentrations in city centres, and the addition of a health objective in licensing policy.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.16 Between Oct 2011 and Sep 2012 21% of the 1,558 people surveyed believed that one or more of 6 types of anti-social behaviour (drug dealing/use; drunk/rowdy behaviour; vandalism/graffiti; litter/dog fouling; noisy neighbours; and teenagers hanging around) was a fairly big or very big problem. This compares with 18% in the 12 months ending June 2012.
- 3.17 The dedicated anti-social behaviour and hate incident reporting system in place since May 2012 enables calls to be taken via the duty line (292735) or by email during 'working hours'. There have been 386 enquiries taken between May and the end of December, of which 248 were related to anti-social behaviour incidents and 82 to hate incidents. Of these enquiries 73 became cases for the Community Safety Casework Team.
- 3.18 There is action being taken to address the behaviour of current youth disorder groups with dedicated officers in the police and Casework Team focussing on the behaviour of the most prolific youth ASB offenders. ASBOs or other enforcement action are being taken forward as necessary to dissipate the group and reduce their ASB and impact on communities and individuals.
- 3.19 The Community Trigger trial being undertaken in the city has officially ended during which period there were nine activations. Learning from the trial is feeding into the new ASB Act in the form of the ASB review process. This will be overseen by Police and Crime Commissioners.

Children, Young People and Families

- 3.20 The number of young people aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system continues to decrease (59 between April and December 2012, 9% fewer compared with the same period in 2011). However, the most recently available data (in the 12 months ending Mar 2011) show that there is more re-offending by young offenders in Brighton & Hove compared with most other local authority areas. The Youth Offending Service is reviewing its structure and action plan with a view to improving

outcomes for young offenders and there will be particular focus on multi-agency work to tackle reoffending.

- 3.21 Work is being taken forward to increase opportunities for young people to have things to do in their leisure time and to build drug and alcohol awareness as part of curriculum delivery within community and voluntary sector youth services. The council's youth services are enhancing their role in helping to build resilience among young people. Links between RU-OK? (the young people's substance misuse service) and the families of the young people in their service are being strengthened and this is beginning to show an increase in family/carer involvement.

Domestic Violence

- 3.22 Between April 2012 and Jan 2013 there have been 2,893 domestic violence crimes and incidents recorded on the police crime database, 83 (3%) more than in the same months of 2011/12. If this increase represents more people coming forward to report incidents of domestic violence, this is a positive result.
- 3.23 In the first nine months of 2012/13 the police solved 47% of domestic violence crimes. In this same period 66% of finalised court cases resulted in a positive outcome (mostly a conviction). Although this is an improvement on the position earlier in the year and on a par with the level achieved in 2010/11, it is lower than the 78% achieved in 2011/12. A meeting of agencies concerned is taking place to help understand any reasons behind unsuccessful outcomes and to agree any appropriate actions to improve DV court outcomes.
- 3.24 A Violence against Women and Girls Commissioner has been appointed and came into post in February 2013. A key task of this new role will be to integrate strategic and operational responses to domestic violence, along with sexual violence (see para 3.27 below), into the 'Preventing Violence against Women and Girls' strategy 2012-2017 by developing an action plan. This will include looking at how domestic violence services are commissioned across the city.
- 3.25 Supported by CAADA (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse), the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is currently being reviewed. This will enable the partnership to build on existing work to further improve responses to high risk victims of domestic abuse.

Sexual Offences

- 3.26 The number of police recorded serious sexual offences in the first ten months of 2012/13 was 244, and this compares with 233 recorded in the same months in 2011/12. This increase of 4.7% contrasts with the position in the last report when a decrease was noted. In particular, the last three months has shown a notable increase compared with months earlier in the year. This coincides with the release of the publicity around abuse by Jimmy Savile which may have increased people's confidence to report incidents. In the first nine months of 2012/13 59 (89%) of the 66 sexual offences which have reached the court stage have resulted in a successful outcome.
- 3.27 The newly appointed Violence against Women and Girls Commissioner will be integrating the existing strategic and operational responses to sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and trafficking into the 'Preventing Violence against Women and

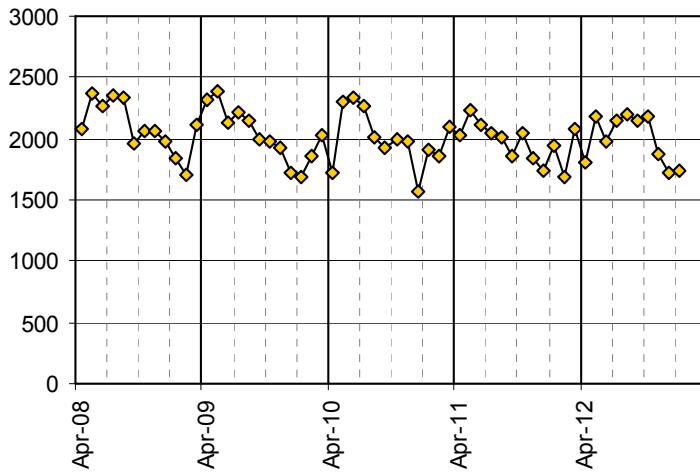
Girls' strategy 2012-2017 by developing an action plan in the near future. The partnership is reviewing how best to provide specialist support to victims of sexual violence through an ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) service. The intention is to commission a new service providing support of female and male victims of sexual violence from the 1st April 2013. A meeting of agencies concerned with the operation of the Sussex SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre), has been agreed to review the referral pathways for victims and ensure that they have access to consistent, joined up services based on need.

Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.28 The police recorded 130 **racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes** in the first nine months of 2012/13 on their crime database, 19% more than in the same period in 2011/12. The police made charges for 52 racist or religiously motivated crimes over this period. 82% of prosecutions at court resulted in successful outcome (mostly a conviction) in the first nine months of 2012/13 (49 out of 60 finalised prosecutions), dropping back from the level of 89% achieved during 2011/12.
- 3.29 Work with BME school pupils and parents/carers has begun in one of two pilot schools to increase reporting and improve responses by schools. Work is also moving forward with one of the NHS Trusts to improve monitoring and information sharing and to build joint working. Work with the other three NHS Trusts will also continue.
- 3.30 In the first nine months of 2012/13 there have been 61 **LGBT hate incidents and crimes** recorded by the police, compared with 45 in the same months in 2011/12. In the first nine months the police solved 23 crimes with 13 of these resulting in a charge. 18 out of 21 prosecutions finalised at court had a successful outcome.
- 3.31 A Trans Equality Scrutiny report has been published and work is being taken forward in consultation with Trans communities to look at development work around the report's recommendations. Representatives of the Trans community are being consulted on how to develop a better response to hate crime reporting as part of a pan-Sussex workshop on hate crime being led by Sussex Police.
- 3.32 The police have recorded 11 **disability hate crimes** and no crime-related incidents on the crime database in the first nine months of 2012/13; this compares with three recorded in the same months of 2011/12. There has been one finalised case at court and this had a successful outcome. The type of impairment for victims reporting to the Community Safety Casework Team is most frequently learning disability and the next most frequent type is physical/sensory disability.
- 3.33 Outreach work with disabled people and the organisations which support them continues by the Casework Team, police Hate Crime Coordinator and the Disability Liaison Officers. An example is the 'Best Of Health Day' event which was attended by 120 people with learning disabilities, their families and carers where some of them accessed information about reporting of hate incidents and support available in the city.

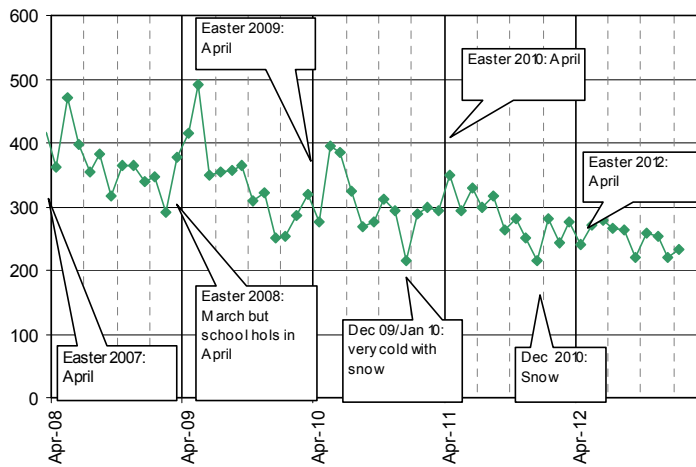
Crime trends up to January 2013 (monthly data)

Total Crimes, Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



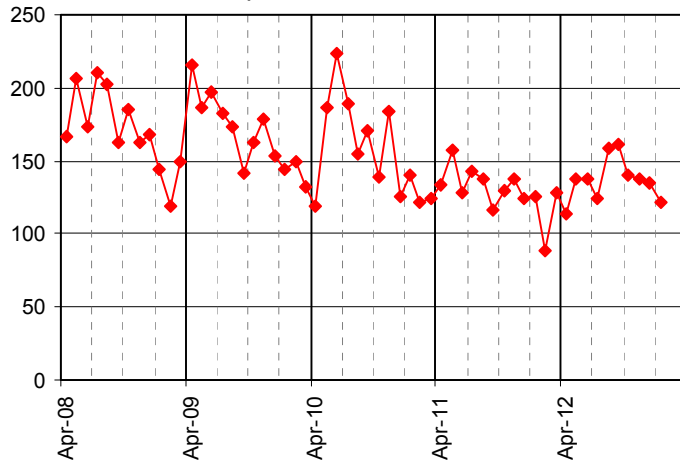
3.34 Total crimes have shown a year on year decline up to the end of 2011/12. The seasonal decline which is usually seen during late summer was not evident this year, but the most recent three months have shown a more typical seasonal drop.

Criminal Damage, April 2008 to Jan 2013



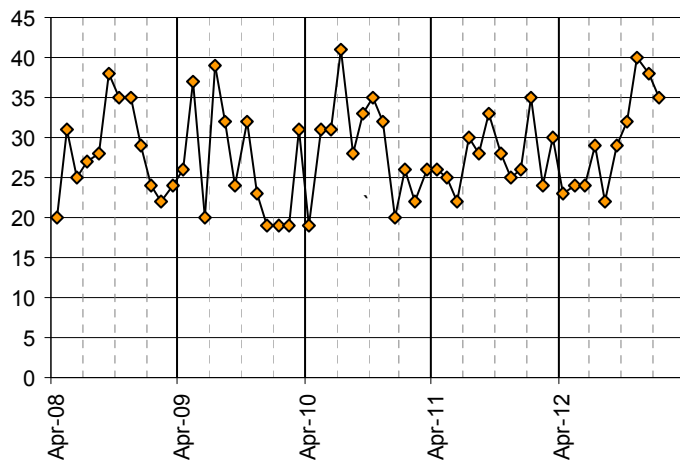
3.35 The long term downward trend in criminal damage continues.

All Injury Violence
Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



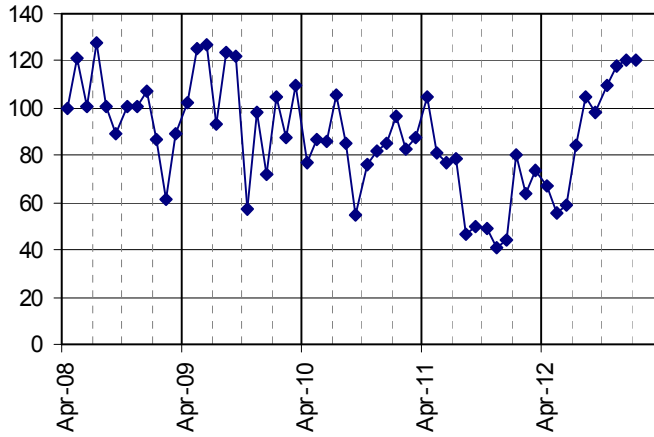
3.36 The number of injury violence crimes climbed up from a low point in February and continued on a rising trend until September (peaking later in the year than in previous years) and has dropped again since then.

Sexual Offences Apr 2008 - Jan 2013



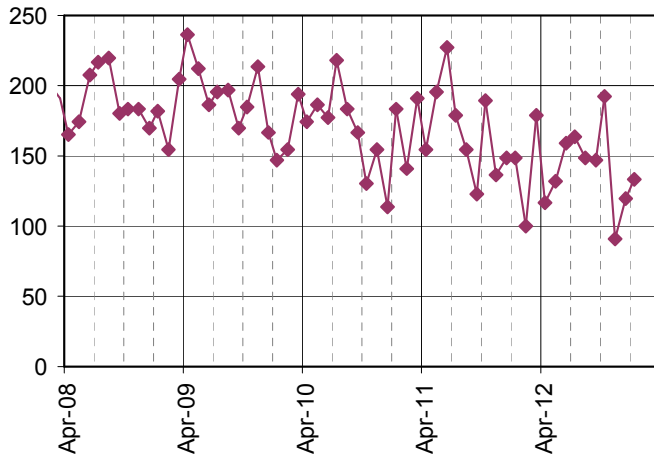
3.37 The number of police recorded sexual offences in the last three months has shown a notable increase compared with months earlier in the year.

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



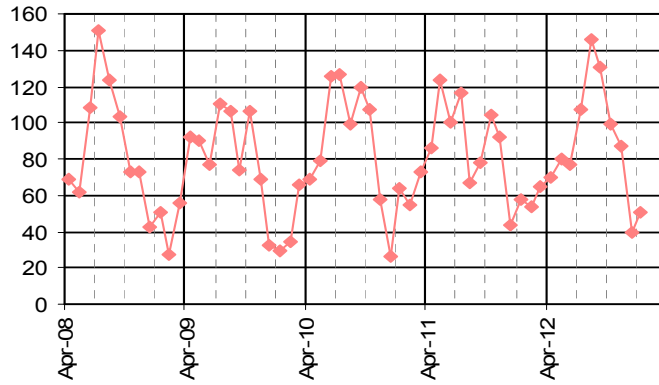
3.38 There was a long term declining trend in domestic burglaries, with numbers between August and December 2011 being particularly low. From May 2013 onwards numbers have risen steadily and levels in the most recent three months are on par with those seen at points three or four years ago.

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



3.39 Vehicle crimes have fluctuated over the past year, but the general trend is downwards. 91 crimes were recorded in Nov 2012, the lowest monthly number recorded for many years.

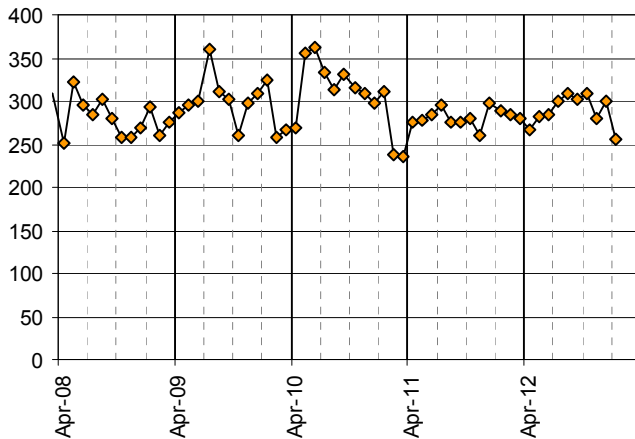
Theft of a Pedal Cycle,
Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



3.40 A strong seasonal pattern in cycle thefts continues and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle.

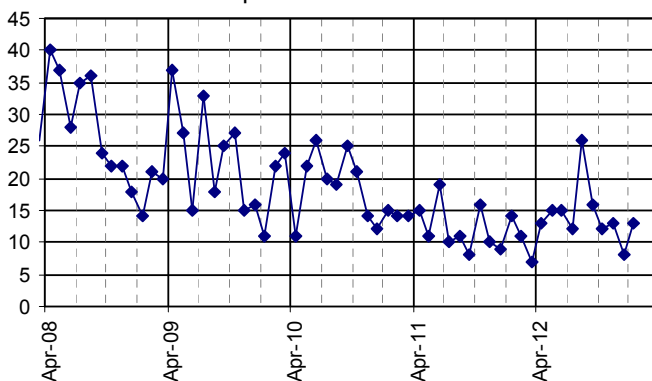
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents
Apr 2008 - Jan 2013



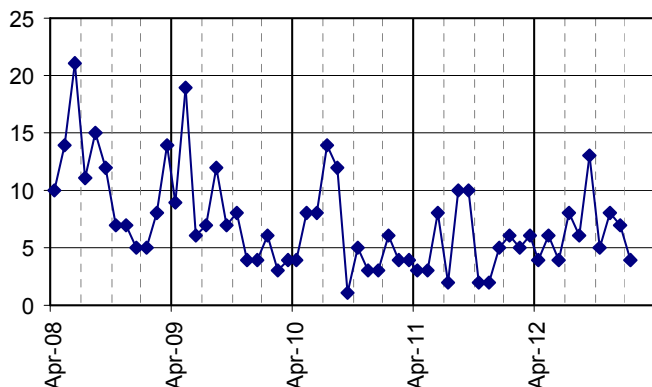
3.41 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents recorded during 2011/12 has been between 250 and 300 each month. Monthly numbers have mostly remained within this range during the first 10 months of 2012/13.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),
Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



3.42 The long term declining trend in police recorded racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes was stabilising at around 10 – 15 incidents per month during 2011/12. The month of August showed a spike up to 26 incidents (as discussed at the last CSF meeting), but the following five months reverted to a more typical level.

Homo/bi/transphobic crimes and crime-related Incidents (police crime database),
Apr 2008 to Jan 2013



3.43 The number of police-recorded homophobic, biphobic or transphobic crimes and crime-related incidents has been at ten or below since summer 2010, with the exception of the month of September when 13 were recorded.

Performance data for key crime types, position at end January 2013

	number of crimes Apr 11-Jan 12	number of crimes Apr 12-Jan 13	rank within 15 bench-marked CSPs ¹
Police recorded crimes			
Total Crimes	19866	19985	7
Criminal Damage	2874	2503	13
Injury Violence	1335	1368	5
Sexual Offences	278	296	n/a ²
Domestic Burglary	635	937	5
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1655	1401	3
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	9285	9749	10
Pedal Cycle Theft	869	888	7
Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents			
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	2810	2893	n/a
Racist/Religiously motivated Crimes and Incidents	123	143	n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	51	65	n/a

¹ Brighton & Hove is matched for comparative purposes with 14 other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) according to a range of socio-demographic and geographic variables. A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst; 8 is the middle position.

² Because sexual offences, DV and hate crimes are subject to underreporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other Community Safety Partnerships based on the number of police recorded crimes.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 43a

Brighton & Hove City Council

Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	4	11	n/a
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Report to Community Safety Forum – 25th February 2013

Subject: Briefing for Information: Party Houses

Contact Officer: Name: *Linda Beanlands* Tel: 29-1115
E-mail: linda.beanlands@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

- 1.0 Brighton & Hove is a destination for many visitors and some homeowners in the city rent out their properties to people visiting the city for holidays, conferences and short breaks. Planning permission is not required to rent out a home to visitors and by far the majority do so without causing disturbance to others.
- 2.0 If residents do experience problems, however, they are asked to report any incidents of anti social behaviour to the police or the community safety casework team and any noise problems to the council's noise nuisance team. A call to the police will result in the call being graded and an appropriate response being identified. If the circumstances are considered an emergency then they will receive a grade 1 allocation for an immediate response and the first available police unit will be assigned.
- 3.0 If there are ongoing problems, the local Neighbourhood Policing team will work closely with partner agencies to reach a solution. In such circumstances, residents may be encouraged to keep diaries logging details of incidents. This will provide factual information to properly assess the situation and evidence which may support further action. By building a picture of levels of anti-social behaviour in relation to a particular property over time, it may be possible to seek a Anti-Social Behaviour Premises Closure Order through the courts. If successful, this would shut the property down until a landlord could evidence that they had taken all reasonable steps to manage anti-social behaviour emanating from the property.
- 4.0 It may be appropriate for the council's noise patrol team to serve notices on property owners where a statutory noise nuisance has been witnessed and it is thought that it is likely to recur. Service of these notices has in the past been successful, with action taken quickly and responsible individuals identified. The service of abatement notices on letting agents has also resulted in a good response in some cases. The agents request to cease disturbance can be supported by a warning that deposits will be forfeited if the requirements are not complied with.

- 5.0 The council's planning enforcement team will also actively investigate reports to determine if planning permission is required. If that is the case, then action is taken to regularise and control the situation.

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

26 November – at a meeting of the Panel held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

David Simmons	Adur DC
Ben Duncan	Brighton and Hove CC
Warren Morgan	Brighton and Hove CC
Tony Dignum	Chichester DC
Nigel Boxall	Crawley BC
John Ungar	Eastbourne BC
Michael Ensor(1)	East Sussex CC
Rosalyn St Pierre	East Sussex CC
Trevor Webb	Hastings BC
Brian Donnelly	Horsham DC
Andy Smith	Lewes DC
Christopher Snowling	Mid Sussex DC
Robin Patten	Rother DC
Johanna Howell(2)	Wealden DC
Andrew Smith	West Sussex CC
Brad Watson (Chairman)	West Sussex CC
Tom Wye	Worthing BC
Graham Hill	Independent
Sandra Prail	Independent

(1)Substitute for David Elkin

(2)Substitute for Claire Dowling

Apologies for absence were received from David Elkin (East Sussex CC), Paul Wotherspoon (Arun DC) and Claire Dowling (Wealden DC).

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Dan Steadman and John Eagles (Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner); and Ninesh Edwards, Charles Gauntlett and Matthew Evans (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Election of Chairman

1. Charles Gauntlett opened the meeting and asked for nominations for role of Chairman for the period up to the annual meeting in 2013.
2. The Panel nominated and seconded Brad Watson for the role of Chairman. Brad Watson was agreed as the Chairman by the Panel and took the chair for the meeting.
3. Resolved – That Brad Watson is elected Chairman of the Panel for the period up to the annual meeting in 2013.

Election of Vice-Chairman

4. The Chairman called for nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman for the period up to the annual meeting in 2013.
5. John Ungar was nominated for the role of Vice-Chairman by Rosalyn St Pierre and seconded by Trevor Webb.
6. David Elkin was nominated by Michael Ensor for the role of Vice-Chairman and seconded by Tony Dignum.
7. A vote was taken and David Elkin received a majority.
8. Resolved – That David Elkin is elected Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the period up to the annual meeting in June/July 2013.

Declarations of Interest

9. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

Nigel Boxall	Chairman of Crawley CDRP
Andy Smith	Member of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
David Simmons	Member of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur
Ben Duncan	Chairman of Brighton and Hove Community Safety Partnership Member of Safe in the City CDRP
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Robin Patten	Member of Rother Safety Partnership
Graham Hill	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership Senior Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support charity
Tom Wye	Member of Adur and Worthing Safety Partnership
Christopher Snowling	Member of Mid Sussex Partnership
Brian Donnelly	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Trevor Webb	Member of East Sussex County Council

Sussex Police and Crime Panel Constitution

10. The Panel considered the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). It was confirmed that all constituent authorities of the Panel had approved the Constitution. The Panel was asked to agree that the Clerk to the Panel acts as the monitoring officer.
11. Resolved – That the Panel notes the Constitution and Terms of Reference and agrees that the Clerk to the Panel acts as the Monitoring Officer to the Panel.

Membership

12. The Panel received and noted the list of appointed members and noted the following updates to nominated substitute members: Nigel Peters as substitute for Brad Watson of West Sussex CC; Michael Ensor as substitute for David Elkin of East Sussex CC; and Ron Maskall as substitute for Andy Smith of Lewes DC.
13. The Panel was asked to confirm the co-option of the two independent members, Graham Hill and Sandra Prail, to the Panel following the advertisement and selection process for the appointment of co-opted independent members.
14. Resolved – That the Panel confirms the co-option of Graham Hill and Sandra Prail as the two independent members to the membership of the Panel.

The Police and Crime Commissioner

15. The Chairman welcomed Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), to the meeting. Mrs Bourne provided a presentation to the Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes) and introduced her support officers from the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC). The presentation outlined the structure of the Police and Crime Plan and policy priorities including public confidence, crime and community safety, victim focus and value for money. As part of the value for money priority the Commissioner confirmed that she would propose a freeze for the council tax precept in 2013/14.
16. The Panel raised the issues below in the discussion that followed:
 - The Commissioner was asked to confirm that she would be committed to equalities and diversity, particularly LGBT. *The Commissioner confirmed that principles of equality and diversity were embodied in the OSPCC and explained that she was aware of the interests of LGBT groups.*
 - The Panel recognised that funding would be dedicated at areas of clear need such as drugs and domestic abuse but highlighted the importance of retaining community partnerships and providing adequate funding for their operation. *The Commissioner explained that the allocation of funding for community partnerships would be the responsibility of the Commissioner from 2013/14. Further detail relating to the budget would be available at the next meeting in January. It was acknowledged that the work of community safety partnerships could be highly valuable; the Commissioner highlighted work relating to domestic abuse in Brighton and Hove.*
 - The Panel queried the inclusion of the priority relating to the securing of Sussex borders and fighting organised crime and terrorism. It was felt that this was the responsibility of other agencies. *The Commissioner confirmed that the priority was contained in the Plan as a strategic policing requirement.*
 - The Panel raised the notion of joint commissioning and the co-location of services in shared accommodation with local authorities. This was proposed as a cost saving measure providing an alternative to cuts to front line services. Without an increase to the precept it was queried where funding would come from for the priorities. *The Commissioner confirmed that she was currently undertaking a full review of contractual obligations (such as the PFI custody agreement) and an audit of estate which would realise savings to help fund priorities. It was too early to provide further detail*

ahead of the budget but the Commissioner did agree with co-location in principle.

- The Panel emphasised the importance of retaining a focus on rural crime and road deaths in rural areas of Sussex which were not well served by officers. *The Commissioner was aware of rural issues, supported community speedwatch campaigns and was keen to meet with parish councils.*
- The Panel raised the importance of work with the voluntary sector. *The Commissioner acknowledged the importance of the work of Neighbourhood Watch and Street Pastors and confirmed that the OSPCC would work closely with voluntary organisations.*

17. The Chairman congratulated the Commissioner on her election and thanked her for her presentation.

18. Resolved – That the Panel notes the election of Katy Bourne as Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.

Procedure for Confirmation Hearings

19. The Panel considered a procedure (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes) for the conduct of confirmation hearings for Schedule 1 and Schedule 8 appointments contained in the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Under the Act confirmation hearings would be held for the appointment of a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, a Chief Constable and the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer of the OSPCC.

20. The Panel queried the quorum that was required to exercise the power of veto and asked that clarification was provided to define precisely what constituted two thirds of the current membership. It was confirmed by the Clerk to the Panel that two thirds of the current membership related to principal, standing members of the board, who numbered 20; nominated substitutes were not included in the figure for the current membership. Two thirds of the principal, standing membership was 14 which represented the quorum required for the Panel to exercise the power of veto at a confirmation hearing for schedule 8 appointments. It was confirmed that when a nominated substitute attended a confirmation hearing in place of a principal member they would be included in the calculation of quorum.

21. The status of officers who had previously been employed by the Sussex Police Authority was queried and clarification was requested by the Panel as to whether confirmation hearings would be undertaken for senior officers in the OSPCC. The Clerk to the Panel would clarify the situation and report back to members of the Panel before the next meeting.

22. Resolved – That the Panel approves the procedure to be followed at confirmation hearings of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel.

Procedure for the Handling of Complaints

23. The Panel considered a report relating to a procedure for the handling of complaints made against the PCC and the Deputy PCC (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Clerk to the Panel introduced the report and outlined the recommendations for the handling of complaints. The Panel was asked to decide whether: the initial handling of complaints should be delegated to the

Chief Executive of the OSPCC, with the informal resolution of complaints undertaken by a subcommittee of the Panel; or the initial handling of complaints should be the role of a subcommittee of the Panel together with informal resolution of appropriate complaints. It was recommended that the agreed arrangements should be reviewed after 12 months.

24. The Panel emphasised the importance of a politically balanced subcommittee with at least one member drawn from a minority party. It was proposed that the element of the complaints procedure setting out the constitution of the subcommittee should be amended to include the wording that the subcommittee would strive to ensure at least one member was drawn from the minority parties. The importance of a gender balance on the subcommittee was also highlighted by a member of the Panel.

25. The Panel felt that the close working relationship between the Chief Executive of the OSPCC and the PCC could compromise the impartial initial handling of complaints by the Chief Executive. It was felt that such an arrangement could be negatively perceived by the public. It was proposed that the model for the handling of complaints against the PCC should be based on the procedure for dealing with complaints made against members of the PCP i.e. the Monitoring Officer of the host authority should deal with the initial handling of complaints. The Monitoring Officer would be responsible for determining either the referral of complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) or to the complaints subcommittee for complaints requiring informal resolution. It was proposed that the initial handling of complaints be delegated to the Monitoring Officer of the host authority.

26. The Panel felt that the membership of the subcommittee should be up to 5 members with a quorum of 3 and the membership should be rotated to ensure all members of the Panel had experience of the role. It was proposed that the subcommittee should include one member of a minority party and an independent member of the Panel.

27. The Panel proposed that arrangements be reviewed at the annual meeting in 2013. It was confirmed that the Panel would receive a schedule of complaints received at quarterly meetings.

28. Resolved – that:

- 1) The Sussex Police and Crime Panel agrees the procedure set out in the appendix subject to the delegation of the initial handling of complaints against the PCC to the Monitoring Officer of the host authority to determine either the referral of complaints to the IPCC or the complaints subcommittee ;
- 2) The Panel receives a schedule of complaints received at quarterly meetings;
- 3) A subcommittee is established to consider complaints against the PCC that require informal resolution;
- 4) The subcommittee will have a quorum of 3 with up to 5 members of the Panel on the subcommittee. The membership will be rotated and the subcommittee will strive to include 1 minority party member and 1 independent member;

- 5) Arrangements for the handling of complaints will be reviewed at the annual meeting in 2013.

Work Plan

29. The Panel considered the Work Plan for the remainder of 2012/13 and the outline work plan for 2013/14 (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

30. The Panel raised the prospect of a working group to consider the Police and Crime Plan and Budget. It was recognised that it would not be possible to convene a working group to consider the Plan and Budget for 2013/14 but it was an intention to establish working groups in future years. The Panel requested that a training session be provided prior to the meeting in October 2013 to focus on the draft Police and Crime Plan and Budget for 2014/15.

31. Resolved – That the Panel approves the rolling work plan for the remainder of the current year and outline work plan for 2013/14.

Date of next meeting

32. The next meeting of the Panel was scheduled for Friday 11 January 2013 at County Hall, Lewes.

The meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.

Chairman

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 13 December 2012.

Present: Councillors Carden, Duncan, Fawthrop, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Kenward, Livings (Chairman), Ost, Pidgeon, Powell, Pragnell, Rufus, Scott, Sparks, Theobald, Thomas and Tidy.

1. REVIEW OF SERVICE PROVISION WITHIN THE HASTINGS BOROUGH

- 1.1 Members of the Fire Authority considered a report that apprised them of the consultation responses to the proposal approved by the Fire Authority following the IRMP Review of service provision within the Hastings Borough and for the Fire Authority to determine the way forward.
- 1.2 Following a review of the Service provision within the Hastings Borough, the findings had been presented to the IRMP Forum, the Policy & Resources Panel and then the Fire Authority at its meeting in September. At this meeting, the Fire Authority had agreed to consult with local communities and stakeholders impacted by the following proposal to:
 - Relocate the Wholetime appliance from The Ridge Community Fire Station to Bohemia Road Community Fire Station; and
 - Maintain the Retained pumping appliance and Landrover at The Ridge on the Retained Duty System (RDS) with its existing establishment.
- 1.3 Members were advised that the 12 week period of consultation and engagement commenced with staff, representative bodies, communities, business organisations and local authorities in the Hastings Borough as well as adjacent areas affected by the proposal had ended on 7 December 2012.
- 1.4 The consultation and engagement process included the collection of opinions from staff, partners, stakeholders and the public using the following methods:
 - Publication of the review and all supporting documents on the Service web site
 - An online questionnaire
 - A Service Brief entry inviting staff to view and consult on the review
 - Emails/letters to over 200 local councillors, businesses, stakeholders and community groups inviting them to view and consult on the review online*
 - A follow up e-mail/letter to stakeholders advising them of the stakeholder forum arrangements
 - Presentations to all Hastings watches (plus Bexhill & Battle) conducted by the Community Risk Management Team
 - Staff focus groups conducted by Opinion Research Services (ORS)
 - A public focus group conducted by ORS
 - A public forum conducted by ORS
 - A stakeholder forum conducted by ORS

- A public meeting conducted by ESFRS
 - Participation in public meetings held in Ore, Pett, Icklesham and Fairlight.
- *The following areas were included in the address list:

All Hastings wards - Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St Helens, Tressell, West St Leonards, Wishing Tree.

All Parish/District Councils in or adjacent to the station grounds – Fairlight, Pett, Guestling, Icklesham, Westfield, Brede, Sedlescombe, Crowhurst, Battle.

Also included were the East Sussex Federation of Small Businesses and Hastings & Area Chamber of Commerce.

- 1.5 Members were advised that the consultation had been managed by two different streams, those managed by Opinion Research Services (ORS) which included Public Focus Groups; Public Forum; Stakeholder Forum and local Staff Focus Groups and processes managed in-house which included staff meetings; online surveys, the public meeting and stakeholder emails/letters.
- 1.6 The in-house processes allowed anyone to attend and present their opinions whereas those carried out by ORS sought to get statistically representative, informed and independently verified outcomes.
- 1.7 Councillor Thomas, on behalf of the Conservative Group, wished to express his Group's thanks to the Officers who were involved in putting the report together. He felt the report, produced at the Fire Authority's request, was comprehensive and detailed and provided Members with helpful information.
- 1.8 Councillor Thomas also thanked the members of public, the firefighters and the trade unions who had taken the time to write to him and his colleagues over this matter. He wished to pass on his assurance that they had read all of the letters and petitions.
- 1.9 He gave assurances that the Fire Authority took its responsibilities seriously and that he and his colleagues had not predetermined any decision as some reports had suggested. He noted that some facts had been presented incorrectly to the public and that those responsible had behaved in an irresponsible manner.
- 1.10 Councillor Thomas noted that although he had listened to the views expressed by local communities, local businesses and members of the public, challenging times were ahead and that difficult decisions would need to be made to balance the resources of the Service across the whole of East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove, and to the 800,000 people who live in the Service area.
- 1.11 Councillor Thomas noted the proposed Bexhill Link Road and the changes that would bring. He advised that the Conservatives' view was that there should be no changes until the construction was completed and further analysis could be

undertaken on the impact upon operational services, if any, of the new road infrastructure.

- 1.12 Councillor Thomas put the following Motion to the Fire Authority, which was seconded by Councillor Fawthrop:

“That this Authority continues to maintain a fire station at The Ridge and, in addition, continues to maintain a wholetime appliance at The Ridge and does not relocate an appliance to Bohemia Road and that the appliance at The Ridge is maintained on a 24/7 basis.

The Fire Authority requests the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive to undertake community safety activities in the rural communities near to The Ridge to provide further reassurances to the public, that safety is our primary concern, and to report back to the Fire Authority.”

- 1.13 Councillor Sparks wished to thank the public, staff and stakeholders for their invaluable contribution to the consultation process. He felt the report was sound and comprehensive and wanted to acknowledge the amount of time it would have taken to compile.
- 1.14 Councillor Sparks acknowledged that the proposals would have ensured that the Service would still have met its Service Standards and that, although the review was not financially driven, the Authority did have a responsibility to the County as a whole to manage its finances responsibly. Councillor Sparks wished to hear the Officers’ view on the Motion before he voted on it.
- 1.15 Councillor Rufus acknowledged this was the first of many difficult decisions that lay ahead and through the consultation process, it was clear that the public were becoming aware of the unpalatable nature of the decisions that had to be made.
- 1.16 Councillor Scott also acknowledged the financially challenging environment with the savage cuts to budgets. He felt it was right that the Fire Authority should review its business, however he would not support any cuts to frontline services. During the consultation, the questionnaires, letters, petitions, meetings, marches and social media had made it quite clear to the Authority that the proposal was not acceptable. He suggested that he had serious concerns over attendance times, particularly in the rural areas and referred to letters that he had received from residents, businesses and the local hospital.
- 1.17 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that operational Service Standards were set by the Fire Authority and East Sussex currently had one set of the best attendance times for Shire Counties in the Country. Members were also reminded that the IRMP process was to ensure that the Service provided the most appropriate cover and was not a financial saving exercise.
- 1.18 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive went on to add that, over the next 6 years, the Fire Authority would have to accept that there would be cuts to services including fewer firefighters, fewer appliances and fewer stations. He was disappointed by other local Authorities’ responses to the consultation as they were only too aware of the current financial situation and whilst they have a variety of

services to cut, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service only has one as a single purpose fire and rescue service.

1.19 Councillors discussed the consultation processes and responses and unanimously agreed that:

- the Fire Authority continues to maintain a fire station at The Ridge and, in addition, continues to maintain a wholetime appliance at The Ridge and does not relocate an appliance to Bohemia Road. The appliance at The Ridge is maintained on a 24/7 basis; and
- the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive be asked to undertake community safety activities in the rural communities near The Ridge, to provide further reassurances to the public that safety is our primary concern, and to report back to the Fire Authority.

2. **SUSSEX CONTROL CENTRE – AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 16 OF THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004**

2.1 The Fire Authority considered a report regarding an agreement pursuant to Section 16 of the Fire & Rescue Service Act 2004 between East Sussex Fire Authority and West Sussex County Council.

2.2 At the Policy & Resources Panel held on 24 May 2012, it had been agreed that a Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, Section 16 Agreement be developed in order to bring about the decision for East Sussex Fire Authority to discharge the call handling and mobilisation function on behalf of West Sussex County Council.

2.3 The main agreement was 31 pages with 31 clauses and had 7 schedules attached. The agreement would take effect from 1 May 2013 and continue for 7 years from the date that the Sussex Control Centre goes live. Both officers of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and West Sussex County Council had attended many meetings and many discussions to ensure, with the help of employment, property and contracts lawyers, that the interests of both parties were protected as far as were reasonably practicable.

2.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority delegates resolution of the unresolved pensions' clauses to the Treasurer and Monitoring Officer and subject to West Sussex County Council affixing the seal, authorise the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Chairman, to affix the common seal.

COUNCILLOR JOHN LIVINGS
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
14 December 2012

