

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL: NORTH AREA**

**7.00pm 7 JANUARY 2021**

**VIRTUAL**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

**Councillors:** Fowler (Chair), Grimshaw

**Officers:** Emma Gilbert, Rebecca Mann, Sam Warren, Martin Reid, Marcus Richardson, Alan Griffiths, Thomas Bald

**North Area Panel Representatives:** Ian Beck, Des Jones, Heather Hayes.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies from Kat Laurence and Tracey Hill.

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes would be agreed at the forthcoming meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**3.1** Theresa Fowler gave the following communications:

“On Monday the Government announced a further national lockdown due to huge increases in the spread of the coronavirus and numbers in hospitals. If we really want to combat COVID-19 and return to some form of normality any time soon, this current lockdown needs to be treated with the same seriousness as in March and to stay home unless it is absolutely necessary. I just wanted to let you all know that you can contact your local Councillors and Council services if you need help. I heard that the Hollingdean COVID-19 mutual aid, which is a support structure that was set up in the last lockdown, is still in place, and there are road reps on each road if you need their support. They can be reached at [hollingdeanhelp@gmail.com](mailto:hollingdeanhelp@gmail.com) to assist with things like shopping and prescription collections, and can signpost you to places for any additional support.”

**3.2** Emma Gilbert also added that the Council’s Community Hub Helpline is available and can be reached via the following:

- For anyone needing support or help with food, shopping, prescriptions, health or care etc contact the Community Hub via the BHCC website [Request help for yourself or someone else \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#) or phone line 01273 293 117 Option 2
- Housing Customer Services are the first point of contact and can assist with a wide range of enquiries and will make referrals to the most appropriate team for you
- Tel: 01273 293030 or email [Housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

- For help with benefits, employment/training, fuel poverty and referrals for independent money advice, contact the Housing Inclusion team at [housingemploymentsupport@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housingemploymentsupport@brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- The citywide advice services information can be found at <https://advicebrighton-hove.org.uk>

#### 4 ADULT LEARNING OFFER

4.1 Emma Gilbert referred to pages 37 – 42 on the Agenda and gave a presentation mentioning the following points:

- From September last year, the HRA started putting funding towards adult learning provisions provided by the Hangleton and Knoll Project and the Whitehawk Inn.
- Much of the learning has been remote due to the current restrictions, so these services are available to everyone.
- Most of their work has been with Council Tenants so have been reaching out to residents and resident associations.
- There has been a big emphasis on digital accessibility and social inclusion.
- Details to access the courses can be found in the information provided with the Agenda.
- Courses include employability, creative writing, history, health and wellbeing.
- Currently between 55-58% of people using the service are Council tenants.
- Once the current restrictions have lifted there will be potential to hold sessions in community rooms of buildings for people who can't travel easily.

4.2 Heather Hayes was informed that there are financial advice services available including help with bills, fuel poverty, or benefits including help communicating with the DWP.

#### 5 ITEMS FOR HOUSING COMMITTEE

5.1 Martin Reid gave a summary of pages 7 and 8 of the Agenda.

5.2 Amanda Grimshaw was informed that Martin Reid would investigate a case concerning a resident's issues with her garden.

5.3 Amanda Grimshaw was also informed that the housing crisis was impacting on officers due to the increase in rough sleeping, the need to buy new permanent housing, and the new mutation of COVID-19. Martin Reid also raised that the largest cause of homelessness was from private renting evictions.

**RESOLVED** – Martin Reid would investigate the residents case and be in touch with Amanda Grimshaw.

#### 6 RESPONSES TO RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

6.1 *Support for the Elderly and Vulnerable Residents*

**RESOLVED** – The response was satisfactory.

## 6.2 Council Communication with Residents

6.2.1 Ian Beck mentioned that Sam Warren and Rebecca Mann had set up meetings every other week to communicate with residents.

**RESOLVED** – The response was satisfactory.

## 6.3 *Overgrown brambles between Horton Road and Davey Drive*

6.3.1 Ian Beck and Des Jones were informed by Alan Griffiths that the brambles can't be removed due to the bank being too steep and herbicides not being used anymore, but they will be trimmed back regularly. Ian Beck mentioned that rats tend to nest in the brambles and interfere with gardens.

**RESOLVED** – Investigations would take place to see what could be done about the brambles.

## 6.4 *Gates at Roedale Court*

6.4.1 Ian Beck raised that people anti social behaviour takes place in the alleyways of Roedale Court. Rebecca Mann confirmed she would chase Keith Perry for a response.

**RESOLVED** – Rebecca Mann would follow up Keith Perry for a response.

## 6.5 *Windows on Bates Estates*

**RESOLVED** – The response was satisfactory.

## 6.6 *Overgrown Brambles at Allotments*

6.6.1 Heather Hayes raised that brambles grow into the allotments from the adjacent land. Alan Griffiths responded that he'd investigate which section of the Council that land belonged to. Heather Hayes also confirmed that there was access to that land.

**RESOLVED** – Alan Griffiths would investigate this issue and be in contact with Heather Hayes.

## 6.7 *Poor Condition of Windows in Hollingdean*

6.7.1 Ian Beck raised that these windows haven't been replaced since 1985, and the prediction is that these windows will start being replaced in 2022-23. Marcus Richardson responded that in the interim, immediate repair issues can be phoned into the help desk, however due to the current restrictions and the budget these repairs would go ahead on a phased approach. Amanda Grimshaw added that one of her residents has been having problems with their windows and doors.

**RESOLVED** – Marcus Richardson would look into the potential subsidence under Newick Road and the specific case mentioned by Amanda Grimshaw.

## 6.8 *Planned Maintenance*

**RESOLVED** – The response was satisfactory.

**7 POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS**

7.1 Rebecca Mann mentioned that there are commemorative trees being planted in Coldean, a bench in memory of Terrence Hill, and there was a discussion to name a new road in the Moulsecomb development after Terrence Hill. Martin Reid added that there are certain protocols around naming roads but would investigate.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 Heather Hayes raised that in several Council properties, the coverings on cupboards in kitchens and bathrooms has peeled off and the replacements suggested don't match. Marcus Richardson responded that this wouldn't be a priority but would report this back to Eddie Wilson for when it happens again in future.

The meeting concluded at 8.17pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of