



## Bath & North East Somerset Student Community Partnership Minutes

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019**  
**Level 3 Staff Conference Room, Manvers Street**  
**Virgil Building Bath**

<b>Present at the meeting</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Professor Ian White (IW)	Vice Chancellor, University of Bath
Megan Robertson (MR)	VP Community Officer, Bath Spa University Student Union
Hayley Hayward-Boyle (HHB)	Student Participation Officer, Bath College
Chris Davies (CD)	Head of Communications Projects, Bath Spa University
David Dixon (DD)	Community Engagement Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mandy Wilson Garner (MWG)	Student Union, University of Bath
Councillor Sue Craig (SC)	Bath and North East Somerset Councillor (Kingsmead Ward)
Mark Hayward (MH)	Community Engagement Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Prof Peter Lambert (Chair) (PL)	Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Bath
Kalyn Mallard (KM)	Student Community Partnership
Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall (SSM)	Bath and North East Somerset Councillor (Oldfield Ward)
Councillor June Player (JP)	Bath and North East Somerset Councillor (Westmoreland Ward)
Councillor Sarah Moore (SM)	Bath and North East Somerset Councillor (Twerton Ward)
Helen McHenry (HM)	Finance Manager, Students' Union, University of Bath
Eve Alcock (EA)	SU President, University of Bath

<b>Apologies from</b>	
Councillor Dine Romero (DR)	Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council
Alisha Lobo (AL)	Community Officer, University of Bath, Student Union

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

PL welcomed Professor Ian White Vice Chancellor from the University of Bath who was attending his first SCP meeting. PL also welcomed Megan Robertson, VP Community Officer, Bath Spa University Student Union and thanked everyone for their attendance. Apologies were recorded for DR and AL.

IW explained how he understands the importance of how the community interacts with the students within the City. Because of the pressures that students now have to deal with, this requires a successful relationship where both communities are at ease with each other. There are opportunities to build on the successes that have been achieved over recent years. IW added that he is open and willing to engage and respond to the community.

## **2. Report from Chair / January 2019 Meeting Actions**

PL provided an update on the working group's activities since the last meeting of the partnership.

PL explained that River Safety has been a priority that has been actively led by Bath Spa University and The City of Bath College. A scheme has been set up with the Taxi Company V-Cars that offers students a deferred payment which allows them to get home safely. CD explained that The University of Bath also offers a taxi scheme that delivers students to where they live. This scheme has been used ten times in the last three months.

PL explained that the Housing Group has met twice since January. The HMO licencing scheme has been welcomed, it is important for students to have information that shows them the correct route to address problems that are included within and outside of the scheme.

SSM explained that the Council are now dealing with the inspections for those properties that have registered. The scheme has started with a minimum standard which will be reviewed and possibly raised in the future.

SSM added that the Fix My Street reporting tool is to be improved so topics have clearer definitions for residents that wish to report issues. There is also an information gathering exercise taking place to establish how many cars there are in student households.

PL explained that the Pack for Good Campaign is taking place again this year and the collection containers have been placed in locations around Bath. This scheme has proved a great success and raises a great deal of money for the British Heart Foundation. PL added that the University of Bath and Bath Spa University have funded additional waste collections which will help with the avoidance of the build-up of waste and builds on the success of last year.

PL explained that a quotation for providing additional bins is being reviewed. The locations for bins at bus stops and other student locations are being looked at and a decision will follow.

PL explained that the #NeverOK campaign is working with venues in town and The SU Bath Tub to promote safe places for students and young residents when on nights out in Bath. A training film is being produced for the Universities and Clubs. The SU Tub, Moles, Second Bridge and Komedia are good operators.

KM provided an update on the actions that were recorded at the last SCP meeting.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status</b>
CD and KM agreed to look into further opportunities for the sponsorship of waste bins at bus stops	Ongoing
KM will look into who additionally could receive the SCP newsletter (Councillors and Resident Associations)	To Be Sent in the next 2 weeks
A request was made for the SCP to receive an update as a standing item at each meeting with the aim of monitoring any improvements in housing standards	Complete
Co-ordinate a Housing working group within the SCP	Complete
Discuss future river patrol dates with SU's	Complete
Bath Spa University to provide the right person to be involved in #NeverOK	Complete
The Police asked for details of the Autism awareness day to be shared.	Complete

### **3. Chairs Community Awards SCP Video**

KM presented a video that was used at the B&NES Council Community Awards. The film showed the extensive levels of volunteering that is delivered in the community by students that are based in Bath.

### **4. Co-ordinator's report and issues in the Community**

KM referenced the Community Liaison Co-ordinator report dated June 2019.

KM explained that the total number of complaints that have been received in this academic year (from September 2018) was 129; this figure is lower than the previous year. It was notable that the number of waste related complaints has declined.

SM commented that her experience in Twerton is different to how the complaints are reported. SM has had 7 complaints just about student parking in the last 3 weeks.

KM provided an overview of how she deals with the handling of complaints and the response procedure. This year there has only been the need for 15 meetings to follow up on the initial communication.

SSM commented that the improvement to Fix My Street will also enable better reporting of complaints under the correct categorisation.

## **5. SCP Budget**

HM provided a copy of the SCP budget; the budget remains in a surplus for this year and next year but in 2020/2021 there is an anticipated deficit of £2K.

SSM commented that the Council are carrying out a review of their budget; Councillor Romero is looking to see if any further funding could be found from next year.

## **6 Anti- Student Rhetoric in the Media**

CD explained that this item has been brought to the SCP following an article entitled 'We're Overrun with Students' appearing on the front of the Bath Chronicle several weeks ago. It is felt that this style of journalism is irresponsible and that it came in the week before the graffiti appeared at the University of Bath entrance.

CD added that the statement that has been made by the MP for Bath is welcomed. It is felt that it is important for the SCP to flag their thoughts and provide a response.

EA explained that she had met with a representative from Reach PLC who are the owners of Bath Live. This conversation had shown that ownership from this national corporation has led to a position where the local publications are targeted on the number of clicks that published stories receive. The publication of negative and sensationalised stories brings a greater level of interest than those that are perceived as good news stories.

SM commented that there appears to be a gap that results because of a lack of alternative places for the good news stories to be published. The Twerton Councillors hand deliver newsletters to households in their ward, but there are no student stories appearing in this publication.

SSM explained that pressure in Bath exists due to a number of different factors; student housing, second homes and Air BnB all contribute to a shortage of availability of family and low cost homes. If there is any blame it should not be directed at the students but be discussed with the Universities.

## **7. Best Neighbour Off Campus Scheme**

KM explained that there have been discussions with Robin Kerr (Chair of FOBRA) regarding the introduction of a prize for students that are championing good neighbourliness. This would involve local residents making nominations and a prize being awarded by a panel of residents.

Ideas for who the scheme should work and what the prizes should be need to be considered, all suggestions can be sent to KM.

## **8. Volunteering Initiatives with Ageing Population**

KM and HHB provided an update on the volunteering which is taking place with the ageing population in the area.

Bath College are working with Waitrose and St. Johns Foundation on the Slow Shopping initiative; the Memory Café at Cleve Court and activities in the gardens with residents at Stratton House is also taking place.

The SU University of Bath have been working on the well supported Make a Difference Days: Dementia Café and with Age UK on Senior Science Research Objects and Chinese New Year Lunch.

Students' Union Bath Spa has been working on Active for Life Activities and Age UK and Illustration Society.

SSM mentioned that there is community interest in setting up a Bath Shed which aims are to off a social and welfare benefit for older and active men and women.

## 9. Community Empowerment Fund

DD explained that the Council has been looking to reintroduce Community Empowerment Funding. The new administration is presently looking at how the process for allocation of the funding will work. Once a decision is made there will be an amount for Bath of approximately £45K that will be used to match funded projects with partner's organisations. Once the final details for the scheme are agreed the information will be shared with the SCP.

## 9. AOB

SSM explained that the recent local elections have brought change and the Liberal Democrats are the new Administration for Bath & NES Council. The Council would like to jointly review the SCP arrangements, including the level of its financial contribution and a closer alignment of SCP priorities with those of the BANES Corporate Strategy. It would also like to see greater engagement with Councillors in other areas in Bath, as well as potentially Norland College.

SSM added that to move this forward it would be useful for discussions to take place between officers in B&NES and at the Universities.

KM reminded all participants in the SCP to send her any requests for future agenda items.

Actions	Person/s
Student articles to be shared with a greater number of sources so that they appear in more local newsletter and publications.	KM
The SCP will provide a response to the Bath Chronicle in regard to the anti-student rhetoric issue.	CD
The SCP will invite the local press to attend a future SCP meeting.	KM
Include press coverage of students as a regular item on the SCP agenda.	KM
Share ideas what the Best Neighbour Off Campus Scheme should comprise of and what prizes could be offered.	All

Organise discussions for taking forward the  
refreshment of the SCP arrangements

KM / DD

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 3.00-4.30pm at, Virgil Building Bath