



Bath & North East Somerset Student Community Partnership Minutes

**Wednesday, 9th January, 2019,
Level 3 Staff Conference Room, Manvers Street
Virgil Building, Bath**

| Present at the meeting | Representing |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Enya Battersby | Bath Spa University, Students' Union, VP Community |
| Hayley Hayward-Boyle | Student Participation Officer, Bath College |
| Chris Davies | Head of Communications, Bath Spa University |
| David Dixon | Community Engagement Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council |
| Mandy Wilson Garner | University of Bath Students' Union, Deputy CEO |
| Chris Mordaunt | B&NES Team Manager, Housing Standards and Improvement |
| Mark Hayward | Community Engagement Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council |
| Professor Peter Lambert (Chair) | Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Bath |
| Kalyn Mallard | SCP, Community Liaison Co-ordinator |
| Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall | Bath and North East Somerset Councillor |
| Councillor June Player | Bath and North East Somerset Councillor |
| Sgt Adam O'Loughlin | Avon and Somerset Police |
| Eve Alcock | University of Bath, SU President |
| Emma Quixley | University of Bath, SU Advice and Support Manager |

| Apologies from | |
|------------------------|--|
| Councillor Bob Goodman | Bath and North East Somerset Councillor |
| Alisha Lobo | University of Bath, SU Community Officer |

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

PL welcomed all members and guests and the apologies for this meeting were recorded as above.

PL felt that both Student Unions are working closer together and talking on more issues that cross both Universities. The attendance of Sue Rigby at the last SCP meeting was positive for the SCP.

2. Report from Chair / October Meeting Actions

PL explained that since the last SCP meeting there had been a number of complaints recorded around issues at the Rossiter Road Bus Stop. The decision has already been made to change back services to their previous route; therefore these complaints should now stop. KM will inform the complainant.

Action: CD and KM agreed to look into further opportunities for the sponsorship of waste bins at bus stops

| <u>Actions (12.10.18)</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--|---------------|
| 1. The date for the SCP meeting that follows January has been rescheduled for the 3 rd June 2019 (3-4.30pm) | Completed |
| 2. All Ward Councillors have been sent a copy of the Good Neighbour packs and newsletters. Action: KM will look into who additionally could receive this information. | Completed |
| 3. A meeting has taken place between CD/DT/KM to discuss a positive strategy on communications around, housing, student numbers and buses. A schedule has been put in place to co-ordinate communication for a set topic each month. | Completed |
| 4. Dates have been provided to MS for providing cover for the river safety boat for the dates and times for student party dates. Feedback shows that there have been no new incidents. Additionally it has been fed back that the pattern of nights and timings could be revised; it is difficult to implement this as volunteers are not presently available for alternative provision. | Completed |
| 5. A meeting has taken place with Liz Hearn and DD/KM to discuss involvement of students in Moorland Road Community Library. The suggestion was made for the SCP to use the library as a base when in that area. | Completed |
| 6. KM is working with local councillors on | Completed |

an event for Spring 2019 for students and local residents to meet each other.

7. The SCP website has a section called living in your neighbourhood; KM explained that local councillor details are available there. Completed

8. The B&NES Council HMO Officer is in attendance and presenting at today's meeting. Completed

9. Information was circulated on the community game for raising awareness off men's mental health. The fire service attended in support as did the family of a suicide victim. Completed

10. Information was circulated on the 'Urban Beach Clean'. The event was successful and the participants were pictured with the collected litter at the Royal Crescent. Completed

3. Housing Quality in B&NES

EQ provided feedback which looked at housing quality at both of the universities in Bath. The findings included:

- A lack of urgency from landlords following the report of a problem at a property
- Interim measures being put in place on issues, rather than a permanent solution
- Landlords were at times located outside the UK which made communication difficult.
- A lack of follow up once an issue has been reported.
- Deposits are not always being put into a secure protection scheme.
- The condition of properties are wide ranging from issues such as mould, pests, broken boilers up to more serious structure issues.
- Rogue landlords will avoid carrying out their duties.
- Deposits are be held and not returned.
- Low standards are delivered for the cost that is being paid.

CM - B&NES Team Manager, Housing Standards and Improvement was in attendance to offer advice and discuss the HMO licencing scheme.

CM explained most of the points raised in EQ report can be supported by his team; the exception is affordability which is an issue that is controlled by the market and supply.

Action: There is a tenant's bill that controls agency fees CM will circulate to the SCP.

The SU's require a telephone number for contacting the Housing Standards Team – this number is 01225 396444 or the web address is:-

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/housing/houses-multiple-occupation/licensing-houses-multiple-occupation>

- The new HMO Licencing Scheme that came into being on the 1st January 2019 will help with a number of the common issues that occur with low standard accommodation in the city. This scheme will see all shared homes having to be licenced with B&NES Council and those found not to be complying will be committing a criminal offence and can face a fine of up to £30K.
- Properties that require a licence will pay £800 for a five year period, these receipts will fund administration and enforcement for the scheme.
- There are presently 3,000 properties in the City of Bath and a further 500 in B&NES
- Once the application process has been introduced an enforcement policy will come into effect which will deliver strong measures against non-compliant landlords.
- The Council will be able to inspect properties and will target those that have not been inspected previously and will then revisit those we have visited before. We will be looking at the quality of the premises, how the property is managed, safety issues, management arrangements for overseas landlords. A fit and proper person needs to be available locally to manage any arrangements for the tenants.
- Other factors for consideration are: - criminal record checks, is the number of occupants correct for the property, are there fire safety measures in place and what management plan is in place for fixing broken items. The standards around waste storage, carbon monoxide detectors, waste location information, fire risk and property information will also be required through the licencing agreement.
- There will be a public register that will appear on the B&NES Council website, all HMOs will appear mapped on the section called My Council. The aim is for all HMOs to be licenced and listed by the end of 2019, presently we are in a period of adjustment where all HMOs are able to continue operating if the landlord is in the process of applying for a licence.
- Any member of the public with concerns over a HMO can contact the Housing Standards Team and there will be a duty to investigate complaints. Advice to all tenants is to start by trying to sort out issues in the first instance with the landlord.

Action: 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 standards.

Action: KM to co-ordinate a Housing working group under the SCP with relevant representatives.

4. Avon and Somerset Police: Student Safety

Sgt Adam O'Loughlin from Avon and Somerset Police provided an update to the meeting:-

- It was reported that by UK standards Bath City is seen to be a well behaved student hub.
- Crime in Bath is static year on year; there are some variances in specific areas of the City.
- The City Centre see more violent incidents and has seen knife crime incidents rise by one report year on year.
- The levels of community engagement for the last year are below where we would like it to be, this is an area of improvement that there is a focus on.
- There is an approach to the university campuses to see if the benefit of having a full time officer present would be welcomed.
- Beat Surgeries are being arranged to cover the campuses.
- There are some crimes that students get involved in locally, there has been instances of involving illegal drugs and an increase in the number of suspect packages being delivered in the post.

EB raised several questions:-

- Is there any evidence in the level of instances of drinks being spiked in Bath?
 - This is a hard crime to prove and there are occurrences where people do make false claims. The overall levels of incidents have not seen an increase.
- The request for the need for an officer full time on campus is not going to be needed, although there is a greater need for City Centre patrols.
 - The impact of day to day contact on campus could see a build in managing community barriers. The patrols in the City are allocated to incidents through demand that is constantly changing.
- The bulk of cover around prevention is centre on the weekend evenings, the incidents that have occurred shows that they happen outside these times.
 - The system used for reporting incidents can be analysed to see how the numbers map out.

HHB asked if the issues that have been raised around student safety when leaving the building in Bath, unsavoury characters have either entered the building or hang around outside.

- AO agreed to pass this on to the Sergeant Jonathan Raisey who works the City Centre in Bath.

EA highlighted that work that has been conducted around student initiations has been beneficial and it is hoped that this can continue.

5. Co-ordinator's Report and Issues in the Community

KM provided the co-ordinators report prior to the meeting.

SSM highlighted that there had been a planning meeting around 'Pack 4 Good' which was well received.

EB asked if the complaint reporting through 'Fix My Street' will impact on the overall level of complaints included in KM report?

- It was explained that all student related complaints are forwarded to KM and get recorded.

The receipt of complaints is helpful as issues that are occurring can then be dealt with.

6. #NeverOK Campaign Update

MWG explained that this campaign relates to 'safe spaces' where harassment is not tolerated. The scheme operates on campus and is being extended to pubs and clubs in the City; Moles, Komedia and Second Bridge are all taking part. There has been some bespoke training for clubs that has been supported by Geoff Cannon from the Police. Bath College is working on creating a logo for the scheme. An example of the work has seen a student feeling confident that they could complain about a night club incident through the university.

Action: Bath Spa University need to provide the right person to be involved

7. River Safety Forum Update

EB explained that capacity of the volunteers is strained on busy dates. Work is needed to prove the need to provide supports which match up with the days that deaths in the river actually occur.

CD commented that the two further deaths that occurred in the river did so despite all the efforts that have been made on river safety. Although we have seen no recent incidents we are keen to review and look to see what other ideas could be worked upon.

- Welfare reps from Bath Spa University attend all society events
- The Bus Stop location at Rossiter Road was changed back to Dorchester Street following the efforts put forward around the river safety aspects of the location.

Action: KM to discuss future river patrol dates with SU's

8. Green Group Update

The 'Pack 4 Good' campaign for 2019 is currently in planning stages.

A relaunch of sustainable energy provider 'Our Power' is taking place and details will be added to the website.

9. AOB

DD announced that the Bath City Forum had recommended funding of £15,000 to provide a part time support officer to two years. The final sign off by the Council is due before the end of January 2019.

PL passed on thanks from the SCP for this support.

| Actions | Person/s |
|--|-----------------|
| CD and KM agreed to look into further opportunities for the sponsorship of waste bins at bus stops | KM/CD |
| KM will look into who additionally could receive the SCP newsletter | KM |
| 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. | EQ |
| Co-ordinate a Housing working group within the SCP | KM |
| Discuss future river patrol dates with SU's | KM |
| Bath Spa University to provide the right person to be involved in #NeverOK | EB |
| The Police asked for details of the Autism awareness day to be shared. | KM/AO/EB |

Next Meeting:

3rd June 2019 at 3:00-4:30pm, Virgil Building Bath