



Student Community Partnership Board Minutes

8th October 2021

1-2pm– via Zoom

Present: **Chair:** Meg Crossman (SU Community Officer, **University of Bath Students' Union**)

BANES: Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall (Councillor for Oldfield Park, Member Advocate for Engagement with Students), Cllr Dine Romero (Councillor for Southdown, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture), Cllr June Player (Councillor for Westmoreland)

Bath College: Jon Domaille (Assistant Principal)

Bath Spa University: Rebecca Schaaf (Pro Vice Chancellor, Student Experience)

Bath Spa University Students' Union: Caroline Dangerfield (Deputy Chief Executive), Sian Bentley (Vice President Welfare and Community)

Norland College: Alex Fereday (Facilities Manager)

University of Bath: Peter Lambert (Professor)

In attendance: Dave Dixon (Community Engagement Manager), Mandy Wilson-Garner (Deputy Chief Executive) Ghika Savva (Community Liaison Co-Ordinator, **SCP**), Kathryn Jones (Administrator, **SCP**)

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Apologies

MC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Caroline Jarosz (Student Participation Officer, **Bath College Students' Union**) and Dr Janet Rose (Principal, **Norland College**).

2. Actions arising from the previous meeting held April 2021.

Action	Person	Status
Report to the next SCP meeting on how successful the extra waste collections have been this year.	GS	Completed
Invite JW to return to a future meeting to share progress on One Shared Vision	GS	Carried Over – see notes
Arrange for the final Partnership Agreement to be circulated to the SCP Board Members	GS	Completed
Share positive messaging from the Co-ordinator report across partner organisations and build Comms strategy.	GS	Ongoing
Attempt to add welcome messages the matrix message boards on the roads into the City.	DD	Completed – see notes
Investigate the possibility of a having a welcome banner across Milsom Street in Bath.	DD	Completed
Share details of the ‘moving in’ event that will involve residents and students.	GS	Completed
Prepare a list of suggested SCP aims and objectives for 2021/22 for the next SCP meeting, linked to Working Groups	GS	Completed

3. Consider SCP Aims and Objectives for 2021/22

GS explained that the Action Plan had been circulated and welcomed feedback on the priorities that should be set for the year ahead.

DR proposed SCP Working Groups be rethought of to have joint commitments with SCP Board’s aims and priorities, as some groups are historic. She asked if this would be best discussed at SCP Board or as separate discussion.

MC asked for clarification on term ‘historic’. DR explained different groups hold overlapping concerns e.g., safety groups. DR mentioned worth of collaborative working and that the Higher Education Partners’ priorities should be built into groups.

SSM agreed there was an overlap between SCP Green Group and SCP Housing Group regarding HMO licensing, gardens, and waste. He mentioned stress on budget and to focus on work to reduce number of meetings to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

MWG mentioned synergies between groups may occur but the SCP representatives are present at all groups to highlight overlap. She explained the key premise of each group: SCP Personal Safety covers #NeverOk campaign and initiatives in nightclubs; SCP River Safety discusses wider topic of river safety affecting all residents in Bath and liaises with external

organisations i.e., Avon Fire Rescue and Royal Life Saving Society; SCP Green Group discusses student related green initiatives as the Climate Emergency is seen as higher priority and responsibility than SCP Working Groups; SCP Housing Group discusses quality of student housing and involves BANES Housing and Licensing representatives.

DR reflected that she was happy with the background of groups, but recommended reconsidering the nature, content, and members of each group. She explained the need to ensure the effective purpose of groups to deliver the SCP Board's priorities.

PL expressed willingness to discuss this idea going forward but concrete proposals would be needed before altering the SCP Working Groups.

GS reflected that the Partnership Review process during the last academic year had provided the opportunity to comment on the Working Groups and none were received.

SSM agreed clarity of groups is needed. He considered that the SCP Action Plan did not relate to the objectives of the groups and clarification of groups is needed to ensure right representation from across the Partnership

GS explained that at least one BANES Councillor, one Council Officer, and one representative from all Higher Education Institutions attend all SCP Working Groups. She mentioned the purpose of each group and the member list was circulated to all the partners last year as part of the Partnership review process.

BS agreed groups need clarification, and specific aims and objectives may help this process. She asked for drink spiking to be added to SCP Personal Safety after incidents rose over summer.

DR mentioned all comments are welcome and the groups may change over time.

PL agreed groups need to be agile and can be set up and disbanded as needed.

GS asked the Group to send comments about the groups' objectives and members list. PL mentioned comments should be sent across prior to the next meeting.

Action: The Group to send comments about SCP Working Groups' objectives and members list to GS before next meeting.

4. Moving In Campaign

GS explained the campaign began on 4th October and will cover 58 streets across Oldfield Park, Westmoreland, Southdown, Newbridge and Twerton. She mentioned the campaign has been extended to cover areas with significant complaints during the last academic year including Lansdown, Bathwick and Widcombe & Lyncombe.

GS mentioned an advert was circulated to students to seek volunteers to but there is limited support due to time of year.

GS highlighted the Welcome to the Community Fair at Dartmouth Avenue on 13th October. She mentioned the possibility for welcome talks and events at Norland College and Bath College.

SSM encouraged all Partners to engage and hear experience of residents and their issues. He explained the SCP Team cannot reach all students every year and the Partnership should reflect on improving resources.

SSM explained feedback to Councillors is long-term residents have stopped using channels to complain as it does not resolve issues. He explained more coverage is important and an understanding of reach of message is needed. He mentioned a report of the success of campaign would be useful.

GS mentioned data from Moving Out Campaign was included in previous report but as the Moving In Campaign has just commenced there is no conclusive data yet.

SSM mentioned right support from staff to help gather data is necessary. He explained all Partners need to look at budgets for next year to improve resource and suggested beginning campaign in August/September rather than 6 weeks after students move in.

MC thanked the SCP Team for work during Moving In Campaign.

DR welcomed the introduction of the SCP magnetic business cards being provided to both students and long-term residents. She agreed that the volunteer rate needs improving and asked who had agreed to help.

CD asked if Welcome to the Community Fair University of Bath Students was exclusively for University of Bath students. MWG confirmed both Universities could attend.

CD mentioned Moving In Campaign would be good to be involved with and suggested photo opportunity for collaborative comms during and after campaign.

GS explained it is difficult to get all Partners' help on one day and so photos are of individuals, but these can be circulated.

DR asked if Welcome to the Community Fair was also welcoming long-term residents. GS confirmed just student attendance due to current tensions between some long-term residents and students.

DR explained an event for long-term residents to meet key SCP members would be useful to ease concerns and improve communication.

GS mentioned previous plans for summer meeting to take forward initiatives with resident street champions had been postponed due to COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

DR explained it would be good to invite less satisfied long-term residents to improve relations and ease concerns of not being heard. GS mentioned this is being looked into currently with support from the Chaplain at Bath Spa University. DR mentioned she is happy to attend if available.

SB mentioned interest in involvement in Moving In Campaign but due to extensive Welcome Week Bath Spa University has been unable to due to limited capacity.

SSM mentioned value of long-term resident event where they can learn about Community Warden and SCP roles. He explained this would work towards cohesive community and help build upon public engagement. He mentioned event where long-term residents could hear from senior University colleagues to see what is being done about issues in local community, if MC, PL, and BS were open to idea.

JP mentioned, pre-COVID, Westmoreland Resident Action Group organised events with SCP and Universities which were positive and opened dialogue between University and long-term residents. She mentioned a lack of student attendance, but events such as this would be good to return to.

PL agreed and mentioned University representatives attend residents' association meetings. He stressed that all Higher Education Partners would need to attend meetings with residents.

5. How the SCP Deal with Noise Complaints

SSM explained there is reasonable response to garden and waste issues. He explained with the addition of CIL funded Community Warden there is proactive relationship with long-term and short-term residents. He considered that there is insufficient resource to cope with noise complaints in Oldfield Park.

SSM explained noise significantly affects Oldfield Park residents and there is no effective way of coping with 15,000-18,000 students in the city. He explained no immediate support for long-term residents and mentioned incident on Ivy Avenue. He mentioned value in researching other University cities, such as Bristol, and what strategies University of the West of England and University of Bristol utilise.

SSM mentioned long-term residents can contact the SCP but there are insufficient resources to compete. He mentioned hopes for work to continue of Universities' shared living agreements for the future.

MC mentioned University of Bath Security will attend incidents if they have capacity.

DR asked if this was suitable for the SCP Board to discuss or if working groups could be tasked with researching recommendations for SCP Board to review.

PL mentioned research GS began and explained the difficulties of comparing Bath to cities such as Bristol. BS agreed.

GS explained Ivy Avenue incident was the first complaint like this in one year, and four complaints were received regarding the matter. She mentioned there are SCP organisations in other cities, like Bristol and Durham, but that they are very different cities with very different approaches. She explained the Neighbourhood Police Team on 101 will deal with noise complaints on the night of occurrence.

SSM mentioned anti-social behaviour on Lower Oldfield Road at bus stops, including late night noise, urination, and waste issues. He mentioned hundreds of students queuing on Brougham Hayes blocks pavements for other pedestrians. He explained solutions were needed to address noise and anti-social behaviour in student dense areas as it suggests that students and the Universities do not care about the city.

PL agreed and asked who is responsible for behaviour at bus stops. He explained the University of Bath can circulate comms in partnership with clubs and societies about correcting behaviour in local community, but more work needs to be researched more carefully utilising pre-existing resources.

Action: Universities and Students' Unions to investigate what more can be done in relation to student noise.

6. AOB

GS mentioned SCP complaints are currently falling to pre-COVID levels but there is a concern around the level of harassment of and animosity towards students included in complaints.

GS explained waste collections at the end of June and end of July collected 3.24 tons extra and waste complaints have fallen steadily due to the success of messaging and introduction of the Community Warden.

GS mentioned SCP Working Groups' work last academic year included creation of a Student Safety Map which provided useful data to the Avon & Somerset Police and led to a funding bid improving safety in Bath.

GS explained the Community Warden post changed to one full-time Warden.

SSM explained report was useful. He mentioned long-term residents have given up complaining due to the lack of action taken, resulting in higher tolerance of poor student behaviour.

DR asked if furniture left over at end of academic year being the responsibility of the landlord, not the students. GS confirmed landlords.

GS explained landlords do not always provide tenants with correct waste information or equipment. She mentioned strong link between Community Warden and Waste Education Team at Council and positive effect on educating students about waste and recycling.

GS mentioned growing links with Housing Team and Waste Enforcement Teams which helps build cases against landlords when resolving waste issues.

MC mentioned success stories from each Partner to end meeting. She explained Housing Forums for first years begin in November and will include information on how to live in the local community. She mentioned Safe Taxi Scheme has launched and has received good uptake.

BS mentioned end of two week Welcome Week. She mentioned new Active Consent Training included for all students.

PL mentioned University of Bath Students' Union winning the Bath Life Award and the vast volunteering in the community.

SSM thanked the SCP Team for hard work and ensuring the Partnership runs smoothly.

JD mentioned launch of new Code of Conduct for all staff and students based on six principles. He explained incidents violating Code can result in disciplinary action.

MC thanked the Group and closed the meeting.

Actions:

Action	Person(s)
GS, DD, and DR to meet to discuss matrix message boards.	GS/DD/DR
The Group to send comments about SCP Working Groups' objectives and members list to GS before next meeting.	All
Universities and Students' Unions to investigate what more can be done in relation to student noise.	MC/PL/MWG/BS/CD/SB

Notes:

Actions from previous meeting:

Action point 5: DD explained consent is in place for utilising matrix message boards but a cost implication of installation and removal. He explained details can be sent to GS.

Action: GS, DD, and DR to meet to discuss matrix message boards.