



Bath & North East Somerset Student Community Partnership Minutes

Wednesday, 6th November, 2019
Level 3 Staff Conference Room, Manvers Street
Virgil Building Bath

Present at the meeting	Representing
Megan Robertson (Chair)	Vice President Community, Student Union, Bath Spa University
Dan Ball	SU President, Bath College
Caroline Dangerfield	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Bath Spa University, Student Union
David Dixon	Community Engagement Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mandy Wilson-Garner	Deputy Chief Executive of the Students' Union University of Bath
Tim Kaner	Chief Marketing Officer - University of Bath
Mark Hayward	Community Engagement Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Professor Peter Lambert	Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Bath
Rebecca Schaaf	Pro-Vice-Chancellor Student Experience Bath Spa University
Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall	Bath and North East Somerset Council (Oldfield Park)
Alisha Lobo	Community Officer, Students' Union, University of Bath

Apologies from	
Councillor June Player	Bath and North East Somerset Council (Westmoreland Ward)
Kalyn Mallard	Community Liaison Co-ordinator for the Bath Student Community Partnership
Councillor Paul Crossley	Cabinet Member for Community Services for Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Dine Romero	Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council
Hayley Hayward-Boyle	Student Participation Officer, Bath College
Theresa Hallett	Student Welfare and Participation Manager, Bath College

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

MR welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance. Apologies were recorded.

2. Report from Chair / September 2019 Meeting Actions

MR highlighted a number of points: -

- The door knocking campaign has gone well and there has been a fun atmosphere during this exercise.
- Recruitment has taken place for the SCP Administrator post, an offer has been accepted and the successful candidate is due to start on 25 November 2019.
- SCP complaints have been managed by MWG whilst KM has been away.

DD explained that if there were to be a need to pass the call handling of complaints back to Council Connect, this can be arranged.

PL felt that there is a weakness within the SCP structure when KM is away for any length of time. There needs to be consideration on how the role can be backfilled when the need arises.

MR asked for an update on the actions that were recorded at the meeting which took place on 5th September 2019.

Actions

Status

Provide a report that shows what complaints have been closed and a timeline for how the complaint numbers come in throughout the year.

Carried Forward

Look into getting an item on welcoming students to Bath onto a Liberal Democrat Group Meeting agenda.

Ongoing - A date is to be arranged, this will now be after the general election.

Discuss with the street work / highways team what is involved in using the Council VMS signs to show a welcome message.

Ongoing - A discussion has taken place with Highways and progress has not yet been made. We will need to go back again.

Include Welcoming Student to Bath to the next SCP agenda to review progress

Carried Forward

3. Parking in Bath: Wider Issues

SSM explained that JP and he had been asked by local residents to raise the issues of parking and student car use.

SSM explained that the issue of students bringing their cars with them to the city brings pressures on communities. The question to open this discussion is - what the SCP partners are doing to ask students to not bring cars to the City.

PL explained that it is very difficult for students to obtain parking permits that enable them to park at the University of Bath. PL added that there is not a specific instruction given to students that explains that they should not bring their car with them to the city.

AL asked if this is exclusive to students or are we asking other groups in the city.

SSM explained that Climate Emergency is one of the Councils Corporate Priorities. The reduction in car usage plays its part in moving this forward. In response to the request that has come from residents the introduction of residents parking is a step that sets a limit of a maximum of two car permits per household.

PL explained that the University of Bath encourages bus travel, car share, works with the student union and limits student parking on campus.

RS added that Bath Spa University takes similar measures to the University of Bath and the availability to park on their campus is very limited. There are issues with gaps in the bus routes that serve the Twerton area and work is taking place to improve this.

DD explained that the council had recently carried out its clean air zone consultation that asked everybody across B&NES their opinion. This consultation brought in record number (over 8000) responses.

The responsibility for the reduction in car use sits with everybody; we all have to be responsible for our actions. The parking schemes such as the Bear Flat permit option does help by making limitations on the number of cars that a household can park in the zoned area. If we are to extend these schemes we need to provide information on what the improvements have been to existing areas.

RS suggested that parking zones can have the effect of pushing the problem to the next non permit area.

SSM explained that a survey on parking in the Oldfield Park area had taken place and the results need to be checked. The survey outcomes should become available at the end of this week. Joanna Wright is looking to set out a citywide parking strategy that will have a wide impact. SSM to report back on timeline of the citywide parking strategy.

4. SCP Objectives 2019/20

MWG provided a copy of the SCP Action Plan 2019/20 which also included the Co-ordinator's Objectives 2019/20.

PL asked how the inclusion of the campaign groups was now being captured.

MWG explained that the campaign groups were included under the themed titles. As the groups have evolved they have widened what they include, an example would be that night

safety now looks at the wider topic of personal safety. The Housing Group and the Green Group are working well and link in to share good practice.

MWG explained that lots of work on communication is taking place and this is beneficial to all of the SCP partners. There does need to be further work carried on the work to welcome students to the city.

SSM asked that where possible links to involve the councils cabinet members needs to be co-ordinated.

DD added that the invitation for attendance at the Liberal Democrat Group will bring in all Bath Councillors to the conversation.

SSM and DD to send MWG contact information of additional people to be involved.

TK felt that there is a role for communication to be provided from both of the channels at the Universities and the Student Unions; this should amplify the messages of the SCP.

MWG felt that dealing with negative press stories needs a joined up approach. Aspects such as the employment opportunities and research capability of universities can be better channelled.

TK explained that strategic meetings do already take place between the council and university leaders.

5. Co-ordinators report and issues in the Community

MWG explained that in KM absence she has been covering the complaints role.

- There have been a number of issues that have been reported around large student parties. Where e-mails have been sent, responses have been positive and repeat issues are not occurring.
- Escalation has been needed to deal with one complaint which was an issue around rudeness to neighbours.
- Waste is a difficult issue and quickly gets out of hand. Black bags left in gardens and not getting to grips with recycling is a challenge to some. The support that has been provided by the council is helping.
- There has been an issue being made through the #NeverOK campaign that relates to a certain club in the city. The information has been passed on.

MR asked about the Community Ambassador role and if there a Bath Spa Student had yet been employed. The role of the ambassadors has assisted with the door knocking campaign. In KM absence there has been little social media activity about the role.

MWG will confirm where the recruitment is with Bath Spa role.

SSM felt that at the start of the university year there is a higher level of waste complaints received. What are the Universities doing in addition to the work of KM.

- MR explained that the Bath Spa Sustainability Team runs campaigns on campus.
- AL added that the Housing Forum covers 1800 students and they cover topics that include 'moving in' tips.
- SSM felt the door knocking is a good starting point but only covers a small number of properties in the overall numbers.

- MWG felt that instruction that is provided by the landlords is a more effective method when students move into a property. It is questionable if students actually read the leaflet they are given.
- SSM asked if the council leaflet that is given out could be emailed as a PDF to all students. The council wants to build on what the other institutions are doing.
- AL felt that the power comes from the landlords and estate agents. The contracts that students need to sign have detail that acts as a more powerful deterrent. If there were to be a permanent pack that had to remain in place at the property this would be a stronger tool.
- AL to bring this issue to the Housing Group for further discussion.
- TK added that the strongest message should be a simple reminder at the place where the bins recycling takes place.
- SSM asked that the Green and Housing Groups membership be extended to include additional stakeholders (including from the Council Chris Mordaunt, Standards & Improvement)
- KM to discuss extending membership with the Chairs of the Green and Housing Groups.

5. SU Officer Updates

DB provided an overview of the work that is taking place at Bath College:-

- The college representatives are updated with information from the SCP, this include Bath and the Somer Valley Campus.
- The Somer Valley Campus has a focus on helping students with disabilities.
- The Somer Valley Campus will be holding a Christmas Fayre.
- There is a focus on student volunteering.
- PCSO's are attending Bath City Campus to talk to students about their welfare.
- The Police are holding a talk with students about dangerous driving.
- The Radstock Fire Station and the Police are holding a discussion on RTC protocol.
- A fun day 'Hello Yellow' was held and students and staff dressed in yellow outfits.
- An anti-bullying week is being planned.
- Students are being involved in the college open days.
- The NUS card is being promoted.
- Elections for three SU Officers are taking place on 5th December 2019.

MWG asked once the SU officers have been selected could the details be shared to allow invites to be sent from the various campaign groups.

DB to share contact details of Bath College SU officers once in post.

MR asked if the college is doing work to encourage students to register to vote.

DB explained a display is being created. Some college students are only 16 years old.

AL provided an overview of the work that is taking place at The University of Bath: -

- A climate emergency discussion will take place at our first summit, this will ask what is it that students feel and look at what the asks and the actions are.
- The Housing Forum is holding a session in December 2019.
- Students have recently taken place in a climate emergency protest.
- Students have recently taken place in a protest about Hong Kong.
- A 'Day of the Dead' celebration took place for the first time.

- The 'Bi-stander' video is ready to go.
- There is a push on registering students to vote.

PL added that e-mails had been sent to all students and 6,595 students had already registered to vote.

MR provided an overview of the work that is taking place at Bath Spa University:-

- All SU Officer Vacancies have been filled.
- A campaign on tenants' rights has been run recently; this will be repeated in April 2020.
- A housemate finder event has taken place.
- A charity fayre was held which saw students take up volunteering opportunities with five different charities.
- Stalls are organised to sign up students to vote.
- Work on creating a RAG Team has taken place and a meeting with University of Bath has happened.
- Homeless packages will be handed out in December.

6. AOB

PL raised the issue that has been reported to the university regarding the amount of litter at Bus Stops. Bath Spa University were looking at the possible sponsorship of bins but the costs for both capital and revenue were extremely high which did not make them a viable option.

- SSM explained that at an Oldfield Park Residents meeting last Friday the issue of the lack of bins at bus stops was raised. As buses no longer have bins people are dropping the rubbish as they get off.
- MWG added that there is an issue around where additional bins would be located. The pavement areas at bus stops did not work on narrow stretches.
- PL felt that this could be explored again if partnership working can be sought on the issue.
- MR suggested that a lower cost option could be looked into. A more affordable option would be if we worked with bus companies on a poster campaign on the student bus routes.

SSM asked if any progress had been with representation from Norland College
MWG explained that a meeting took place and we await further comeback from them. The college does operate a scheme of 'responsible students' who have involvement with groups.

RS asked if any agreement on cost projections that go beyond 2020/21 had been discussed.

DD explained that a bid will be submitted for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding at the next meeting on 13 January 2020.

DD to report back on progress of the CIL bid at the next meeting.

SSM explained that he is looking to see if 'fix my street' can be utilised for recording issue that relate to HMO's. This would build up a record which could be used to take action on rogue landlords.

Actions	Person/s
Provide a report that shows what complaints have been closed and a timeline for how the complaint numbers come in throughout the year.	KM
Look into getting an item on welcoming students to Bath onto a Liberal Democrat Group Meeting agenda.	DD
Discuss with the street work / highways team what is involved in using the Council VMS signs to show a welcome message.	DD
Include Welcoming Student to Bath to the next SCP agenda to review progress	KM
Report on timeline of the citywide parking strategy	SSM
Send MWG contact information of additional people to be involved in Groups	SSM and DD
Confirm recruitment process for Bath Spa Community Ambassador roles.	MWG
Discuss proactive waste reduction activity further at Housing Group	AL
Discuss extending membership with the Chairs of the Green and Housing Groups	KM
Share contact details of Bath College SU officers once in post.	DB
Report on progress of the CIL bid.	DD

Next Meeting:

Thursday 6th February 2019 3.00-4.30pm, Virgil Building Bath