



**OUR SHARED CITY**  
Student Community Partnership

SCP Board

13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

9.30-11.00 – Dartmouth Avenue

**Present:** **Chair:** Rebecca Schaaf (Pro-Vice Chancellor Student Experience, **Bath Spa University**)

**B&NES:** Dave Dixon (Community Engagement Manager), Cllr Ian Halsall (Member Advocate for Student Engagement)

**Bath Spa University Students' Union:** Caroline Dangerfield (Deputy Chief Executive Officer), Neetu Karwal (VP Welfare and Community)

**Norland College:** Alex Fereday (Facilities Manager)

**University of Bath:** Peter Lambert (Professor)

**University of Bath Students' Union:** Mandy Wilson-Garner (Deputy Chief Executive), Blake Walker (Community Officer)

**In Attendance:** Laura Bold (**Bath Spa University Students' Union**), Hannah Hajzer (**University of Bath Students' Union**), Ghika Savva (Manager, **SCP**), and Kathryn Jones (Administrator, **SCP**).

### **1. Welcome, Introductions, and Apologies**

RS welcomed the Group.

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Mays (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, and Communities, **B&NES**), Caroline Jarosz (Student Engagement Coordinator, **Bath College**), and Dr Janet Rose (Principal, **Norland College**).

## 2. Actions from previous meeting held March 2023

Action	Person(s)	Status
GS to give national housing survey update at next meeting.	GS	On Agenda
GS to brief Council in September, and do targeted brief to Councillors with large student populations.	GS	Ongoing
BS to pick up Security piece and close.	BS	Carried Over
KJ to invite CD to Safe Taxi Task and Finish Group. CD to bring taxi contact to Group.	KJ/CD	Completed /Ongoing
GS to contact Chris Major regarding new residents' parking zone and student arrival in September	GS	Completed
GS to send Universities' comms teams parking zone information to be included in moving in packs.	GS	Ongoing

## 3. SCP Background

RS mentioned items as context for new members.

GS explained paper 1 gives overview of Board makeup, working groups, and SCP aims and objectives. She explained complaints process, patterns throughout year, priorities that decide top 10 for each year, and budget.

MWG mentioned SCP started in 2002 when student population was smaller and noted evolution in city resulted in evolution in SCP. She explained various different Council and Sabb members over years but all work well and collaboratively.

DD explained student population over trebled but long-term resident population has not changed too much. He explained campaigns success due to longevity each year, and vital to gain long-term insight of long-term residents. He mentioned lots of long-term resident support comes from SCP work and constant profile of help. He explained finances as key issue and work to build into core budgets.

MWG mentioned key to work together on strategic levels and address issues like quality of housing. She explained current Sabbs starting to push agenda of student resident voice and get involved in local Government.

GS explained recent work on mapping where students live in city and usefulness of knowing where student dense areas are to engage with relevant Councillors. DD explained more students moving out of Oldfield Park and Westmoreland to more affordable areas, such as Twerton and Odd Down, but explained issues may rise in traditionally low student areas.

#### **4. Future Funding of SCP - Update**

GS explained desire for item to remain on agenda until resolved. She mentioned figures for upcoming year in original 4 year plan but need to know when Group needs information for annual planning rounds.

PL explained University position contingent on Council having core funding, and ability to present papers once Council decision. MWG explained annual planning to be March.

BS commented if B&NES knew date of decision. DD confirmed by September, if growth item is moved into core budget.

GS commented if any more information is needed. DD explained usefulness of discussion with Paul May.

RS explained Universities' budgets set for 2023/24 so funding secured until summer 2024.

#### **5. SCP Manager's Report**

GS explained Moving Out Campaign going well. She mentioned Community Warden post helped significantly to increase scope of campaign, and mentioned lots of support from Partners this year, particularly Bath Spa University, which enables higher reach and more indepth conversations.

She explained lots of long-term residents already aware of SCP, and so moving to only visiting long-term residents once a year during campaigns, instead of two. She explained this change will allow to visit more students and expand campaign to new streets where both student and long-term residents will be visited.

She explained success with donation banks, partly due to change in courier. She mentioned that a couple of residents in Widcombe & Lyncombe had issues with the siting of the bank but she was working with the Councillor to address their concerns. She also mentioned the work to come in autumn for increasing the scope of 2024's campaign.

BW commented how complaints about donation bank siting compared to previous years. GS explained significantly lower than last year, and mentioned previous issues with courier service not taking all items.

She mentioned there were currently 352 resident complaints, but utilising as measure of success as more residents know about SCP.

She mentioned increase in more complicated cases and multi-agency resolutions. She explained Westmoreland and Oldfield Park still most populated with complaints and expected peaks in October, March, and June.

She mentioned improvement in working groups since in person and increase in collaborative working. She mentioned lots of discussion breaking into task and finish groups to develop certain items.

She explained Green Group currently discussing vape recycling and work across B&NES, Universities', and student-led SU groups.

She explained Housing Group currently looking at National Housing Survey, cost of living, licensing process, and process of securing HMOs.

She explained Personal Safety Group focus as safe taxi and Be the Change campaign.

She explained River Safety Forum improved since change of Chair, and interest in interactive map and potential link to CCTV. She mentioned #GotYaBack campaign update to include What3Words messaging and attendance at recent Bath College fair.

## **6. National Housing Survey - Update**

GS explained item raised in Housing Group and key findings included one University preferring price for housing, the other preferring location, and high proportion of students feeling lack of community off campus.

She explained next meeting scheduled 21<sup>st</sup> of June to discuss housing issues further.

She mentioned decision to create own survey to delve into issues further and ability to report back at next meeting.

**Action: GS to give Housing update at next meeting.**

## **7. Consider SCP Aims and Objectives for 2023/24**

RS explained item as annual discussion.

GS mentioned paper has key priorities which dictate top 10 – partnership working on campaigns; positive interactions between student and long-term residents; community wardens; housing standards; Partnership relationship and collaborative initiatives; local collaboration to provide positive communications; reports on resident and student complaints; and maintaining database of issues.

She explained Community Warden role as in community for all residents to raise issues and visit properties easily and resolve complaints quicker.

She mentioned 22 weeks of year now campaigning due to Community Warden role, which allows for more proactive work.

GS mentioned priority around anti-student rhetoric, and increase in projects relating to student engagement in Council consultations. She explained students are 25% of population so item may be relevant objective.

PL commented if new Councillor induction relates to Universities. DD explained new Councillors currently only visit campus site. He explained useful to meet with Councillors and push SCP message.

**Action: GS/DD to organise SCP representation at Councillor meetings.**

IH mentioned increase in students wanting to, but not knowing they could, vote in Bath. He explained plans to canvas in PBSAs but unable to gain access.

MWG mentioned Council cost of living fund did not include students.

CD commented objective #4 relating to housing standards seems vague, and “*open dialogue*” could be stronger to improve housing. BS suggested rewording to give sense of enhancement.

IH commented involvement of long-term residents and residents’ groups in Group. GS explained recent goal of creating new residents’ association in Oldfield Park and ability to work with IH on project.

RS mentioned value in SCP providing update on FOBRA. GS both Universities are invited but not always in attendance.

**Action: PL and RS to find University representation to attend FOBRA.**

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

KJ commented if start of September suitable for next meeting. The Group agreed.

GS commented if funding update will be confirmed at next meeting. DD mentioned possibility, but vital to work with Cllr Paul May over summer.

PL commented if SCP provide annual report in summer. GS explained quarterly reports are given to each Board meeting, but she will also produce an Annual Report.

The Group would like to express their gratitude and thanks to Shaun Stephenson-McGall for his collaborative work and support with the SCP.

No other business was discussed.

BS thanked BW and NK for Group attendance. BS thanked the Group and closed the meeting.

Actions:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Person(s)</b>
GS to give Housing update at next meeting.	GS
GS/DD to organise SCP representation at Councillor meetings.	GS/DD
PL and RS to find University representation to attend FOBRA.	PL/RS