

Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 7 June 2010

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Sonia Holmes, Mary Smith (**Committee Chairman**)

Sally Compton (Rye Medical Centre PPG); PS Warren Downs (Sussex Police); Cllr Keith Glazier (ESCC); John Izod (Rye Community Centre); Tony Moore (Ferry Road Health Centre PPG); Paul Osborne (Age Concern); Captain Paul Tyler (Church Army Schools & Churches Liaison Officer) (**Committee Vice Chairman**); Janet Sherwood (Tilling Green Residents' Association)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Frank Palmer and Shaun Rogers; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*, 19 members of the public; John Fielder (Rother Neighbourhood Watch Association Vice Chairman) *[part]*; Charles Mcllwrick (Rother Neighbourhood Watch Association Chairman) *[part]*

The meeting commenced at 7pm

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Brian Elliott, Cllr Lorna Hall (Deputy Mayor) and Colonel Anthony Kimber (emergency planning).

2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Keith Glazier	<i>personal</i>	item 12	Hastings & Rother PCT Non Exec member
Cllr Mary Smith	<i>personal</i>	item 9	FE Centre Action Group member

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a presentation on the Rother Neighbourhood Watch Association.

The Association Chairman, Charles Mcllwrick (CM) advised that he had served in the Met for 36 years and had been actively involved in local Neighbourhood Watch Associations – latterly the Bexhill NHWA which had just been reconstituted as the Rother NHWA.

NHWAs are run by volunteers with police backing. CM suggested they are about the welfare of people (rather than solely tackling crime & disorder). In areas with NHWAs both crime and the fear of crime is reduced automatically.

The Rother NHWA had recently secured sponsorship from Hastings Direct, enabling a privilege card to be issued giving Association members a range of discounts from local businesses and services. He had intended originally to set up NHWAs in both Rye and Battle but concluded this was unrealistic – hence the District-wide remit of the former Bexhill NHWA.

He was aiming to have a contact – an Elected Member – in every parish/town council and he personally had a good working relationship with all three Rother Police Stations. PC Paul Fielder had done an excellent job recruiting NHW street co-ordinators in Rye. The ideal would be to have one in every street.

The Rother NHWA Vice-Chairman, John Fielder added that co-ordinators are supplied with publicity materials and that there is no cost to join. Members' details were not passed to the Police but were held by the local Co-ordinator.

The old NHW by email system had yet to be re-established. The objective was to achieve a messaging system using both email and telephone.

CM was hoping that a Town Councillor would offer to become a contact. He would supply a brief summary explaining what would be entailed. John Izod suggested that the street co-ordinator role might dovetail with REACT's desire to recruit volunteer Emergency Planning Wardens.

3 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

RECOMMENDATION That a Councillor be appointed as the Town Council's NHW contact.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Osborne proposed, and Cllr Glazier seconded, Captain Paul Tyler. There being no other nominations Captain Tyler was declared appointed.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of 1 February 2010 (PS03) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 MATTERS ARISING

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Library relocation, Recommendation (asking ESCC if it had considered the access needs of disabled library users) Cllr Glazier advised that contractors would be commencing work on site this week and he would ask the appropriate officer to contact the Clerk regarding disabled access.

7 CRIME & DISORDER

(a) Crime & Anti Social Behaviour Forum

Cllr Elliott had been unable to attend the meeting held on 3 June 2010 at Brede Village Hall.

The Clerk reported that, in addition to reports from the Rye and Battle Sergeants, Trading Standards had given a presentation on the introduction of No Cold Calling zones. Streets, neighbourhoods or villages could (after some form of consultation) elect to have their area so designated – the idea being mainly to protect vulnerable people from the attention of (possibly intimidating) door-to-door. A range of promotional and zone designation material was available. Although zones are not legally enforceable reports of 'contravention' are followed up by Trading Standards.

(b) Rye Priority Setting Panel

PS Downs advised that, at the first meeting of the Rye Priority Setting Panel (PSP) held at Rye College, those attending had identified their top three local crime and disorder priorities as: criminal damage & ASB; fear of burglary and violent crime. At the next Panel meeting (23 July, Rye Community Centre) the Police would be looking to explain what steps they had taken to address these concerns.

It was observed that, across the parishes, speeding traffic usually came top of peoples' concerns. The Committee Chairman observed that the attendance at the first Rye PSP meeting had been rather low.

(c) Rye Local Action Team

The LAT Chairman, Cllr Holmes explained that the LAT (which had a governing document) consisted of representatives from the police, RTC and local community groups – the original idea being to bring together the police and the community to work to tackle local crime and disorder priorities (informed later by the publication of the Rye Fear of Crime survey). Given that RTC supported, in principle, the new PSP she suggested that the LAT should cease to meet but should not be disbanded in case there was a demonstrable need for it to become active again.

(d) Policing in Rye

PS Downs spoke to his Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team – Performance 2010 report (*see Appendix A*).

Responding to the Mayor's concern about the prevalence of mobile phone use whilst driving, PS Downs advised that when officers were delivering Operation Rye Ride Safe, spotters were employed who could radio ahead to report unlawful phone use. Conviction could result in a £60 fine and 3 licence penalty points.

Speaking from the Gallery, Kenneth Bird thanked the Police for taking steps to reassure local residents in respect of ASB between the Landgate and Eagle Road.

Responding to a question from Sally Compton, PS Downs confirmed that it was technically unlawful for drivers to back out of Deadmans Lane on to Rye Hill. This led to a discussion on the suggestion that the Lane should be one way – or one-way between Rye Hill and Hillyfields footpath. Cllr Glazier emphasised that, even after all the occupants of the properties in the lane had signed up to a scheme, the cost would still be in the region of £70,000 - and that the matter was not a high ESCC priority.

The Committee Chairman asked what impact the retirement (and non replacement) of the traffic warden was having on local Police resources and traffic management. PS Downs considered that PCSO Holden, a regular presence within the town, had the situation under control.

(3) Local custody facilities

The Committee Chairman reminded members that in 2001-02 Sussex Police entered into a 30-year contract with Reliance, worth c£90m. Reliance provides the custody suites to the national standard and Sussex Police provides custody sergeants. However, there continued to be concern locally that it was a poor use of Police time to transport those arrested in the Rye area to the custody suite in Hastings – or sometimes further afield.

The Committee Chairman advised that she had gained some interesting information from Sussex Police's PFI and Business Support Manager, Andrew Moule (see Appendix B).

The Clerk advised that he had emailed those he knew to be interested in the matter to indicate whether they could meet with Cl Keating on 21 June at 2.30pm. Cllrs Holmes and Smith both advised that they could attend.

8 VOLUNTARY SECTOR ISSUES

There was no report from Gina Sanderson.

9 FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

The Committee Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow Kenneth Bird to update members on the work of the FE Centre Action Group: the Group had repeated its request to the Principal of Sussex Coast College Hastings, Sue Middlehurst for financial information; it had corresponded with ESCC's solicitors and Amber Rudd – and had issued press releases; 500 people had signed a petition calling for the Centre to be saved for adult education and a £500 donation had been received; the College was refusing to take bookings for 2011.

The meeting reconvened.

The Clerk advised that the Council had, after a month, received an email from the Principal advising that she was willing to provide the financial information requested but only after the work at the College had 'stabilised'. This appeared to be a breach of the FOI but he was prepared to pursue this route only after securing Council approval.

RECOMMEDATION That the Council makes formal – and strong representations to Sussex Coast College Hastings. Clerk

10 RYE EMERGENCY PLANNING

In the absence of both John Holbrook and Colonel Kimber, the Clerk advised that the REACT team would be working further on Part 2 of the Plan on 8.6.10 – including drafting a list of individuals to approach with a request that they consider agreeing to act a volunteer wardens.

The Committee Chairman adjourned the meeting for an important announcement by Cllr Glazier: ESCC had sold the Lower School site – on a 'sold as seen' basis – to J Sainsbury for £1.9m; the company had bought adjacent surplus railway land for 1.5m. He observed that, in the Rother District Local Plan, the (former) ESCC land was allocated for housing development.

11 MARSH LINK

Cllr Smith spoken to her summary of the last Marsh Link Action Group (MLAG) meeting (19.5.10) (see Appendix 3).

The Mayor commented that it was frustrating to sometimes have to wait for an hour at Ashford for the connecting service to Rye and, speaking from the Gallery, Keith Taylor advised that the electronic information boards at Ashford were too small – and that the tannoy announcements were difficult to understand.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council pursues these matters with the train operators and Amber Rudd MP. Clerk

12 MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE

Tony Moore (TM) advised that, following the 6-month refurbishment, Rye patients had now returned to the MCC. Sally Compton (SC) confirmed that 5 patients were now in situ and further were due to arrive next week. Space had been made available for OT and physiotherapy and the PCT was fully supportive. The MCC provided a valuable 'staging post' for patients discharged from the Conquest, but not quite ready to go home. The Centre was hoping also to attract a NHS dental practice. The aim overall was to provide more specialized clinics – along with respite care.

Both SM and TM agreed with the Committee Chairman's comment that the PCT had not done a very good job keeping people informed in the lead up to, and at the outset of the refurbishment.

SC reported that the two PPGs were working well together – they had both received a presentation by a consultant ophthalmologist. She added that the Rye Medical Centre now had a sexual health clinic.

Cllr Smith had been told that PCT care staff had not been paid if they had not managed to get to their normal place of work during last winter's adverse weather conditions.

Although he could not comment on individual situations, Cllr Glazier offered to take up this matter with the PCT's Finance Director.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council asks the PCT for its adverse weather policy in relation to its staff. Clerk

13 FRIARY DAY CARE CENTRE

TM advised that plans are in place to locate physiotherapy and dental services in the area which was the Friary Day Care Centre. Following the closure of the Centre, a number of people now attend the Isobel Blackman Centre, Hastings.

Cllr Glazier acknowledged that there was a need for a day care centre in Rye; however, due to funding constraints ESCC was currently considering alternative ways of providing day care facilities. Funding for older peoples' services was going to get tighter – and this would be exacerbated by the county's aging population. There was a shift towards ESCC agreeing care packages with individual clients and for those clients then to make their own care arrangements.

Cllr Osborne advised that around 25 people attend the facility at Magdala House every Tues and Wednesday – and many make the journey using Rye & District Community Transport.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

Date.....

Chairman.....

Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team**Performance 2010****Crime Reduction**

May 08 – April 09 compared May 09 – April 10

All Crime	-20.9%	- 284 victims
Burglary	-17.2%	- 10 victims
Vehicle Theft	-25.9%	- 44 victims
Criminal Damage	-18.2%	- 64 victims
P/P Violent Crime	-26.0%	- 19 victims

Speed Watch

Speeding Traffic continues to be a major concern for all of the villages in the Rye area. Rye NPT operate a 'Speed Watch' scheme where we utilise both a speed gun and a Speed Indication Device (SID.)

There are currently **28** authorised speed gun sites and **32** authorised SID sites.

So far this year Rye NPT have conducted

- **10** checks with the SID (compared with 72 throughout the whole of 2009)
- **120** checks with the speed gun (compared with 189 throughout the whole of 2009)

So far this year Rye NPT have issued

- **391** warning letters to drivers caught exceeding the speed limit (compared with 1510 throughout the whole of 2009)

In addition, at least

- **6** Fixed Penalty Notice's (FPN'S) have been issued to motorists exceeding the speed limit.
- **15** FPN'S have been issued to motorists not wearing seat belts.
- **2** Vehicle Defect Rectification Notices (VDRS) have been issued to motorcyclists with illegal number plates and exhaust's.
- The Vehicle Operator and Service Agency (VOSA) have issued **2** drivers with prohibition notices.

Anti Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a concern for the majority of the villages in the Rye area.

PC Alison Puddefoot is the Rother Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. PC Puddefoot is working closely with Rye NPT and other organisations such as local housing authorities to clamp down on anti social behaviour.

Officers are continuing to carry out regular patrols of their villages each evening with visits being made to every identified anti-social behaviour hotspot.

Road Safety and Parking

Following complaints from residents particularly in Camber and Rye, parking is another area that Rye NPT have been focusing on.

So far this year at least

- **249** FPN'S have been issued. (Compared with 1087 throughout the whole of 2009)

- **116** vehicles have been reported to the DVLA for having no valid tax disc on display (compared with 100 throughout the whole of 2009)

Fear Of Burglary

Again the fear of burglary is a top policing priority for the majority of our parishes.

There has been a reduction of **-17.2%** in the number of the burglaries to dwellings.

Rye NPT have been working hard to publicise the areas already low and declining burglary figures to try and reduce the fear of such crime amongst local residents.

Operation Solar

This operation saw Rye NPT joining forces with Kent Police, the Vehicle & Operator Services Agency (VOSA) the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Immigration and representatives of the local council. The operations main aims were to target travelling criminals, habitual construction and use / excise offences, crime relating to the misuse of drugs act and a range of other contraventions in the interests of the aforementioned partner agencies.

Based at the A259 the Sussex side of Brenzett, local officers used the Rye CCTV van to check in excess of 1000 vehicles using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. The operation was a resounding success and several arrests were made for offences including the theft of a motor vehicle as well as immigration related offences. In addition several vehicles were seized for being driven without insurance and numerous other motorists were reported for a multitude of offences.

Operation Radcott

This operation concentrates on Camber during the very busy summer months and was run very successfully from 29th June to 6th September 2009.

During Operation Radcott 2009, Sussex Police assisted in locating over 300 missing children, were involved in the arrest of a person suspected of committing sexual offences against children on the beach and assisting in the rescue of a man trapped in the dunes.

The planning and staffing for Operation Radcott 2010 has been completed and the operation begins 12th June.

Operation Rye Ride Safe

Operation Rye Ride Safe 2010 has now entered its enforcement stage.

Throughout April 2010 officers engaged with in excess of **500** motorcyclists over three weekends at Strand Quay, Rye as part of the 'meet and great' phase of the operation.

Throughout May officers were deployed at various villages in Rye. An additional **11** speed checks were conducted. **2** FPNS were issued to motorists exceeding the speed limit and **20** FPNS were issued to motorists not wearing seatbelts.

Neighbourhood Watch

Sussex Police are supporting neighbourhood watch in Rye and if you would like to get involved and be a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator then please contact PC Paul Fielder at paul.a.fielder@sussex.pnn.police.uk for more information

Farmwatch

This scheme is now up and running and is working well with information being spread across all landowners much. It was partly down to the Farmwatch Scheme that resulted in the catching of two burglars in Guestling at the end of 2009. If you wish to be a part of it and receive regular information about suspicious vehicles and activity in the area then please contact PC Nigel Collins at nigel.collins@sussex.pnn.police.uk for further details.

Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team Contact Details

Name	Rank	Area	Phone	Email
Warren Downs	Sergeant	All Areas	07867 908314	warren.downs@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Nigel Collins	Constable	Brede Valley & Rother Levels	07787 685691	nigel.collins@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Paul Fielder	Constable	Rye Town & Marsham	07787 685690	paul.a.fielder@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Alan Simes	Constable	Eastern Rother	07920 710531	alan.simes@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Shaun Taberer	Constable	School Liasion Officer	07787 685683	shaun.taberer@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Andy Hanson	Constable	Rother Licensing Officer	07787 685824	andrew.hanson@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Richard Perchard	Community Support Officer	Brede Valley	07796 336862	richard.perchard@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Rebekah Unicombe	Community Support Officer	Rother Levels	07810 055754	rebekah.unicombe@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Daniel Bevan	Community Support Officer	Eastern Rother	07796 195639	daniel.bevan@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Lee Miles	Community Support Officer	Eastern Rother	07990 704108	lee.miles@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Sharon Eldridge	Community Support Officer	Marsham	07810 636992	sharon.eldridge@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Neil Holden	Community Support Officer	Rye Town	07787 685728	neil.holden@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Subject: Sussex Custodial Services
 Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2010 15:03:46 +0100
 From: Andrew.Mowle@sussex.pnn.police.uk
 To: mysdys@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Cllr SMITH

I refer to our recent telephone conversation and I said that I would get back to you by e-mail on a couple of points.

Firstly the total revenue budget for Sussex Police last year 2009/10 was £253m.

As I mentioned to you, the spend on PFI Custodial Services was £11.65m, so 4.6% and this is inclusive of a separate PFI Credit grant that we get on an annual basis from the Home Office of £3.3m, so the net spend to Sussex Police is actually £8.35m or 3.3% of the total budget.

In relation to cell occupancy levels I have prepared a table below illustrating the differing occupancy levels across the 6 custody centres, which I hope you will find informative:

<u>Custody Centre</u>	<u>Nos Cells</u>	<u>2009/10 Detainees</u>	<u>Occupancy per cell</u>
CRAWLEY	18	8,801	489
HASTINGS	13	5,138	395
WORTHING	19	6,385	336
EASTBOURNE	21	6,458	308
BRIGHTON	36	9,530	265
CHICHESTER	19	4,892	257

Total 126 41,204 327

You will note that whilst Hastings has a high occupancy level, it is far from being the highest. That said, I would confirm that the Force is currently reviewing the business case for improved custodial facilities at Hastings and I will of course keep you informed on progress here.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, then please do not hesitate to make contact again
 Best wishes

Andrew Mowle

PFI & Business Support Manager

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Report for Public Services Committee
Notes from MLAG meeting 19/05/10

- Through service to Brighton maintained but still a threat of degradation of Hastings to London services. (Deprivation of an area is not considered a factor in rail strategic planning)
- News of consideration by authorities of additional car park provision for Appledore station-currently free but considerably increased in use. High speed travel to London is having major impact on use of this line.
- MLAG asking for clarification of new Dec timetable because it appears not to include travel to smaller stations on Sundays
- Continuing concern about when installation of barriers at Winchelsea station will take place- it ranks 28 of 30 most at-risk level crossings in UK, based on statistics for near-misses
- MLAG has joined informal alliance of E Sussex rail user groups and will raise pursuit, as suggested at ESCC conference, of any EU financing and involvement of local MPs and MEPs. Our line key part of S Coast infrastructure and currently serves as bottleneck on route west.
- Facilities at Ashford
Lack of cleanliness of lift to Plat 1 and servery/waiting area raised with rail authorities, in addition, non functioning doors to that area with consequent discomfort to passengers and waste of energy from heating vents.
- Station Approach
Concern expressed at current appearance of area, presence of opposing groups of youths, restricted opening hours of public toilets.