

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Park Avenue Hotel, Holywood Road, Belfast
Tuesday 3rd November, 2015

Political Members

Councillor Sonia Copeland
Councillor Aileen Graham
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Councillor Niall O Donngaile
Councillor Tommy Sandford

Independent Members

Mr Jonathan Currie
Miss Lisa McMaster
Mr Steven McMillan
Mrs Michelle Bryans
Mr David Geddis (Vice Chair)

Designated Organisations

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Alan Cunningham, NIFRS
Jane Lappin, PBNI

Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Pauline Smart, EA

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Andrew Charles, Antisocial Behaviour Officer

Apologies

Cllr Carole Howard (Chair)

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice Chair welcomed Members to the meeting with apologies given by Councillor Carole Howard (Chair).

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. FOLD Housing, Shared Housing Scheme, Ravenhill Avenue (Presentation)

(Grainne Mullin and Eileen Patterson attended in connection with this item)

- i. The Safer City Coordinator gave an introduction about FOLD and the shared housing scheme planned for Ravenhill Avenue.
- ii. A number of Members indicated that they had knowledge of the scheme, with one Member having recently attended an information session on the scheme.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator invited FOLD representatives, Grainne Mullin and Eileen Patterson, into the meeting to give their presentation.

- iv. At the end of their presentation the Vice Chair invited any questions from the Members.
- v. A Member asked when tenants were advised of the Good Relations Charter. All prospective tenants were advised of the Charter before accepting an offer as well as being advised in pre-tenancy classes and any meetings.
- vi. A Member asked about the length of the probationary period. This was 12 months.
- vii. A Member asked about FOLD Housings policy on the display of flags. Fold responded stating that they were currently looking at this issue and the development of a specific policy. They gave an overview of their work to date in responding to specific issues.
- viii. A Member asked about the allocation process for housing on the scheme. FOLD outlined the process, being that prospective tenants would be drawn from the housing list held by the NIHE and allocated according to the points system. As this is a shared neighbourhood scheme no one community can exceed above 70 percent of the total properties available.
- ix. A Member asked about the allocation process in respect of proportion awarded to those seeking a housing transfer. FOLD stated that this was usually 2:1.
- x. A Member asked FOLD what they had learned in respect of diffusing rumours and myths around the housing scheme. FOLD stated that they had held information events on the scheme in question and offered to meet groups to clarify any issues or answer any questions.
- xi. A Member argued that there was a role for Members to filter key information down to a community level. He asked FOLD what the DPCSP could do to support them in this and for time to be set aside at a future DPCSP Meeting to discuss the issue.

4. Update on Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) Development, Pilot CCTV Scheme

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided a summary of the report brought before the Members.
- ii. It was suggested by Members that they ask the Council's Parks Department to attend a meeting of the DPCSP to discuss the proposals further.
- iii. A Member provided an overview of the CCTV programme
- iv. A Member stated that she supported the CCTV Pilot saying that there was a need for the project and that it should be supported.

- v. A discussion took place on the levels of antisocial behaviour along the Connswater Greenway, including Orangefield Park.
- vi. A Member reported on a recent visit to the CCG and stated that it was impressive.
- vii. A Member argued that antisocial behaviour was a big problem in Belfast parks and suggested visiting the CCG in order to see where the CCTV cameras were to be placed. This was supported by a Member and it was agreed that a visit could be facilitated.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator said that Orangefield Park had presented the DPCSP with significant problems in the past, but appeared to be greatly improving.
- ix. A Member asked about signs for the CCTV. The Safer City Coordinator stated that the signage would meet all legal requirements.
- x. A Member stated that the CCG was a good thing and that the issue of transient youth was a City wide problem being looking at by the Belfast PCSP.
- xi. A Member supported a visit to the CCG.
- xii. Following discussion, Members approved the recommendation as detailed within the report.

5. AOB / Emerging issues

- i. A training event scheduled for Monday 9th November, 2015 presented difficulties for some Members. The Safer City Coordinator stated that he would raise this with the Safer City Assistant Manager.
- ii. A Member put on record his thanks to the PSNI for their assistance at a Halloween event at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, in Cregagh.