

# TOWN CENTRE CRIME-DISORDER MEETING

9 OCTOBER 2019

Present: Mike Hepworth (Chair), Cherry Longley, Christine Barkshire-Jones, Paul Cosson, John Whittington, John Bownas, Sgt Jayantha Mendis-Gunasekera (aka Jay Mendis)

## 1. APOLOGIES

Aidan Cornwall, Sussex Police; Rob Cowan HBC Legal.

## 2. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (24TH SEPTEMBER)

Agreed.

## 3. IDENTIFIED HOTSPOTS - UPDATE

**Renaissance House, St Leonards:** Paul advised that this location is becoming more of an issue with more congregations. He further advised that they are not displaced persons from the town centre but seem to be 'new'. The offenders are difficult to deal with and the wardens know they are hiding drink; therefore the wardens will deal with this problem in a smarter way. Monitoring will continue.

**Town Centre:** The areas around Millett's and Jempson's reveal nothing too major in the way of congregations. John Bownas advised that he has seen problems with youths early evenings (5.30pm to 7pm – youths on bikes etc.) around 'coffee corner' (Costa's and Jempson's etc.), with crossovers between the groups. Jay advised that there was a possible assault on a student which is being investigated. A young man named Beau Emmerton Smith who has 15 o/s crime reports appears to be the offender. His case is escalated to social services. Jay further commented that this may require a task and finish group if SS cannot resolve.

**The Roundel:** There are smaller groups here, but they still appear to be drinking. John Bownas advised that the stallholders here have just returned from holiday so perhaps their presence might deter the drinking group. Mike commented that this type of behaviour will never be stopped entirely, however with the team work of this group it appears to now be at a low-level, at least until next summer season.

**General:** Jay advised that police continue to make regular patrols around the town. PC Brett White recently issued a CPWL to Nicholas Sampson. CCTV monitoring is continuing even though the police are experiencing technical difficulties which means viewing at the station cannot take place. There has also been one assault which is a public order offence which the police will handle.

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### 4. ENFORCEMENT / LEGAL ACTION - UPDATE

There are a good number of prosecutions in the pipeline.

Chris advised that she and Rob Cowan attended a housing conference which included ASB. The information received regarding CPNs was very interesting and some information was gained (case in law). Chris will circulate to group and Police. **Action CBJ**

A brief update regarding offenders being pursued:

Nicholas Sampson – Has been issued with a CPWL

Dean Quinnell – *(Update: First hearing 7<sup>th</sup> October. Mr. Quinnell has entered a plea of guilty for failing to surrender alcohol when requested by an authorised officer. Mr. Quinnell has entered a not guilty plea for ASB (shouting and swearing) which is prohibited under the PSPO. The basis of which is, he believes the can he was holding was not open (the officer's evidence states that it was open and he was drinking from it). A trial date has been set for 19<sup>th</sup> November.*

Craig Kirwin – in court 14<sup>th</sup> October. *(Update: Mr. Kerwin did not attend so the matter was proved in his absence. The following fines were given:*

- 1. Breach of PSPO (Failure to surrender alcohol on request) £50.00*
  - 2. Breach of PSPO (Failure to surrender alcohol on request) £50.00*
  - 3. Breach of CPN (Possession of alcohol) £50.00*
- Total fine £150.00*

Rob Lowe – nothing further to report

Emma Power – Paul advises that the wardens cannot engage as she runs away therefore she requires to be served a CPW. **Action CBJ/PC/RC to discuss.**

Richard Brown – FPN issued – due to be paid soon.

Jodie King – ditto re Emma Power situation. **Action CBJ/PC/RC to discuss.**

Tom Yaggis – no prosecution pack yet.

Chris Reader – Papers nearly ready for a CPN breach.

Nigel Torrence – Appealed, Paul responded. Deadline for payment in 2 weeks.

Ella Albiez – Rob Cowan working on this – requires signed statement. **Action RC**

**Sea Road Caravans:** 1 in court, 2 require letters to be delivered, Paul to serve letter on the one which had a change of occupant. A new caravan arrived, but Paul feels this may be empty and just parked.

John Bownas commented that in some cases where prosecutions were not successful or received a lesser penalty, it would be useful to try and get magistrates to

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understand the havoc caused by the offenders and time and trouble taken by agencies and communities alike to deal with them. Chris advised that there is a Court Users Group which she attends and she could mention this at that forum. **Action CBJ**

Mike suggested waiting to see what results we get with current items and then if not satisfactory, John Bownas could send a communication from Love Hastings Ltd. outlining the problems the offenders cause. **Action JB**

### 5. INFORMATION SHARING - UPDATE

Jay advised that this multi agency agreement is still being worked on. Chris will comment as soon as she receives the first draft.

### 6. BLUE LIGHT PROJECT & STREET COMMUNITY PROJECT WORKER - UPDATE

Following the Safer Rother & Hastings Partnership Board MH has progressed the actions arising from this proposed project which will be for Street Community Outreach Work in Hastings and Bexhill initially.

Mike has emailed Tom Hook, ESCC, but not received a response to date. However a meeting with Tom is scheduled for Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October here in Hastings. Mike has also drafted a potential Terms of Reference for the proposed working group to take the project forward.

### 7. BREACH OF LICENSING CONDITIONS - UPDATE

CCTV monitoring continues.

Mike commented that he understood the police are a bit shorthanded at the present time, therefore monitoring has slowed down a little. Paul commented that his team had not seen any new evidence either. Jay requested that when speaking to street drinkers could the warden team ask where the alcohol came from in order that the police can target the offending premises and review its licence. Mike commented that HBC officers have sought to get premises signed up to the Reduce the Strength campaign, but not all premises wish to do so.

Update Note: A Licensing Compliance check took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October with Trading Standards, Police and HBC licensing officers. The exercise was borough-wide.

### 8. AGREEMENT TO CONFIDENTIALITY

Agreement was signed by all present.

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Noted that a further bullet point (from Chris) be included which reads:

*"I agree that I will not divulge the information to anyone outside the group membership."* **Action CML**

### 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CCTV Cameras: John Bownas advised that he is in the throes of putting in place cameras for the town's current blindspots e.g York Gardens – rear of Wellington Square and Russell Street. Also one opposite Yates and one along the rear of the Carlisle Public House in Pelham Street.

John added that members of the community are eager to info share which has resulted in a few arrests. These further cameras should go some way to helping all legal processes.

### 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This meeting was the last in a series of six meetings held during the latter summer season 2019 (i.e. from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> October).

Agreed that the group will schedule a series of meetings from April 2020 to cover the 2020 summer season.

In the interim, if circumstances warrant, ad hoc meetings will be arranged on request.  
**Action ALL**

Agreed also that once any pending legal processes have been completed, it would be beneficial to compile a joint press release of the group's actions/successes. **Action MH/AC/PC/CBJ/Barbara Browning**

Meeting closed: 1515hrs.