



Bath & North East Somerset Student Community Partnership Minutes

Note of the meeting of the Bath & North East Somerset Student Community Partnership held on Tuesday, 13th January, 2015 Brunswick Room - Guildhall, Bath

Attendance

Chair	
Councillor Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Present at the meeting	Representing
Vanessa Braithwaite	Student Community Partnership
Robert Gould	Bath Spa University
Professor Bernie Morley	University of Bath
Tommy Parker	University of Bath
Councillor Dine Romero	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Andy Thomas	Bath & North East Somerset Council

Apologies from	
Rob Armstrong-Haworth	Bath Spa University
Mark Hayward	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Paul Pennycook	Bath & North East Somerset Council
David Trethewey	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Mandy Wilson-Garner	University of Bath Students' Union

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions from those present were given.

2. Questions taken from any public attendees

There were no public attendees attending the meeting. Tommy confirmed that students were undertaking exams this week so were not able to attend the meeting. The Chair extended his invitation for the opportunity for students to shadow counsellors until the end of February 2015.

3. Notes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The Chair asked that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed.

Cllr Romero thought that there may have been a further death in the river that should have been included in the figure quoted in the last minutes. She is going to check this.

The Chair reported that the Council has put up some temporary fencing in the area of the last death and that a permanent solution will be put in place on 5th February. He added that the Council is putting in a scheme for support and consultation with families of the deceased when deaths occur.

Tommy and Robert confirmed that river safety had been bought up in Freshers' Week on a number of occasions which would hopefully lead to increased awareness amongst the student population.

4. Report from Chair

The Chair reported that the Council had been working closely with both universities over their forthcoming building plans.

An Away Day session had been held at Bath Spa University to look at future development, expansion and community regeneration. The Council expect that Universities are consulting with their student bodies about this. Robert felt that it would be beneficial for Student Union Reps to be included in these discussions.

The Chair reported that he had received fewer complaints than last year so felt that whatever had been put in place this year was working.

5. Resident attendance at future SCP meetings

The Chair felt that this should be brought up again at the next meeting and was an issue for the new Council. Due to the fact that the next meeting will fall at the time of purdah and subsequently may not take place, by the time of the subsequent meeting there may be new elected Councillors serving on the SCP who should be consulted for their view on this matter.

6. Students' Union Sabbatical Officers updates

Robert Gould – Bath Spa University Students' Union

He reported that the Student Union are supporting dry January and promoting this with their students. The new 'Got ya back' campaign has been very well handled so far by the Bath College project group.

A pre-paid card for taxis idea had been discussed but is not to be taken up at the moment due to the fact that if someone lost their wallet they may also lose the card. Other systems are being investigated.

Ten students came to the Student Union Advisory Group which is the best attendance to date. They looked at students' private housing matters and the 'Rate your rental' scheme which will come in later this year. Andy added that Councils now have greater rights to investigate private housing issues.

The Student Union has been promoting the use of bicycles and two of the SU Officers have been regularly using bicycles themselves. The SU has been engaging students in discussion about wellbeing, ethical awareness and keeping fit.

An 'I Heart Consent' campaign has been launched which encourages people to think about consent and keeping safe on nights out.

The Freshers' induction this year saw the introduction of a 'Buddy and Angels' network which has supported students with moving in and showing them around the University and the city.

A 'Reclaim the Night' march is due to happen in February. The 'Bath Half' has been promoted.

The SU have been working with the Museum of East and Asian Art on the Lunar New Year events. The Chair noted that Chinese Lanterns are not approved by the Council or the Fire Brigade and Robert confirmed that there are no plans to use them.

Tommy Parker – The University of Bath Students' Union

He reported that he has been working with 'guarantors' to help support international students find housing. He will be doing a radio interview about Article 4 shortly seeing as it is over a year since it was introduced. Students have been looking to secure accommodation much earlier in the year which has led to problems if they subsequently do not require it. The SU tries to encourage them to leave it a little later in the year in order to avoid problems. He noted that the student community seems to have been experiencing more aggressive landlords. The SU provided information about approved landlords on Student Pad which was released in December (this has been brought forward from a previous February release).

A number of volunteering opportunities have come out of working with the Widcombe Association which has a number of community events taking place this year.

Planning for the Funday in Oldfield Park is underway with an initial planning meeting having taken place this week.

Confirmed that he and Robert sit on FoBRA and that they would be attending a meeting that evening.

Reported that THINK week had taken place late November and that personal safety had been discussed with a focus on river safety.

7. Community Liaison Co-ordinator's report

Vanessa provided the meeting with her co-ordinators report which is attached to the minutes.

Reported that a number of complaints had been received in November when she started in post but this had settled down since then. Confirmed that all complaints were being referred through to the Council Connect line where possible.

Former complainants who have the Community Liaison Coordinator's contact details are still coming through to the CLC with their complaints as this is what they have been used to doing previously. There will be a period of transition whilst people are encouraged to use the Council Connect line instead.

There was some discussion about the fact that Jenny had previously taken on a mediation role with regards to complaints whilst working five days per week, however this is not possible now that Vanessa is undertaking the role part time for three days per week. It was noted that the number of complaints was still relatively low in comparison to other University towns and cities.

8. WRAP Innovation in Waste Fund

Vanessa presented information that had been provided by Liz Russell, Waste and Recycling Manager at the University of Bath about the proposal to submit a bid to WRAP in the name of the Student Community Partnership (paper included in the Meeting Pack).

A number of queries and a request for further information were raised about the proposal:

- i) With regards to match funding, it was queried who had agreed to commit the monies from each institution. Bernie and the Chair were not aware of this having been agreed. They also asked for confirmation that it would be £2,200 each that had been agreed in order to match the total of £6,500 being bid for.
- ii) The Committee would like to see a breakdown of how the total budget will be utilised if successful, and were particularly interested to see how staffing would be deployed and the associated costs.
- iii) The Committee wondered if the option of using volunteering teams to help organise the project had been considered to help reduce costs.

Vanessa agreed to raise these issues with Liz Russell and liaise with Andy Thomas before a decision to approve was made.

9. Future agenda items and AOB

The Chair and Cllr Romero noted how much they have enjoyed working with colleagues in the Student Community Partnership.

Next Meetings:

14th April 2015, 3-5 pm Fellowship Room, Oldfield Park Baptist Church, Triangle, BA2 3JD.
Andy Thomas will confirm whether this can still go ahead due to it coinciding with the purdah period.

23rd June 2015, 3-5 pm University of Bath, Chancellor's Building Room 4.9

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