



## **Bath&NES Student Community Partnership Minutes**

**Note of the meeting of the Bath&NES Student Community Partnership  
held on Thursday, 27th January, 2011, Kaposvar Room -  
Guildhall, Bath**

### **Attendance**

<b>Chair</b>	
Councillor Francine Haerberling	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Present at the meeting</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Mandy Bell	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Richard Bidgood	Students' Union, Bath Spa University
Lauren Kelly	Liaison Co-ordinator. Student Community Partnership
Prof. Bernie Morley	University of Bath
Daniel O'Toole	Students' Union, University of Bath
Stacy Pritchard	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Andrew Seed	University of Bath
Dr. Alun Thomas	Bath Spa University
Mandy Wilson-Garner	Students' Union, University of Bath

<b>Apologies from</b>	
Mark Ames	University of Bath
Paul Pennycook	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Andy Thomas	Bath & North East Somerset Council
David Trethewey	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Councillor Chris Watt	Bath & North East Somerset Council

### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Councillor Francine Haerberling welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Notes of the previous meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed, with the following update on Actions:

1. Letting Agents willing to have direct link to SCP website. Also both accommodation offices and letting agents willing to ask landlords to send out 'Good Neighbour' booklets at beginning of term.
2. Christmas lights / cards – to be discussed later in meeting.
3. No further action required.
4. General number of complaints since September: 431 general noise complaints to Council Connect (37 student related) / there was no up-to-date information on waste complaints.
5. No further action required.
6. RB advised the group that the 418 service has changed to SPA1 and SPA2. RB met with First Group to improve service for students, and to arrange new route via student houses for SPA2 service, which is to be implemented mid-february.
7. Living Together, Working Together document to be discussed later in meeting.
8. RB received no response from MP James Reese-Mogg to follow up e-mail after meeting regarding cycle path. **Action:** RB to send further follow-up e-mail.
9. Cllr Will Sandry is involved in discussions with letting agents with view of not getting rid of the 'to let' signs completely, but to limit to one per street.
10. Carnage leaflets – DOT to discuss with Venue magazine before next Freshers Fair

### 3. Community Liaison Co-ordinator's report

Lauren circulated latest press releases to the group

LK, SP, DOT and RB attended the Oldfield PACT Meeting in November where main student issue raised was late night noise in the street. Residents were satisfied with the actions already being taken by the SCP so far and no further complaints regarding this particular matter have been received recently.

The first Regional Network Meeting of Universities in the South West took place and LK gave a presentation on SCP. LK advised that this is a good venue for sharing practices around various pieces of work each University is doing. Next meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> March at UWE.

The LSP Meeting in January discussed general issues around Big Society / Local Agenda.

Four students were nominated for the 'Student Good Neighbour' category in B&NES Chairman's Community Awards. The student who won and student who was highly commended did not turn up to receive award. It was noted that next year we need to ensure that either they attend, or we have a reason why they cannot attend. The RAG Team from University of Bath and a student volunteer from Bath Spa were highly commended.

The Bath Student Accommodation Guide 2011 was distributed to group. LK advised that the SCP saved £1,800 on publication costs by teaming up with Impressions Media. The publication has been distributed electronically, at housing forums, SU's and in the community. DOT commented that this was a great opportunity seized, a great way forward, and far more student user friendly. It was suggested that it would be good to get student feedback on the publication. **Action:** LK to gather student feedback.

The number of hits on SCP website since September was 3,015 implying that both residents and students are using the website.

Copies of some of the Christmas cards were handed to the group to show the cards that were designed by local schoolchildren and distributed by students to residents in Oldfield Park area (approx 2250). These were sponsored by local businesses in Moorland Road. SCP included information about its website and facilities open to the public in the cards.

LK linked in with On-Board to organise a litter pick in Oldfield Park involving long-term residents and students. This was good opportunity for both to meet and talk.

Annual Reception took place after LSP Annual Forum on 11<sup>th</sup> November was good event. No feedback to-date

Future activities (to be organised by end of term)

- Lunar event organised by Museum of East Asian Art will see International student volunteers getting involved from both Universities. Press release to be arranged.
- End of term waste initiative.

59 complaints received since September. It was suggested that LK could add the Council Connect stats to this table at each meeting so that we can compare general public's complaints and student complaints. **Action:** LK to add to CLC's report at next meeting.

Student Action Line – it was discussed that the calls should be coming through the SAL. However, MWG explained that often the caller may get back in touch with Lauren directly once they have her number. **Action:** LK to just put SAL number on most promotional text.

#### **4. Students' Union Sabbatical Officers report**

A demonstration was organised by both SU's regarding Student Fees. 200/250 students rallied outside Don Foster's office whilst RB, DOT went into his office for a meeting. B&NES and the Police highly commended the demonstration, as it got the message across in a peaceful way.

The question time debate is in response to this demonstration and will involve a panel consisting of: National Union of Students, SU member from Bath Spa University and member of Labour Party - Jon Bull, Don Foster, and a member of the Liberal Democrats. Tickets still being sold but limited to Bath Spa University Students and Staff.

#### Cycle Path

DOT reported that the project to develop a cycle path has now been on-going for 18 months and after meeting with Bath Residents Federation regarding cut backs believes that project may now stall. DOT suggested instead of cutting lower priority projects due to financial cut backs, is it possible to ring fence a pot of money to enable / empower people to drive projects forward.

Stacy advised that possible source of funding could be the LAA performance reward grants which will become available within next few months. **Action:** DOT to look into LAA funding; continue to meet with Charles Gerrish and to contact John Betty.

With the inspectorate decision that the fence can be moved and with no objections being made in High Court to cycle path, DOT is now looking into maintenance issues and making path into a bridal way. **Action:** Cllr FH to discuss this issue with Charles Gerrish.

Cllr FH advised that she would need to understand what the costs are going to be. **Action:** DOT to contact Martin Wally to get estimate on work required.

## 5. Living Together, Working Together report examples of good practice

It was agreed at last meeting that LK would summarise good practice examples in order of cost and priority and bring these back for discussion.

Community representative - Having a community representative at the SCP meeting was discussed in detail and it was decided that it would be difficult to get one person to represent all community within Bath. I was suggested to better strengthen the link with the PACT meetings and Councillors to get feedback on any issues and LK could feed these into the meeting.

Action Plan - important that the action plan is formed around feedback from community and students. LK and SP already working closely to ensure links with community and student projects and should further strengthen this.

Framework of all student activities –overview of student related activities that are going on and to ensure that different groups are not doing the same thing simultaneously. MWG highlighted the need for close links with local community and students to work in partnership and that this is an area that LK could progress with SP. **Action:** LK to liaise with MWG and marketing at both Universities.

Press releases –need to showcase more of what students are doing within the community.

More students to attend PACT meetings – SP noted that this can be difficult due to the transient nature of the student population. It was agreed that need to make issues discussed more applicable to students. It was also decided that SP to look into ways of making process more empowering for residents, as not all issues raised can be resolved at the meeting.

Community fund where groups of students/local residents' can apply for a small pot of money to run their own educational/social enterprise projects in the local area and this could be linked to Re:generate who could offer support on the development of enterprises. **Action:** LK to discuss with BM and also Re:generate

Working with Bath College – decided should involve them by inviting to meetings, although noted that issues will not be the same as students of the two Universities. **Action:** LK to find contact and speak to regarding this.

Improved publicity – promoting university events and improving two way links that can be accessed by both students and public. SP and LK met with James Hinchcliffe and were advised that Council have plasma screens in Libraries and Sports Centres on which SCP can advertise at a cost of £30. **Action:** All agreed to promote this idea.

Inviting local residents to Campus for Social Events, - decided that there are a lot of existing events which need more publicity, eg: Free firework display. MWG asked whether it would be possible to have a single webpage showing all calendar events, relevant information, for community to access, however both the University of Bath and Bath Spa University advised prefer to promote own events on their own websites. Although LK advised that both Universities are linked to the SCP website, AT suggested that LK also contacts individual departments/organisations within the two Universities (ie: Bath Spa Live, Bath Sports, ICIA) to see if they have a separate website, and to then link these also to SCP website. **Action:** LK to contact these departments at both universities.

The idea of a neighbourhood newsletter was discussed but group agreed that due to budget restraints this may be an issue. Also need to consider green issues and try to avoid paper items wherever possible.

Community Sabbatical Officer – DoT updated that at the University of Bath SU a referendum by students is due to be passed around whether to go from a 6 to a 5 member Sabbatical Team. This would mean that the responsible person for SCP meeting would be Vice President Community & Diversity with responsibility for students and wider community.

LK asked how local residents are consulted regarding planning for things such as new Accommodation being built in the community. AT and BM updated that they hold Open Days to engage local residents on such issues.

## **6. Student Enterprise 10'**

AS, a student from the University of Bath gave a presentation on Student Enterprise 10' which was a competition arranged by the University of Bath SU working with the University and the Council to promote enterprise amongst students.

There were 8 enterprising groups who were all given £200 to progress their ideas and to sell their items in a shop for the day. Out of these, only 3 made a loss, but the winner was the one that made the maximum profit of £343.25. It was noted that the focus was more on skills gained from the competition, rather than profit made. Students had to work closely with SU / Council / public and Universities to make this event successful.

AS took opportunity to invite Bath Spa University SU to have a team next year, to help promote collaboration between Universities.

MWG advised that the funding for the competition was raised over a number of years from numerous sources, although not enormous amount of funding was needed as sponsorship was easy to find. **Action:** RB to contact Enterprise Co-ordinator regarding funding.

DOT thanked the Council for enabling all the students this opportunity and Cllr FH happy to support event in future.

## **7. Safety/Noise Campaign**

LK briefly summarised campaign "Don't make it a night to regret" and it was run in December for a week at both Universities and SU. Main reason for running campaign was due to direct response to noise complaints, but also to incorporate issues around personal

safety, health issues around drinking, dangers of rivers etc. This involved the SCP working closely with different partnerships: Police, Fire Service and NHS.

Made publicity as brief and straightforward as possible so that students would read it. The campaign was vigorously promoted and publicised with 2100 stickers, 300 alcohol information bags, and 500 postcards being given out during campaign. There was also a noted rise in SCP website hits during the campaign week and a reduction in noise complaints in December & January compared to last year. LK's intention is to build on this campaign for next year by using social networking sites, drama students and the car crash scenario.

Lessons learnt - to involve ambulance services looking at sexual health and drugs, building on interactive stalls, and running campaign earlier in November.

## **8. Big Society**

This item focused around encouraging positive student activities in the community and finding new ways to promote this. This issue has been covered in detail by DOT earlier in the meeting.

Student Hubs – a mixture of students from different societies who discuss how they can encourage more social action in community / focus develop social enterprises / how can get ethical work placements, and how can get higher quality volunteering opportunities within different organisations. The next meeting of Regional networking meeting would be an ideal forum to discuss this subject. **Action:** LK to discuss at next regional meeting.

## **9. Future agenda items and AOB**

LK and SP attended number of meetings regarding Census and how can promote the message to the students to get them to complete. More publicity has been arranged around this issue.

The Council Draft Core Strategy has gone to both universities. Noted that some members of Federation of Bath residents have made comments regarding university section.

### **Next Meeting:**

Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath  
Thursday, 9 June 2011 at 2.30 pm