



CMPCA Community Meeting 16 September 2009
St Mary Magdalen Community Centre

1. **PCSO Bobbi King** reported local crime statistics. These are low except for street drinking. This is illegal throughout the city, but police use their discretion on when to intervene. She also noted an increase in homelessness among the Polish community.
2. **Gil Sweetenham** (Assistant Director for Schools, Children and Young Persons' Trust) described the Council's planning for primary school admissions. To east and west there are vacant places but around 130 additional entry places will be needed in central Brighton and Hove by 2011. Despite temporary arrangements this year and next, a shortage for this area is inevitable. A £4.5 million capital programme is planned. The need results from demographic changes, compounded by the admissions policies of faith schools in the central area. Proposals to the Cabinet member (Cllr Vanessa Brown) on 5 October would include options for expanding existing schools or building a new one. He could not yet give details. If a new school is proposed the Trust would invite bids from providers – the competition would be run independently if the Trust itself wishes to bid. He showed maps indicating the gap between demand and supply for primary places across the city.
3. Questions and comments included concern about the admissions policies of faith schools. Gil said it would be a requirement that any such school receiving capital investment should increase the proportion of local children admitted. Discussion also touched on the prospects for school federations and for expansion at secondary level in due course.
4. **Management Committee Report:** Peter Freeman said Council planning officers had been asked to produce a brief to guide new applications for redeveloping the former Children's Hospital site towards preserving as much of the hospital buildings as possible. Local people would be consulted on the brief. Philippa Sankey said the summer festival had been successful both artistically and financially. The MC would propose donations to both churches which had hosted events. She thanked all concerned in putting it on.
5. **AOB:** The Powis Square Association had concerns over details of a planned new house in Powis Road; members were making representations. The MC was asked to find out whether there are any plans to replace street signs in the conservation area.