

CMPCA COMMUNITY MEETING 8pm Wednesday 17 June 2009
St Mary Magdalen Community Centre Upper North Street

1. Police Report

PCSO Bobbi King of the Regency community police team reported that there were eight reported cases of burglary, criminal damage or robbery in the area from April to mid June. She asked residents to report all incidents so that the police could decide on an appropriate response and build up and gather more complete intelligence. Asked about noise-related incidents, she stated that she was not aware of any significant issue. The Chair thanked Bobby for her attendance.

2. Presentation and discussion of all aspects of waste management

Mike Moon, Head of Operations City Clean

Mike Moon (in post since Sept 2008) reported on four areas of responsibility.

Waste collection and recycling Over the last nine months, waste collection and recycling rounds had been reorganised to improve efficiency and make savings. The last phase of the communal bins programme would be completed by June 29th. Feedback is gathered from residents and operatives and has resulted in attempts to reduce the noise made when bins were opened. Recycling volumes are currently 29% of waste. The target for 2012 is 32%. The plan is to increase recycling and improve the waste sorting facility for all materials except glass. The separation of glass at the point of collection is a major problem. Strategic consultation document to be released online on 22 June.

Street cleaning Deep cleaning for the area is scheduled for July and will require some suspension of street parking.

Graffiti No major problems had occurred in the area.

Enforcement Officers check on the misuse of bins for trade waste. Two firms had been prosecuted and one case was pending.

Questions and comments from the floor

In a wide-ranging discussion residents raised many issues both in criticism and in support of the existing levels of service. Strong concerns were raised by many of those attending on the following issues:

Composting Brighton has no organic waste collecting service nor does it support any independent services. There is a need to monitor the technological advances in the collection and use of organic waste. Could urban food production be supported?

Communal bins Many concerns were raised including: noise, fly tipping (street cleaning team report this), intrusive times of collection (Mike Moon: will try to ensure 7 am collection rotated, and reported that bin lids and handles being changed so automatically shut), and the location of bins. The junction of Spring Street and Western Rd was one point of particular concern.

Recycling boxes Concerns were expressed about the way operatives declined to deal with boxes with glass and pieces of rubbish in them. Problems were encountered when bins were left on the pavement after emptying (MM confirmed they should be returned to where left eg just inside gate). It was not clear what residents should do with cardboard boxes too large for the bins.

Street cleaning This service was appreciated by many residents. However, it was reported that Crown St was never cleaned.

Quality and speed of response when problems were reported Many residents considered that the problems encountered were often exacerbated by an 'off-hand' response from the call centre and the lack of follow-up. This led to a great deal of frustration and lack of support for the service. MM agreed that Cityclean had let itself down with reply times.

Procedures and timing for a review of the service It was noted that a review would take place once the full programme of communal bins had been rolled out. This would probably be in July. Residents were encouraged to make their views known by letter or e-mail to the council officers or to their local councillor. MM invited those present with particular concerns re new bins (Upper North Street and Victoria Street) to contact him directly.

Data on level of recycling Mr Moon agreed to make data available in time for the next Community Meeting.

The meeting thanked Mr Moon for his presentation and response to issues raised.

3. Report from Management Committee

In view of the lateness of the hour the Chair restricted his comments to an invitation to members to join the proposed 'street audit' project.

4. The former Royal Alexandra Hospital: report on the planning appeal

Peter Freeman reported that the decision by the Planning Committee to refuse planning permission to Taylor Wimpey had been upheld. The inspector's report can be found on the Council and CMPCA websites. The inspector neither ruled out the total replacement of the building nor the possibility of a development including part of the southern building. But he found the current plan to be inappropriate for the site. The developers had the right to a further appeal to the Secretary of State, but it was not yet clear

what plans they might now have. In response to comments he agreed that the conservation groups had achieved their objective; the CMPCA would again seek to ensure residents are properly consulted about the full range of community interests on any future proposals. The future for the Montpelier surgery remained uncertain.

5.Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that there was no significant change in the underlying position since the last meeting. The Newsletter covered its costs from advertising revenue. Proceeds from the sale of festival tickets were now being received.

The CMPFestival

Philippa Sankey gave a short review of the programme and encouraged members to book seats for the performances.

34 attended

Next meeting Wednesday 16 September in St Mary Magdalen Community Centre