

SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP

Minutes of meeting held 13th September, 2016 at Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind, Mappin Street

PRESENT:

Wendy Zealand, Steve Lee (Vice Chair), Olusola McKenzie (Secretary), Diane Stimely, Mark Booth, Maxine Biggin, Cllr Douglas Johnson, Cllr Rob Murphy, James Merrylees, Julie Wilson, Ashley Cadby, Ines Cadby, Steve Gayle, Graham Chidlaw, Nicola Gretton, Richard West, Pauline Egerton

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1. Wendy Zealand who chaired the meeting welcomed all attendees.

1.2. Apologies for absence were received from Amber Wilson, Rupert Wood, David Hussey-Yeo, Cllr Lee Bramall, Christine Sephton and Peter Sephton (Chair)

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 13th September & Matters Arising

2.1 As a result of SCCRAG raising concern at the Licensing Committee over the permission to open another off-licence on West Street, a Cumulative Impact Policy is now being investigated.

We hope it will

i) Limit the outlets selling alcohol and

ii) Reduce the availability of high alcohol content cheap beer and cider. The "Black Cans" currently consumed by the street drinkers are generally 9% content, so very strong.

2.2 Anyone wanting to contribute evidence supporting the need for a CIP should contact SCCRAG and we will give them the appropriate contact details at Licensing.

3. Recent SCCRAG activities:

3.1 Objection to Villa Mercedes application for a sexual entertainment venue (SEV) licence to operate a lap dancing club in Suffolk Road, near Midland Station and the Leadmill

The application for a SEV licence was withdrawn by the applicant who also withdrew his application to operate a bar from the premises. Cllr Douglas Johnson reported that the hearing revealed issues with the licensing process and improvements need to be made.

3.2 Meeting with Licensing on SCCRAG Cumulative Impact Policy proposals

i) Submitting evidence as mentioned above

ii) We also want the police to submit evidence and believe that Sgt Naomi Saxton is involved in doing this.

3.3 Meeting with Director for Public Health on health issues in the City Centre

- i) Are the medical services available inside the ring road enough for the population and at suitable times?
- ii) +9% strength alcohol sales and
- iii) air pollution levels

3.4 Meeting with the chair of Business Improvement District (BID) re: City Centre issues and a change in BID board membership

- i) SCCRAG is pressing for a consultative group to be created, so BID maintains contact with the people living in the City Centre
- ii) SCCRAG will lose its seat on the BID Board as the board will only be made up of businesses that pay the BID levy.
- iii) The BID levy payer can ask for money from the government and use this to improve day time and night time economy

3.5 Discussions with relevant authorities over drug and alcohol related problems in the Victoria St, Gell St and Convent Walk areas

- i) Tracey Ford from Sheffield Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse Coordination Team (DACT), Sheffield City Council is coordinating a campaign this autumn that encourages students to support agencies helping beggars, instead of giving directly to the beggars. SCCRAG was involved in the first meetings to suggest this approach and fully supports it.
- ii) An anti-begging campaign was launched last year as easy money which the beggars receive from members of the public in the City Centre is a problem. There is a multi-agency group dealing with this issue.
- iii) Early on this year, SCCRAG used some of the City Centre funding on the anti-begging campaign
- iv) There are outreach workers, the City Centre ambassadors and Police task force dealing with the matter of beggars and street drinkers in the City Centre
- v) The most prolific beggars and drinkers have tenancies. Victoria Court is contracted to the council to provide complex needs impact on local community. The people who have been identified with alcohol and/or drug related problems are being rehoused in Victoria Court.
- vi) Places for People own the site but they are trying to move the site somewhere else, however it is the only one available so this will take some time.
- vii) The City Council have the responsibility to provide short term solution and they are working with Third sector organisations to find a solution to the problem.
- viii) To report an incidence relating to drug and alcohol, the number to **dial is 101** or **online** at

www.reportingcrime.uk

4. Guest speaker

The guest speaker did not attend but sent his apology after the meeting.

5. Priorities for Police Attention & other issues for action

5.1 Enforcement activity which involves a task force made up of 4 has been set up and these officers will patrol Broomhall and Abbeydale road corridor.

5.2 Sgt Matt Burdett has realigned the resources and PCSO John Charlesworth covers the West Street area. There has been increased and visible police activity in the area since the beginning of September.

A/PS 3229 Scott Szymczak @ SY Police has since said that (email 5th Sept) *“a small team of officers has now been created which I am looking after who will be concentrating on some of these matters. The problems around Victoria Street, West Street and Convent Walk is one of the areas we have been asked to target and therefore you should hopefully see some work in the area over the coming months”*.

6. Have your Say – items from the floor

6.1 The University of Sheffield are trying to inform their students through the resident life courses of how to live in the community and this communication covers issues of noise disturbance and being respectful of property

6.2 The course also informs the students of how to live safely and they intend to send out flyers that will be going out to students regarding road safety. The pedestrianised access is being improved by the University.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Sheffield BID can't pay for things that are already been provided such as day-to-day operational costs of police or SCC as they only cover things that provide added value. One example is BID pays for the salary costs of Sgt Matt Burdett – employed in a coordinating role on behalf of BID.

7.2 Paul Grogan is the person to contact if there is graffiti on properties in the City Centre as they will clean graffiti off properties belonging to BID levy payers. However, once they clean the property the graffiti is back on again. Email cleanteam@sheffieldbid.com.

7.3 The City Council will only remove graffiti if it is offensive. If the graffiti is on private property, this is the responsibility of the owner but if it is on University property the University will clean it.

7.4 There needs to be joined up work to deal with this matter as there is no central point of contact though the University of Sheffield Estates team are connected to BID to deal with this matter

Next meeting

SCCRAG is hosting an open meeting with Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield as part of his autumn 'Big Conversation'. The date is **4th October** at the **Quaker Meeting House**, 10 St James Street near the cathedral and it starts at 6:30pm.

Details are at www.paulblomfield.co.uk/thebigconversation and on our website at www.SCCRAG.org