

Community Liaison Group Meeting – The Hawthorns - 8th June 2015

Present:

Shelley Sanders

Stuart Pattison BCC

Peter Symes Richmond Area Residents' Association

Ian R Goodenough Oakfield Road Residents Association

Dani Glazzard BCC

Nick Boyce Uni Beat Manager

Natalie Koniakhina

Derek McWhinnie

Pru Lawrence Archer (P-LA) UoB Head of Accommodation Services

Sandy Payne UoB Department Manager (note taker)

Apologies:

Gordon Schofield, Nigel England, Catherine Clark, Ann O'Malley, Jill White, Catherine McLean, Sonia Vickers, Carla Denyer, Liz Kew

Welcome, Apologies and Introductions from PL-A

Community Liaison Reports

Gordon Scofield – report attached

Moving out: Students are sent an on-line induction on moving out which includes a section on behaviour towards neighbours

UoB term ends 12th June 2015. 2015/16 Freshers move in 19th and 20th September. Welcome week runs from 21st to 25th September 2015.

Community Ambassadors – have been a great success and very positive feedback received from everyone. We will be keeping four of the existing ambassadors and will be recruiting another four new ones for 2015/16.

Nigel England

- 64 complaints so far this year, compared to 69 last year. 40 of these have been about noise.
- 12 Community Projects sponsored this year
- 4 Student Community reps for next year for main 'UWE' areas; Bishopston, Horfield and Cotham. The question was raised as to why not Clifton as well?

The Bristol Big Give – 20 tonnes so far. The British Heart Foundation (BHF) have stated that they are a bit behind with collections this year (they are one driver down) and will continue to collect bins until early July. Last year the BHF collected 80 tonnes which raised £200,000 for local charities

It was noted that one bin (at the junction of South Road and Redland Road) took ten days to empty, despite numerous calls to Trudy Feeney. It was eventually cleared but not sure by who. Another bin (corner of Lower Redland Road/Clyde Road) had been broken in to.

Moving Out Campaign - Campus students: A box has been sent to each student including guides and information, plus a letter from the VC about good neighbourhood behaviour. All letting agencies have been contacted about 'Love Where you Live'. A 'Keep the peace' leaflet has been distributed and NE attending various forums.

UWE term ends on 19th June 2015. 2015/16 term starts on 21st September 2015 with a Freshers Fair on campus 18th September.

Minutes from last meeting

Agreed with no corrections.

Waste and Recycling

- So far so good with any issues being dealt with efficiently and effectively.
- A reminder to all Residents Associations to report any left rubbish to us asap. The Council will collect if rung but please report all messes to them as they have been known only to collect rubbish that has been specifically reported to them and ignore other mess in the same street. The Universities will follow up any unresolved issues.
- It was noted that Chandos Road are in the process of trying to set up their own RA.

Transport

- PL-A confirmed that we do not encourage students to apply for parking permits but will provide them with information if asked.

Noise

- Excellent feedback for the way Gordon handles and sorts out problems, which has led to various improvements throughout the year.
- The main area of concern appears to be when students/guests are arriving and leaving parties, and when they are out in the gardens. Visitors seem to cause the most problems and it was suggested that the students be encouraged to hold their parties elsewhere? PL-A explained that we do give students a list of alternative venues where they can hold their parties.
- No major problems reported since the re-opening of the SU bar.
- Problems in the less well lit areas of people urinating in the streets although it was acknowledged that this was not necessarily student. Would more street lighting help?

Any other Business

- PL-A confirmed that the 'Moving in' campaign will be the same as before. The council map showing student density will be reviewed but unlikely that we will see any change. **ACTION: GS to circulate list of targeted streets/homes for the Moving in campaign on his return.**
- It was pointed out that some HMO's are not on the council's list and they may not even be registered. This is creating difficulty in getting any information on which houses are HMO's. Others found this information quite easily from the council.
- First week of July will possibly see the arrival/move in of 2015/16 new sets of tenants.
- PL-A explained what sanctions were in place for disciplining students who cause problems in the community:
Low level (minor) – email warning, Gordon visit, first formal warning
Further complaints (more serious) – called in to see PL-A, written reprimand which is sent to the student's Head of Department and placed on their student record, caution if repeat offence, fine of up to £100, community service (although this is rarely used).
If the matter does not resolve then it will eventually go to the Pro Vice-Chancellor who has the

power to bar or expel the student from the University. If the matter is criminal it will go to the Police who have their own set of sanctions. Please see our Community website for more information

PL-A confirmed that so far this year we have used all the above sanctions (except community service). During March/April/May 2015 we have issued 8 warning emails/disciplinary hearings, fines and reprimands

- Ways of publicising this Community Liaison Group Meeting were discussed in order to increase the co-ordination of information; Bristol radio stations, Bristol Evening Post, Residents Associations, door knocking, Love Where you Live website, letters to neighbours are all things that are currently being done.

It was suggested that a 'We know the rules...' type letter could be given to residents so that they could use this to try and prevent any issues arising in the first place.

PL-A suggested that we would take this forward with UWE but added it would need to be passed through the relevant steering groups and agreed before any new information could be published and distributed.

- Arrival and term start dates mentioned previously in notes. It was confirmed that UoB Hall talks have been replaced by specialist inductions running on 20th and 21st September, although the halls are likely to have their own local talks if RA's wish to be involved (at the warden's discretion). Please contact the relevant residence direct.
- UoB admissions 2015/16. We have taken on 800 extra bed spaces for freshers and returners, both in the City centre; The Courtrooms and Orchard Heights. We are continuing to look for more housing.

The actual numbers of admissions is limited by the teaching estate. Unfortunately Pru did not have a forecast of numbers at this point in time, however she did stress that the current volatile market dictates this.