MINUTES
23 JUNE 2021
HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – Via Zoom due to Covid-19

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
   Apologies were received from David and Pam Ward, and Joan Jackson.

   Penny Tarrant (PT) welcomed members to this meeting of HNF (via Zoom), including Ward Councillor Chris Penberthy (CP), new member Angela Penrose, and guest speakers Sgt Jon Davison of Charles Cross Police Station, Victoria Allen, PCC Events Manager, and Catherine Arthurs, PCC Project Manager.

2. **Guest Speaker – Police Sergeant Jon Davidson, based at Charles Cross**
   Sgt Davison (JD) gave an overview of the crime recorded in the Hoe area, and information on how this is tackled. JD commented that some of the crime is unlikely to come close to the personal lives of members.

   The area covered includes the City centre, the waterfront and the Barbican. There is little acquisitive crime - very few street robberies. There have been 3 burglaries in the area since 1 May, only 1 of which would be seen as a true burglary which was of an empty building.
   There have been 2 vehicular crimes with theft of tools and 1 theft of a handbag in the same period. This is a very low incidence rate.
   Policing has been focussing on the foreshore and the Promenade. ASB and violent crime are concentrated in these areas. Officers patrol these areas and the Barbican regularly.
   Drug use is recorded in the West Hoe area, with some around Garden Crescent and the Radford Rd area.
   There is some street begging and street drinking around the Anchor and Tescos on Notte St.

The areas with B&B premises are generally normal. It is worth noting that some of the B&Bs are used for those on prison release, release from rehab, homeless people etc.
Traditional crime is very low, whereas social crime is somewhat higher.

JD asked for any questions.
Angela Penrose (AP) asked how serious the incident involving ASB was for the Lido, in which bottles had been thrown into the pool resulting in a closure of the pool.
JD remarked that it is taken seriously, but it isn't always possible to react immediately to that type of situation.
Kim Stevenson (KS) asked how the police work with the Parc officers.
JD answered that they work closely, almost every day. Parc officers are mostly deployed in the City Centre and have powers to deal with ASB and are frequently in direct communication with the police on emerging situations. They are used by the police on Friday/Saturday evenings especially in the summer to patrol around the Barbican and the Waterfront areas. During these periods street pastors and PCC officers are also assisting. Parc officers are equipped to deal with noise and drinking issues and have the comms to ask for assistance. The police are lobbying for longer evening shifts in the summer, with the shifts starting earlier as pubs are able to open all day. The shifts starting earlier assist with dealing with any potential issues at an earlier stage.
KS advised that in Kensington there had been a recent study by the police on noise pollution from vehicles. Sound recorders had noted decibel output, similar to speed cameras, and fines had been issued. This had resulted in a decrease in noise nuisance and pollution. It is hoped to push this out to the rest of the UK. KS asked whether this may be useful to investigate in the Hoe area, as on many days there are cars and bikes using the circuit as a race track.
Chris Penberthy (CP) added that motorbike noise is an issue throughout the waterfront, with them ending up at Capn Jaspers on the Barbican and along the quayside. This could be a place to focus some attention.
JD said he would look into that, and said that the force would be mounting an operation, including extra officers, in the summer to attempt to stop this behaviour.
Barbara Sanders (BS) commented on the frequent complaints by members about noise and ASB from The Walrus pub. JD said that after the pandemic began, the pub had been on their radar.
CP commented that street begging on Notte St can be an issue, and intimidating behaviour in the Peace Garden. JD said that they have an active and continuous outreach programme to try to help rough sleepers. Beggars are only arrested as a last resort, after all offers of help have been rejected.
PT asked how to report a pattern of ASB. JD said that he wants to know of this at all times. If it's an emergency, dial 999, if not an emergency dial 101, although there can be delays with this service, or the website in an online chat. If people want to pass on information, then JD is happy for this to come straight to him via email, and it can be fed to the team. PT will forward on members' behalf.

PT thanked JD for speaking at the meeting, and for his informative talk. It is appreciated that JD hoped to attend our meetings on a regular basis, as and when officers are available.

3. **Catherine Arthurs – PCC Project Manager (CA)**

CA spoke about the project to light the war memorials on the Hoe. Some are already lit, and it is believed that they make a big difference. PCC want to celebrate the Hoe's iconic structures and history to attract visitors and business to the area.
CA presented a Powerpoint, please find attached.
Sue Dunn (SD) asked whether the Nancy Astor statue would be lit. CA said that it was not planned to.
CP asked about potential light pollution and also shadowing as a result of the Naval War Memorial being lit. CA replied that the lighting would be bat friendly, and that they are consulting on specialised plans for the lights to be used.
PT thanked CA for her time, and for speaking to members.

4. **Hilary Kolinsky (HK) - Neighbourhood Plan**

HK advised that there had not been much change since the last meeting, as substantial feedback from PCC and from Aecom has to be assimilated. Locality is asking Aecom to assist as there is so much, to help steer a path through all the somewhat dense information. A draft is hoped for in late summer/early autumn.

5. **Community Engagement – Rachel Tyler (RT)**

RT gave a presentation of the data resulting from the 5 surveys undertaken over the last few weeks. RT said that generally there had been a very good response, mostly supportive of the policies being drafted in the Neighbourhood Plan, and show where they correlate.
A report will be circulated shortly.

PT thanked RT for the work, and for explaining the data.

6. **Victoria Allen (VA) – PCC Events Manager**

VA apologised for not attending the last meeting, as she was unwell.
Sadly, the celebrations on the Mayflower400 planned for 11 & 12 July have had to be cancelled due to Covid. However, the Sail GP will take place on 17 & 18 July within current Covid rules. Free tickets are still available. Ticket holders only will be admitted to the Fan Zone. Sail GP is allowed to take place as it is an elite sport. There will be Covid marshals, cleansing stations, additional toilets, a youth programme, sustainability projects, and plastic free plans displayed on site. The technical area will be in Millbay on the wharf.

PT asked how much of the Hoe will be fenced off. **VA** will send a site plan and time line.

Further summer events are:
7 August – Pride
27-29 August – 1 Big Summer, similar to MTV
5 Sept – Plymouth Marathon
6 Sept onwards, Plymouth University Graduation ceremonies.

Ana Lambert (AL) asked whether the Mayflower400 events would take place at any other time. VA said that it was permanently cancelled, but that it is hoped to find a way for the music to be performed at some point. There will be a small media event on 11 July.

RT asked for some details about the Pride event.
CP said that there is a community feel to this event, with a walking parade, and is friendly and family orientated. It is not as flamboyant as some Pride events in other cities. The evening is informal, with venues organising some themed events. The Hoe event ends at 20:00.
If members would like flags or similar accessories, please contact CP.

PT said that in the past, there have been complaints about a late night party in the Graduation marquee on the Hoe. Could this start an hour earlier and end an hour earlier?
VA said that the party was a PCC Star Staff awards night.
PT asked for contact details for the university for help with this, and for a schedule of the set-up and take-down of the marquee.
Action : VA

CP advised that here would be road closures for Sail GP on 17 & 18 July, from the East arm of Hoe Rd to Pier St junction (along the Hoe front) and Madeira Rd in its entirety. Also Osborne Place up to the Promenade, Armada Loop (Crowne Plaza), Windsor Place (residents only allowed), and Citadel Rd from Lockyer St to Hoe Approach.
VA advised that there is a full transport plan.
Action: CP will notify members when more detailed information becomes available. VA to do the same.

Minutes of previous meeting.
The minutes were proposed as fair and accurate, by KS and seconded by Jacky Clift.

7. **Councillor's Report (CP)**
CP informed the meeting that the legendary beings of Gogmagog and Corineus have been field painted in front of the Citadel by the Services. This is a temporary installation which will fade and can be repainted.

- Madeira Rd – There will be a road closure between 28 June -2 July while the new Welcome to Plymouth signage is installed.
- Clocktower Garden – This has been planted up now, as a wildflower meadow with young trees. This is a place to view and enjoy.
- Plymouth Artists have been producing a variety of street art works in the area, which is likely to reduce the incidence of 'tagging'.

BS commented that there is an art work on the corner of the new Boulevard and the Tyre retailer at Millbay, that could be seen as disquieting. The image is of a woman with horns with flames behind, and a somewhat provocative look. KS concurred.
Action: CP to investigate

8. **Planning Report (MW)**
   Please find the report attached.

9. **Register Office – PT**

   PT advised that the funding that was provided has been spent wisely within the stipulated period.
   An executive summary will be available as soon as possible, and made publicly available.
   An approach has been made to the new leaders of PCC following the elections, and a meeting with Paul Barnard, Head of Planning, is scheduled.

10. **Community Pub**

    PT informed the meeting that the group are meeting regularly. There is a core team to manage the purchase of the pub, which included Frank Kelly. Communications have begun with the owner, Stonegate. Business plans are being worked on, and an application for the pub to be an Asset of Community Value has been validated by the legal team at PCC. The lease is due for renewal in 2022. The response to a recent survey of opinion on this project was very positive. (PT update post meeting – Stonegate has advised that they do not wish to sell the pub currently.)

11. **Any Other Business**
    - PT- The Hoe Gardening Group will meet tomorrow at 4pm at Valenti's, with PCC employees, to discuss the way forward, and to agree an initial date to start work. Hand tools and hi-vis jackets will be provided for use by the volunteers, and PCC gardeners will oversee activities to start with. A regular slot for helping maintain the Peace Garden, The Anchor garden and the Zion St patch will be agreed as a starting point. More may follow, depending on the level of interest by volunteers Everyone is welcome. (Update post meeting – first formal gardening group will be on Tuesday, 6th July at 10.30 at gardeners' compound). For further details contact PT

    - AL and PT are working on helping people in the community who need assistance, such as with shopping, a friendly phone call, etc and are working with PCC and others. It is hoped to make it into a Good Neighbour Scheme. Any who are interested in getting involved, there is training in Safeguarding next month. Please let AL or PT know. JC suggested that Time Bank may be able to help with this project.

- PT told the meeting that the Giants (Gogmagog and Corineus) will be on the grass until November. Chris Robinson has been championing this for years.
  It is hoped that there could be 'Giant' Ambassadors, as a part of promoting the Hoe and waterfront, with leaflets etc. The Waterfront Partnership would like to know if anyone is interested in being involved with this. Contact PT for further information.

12. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 July at 19:00 – via Zoom or at Bowling Club, depending on Covid restrictions in place at the time.