

**Full Members Meeting Tuesday 3rd July 2018, 7.30pm Chums**

**UPDATED MINUTES**

Present: Di Swain (Chair), Ellie Breed (Ctte - Planning Issues), Catrin Jones (Ctte - Events), Fiona McVey (Ctte - Publicity), Steve Lewis (Ctte - Secretary), Lynn Robinson (Deputy Registrar Academic Services UoB), Cllr Anthony Negus, Joni Lloyd (UoB), Geoff Swain, Ceri Lewis, Derek Collier, Russell Boyes, Christine Spice, Mark Farrell, Lisa Bell, Dolly Kennedy, Rob Harris, James Case, Cara Case, Maria Clare, Mandy Watson, Nick Morgan, Inez Albert, Ann Kay, Gwen Tanner, Sarah Sanders, Andrew Waller

Apologies: Carew Reynell (Ctte - Accounts), Rick Parsons (Ctte - IT)

**1. Session with Lynn Robinson UoB - student big parties**

Di welcomed attendees to the meeting especially as it clashed directly with the England World Cup football game. She introduced Lynn Robinson, Deputy Registrar at University of Bristol.

Di outlined that the main focus of the meetings was for residents to share their concerns and questions with Lynn particularly around noise and disruption from student parties with an emphasis on looking for solutions. CNA had carried out a door-to-door survey which showed in local Chandos area was 800 student residents making up 46% of the population and was the most densely populated part of Bristol. Vast majority of students behaved well but a small but significant minority were being a nuisance.

CNA was aware of 13 large and intrusive gatherings in the last year. They had over 100 guests in a household for 5-12 people. These parties were professional with bouncers and professional sound systems often starting after 10pm and finishing at 4-5am in the morning (or later). The area has families with children and people needing to go to work. Party goers often spill into the street and the next day the streets show damage, debris and litter such as broken glass, sick and the smell of urine.

CNA reports each occasion to Joni Lloyd at UoB who gives great support. Sanctions exist for students but these do not seem to be big enough. CNA believes that UoB could take more ownership of the problem. Students & landlords pay no council tax. With UoB planning to increase student numbers by 25%, some of the money generated from students should be put back in to sorting out the student noise and behaviour situation. Other cities do things. Fiona has researched this on the internet.

Fiona laid out that Newcastle has run Operation Oak where police, council and University work together to provide extra patrols with on the spot fines for unacceptable behaviour. Manchester University have funded additional police patrols and apply noise abatement tactics with a 24hr helpline for residents. Loughborough run a 24hr helpline and have University trained student wardens which patrol. Oxford Brookes have paid for extra policing.

Fiona explained that the police will only respond in Bristol if public order offence. Mostly in the street and not deal with noise inside a property. Council are responsible for noise issues but have no night time service and rely on residents making noise logs. It is left for residents to respond, often

facing difficult situations in the middle of the night with larger numbers of drunk students who can be abusive. Fear is that at some point residents or a student will be seriously injured or hurt.

Lynn responded that she was responsible for students at UoB in all matters except academic. Her brief includes the link with the community. It was felt that student behaviour in the community was improving but clearly in the last year matters were getting worse. She stated that expansion in student numbers would predominately be on the new Temple Quarter Campus in the city centre and would not increase HMOs. The council would not permit HMOs to increase. The increase would mostly be post grad and international students who generally behaved better. Therefore expansion was not thought to have an impact on the Chandos area. Income from undergraduates was limited and the university made little money on them relative to post grads and international students.

Lynn committed to look at what other universities did with regard to student behaviour in the community and would follow up on the examples mentioned by Fiona. In general terms the legal advice was that UoB could not intervene whilst students in their own home. She was aware of Exeter doing something but was aware of the other examples given. University already paid for one police officer who had just started and Lynn had recently met. This was restricted to daylight hours.

Focus was on prevention with Joni. Fines were set to be increased but needed to be reasonable and proportionate. Recording incidents against students' academic record/references was being looked into. Joni had been working with halls of residence as issues in community were mostly from 2nd years. Running of halls was devolved and so Joni needed permission to go into a hall. That was changing and management of halls was being centralised which would improve access into the halls to educate first years moving out.

Lynn stated that UoB always accepted its responsibilities but was governed by what it could legal reasonably do. It had a responsibility for its staff as well. For example if university security operated off campus, they had no legal status and would be acting as private individuals.

Di opened the session to questions from the residents. Resident stated that she thought UoB rules were a limit of 5 guests per student in a household. Joni confirmed that details were on UoB website and it was 3 per occupant with 10pm end of party time. These were guidelines not rules.

Resident stated he was pleased to hear that the University confirms it was a good neighbour and that they had already paid for one police officer although current daylight hours was a bit of a waste of time when the problem was at night. Could University Security not do patrols at night around affected areas like Chandos.

Lynn restated that University Security had no legal powers to enforce stopping parties.

Resident asked whether Security could simply knock on door and confirm they had made a formal log of the party/disturbance. This would inform the University disciplinary procedure but just a uniformed UoB employee in a stab vest knocking would have more effect as a deterrent than a resident knocking.

Lynn stated she would look into this and what other university did.

Resident asked if UoB aware of student parties charging for attendance.

Lynn responded she was not but this would need to involve the police and council.

Resident replied that party has 150 people on door list with bouncer and was sponsored by Jack Wills. Had been reported to council but they were not interested.

Di stated that CNA would like police and council involved but they were limited by resources.

Cllr Negus stated that he was not part of the Council Executive but was aware that there was only 7 enforcement staff who did a good job in the circumstances. They had developed an approach to record noise issues in a provable way but there was little resources. He asked Joni that if she was aware of commercial party would she pass it onto the police.

Joni replied she had in the past but that no formal charges were made by the police.

Cllr Negus asked Joni to let him know the name of the pc and he would follow up on it.

Joni replied she would but not in this open forum.

Lynn asked Cllr Negus if the council looked at revoking landlords certificates.

Cllr Negus replied that landlords just try to duck it. They charge the maximum for damage from the occupants' deposits. Move on to next year and start again with the next occupants.

Resident commented that landlords don't evict students mid-year as they cannot find others to replace them until year end. A cumulative effect of escalating bad behaviour in the UoB procedure did not work as the students simply moved on at the end of the year. Council approach of ticking boxes on noise recording was ineffective. Occupiers have a responsibility and he was exploring with the council how this could be enforced.

Cllr Negus stated that the issue was determining the individuals involved. There was no collective responsibility in a household. It is necessary to identify which individual caused the issue to pursue them for responsibility.

Another resident stated that problems needed to be managed daily every week. University Security needed to drive around and observe the trouble. She understood they had no jurisdiction but residents were being put at risk as well dealing with these problems. Could there be a 24 hour residents helpline that University security responded to and logged the party location. She asked what level sanctions/fines were going to be raised to.

Joni replied that current fines were £100 per household member. This was flagged on digi boards around the university. There had been a door knock of 800-900 student households in October where leaflets on good behaviour and potential fines if not had been handed out. Stats showed that majority of issues were in the Chandos area and were second year students. New policeman had started and had met with him. With support of PCSO the police would be involved in this October's door knock in the Chandos area. Stats showed that only 3 problem households had gone on to have another reported party. Joni intended to involve victim support in drawing up awareness sessions and force problem students to attend.

A resident respond all sounds great but the fines need to be greater or disciplinary boards need to be run to record against student records as the deterrent is currently not enough.

Lynn responded that fines were being increased but had to be proportionate. Could not throw a student out of university for one party. It could ruin their future live.

Another resident replied parties were already ruining residents lives.

Lynn said she understood this. She would look into the question of security patrols.

Resident asked what more could be done on prevention. Could joint letter between UoB and CNA be sent to all residents, students and non-students.

Lynn replied that was a good idea. Di confirmed that CNA would support that.

Resident stated that the parties were having a big impact on residents and their lives. Her neighbour was selling up after having another occasion of smashed glass in her front garden after students coming home had tipped her recycling bin out. She had small children and it was too much of a risk.

Lyn replied that she understood and recognised that student behaviour had a big impact on residents. She lived locally in Kingsdown and had seen issues first hand.

Resident stated that it was always specific households causing the problems. Could nothing be done about these problematic households. Another resident added there were certain designated party houses with blacked out windows and sound insulation being used every year even when occupants moved on. Another resident stated that she was not surprised party houses did not appear again in the same year. They simply moved to the next house. She had over-heard students knowing the rules and agreeing their turn to take their hit of the fine.

Lynn replied that the police and council had the statutory powers that the Uni did not.

A resident commented that our elected MP and council seemed invisible on these issues.

Cllr Negus stated that he had raised and got passed a motion in Council on Bristol having a student plan but that the mayor had done nothing about it.

Di stated that we needed to concentrate on what could be done by us here tonight. UoB needed to take more responsibility for its student behaviour in our communities. It needed to spend more money on security.

Lynn responded that she had agreed to take away looking at what other universities do but could not commit to anything at this point.

A resident stated that previous community liaison officer Gordon Schofield had stated that bad behaviour would go on students records but Lynn had said this was still being explored.

Lynn replied that it did go on students records if the matter reached the pro-Vice Chancellor level.

Resident stated UoB was a business. Students were its product. It's profit. As with any business, UoB had a responsibility for its product. It was simply ducking the issue of responsibility.

Lynn replied that she had already stated UoB had a responsibility but was limited by the law by what it could do in student's private residences.

Resident commented that he had a note through his door about an end of year party. When he'd gone round to ask the students how many were turning up, they simply did not know the numbers. It was completely uncontrolled.

Another resident stated that he'd heard that students could not graduate if they owed money to the university such a library fines.

Lynn replied that this had been legally challenged and was not enforceable under contract law.

Resident asked if UoB had a responsibility for welfare of students at a party. This was about preventing a student getting injured or hopefully not killed.

Lynn replied that she was aware UoB had a duty of care around it's students well-being and understood the concern.

Resident asked if University security could gather evidence of mis-behaviour such as video capture.

Lynn stated there were certain data protection issues around video capture.

A resident stated it was a shame there was no student representation in the meeting.

Di commented that CNA did a lot to engage students through events, leaflet drops and street champions door knocking at the start of the year.

Cllr Negus stated that the last VC had been heavy on e-mails to students about parties and street behaviour. VC had attended public meetings to answer residents' questions. Current VC seemed disassociated from involvement in these issues. Cllr Negus's e-mails had either been bounced back or ignored. There was a need for the VC to make a public statement on these issues. He asked Lynn if she would take this request away.

Two late residents entered and expressed the impact big organised parties had directly had on them. Suicide rates were high in students. Student behaviour was unacceptable and really bad. Could student income be re-invested back into dealing with student behaviour. What monetary penalties existed for this behaviour and if so it was not sufficient as it was not working.

Di explained that these issues and questions had already been covered. Steve summarised what had been covered.

Lynn stated that she was sorry to hear of the behaviour of students and the impact it had had. She apologised on behalf of UoB. She would look at any individual circumstances such as this.

A resident commented that students blatantly broke the UoB procedures/guidelines. They knew the rules and how to break them. They were happy to pay the £100 fine. Whatever is done on prevention, there has to be stronger, meaningful sanctions to close down parties and prevent them happening again.

Another resident added that Police need to look at licensing. Council needs to look at legal status to have powers to shut down parties. Students should be made to sign covenant to aid legal processing including informing their parents of misbehaviour.

Joni stated that residents should be aware that if they are made aware of a party in advance, they can contact the council noise team and get a noise abatement order against the property. If breached this can lead to a £5,000 fine. Residents can contact Joni or go direct to [neighbourhood@enforcement](mailto:neighbourhood@enforcement). The experience is that this can be turned around quickly within a matter of hours.

Cllr Negus asked Lynn if she believed the current VC was pro-active/supportive enough on student behaviour in the community matters.

Lynn replied she did not believe there was any difference in the level of support she received but she would raise this feedback with the VC.

Di closed this part of the meeting. She thanked Lynn for attending and looked forward to her response back to CNA on the issues raised.

Lynn responded that she had committed to look at what other universities had done and would be exploring options for security and policing and address the other issues raised. She would wait to see the full minutes before fully responding to CNA. She thanked Joni for her support.

## 2. UoB Grants

Joni explained that UoB had significant pot of money from student fines to be put back into the community. There was a £500 grant available to CNA.

Di asked residents for ideas as well as sharing suggestions from the Committee. Meeting voted by show of hands. Agreed to look Gazebo for events and Xmas lights.

Big bins is Chandos Rd ruled out due to practicality with council/highway rules.

Mural on Atelier wall impractical due to safe access and landlord permissions.

Agreed to look at idea of 'big meal' with residents and students at start of year - would potentially be eligible for further UoB grant.

## 3. Street Festival Sunday 23rd September

Volunteers asked for stewarding, bric-a-brac stall and 'wack-a-frog' stall.

## 4. AOBs

Resident stated that he volunteered to help students. If UoB did not respond favourably to meeting tonight he would withdraw this support and ask others to do the same. Di responded that we need to give Lynn & UoB chance to respond to CNA.

CLlr Negus drew residents attention to 3 council consultations currently running on-line. 20mph review which could impact three streets around Chandos, rough sleeping and van dwelling.

Di closed the meeting with a big thanks to Mark for hosting the meeting at Chums and for his support to CNA through sharing 50% of the quiz night proceeds.

Stephen Lewis  
Secretary  
9th July 2018

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