

VANDALISM TASK FORCE

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2004

Present:- Councillor A Mandry (Vice-Chairman) (In the Chair)

**Councillor T M Cartwright
Councillor Mrs J M Eastman
Superintendent G Haycock
P Grimwood**

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from the Chairman, Councillor S D T Woodward.

2. MINUTES

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Vandalism Task Force held on 16 December 2003 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. MOBILE VANDALISM DISPLAYS

With reference to Minute 7 of the meeting held on 16 December 2003 regarding the Mobile Vandalism Displays it was noted that when the display was held at Crofton Community Centre, it had been located in an area where access was restricted and, therefore, did not attract much interest. It was also noted that the images on the display didn't relate to the Stubbington or Hill Head areas.

It was AGREED that if the display is circulated amongst Community Centres and Libraries again, images be obtained relating to all areas of the Borough and that the display be located where it can attract greater attention.

4. MOBILE CCTV

Reference was made to Minute 8 of the meeting held on 16 December 2003 concerning the above and members were advised of the current situation regarding the purchase of a mobile covert CCTV van. It was reported that an existing vehicle has been identified as suitable and allocated to the project.

Work to equip the vehicle had already begun. As an existing vehicle has been used for this purpose the budget spent has come in well below the original estimate of £30,000, at £3,500. It was further reported that this vehicle will be in operation by the beginning of April 2004 and that close liaison between the Police and Fareham Borough Council would be needed to establish the hotspots to be monitored.

5. ACTION PLAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2003

The Task Force considered the ongoing Action Plan together with the notes of the meeting of the Officer Support Group to the Vandalism Task Force held on 15 December 2003.

Having already considered mobile CCTV and Mobile Vandalism Display (minutes 3 & 4 above refer) members went through other items mentioned within the notes of the 15 December Officer Support Group meeting and then went through the remaining Action Plan items to receive progress reports and updates.

It was AGREED:-

- (a) that the Action Plan be noted;
- (b) that, arising from the Action Plan, officers report any new incidents of vandalism or success in cracking down on vandalism within the Borough directly to the Publicity Officer to facilitate stories for the local papers, press releases, articles in Fareham Today, etc; and
- (c) that a link between the Media Services Officer for Fareham Police and Fareham Borough Council's Publicity Officer be established to enable them to work closely and jointly regarding local vandalism news for publication.

6. CORPORATE VANDALISM SPREADSHEET

Arising from the Action Plan, the Task Force looked particularly at the spreadsheet produced from the Corporate Database for Recording Vandalism – year 2003/04.

Consideration was given to additional details required on the spreadsheet to provide further information and feedback on cases reported.

It was AGREED that further information be supplied by the Police regarding the detection of crime resulting from the incidents reported so that the position can be monitored and logged onto the spreadsheet, along with more detail on how the act was reported to the Council for example via Text, Phone, Police, correspondence etc.

It was further AGREED that the ward boundaries be looked at carefully when registering hotspots on the spreadsheet.

7. VANDALISM REPORT – COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Task Force gave consideration to a report by the Community Partnerships Manager regarding Fareham's Community Safety Partnership, which was provided for information purposes.

It was AGREED:-

- (a) that the information provided in the report be received and noted; and
- (b) that consideration be given to establishing a problem solving group for Stubbington and Hill Head.

8. PRIME TRAINING COURSE

The Task Force gave consideration to an information report by the Head of Community regarding officer training on PRIME (Problem Resolution in a Multi-agency Environment)

It was AGREED:-

- (a) that the report be received and noted; and
- (b) that a vandalism training awareness session for elected members be arranged in the future

9. FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REWARD SCHEME

Arising from the consideration of the Action Plan, the Task Force considered a report by the Head of Community to the officer support group regarding a Reward Scheme for Fareham Borough Council.

It was AGREED:-

- (a) that the report be received and noted, subject to consultation with the legal department regarding under 18 payments;
- (b) that the amendments to the proposed criteria as discussed and raised by the Police be made as follows:-
 1. Any information relating to persons responsible for vandalism is welcomed; however the Fareham Borough Council reward scheme only applies to vandalism to Fareham Borough Council land and property.
 2. Information must lead to the identification of the offender and the detection of the offence.

3. No payment will be made until a successful detection has taken place.
 4. The level of payment will be determined by the Head of Legal Services taking into account the seriousness of the crime, the value of the information in securing a detection and advice from the Police.
 5. A reward will only be paid to the first person offering information that leads to the arrest of the person/s responsible for a specific act of vandalism.
 6. Information relating to vandalism is welcomed from everyone, regardless of age but for those under the age of 18, rewards will be paid to the parents or guardians of the informant.
- (c) that outside organisations which offer reward schemes be consulted on their practices; and
- (d) that it be recommended to the Executive that the proposal for a Fareham Borough Council Reward Scheme be approved.

10. CCTV

The Director of Corporate and Community Strategy reported that on 14 January 2004 the Leisure and Community Review Panel considered a report on CCTV provision in the Borough of Fareham. The Panel subsequently recommended to the Executive that the Vandalism Task Force be requested to examine the effectiveness of the Council's CCTV system.

It was further reported that such a review would require the involvement of the Police, the company operating the CCTV control centre and Gosport Borough Council (Fareham's partner in the provision of a joint CCTV system).

It was therefore AGREED that, in the light of these comments, the review be co-ordinated by the Community Safety Partnership with the results to be made available at a future meeting of the Task Force.

11. COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES

It was NOTED that the Executive had agreed that a sum of £40,000 be allocated to the Community Safety budget in order to finance initiatives for the prevention and detection of crime, the initiatives to be agreed by the Vandalism Task Force.

(The meeting started at 4.40 pm and ended at 5.45pm)