



Local Community Meetings
Action Points

LCM Meeting, WMTC Offices, 10 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Colchester.

13.06.2017. Chairman - Cllr Robert Jenkins

	Date Raised	By Who	Area	Issue	Action / comment	Responsibility	Outcome
1	13.06.2017	Cllr Bob Jenkins	West Mersea	Cllr RJ. Informed the meeting that the police had not been able to attend, but Police Specials will be in West Mersea later on in the evening at 8.00 p.m. to meet with Peter Rudlin (NHW) Brief overview of reported crimes given for March; all are able to check these on www.police.uk	Two Specials met PR at 8.00 p.m. and they walked through the skate park and Rushmere Close. Also drove around the Island and spoke to a few residents about speeding on the East Mersea Road. They were both keen to help us and promised to keep an eye on the beach huts.		On-going
2	13.06.2017	Cllr. Pat Moore	West Mersea	PM outlined the reason for the meeting i.e. to try and find ways of improving security around the beach huts following the fire in April this year.	Actions listed below		
3	13.06.2017	Steve Collis CBC	West Mersea	SC commented on the fact that the Police could not establish how the fire started.	No action		
4	13.06.2017	Barry Turner	West Mersea	BT said that even though the Police could determine how the fire started they had not yet closed the case.	No action		
5	13.06.2017	Alison Clark (sent in an email)	West Mersea	She complained of people urinating in public around the SSSI area in Coast Road and asked if anything could be done about it.	Effectively little can be done but Chairman has asked AC to report via 101 or on-line any further instances. Tim Pickard commented that this is a difficult one to prosecute but that cases should be reported to see if a pattern emerges		



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6	13.06.2017	Sue Jenner BHW	West Mersea	Gave the following figures for crime in West Mersea involving the beach huts - 34 cases of vandalism over the past year, 10 cases of fires and 4 cases of vandalism in one day.	No action		
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7	13.06.2017	Angie Pearson – Crime Prevention Officer – Col Police	West Mersea	AP sent in a list of security measures that beach owners could put into practice to safe- guard their beach huts. Most agreed that these were measures already known to them but was useful to keep in mind.	Chairman to thank AP for the information	RJ	Done
8	13.06.2017	Cllr Bob Jenkins	West Mersea	Cllr RJ observed that Seaview Holiday Park had CCTV and alarms in each hut and that these were monitored 24/7 by on-site security. All huts have power to them.	No action		
9	13.06.2017	Peter Rudlin NHW	West Mersea	PR raised the issue of drug taking in the shelter on the Esplanade. Both land based and marine police are aware of the problem. NHW are monitoring the situation.	PR to remain in touch with Specials	PR	On-going
10	13.06.2017	Cllr. Pat Moore	West Mersea	PM suggested that a night vision camera might be acquired. There was a general discussion on this and it was decided that it would be expensive and possibly ineffective.	No action		
11	13.06.2017	Peter Rudlin	West Mersea	PM suggested that a Vehicle Recognition Camera at the Strood to monitor traffic around the times of serious incidents might be useful.	Not carried forward as an action as case might be difficult to establish especially if the type of incident we are discussing was down to locals or people on the Island.		

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12	13.06.2017	Steve Collis	West Mersea	SC did not like the idea of CCTV because cameras are being targeted. He suggested that the beach huts could be fitted with alarms instead. This resulted in a wide discussion as to who would be willing to go out at night if an alarm did go off and would the police be willing or even able to get to the beach huts when the alarms went off at night.	Ian Clarke to investigate suitable alarm systems that could be powered by solar and be linked to users mobile phone.	Ian Clarke	
13	13.06.2017	Ian Clarke Resident	West Mersea	Insurance	Mixed response to whether or not people wanted insurance. If people did not have property or contents insurance, they should at least have third party liability in case an assault on their beach huts led to damage to neighbouring property. Or if anything in their beach hut caught fire, say, and caused damage to other huts.		
14	13.06.2017	Steve Collis	West Mersea	SC explained that with all the cut-backs in the Council, it was highly unlikely that the council would pay for the installation of CCTV. He suggested that he would have a word with the Marine Police to see if they would be able to patrol the beach.	Steve Collis to get in touch with the Marine Police.	Steve Collis	Shane (Police marine special) has already completed a number of patrols in the evening around the beach huts.
15	13.06.2017	Cllr. Pat Moore	West Mersea	PM Said that it should be investigated nationally how other beaches tackled their problems and report back to the meeting.	SC to investigate – see below	SC	
16	13.06.2017	Cllr Bob Jenkins	West Mersea	Cllr RJ suggested that the issue of Private Security Companies should be investigated.	RJ to contact the private security company that operates in Tiptree and pass information to HS and SC	RJ	



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17	13.06.2017	Ian Clarke	West Mersea	IC raised various issues the first being CCTV	<p>Steve Collis gave the Council's experiences of CCTV and stressed that the Council had no budget. There were mixed responses to this: would it be suitable or not and how would it be accessed. The group wanted to know what Tendring and Brightlingsea do, SC has spoken with them. The outcome is below.</p> <p>Brightlingsea Town Council Does have CCTV but it does not cover all the beach huts. It's on key locations No prosecutions have come from identifying people by their faces for the quality is not good. Prosecutions have come from following the people by cameras to where clothing and other features have identified them, and the authorities have recognised the people from this. The Police have spoken to them and they have admitted to the activity. They still have damage to beach huts but cannot identify the people involved.</p> <p>Tendring District Council They have no cameras monitoring their beach huts. At Holland on Sea and Clacton, they do have cameras along the pathways on top of the sea wall.</p>	Steve Collis	
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					<p>The cameras have never been used in relation to prosecutions to damage to beach huts.</p> <p>They have considered CCTV but think it would not stop the problem of anti-social behaviour, and if people knew there were cameras there, they would look to cover their heads.</p>		
18	13.06.2017	Ian Clarke	West Mersea	Public Space Protection Orders	<p>This was discussed. The main body thought it was a step too far to bring in. Steve Collis also said that it was not fit for purpose and with general public consultation it would be hard to get approval for it. CBC did not have the resources to undertake the patrols to enforce the act. The maximum fine is £100, if what people are doing is a criminal activity this would carry a stiffer penalty.</p>		
19	13.06.2017	Ian Clarke	West Mersea	<p>Transfer Fees of Beach Huts <i>Worthing District Council</i></p>	<p>A licensee wishing to sell a hut must write to the Parks and Foreshore Group, Administration Section, giving the name and address of the potential buyer, so that a new licence can be issued to the buyer. A charge will be made to the seller of the beach hut at 3 x the current annual licence fee or 10% of the sale price (whichever is the greater value). The charge will be inclusive of VAT at 20%.</p> <p>Prices are subject to an annual increase in April, prices correct as at 01-04-2017.</p>		

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					<p>The cost for a private beach hut in Worthing is £560. Prices for the beach huts vary according to the size, condition and location. As a guide beach huts can often cost in excess of £5,000.</p> <p>Currently on the internet there are at least six beach huts for sale on the Victoria Esplanade ranging from £20k to £27K, and four are “sold subject to contract”.</p> <p>CBC on average have 27 beach hut transfers a year according to FOI that Ian Clarke obtained from CBC. Ian Clarke worked out that 27 x £27,500 x 10 = £74,250 of income. They thought the income could be used for CCTV. Steve Collis indicated that if we were to proceed with this, there would no guarantee that the money would be ring-fenced for the benefit of West Mersea.</p> <p>IC also suggested increasing the Licence Fee and the extra being taken for CCTV. People at the meeting did not necessarily think this was a good idea, particularly given that any benefit would not be ring-fenced for the benefit of Mersea.</p>		
20	13.06.2017	Ian Clarke	West Mersea	Beach Hut Agreement	<p>Ian Clarke asked for:- <i>Clause 5 to include:</i> <i>The hut is to always be maintained in good structural and general condition to the satisfaction of the Council with</i></p>		



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					<p><i>doors and shutters secure: doors having at least two locks. The Council will undertake regular inspections to ensure compliance and provide 28 days' notice to comply.</i></p> <p>Some beach hut owners did agree with this as some have put bars across the door with padlocks at both ends, but unfortunately these bars have been taken off and used as levers to open doors.</p> <p>Clause 2 to include –</p> <p><i>The owner to indemnify the Council against all claims made against it for any damage, loss or similar to the Council itself or third parties.</i></p> <p>Also IC mentioned changes to Clause 3 and 11. Details were provided.</p> <p>SC will take advice on these suggested changes.</p>		
21	13 06 17	Ian Clarke	West Mersea	It was suggested that the NHW should be strengthened in the Esplanade area. If necessary involving visits to residents by Zone Wardens, PR and Crime prevention Officers.	PR to consider.		
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