



**North West Inner Area Committee  
Freshers Group  
18<sup>th</sup> September 2007  
4.00pm – Cardigan Centre**

**Present:**

Zahid Butt (Acting Chair), North West Area Management  
Richard Brown, North West Area Management  
Insp Richard Coldwell, West Yorkshire Police  
David Gomersall, Enforcement  
Amada Jackson, University of Leeds  
Stewart Lewis, Environmental Health  
Katie MacGregor, Leeds University Union  
Richard Tyler, HMO Lobby

**Apologies:**

Cllr James Monaghan (Chair)  
Cllr Sue Bentley  
Cllr Judith Chapman  
Sara Gill, Leeds University Union  
Aidan Grills, Leeds University Union  
Bill Howe, Leeds Metropolitan Students Union  
Paul Lyons, Streetscene Services  
Jacquie McNee, Leeds Metropolitan Students Union  
Andy Milnes, Streetscene Services  
Cllr Elizabeth Minkin

**Action****1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1 Zahid Butt welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he was chairing the meeting due to Cllr Monaghan being unavailable.

**2.0 Update on activities linked with freshers' week**

- 2.1 A document was circulated to the meeting concerning the activities that were being undertaken to enhance streetscene and community safety throughout the traditional freshers' week period, which in 2007 runs for a fortnight from 17<sup>th</sup> September.
- 2.2 It was queried if extra funding had been achieved for some potential extra streetscene services mentioned within the document. It was reported that additional funding was not available for these services.
- 2.3 It was queried if it might be possible to seek a financial contribution from the universities for the high levels of services provided within the student areas. It was agreed that any approach to the universities
- Richard Brown  
and Andy

- should be supported by statistics demonstrating that higher levels of services are provided to the student areas as compared to the rest of the city. **It was agreed that a report on the provision of streetscene services in the traditional student areas as compared other comparative areas of Leeds be commissioned** (key message). Milnes
- 2.4 Enforcement reported that at least 6 officers had been on duty over the first weekend of Freshers' Week and that particular attention was paid to enforcing the councils restrictive flyering policy. This had resulted in approximately 43 fines being issued.
- 2.5 A code of conduct for organisations licensed to undertake flyering was circulated. It was noted that flyering to moving vehicles had been a problem in the Headingley area and that the code only referred to the flyering of stationary vehicles.
- 2.6 In light of the above comment and associated discussion it was requested that the code be included to refer to: David Gomersall
- Flyering to moving vehicles
  - Harassment and aggressive flyering
  - Obstructing pavements
- 2.7 Once amendments have been made it was requested that the code be circulated to community groups. David Gomersall
- 2.8 Environmental Health reported that they had been responding to complaints made regarding noise nuisance using the usual out of hours process.
- 2.9 It was queried if the use of loudhailers by promoters was permissible. It was reported that this practice was not allowed under existing legislation.
- 2.10 **It was requested that a proactive approach to dealing with noise nuisance relating to promotional activities be considered during known problem periods such as freshers' week in future** (key message). Stewart Lewis
- 2.11 The police will also approach people using loudhailers for promotional purposes to advise them that this activity is not permitted. Insp Coldwell
- 2.12 There was some debate on the 'Otley run', particularly as Leeds Metropolitan University Union had chosen to incorporate a supervised bar crawl into its freshers' week activities. This approach was in contrast to that of Leeds University Union's approach, which was to actively discourage all such events.
- 2.13 Reference was made to a code of conduct that was being produced for participants in the Otley run by the Headingley pubwatch group. It was requested that this information be shared with the universities and the community when available. Richard Brown
- 2.14 Insp. Coldwell informed the meeting that his officers had generally observed less students on the streets during freshers' week this year and attributed this to an increase in on-campus events.

- 2.15 With regards to induction talks being held next year, it was suggested that members of the community might be involved with event, for example by giving talks in halls. Richard Tyler
- 2.16 It was suggested that induction materials for new students could include information on commercial exploitation that they might face.
- 2.17 The police have undertaken a wide range of student liaison talk, going to a wider audience than previously indicated. In terms of operation on the street they have been working on 'operation walk safe', enforcing the Headingley DPPO and using the mobile CCTV facility in known problem areas.
- 2.18 **With regards to congestion caused by promotional vehicles parking on the roadside in Headingley, it was suggested that in future this could be countered through the use of a temporary traffic order or by the introduction of permanent double yellow lines on the Otley Road (key message).**

It was suggested that final feedback on activities and issues in freshers' week be gathered once events had drawn to a close on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **3.0 Any Other Business**

- 3.1 The website [www.knowledge-leeds.co.uk](http://www.knowledge-leeds.co.uk) will be launched on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The website will focus on community safety issues relevant to students.
- 3.2 **There was discussion on the perceived proliferation of groups discussing issues relevant to students and shared housing over recent months. It was considered that a single group looking at community safety and streetscene issues year-round might co-ordinate efforts better (key message).**
- 3.3 A query was raised about the operation of the University's 'neighbourhood helpline' this academic year. It was reported that it is currently too early to provide meaningful feedback, as the call volumes usually increase further into the first term, when tolerance levels have been breached.
- 3.4 It was queried if anything could be done by the universities to stagger the arrival of students in future years, thus reducing congestion on local roads.