

Briefing Note

The Agenda item –

To discuss and agree that premises convene an all member working party to discuss issues and associated factors relating to the current High Street problems, to possibly include inviting PCSO's, Wardens, County Councillor and some resident volunteers, in order to come up with possible solutions, and whose recommendations could be brought back to SPC Full Council.

BACKGROUND

There has been an escalation in antisocial behaviour at the High Street Bus Shelter and indeed on the High Street as a whole over the last year or so. These issues have apparently been often reported to the police, but with little effective action taken it seems, and Steyning residents have come to the Parish Council for help.

The Council and Clerks office have discussed the matter several times with the Wardens and the local PCSO's and the County Councillor has been directly involved. The same response has always been that to make the issue more relevant to the police, residents need to ensure they are reporting all instances, and this is the message that has been consistently given to the residents. But we hear from Wardens and PCSO's that this is not necessarily the case. And the residents say that they have given up reporting it, because there has been no action.

The Parish Council has also looked at possible solutions at Working parties, Premises Committee and other committee meetings over the last many months but without agreeing a solution which it believes will be palatable to all. Notably the installation of Shutters has not been agreed.

If the goal is to move the problem somewhere else then there remain other possible deterrents such as High luminosity LED lighting, CCTV installation (So the Council can first protect its asset, and second have evidence so that it can also report issues to the police if they occur) and perhaps an anti-loitering alarm also ought to be considered *.

There are many aspects to dealing effectively with this issue and it is considered that rather than only giving it a short amount of time to discuss at a committee meeting, with likely no long term solution agreed (in the absence of supporting evidence and quotes), we ought to allow residents to speak with PCSO's, Wardens and Councillors in a working party forum to discuss fully possible solutions, which can then be heard as recommendations by committee and with appropriate quotes being discussed, then decisions can be made.

It is hoped therefore that Committee agrees to set up a working party that residents can attend (by invitation). Committee might also come up with a remit for that working party. For example, that it must come up with at least one long term device or installation which acts as a deterrent to combat unreasonable use of the Bus Shelter

* - *An anti-loitering alarm emits an ultra, high-pitched noise that can only be heard by those under the age of 25 if set at 17 KHz. The frequency level at which the sound is transmitted can only be heard by youngsters under the age of 25 because as we get older, adults suffer progressive hearing loss and higher frequencies are the first to go.*