

EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW
BME FOCUS GROUP
26TH JULY 2004

Present:

Male	Iranian
Male	Portuguese
Female	Chinese
2 Males	Chinese
Male	Bangladeshi
Female	Bangladeshi

VISIONING

What do you want Eastbourne to look like in 2020? Imagine your ideal 2020, what one word or phrase would represent this?

Environment

Use Renewable resources
Recycle waste materials effectively
Every two other days per week collect rubbish
They need bridge for cars Hampden Park, very traffic
The same, security
Cleaner streets, more rubbish bins in the streets. New street signs, not broken ones
Cleaner streets. Not too many youngsters playing in the streets at night. Old are scared at night
More roads, more parking. Take care of street signs

Housing

Build care homes for the elderly
Affordable housing/supported housing available for needy
Make more housing and flat for poor people
Possibility for choose the place
Newer buildings, restoration of old buildings
More public car parks
Seagulls destroy a lot of houses

Regeneration & Economy

Sport club for young people
Greater investment in town centre areas esp. focus on tourism buildings
We looking for more job for foreign workers
Possibility to go up in the jobs and security
Needs to have jobs for Eastbourne
Improve economy in Eastbourne
Improve economy & jobs in Eastbourne

Learning & Skills

More part time courses for different job
Access to greater/more basic level language, ICT & careers
Some courses are not in this area. More for Eastbourne
Time for to learn
Better education
More schools in Eastbourne
More government support to sponsor a Chinese school in Eastbourne

Crime & Disorder

More night duty

Close communication & liaison between police force & victims

We want security for my family & school

More security about alcohol and drugs (people drunk)

More policemen seen in the streets

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Health & Social Care

Easy access to doctors

Not to wait too long

Reduce waiting times for hospital communications

Is all right for health & social, we are happy with this

Quickly

More benefits & activities for Chinese elderly. A Chinese doctor based in Eastbourne

More benefits & activities for Chinese elderly. A Chinese doctor based in Eastbourne

More benefits & activities for Chinese elderly. A Chinese GP/nurse based in Eastbourne

Inclusive Community

Fair for different country

Greater multi-cultural events & consultation include local schools, business and community groups – carnival

All people for country very good, not bad

More possibility to do more activities (now expensive)

A Chinese community centre for Chinese

More informed BME community about events eg circus, activities so that they can participate

Build a Chinese elderly centre

PRIORITIES

(Note: F Int. denotes female interpreter for three Chinese participants)

What are the most important things that need to change to achieve your ideal 2020?

ENVIRONMENT

- M I like how it is now – more security in the street
- F Hopefully it will be safer in the streets
- M People very drunk, fighting
- M Traffic queues – half an hour wait to drive kids to school. Security for my children. Much rubbish in Eastbourne. Very bad rubbish in Seaside. Some areas good & some areas very bad. Seaside 54 and 53 very bad rubbish
- M Recycling – need to improve. Now wheelie bins & some recycling. Would like to see recycling of glass, bottles and cans as part of a regular centrally organised collection. Town centre – lot of rubbish dumped overnight in black sacks. Need to enforce no fly tipping, more prosecution. Bags need to be taken away as part of the morning clear up. In Susans Road stuff dumped overnight can stay there for weeks
- F Change the bin bags – mostly plastic. Get better rubbish bags, can be made of cotton. In Bangladesh plastic bin bags are banned. People need to grow big trees in their gardens – good for the environment
- F Int. More rubbish bins in public places – streets are quite dirty. Street signs – a lot have been damaged – new visitors to the town get lost

HOUSING

- M Everyone can choose where to live. Now no money need to go to Pevensey Road or Seaside where there are dangerous people. Affordable public housing in all areas not just Hampden Park or Seaside
- M Also helps crime and regeneration if social housing spread out – people won't let areas get run down
- M Build more social housing. Some people wait 6-7 years. Build more small flats, more smaller apartments
- F More building of houses for old people – more care homes
- M Shared ownership schemes, not just for those on a low income. With the cost of housing in Eastbourne its hard to attract professionals into Eastbourne. Apply to social housing then housing becomes more affordable. More shared ownership. Will need provision for older people – affordable sheltered housing
- F Int. More new buildings. More restoration of older buildings. More public car parks. Seagulls destroy houses on seafront – maintenance of housing

REGENERATION & ECONOMY

- M Workers can be promoted. In factory no difference between good and bad workers. I can lose my job. I have a house and activities, if I lose job I lose everything. Need more security. Always I am afraid to lose my job
- M Need more jobs here. Expensive to travel – no return tickets. Expensive to travel to London. Very bad for jobs in Eastbourne. Other places have return tickets. Any jobs, expensive to work outside Eastbourne. All agencies are full. Many people in queue for jobs
- M A lot of people have qualifications from their own country – not recognised or understood in UK. Lot of skilled workers in Eastbourne who haven't got British skills certificates. The work on Seaside Road is good. A good

example of how investment can transform an area. More people go along there now. More attractive, more positive view of Eastbourne. Money has to come from somewhere. Need more investment in pockets around town centre – other side of the pier. Encourage traders to contribute. Small investment on a bit by bit basis. More tourism.

F People going to Sainsburys & Tesco. Town centre closes at 5.30pm. Need more small shops open until 7pm. More jobs for students. Make sports club in the area – stop people going to the pub

F Int More jobs for Eastbourne

LEARNING & SKILLS

M Time to learn. People who work cannot go to learn. More at weekends & evenings when people have finished work. Plumber, carpenter, construction, electrician – there are jobs for these

Louisa More vocational courses at better times to allow people to get better jobs

M I can't go now

M Some courses are here at college. My job is jewellery. I need a course here – I have to go to London – difficult. September I go to London – it is better many courses at college for all people so don't have to go to London or Lewes

M Agree with two previous. More access, more publicity. Basic English and basic ICT at Sussex Downs – more advertising and awareness. Gap sessions on job hunting CVs, interview techniques, completing an application form. Have workshop evenings and weekends. A variation of job clubs for those with English as a second language

F People go to college, can't understand – put an interpreter into classes. Some courses are too hard. Some are during the day full time women with children can't go. Have courses at different times. Friend wants to be a dental nurse, can't do in Eastbourne had to go to Brighton or London

Louisa Diversity, affordable

F Int More schools in Eastbourne for children. Chinese school self funded. Hopefully sponsored by Government in the future – helping mixed race to speak Chinese

CRIME AND DISORDER

M More security around people drunk & on drugs. At night when clubs finish people drunk & disturb people. I am from Spain – people drink and dance but not disturbance in street. Not too much disturbance. I need to be careful of these people in the night. They are very aggressive. Maybe when people go out they have very little time so they drink quickly. More time, more drink. Maybe its culture, longer hours perhaps. In Spain people drink and dance. People drink slow

M Two months ago good in Eastbourne. More foreigners now – drink and drugs. Very bad for children. More security in schools for children. Driving – some people driving very bad. Government should check licences. Many people bad driving and drunk – I see many times

Louisa Personalities in town are different, security for children in schools, bad driving

M When crimes are reported – more communication & liaison with people making the complaint. There are often a few days lapse between complaint and feedback due to Police being on shift. Will improve perception and fear of crime. More communication would help – but Police force is undermanned

- F Friday/Saturday there are more Police in the road – not during the week. Police more shift duty. After midnight drunks in the road. Very loud when they come out of pubs/clubs – difficult for old people to sleep
- F Int More Police in streets – all the time
- Louisa More police all the time, anti social behaviour, alcohol

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- M Quickly. Get access quickly. I have never needed hospital. Other people wait a long time to go to dentist. More people working in hospital, more medical staff, more choice
- M England system very good medicine and ambulance. Everything OK. Nothing needs to change – this system good. Five years we are here – no problem
- M Care very good – question of timing. Prioritising waiting list – similar to points system in housing. Look at waiting lists and how organised. Care here is very good – simply waiting unless have more doctors, nurses and open at weekends. Need to find ways to do that
- F People working pay for medicine – medicine is expensive for those not earning too much. Interpreters in surgery with doctors and in hospitals
- F Int One Chinese doctor or nurse instead of an interpreter. Pearl nearly died due to lack of instructions in her own language. No connections between hospital and GP. More benefits and activities for Chinese people getting older. Not involved in activities in town – social events

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- M More possibility to do activities, more information – people thinking only at weekends. Travel is expensive – any activities expensive. I can't get to know England – train is expensive. There are activities in Eastbourne – but I can't read in any place, expensive too. Would bring people together
- Louisa Better communication, affordable
- M Some people come to England for a job. Illegal people here – crime. Government must check illegal people every month. Government check drunk people and illegal people. People together is good – it already is good. Some illegal people – government check is better. 4-5 years illegal - hide
- M More multi cultural events. Dragon Boat festival at Sovereign Harbour – makes you realise some communities been here a long time. More events like that would be wonderful – public/private sponsored. Parade in Uckfield – local businesses, school & college – business sponsorship. Show went up and down the street. Eastbourne used to have carnival. Something as simple as that – see diversity in community. Make people see we are already an inclusive community
- F Children learn from adults – teachers should teach the different cultures in the classroom. Organise an event so that people can learn about culture.
- F Int More informed about events and what's going on. Nice to have a community centre for elderly BME people. A Chinese community centre. Something to bring everybody together