

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2018
ST THOMAS APOSTLE CHURCH, BRAMFORD LANE,
IPSWICH IP1 5EP
7.00 PM**

Present: Castle Hill Ward Councillors: I Fisher, D Goldsmith and R Vickery
Whitehouse Ward Councillors: G Chisholm and M Goonan
Whitton Ward Councillors: S Meudec, H Whittall and E Xhaferaj

There were 27 members of the public in attendance.

47. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wright. Suffolk County Councillors Bole and Lockington were also unable to attend the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Chisholm was elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

48. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 2017

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017, be signed as a true record.

49. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the Order of Business be as printed on the agenda.

50. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

51. Policing Priorities

- 51.1 Inspector Horton, Local Policing Inspector for North West Ipswich, provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues in the North West.
- 51.2 In regards to the County Lines drugs initiative there had been a change to the strategic approach. Workshops were taking place for the agencies involved in relation to enforcement, vulnerability and education. A dedicated Team had been set up in Westgate ward to deal with street gang issues.
- 51.3 The main crime issues in the North West area had been motor vehicle crime, burglaries and safeguarding issues and 92% of response times had been met. Targeted patrols had been increased in relation to a series of burglaries and thefts of power tools from vans and of motor vehicles. During the last month 6 suspects had been arrested in connection with these criminal acts, stolen vehicles have been recovered and since 2 suspects had been remanded in custody the thefts had reduced, so residents could be assured that positive Police action has been taking place.
- 51.4 There had been reports of drug and anti-social behaviour at an address at Shenstone Avenue and following a partial closure notice which had been put in place, a positive outcome had been achieved.
- 51.5 Councillor Vickery made the Inspector aware that, although unreported, several attempted break-ins had occurred at the shopping area at the Dales and the Inspector encouraged residents and Councillors to report every incident.

52. Urban Buzz Presentation

- 52.1 David Dowding gave an update on the Urban Buzz Ipswich project funded by BIFFA and funds from IBC's Greenways Project. He had been tasked to create 100 new wildlife hotspots around Ipswich and the surrounding areas that would cover 25 hectares in all. Parks and open spaces round Ipswich provided ample opportunity to create amazing pollinator rich habitats creating corridors for bees, wasps, hoverflies, flies and butterflies such as wildflower meadows and ponds.
- 52.2 A BugsLife launch had been held at Bourne Park with ActivLives where the ground had been scraped off in preparation and seeded with both annual and perennial flowers which would promote a good mix of wildlife. The project worked in partnership with the ActivLives greenhouse facility at Chantry Park and at Maidenhall allotments with schools, brownie and scout packs to provide education about butterflies and birds and with live creatures. If anyone was willing to volunteer, David could be contacted at david.dowding@buglife.org.uk
- 52.3 The Chair asked whether the project used existing or new sites and Mr Dowding said that to date, new areas had been used but there was meadow land which could benefit should the landowner sign a management agreement to ensure that the area would be cut once a year. In response to a question about whether bee hives would be installed Mr Dowding said that no honey bee

hives would be built but structures were built into banks to allow solitary bees to nest as they aided nature.

53. Upper Orwell Crossings Update

- 53.1 Katherine Potts, the Consultation Officer for the Upper Orwell Crossings project said that the groundwork investigation works had now commenced by Fugro GeoServices Ltd under the supervision of WSP. The two locations of the ground investigations were detailed and a site compound had been set up. Two types of drilling, cable percussion and rotary drilling, to obtain boreholes would take place and an acoustic sound barrier had been attached to fencing panels around these areas. Also cone penetration testing and excavated trial pits would enable larger soil samples to be taken.
- 53.2 Work should be completed by the beginning of April 2018 and letters had been sent to residents in the area to make them aware of the work being undertaken and the likely noise affects.
- 53.3 Following the completion of the ground investigations a Development Consent Order (DCO) for consultation would be submitted in autumn 2018, followed by the DCO submission in spring of 2019. Following a decision being made by the Secretary of State, construction work would then start in 2020 and be completed in 2023. More information could be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/upperorwellcrossings
- 53.4 It was confirmed that Foster and Partners had been selected as the architectural team and a resident asked whether the bridges would be closed should high winds occur. Ms Potts said the bridges would not be shut in high winds as the location was in a valley and the opening bridge would not be as high as the Orwell Bridge, in fact congestion should be partially relieved when the bridge was closed.

54. Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 54.1 In respect of the Castle Hill Park toilets, Councillor Goldsmith reported that he was still awaiting a report from the Parks Department and a resident expressed concern as a Big Local Trust event would be taking place in June 2018 at Castle Hill Park. He also updated that the West Meadow site had been offered for sale with a covenant on the land. It was also confirmed that a representative of Ipswich Buses had been asked to attend a future meeting and residents expressed concerns about there being no bus service at Adair Road and the road surface and access in Stratford Road.

55. Ward Councillors Feedback

- 55.1 Whitehouse ward
Councillor Goonan confirmed that, although not ward specific, he would be Chairing an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Task & Finish Group about how

Ipswich Borough Council intended to help residents when Universal Credit was introduced in Ipswich on 26 May 2018.

Castle Hill ward

Councillor Goldsmith said that in respect of the entrance being used as an exit near Wilco's on Norwich Road, new signs had been placed which said 'No Exit'. A resident said that she had since seen a van exit the entrance and Councillor Goldsmith said that anyone not adhering to the sign should be reported to an Enforcement Officer. Planning consent had been applied for the advertising hoarding on the building at Wilco's but this had been refused and it would now be taken down.

Whitton ward

Councillor Meudec said that an alteration to the No 17 and No 19 bus service had been applied for by Ipswich Buses which would be renumbered Route No 7. It would run a midi bus, Monday to Saturday from 7.00am - 7.00pm on an hourly basis. It would leave the Town Centre and continue on the No 17 route via Macaulay Road, Coleridge Road and Stratford Road to Asda and on to the Anglia Retail Park. The change to the route would be of benefit to residents of Stratford Court and both Routes No 9 and No 10 would remain unchanged. Discussion took place about the condition of the roads in the North West particularly in Stratford Road and Councillor Meudec hoped that the North West area would benefit from Suffolk County Council's initiative to mend the roads on borrowed money. Any potholes could be reported to Councillors or by using the following:- <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

56. Responses to Public Questions and Feedback on Local Issues

56.1 The following question had been received from a resident prior to the meeting.

Q. Was there a proposal to close the surgeries at Norwich Road, Deben Road and Chesterfield Drive and replace them with a single surgery on the old Allied Bakeries site?

A. IBC and the local Commissioning Group were working closely with GP partners in Ipswich to investigate and develop an integrated Health Centre at the former Tooks Bakery site on Norwich Road. Works on feasibility and options analysis were still ongoing and were of a commercially sensitive nature. The surgeries involved in these discussions were the three mentioned in the question and engagement with patients would be a key part of the process for any potential surgery move.

56.2 A resident asked whether funding for the Greenways project had been reduced and Councillor Vickery thought that the project had accumulated money in their reserves and in the current financial climate this funding should be used.

57. NWAC/17/16 Funding request - Emmaus Suffolk Shower & Laundry Room

- 57.1 Claire Staddon presented this report which requested that £7,031.90 be allocated to transform a disused kitchen and bathroom into a shower and laundry room for the benefit of volunteers and the wider community. She gave the background into the Emmaus charity which was dedicated to the alleviation and relief of poverty, hardship and distress arising therefrom.
- 57.2 It had been run from a former public house on Dales Hall Road since February 2016 and there were currently 29 Emmaus projects in the UK and 300 across the world, adding value back into the community and all were independent charities. Emmaus Suffolk had 42 volunteers and 7 staff in total and offered volunteering opportunities to vulnerable, homeless or workless people. Since opening over 20 people had been helped into employment and 3 into housing and under the 5 year plan, (no Government funding had been received) support had been offered by local grant givers which provided local community cohesion.
- 57.3 Ms Staddon reported that a community café had opened in September 2016, a workshop in November 2016 and in April 2018 a Community Accessible Wildlife Garden would be opened by volunteers interested in a gardening club. It was stated that for every £1 spent, £11 was generated in social benefit.
- 57.4 Discussion took place about how the local community benefited from the shop, whether the way funds were allocated to subsidise improvements was appropriate, how research with the customer base had recognised the need and how by extending the basic provision, the cohesive project would provide a necessary service.

Resolved:

that £7,031.90 be allocated to Emmaus Suffolk from the North West Area Committee budget to transform a disused kitchen and bathroom into a shower and laundry room, be agreed.

Reason: To promote and enable hygienic living for people affected by homelessness, unemployment and/or isolation. To reduce barriers to inclusion and employment for people affected by long-term unemployment. To support vulnerable adults with facilities that boost an increase in confidence, skills and self-worth.

58. NWAC/17/17 Funding request - ActivLives ActivHubs Programme 2018/19

- 58.1 Julie Stokes and Lindsay Bennett, from ActivLives presented this item which sought £4,899.00 funding towards the cost of providing a programme of meaningful activities, focussed on the over 45's, under the ActivHubs banner to build up confidence, increase social contact and reduce social isolation.
- 58.2 The sessions also provided the opportunity to recruit and train volunteers for larger sessions. The ActivHub participation rate at the 'The Meeting Place' had increased to 35 registered members, taster sessions were planned for other

venues in the North West and feedback from registered members of the group was presented.

- 58.3 Councillor Whittall asked whether it was envisaged that the project would be self-sustaining and Ms Stokes said that ways to generate income were always under consideration by seeking both local and national grants. Residents were charged for each activity session but ActivLives provided an important social service and also took referrals from health professionals.

Resolved:

that £4,899.00 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of providing a programme of activities under the ActivHubs banner, be agreed.

Reason: To improve the opportunity for social support of older people in North West Ipswich. To improve the opportunity for exercise for older people in North West Ipswich. To reduce the number of falls for older people in North West Ipswich.

59. NWAC/17/18 Funding request - Lofty Heights

- 59.1 Ms Olive Quinton presented this report which requested the allocation of £945 to Lofty Heights CIC as a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase capacity and improve the efficiency of their work in Ipswich. Lofty Heights was a social enterprise which charged for services such as de-cluttering, deep cleaning and garden clearance by assisting the elderly, vulnerable or those on a low income.
- 59.2 Employment and training opportunities were offered to young disadvantaged adults which included dementia training and the opportunity to help with driving lessons. By using compassion and understanding often tenants were able to abide by their tenancy agreements, thereby preventing evictions.
- 59.3 The vehicle would enable the organisation to carry out their work more efficiently and cost effectively and by increasing Lofty Heights work capacity they could employ more team members and help more people. Although the service was open to any user, 80% of those using the service were vulnerable people and were often referred from a social worker or housing officer.

Resolved:

that £945 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget to Lofty Heights CIC towards the purchase of a van to increase capacity and improve the efficiency of their work in Ipswich, be agreed.

Reason: To determine the allocation of funding as a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase capacity and improve the efficiency of the organisation's work in Ipswich.

60. NWAC/17/19 Area Action Plan Update

60.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Action Plan of the North West Area Committee and gave details of the Let's Talk Reading and Ipswich Community Playbus funding requests which had been agreed at the last meeting.

Resolved:

that the Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/17/19, be noted.

Reason: Developing priorities to provide the basis of an area action plan would enable the Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and would help demonstrate how its budget would be allocated to deliver the priorities set for the Area.

61. NWAC/17/20 Area Committee Budget Update

61.1 The Operations Manager, Finance presented this item and confirmed that at the last meeting, it had been agreed that £7,115.00 would be allocated to the funding requests and Appendix 1 set out the current financial position of the North West Area Committee. At the beginning of the meeting, the North West Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £22,710.20 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for the North West of Ipswich.

Resolved:

that the financial statement attached at Appendix 1 of report Ref No: NWAC/17/20, be noted.

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its action plan.

62. Dates of Future Meetings for 2018/19, all at 7.00pm

- **Thursday 22 March 2018 – Whitton Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane IP1 6LT**
- **Thursday 7 June 2018**
- **Thursday 19 July 2018**
- **Thursday 13 September 2018**
- **Thursday 8 November 2018**
- **Thursday 17 January 2019**
- **Thursday 14 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chair