

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2018

WHITTON CHURCH HALL, WHITTON CHURCH LANE,
IPSWICH IP1 6LT

7.00 PM

Present: Castle Hill Ward Councillors: D Goldsmith and R Vickery
Whitehouse Ward Councillors: G Chisholm and C Wright
Whitton Ward Councillors: S Meudec and E Xhaferaj

There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

63. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Whittall, I Fisher and M Goonan. Suffolk County Councillors K Bole and I Lockington also sent their apologies.

64. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 January 2018

64.1 The following clarification amendments had been received from Katherine Potts, the Conservation Officer for the Upper Orwell Crossings project:

Minute - 53.1 The word 'two' be removed from the second sentence.

Minute - 53.3 Following the completion of the Grounds Investigations, 'the project would work towards a formal public consultation in Autumn 2018' ...

Minute – 53.4 Second sentence to read – 'Ms Potts said the bridge (crossing A) would be less likely to be shut in high winds as the location was further into the valley.... The new bridge should provide some congestion relief and both scenarios would be tested using traffic modelling.'

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2018, with the amendments above, be signed as a true record.

65. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

66. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

67. Policing Priorities

67.1 Inspector Horton, Local Policing Inspector for North West Ipswich provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues in the North West of Ipswich.

67.2 The Inspector made reference to a letter sent by the Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr Tim Passmore and a leaflet (copies of both were available) which listed the proposed changes to how policing was currently delivered across the county and within the proposed structure and working practices, how further savings could be made. The Constabulary had reviewed the local policing model and heard the concerns of staff, partners and communities. The changes would improve the policing model and keep pace with the increase in demand and the changing patterns of crime.

67.3 Demand had increased in respect of Serious Sexual Offences (up 26%), Domestic Abuse (up 42%), an increase in 999 calls by 23% and overall the number of incidents recorded had increased by 5%. £3.2m of savings would be need to be found over the next year, which did not include the rise in the Police element of the Council Tax precept.

67.4 The proposal was to fully civilianise the Public Protection Unit, change how the Business and Administrative Support was provided and to change how Community Safety was delivered across the Constabulary. A more localised delivery of Community Safety would see 11 posts removed so there could be some redundancies.

67.5 The Constabulary had recently been inspected by the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and been rated as 'Good' in relation to effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy in these challenging times.

67.6 Sgt Stuart Curtis updated on issues in the North West area and reported that due to a significant amount of work being undertaken, the vehicle crime problems experienced had been narrowed down to two main individuals. These individuals had been brought to justice with one admitting over 50 offences over the last 4 months. One offender had been sentenced to 18 months in prison for robbery and a further 12 months for vehicle crime and there had since been a decrease in motor vehicle incidents.

- 67.7 Incidents of anti-social behaviour and drug dealing had been reported from a property in Shenstone Drive but since engagement had taken place between the resident and the Police, these had reduced.
- 67.8 Since several overnight shed break-ins at the allotments in Whitton, patrols had been increased and an arrest and prosecution had taken place. Advice would continue to be given to allotment holders and work with partners would continue to reduce anti-social behaviour over the Easter holidays. There had been an increase in drug activity in Whitton, several warrants had been issued, offenders had been arrested and it was expected that this would result in sentences for possession and supply of drugs.
- 67.9 Some 'Ring' doorbell cameras had been donated for use, for the victims of repeat property based crimes or vulnerable adults. The doorbells had small cameras which recorded activity when motion was sensed or the bell was rung and these were inexpensive to buy on-line. It was confirmed that no notices or signage needed to be displayed if these had been installed.
- 67.10 The Chair suggested that if residents had any further questions about the proposed changes to the local policing model they were able to e-mail tim.passmore@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

68. Upper Orwell Crossings Update

- 68.1 Sam Cliff, Assistant Project Manager for the Upper Orwell Crossings provided an update on the Upper Orwell Crossings and confirmed that the benefits of the crossings would include a reduction in journey times, increased connectivity and improved reliability leading to significant savings. The ground investigation work had now been completed and the samples taken would be tested to check the strength of the material to inform the design of the crossings.
- 68.2 The alignment for the crossings had been announced at the end of February 2018 and were:- Crossing A (the main crossing for vehicles) would connect from a roundabout on Wherstead Road (on the Riverside Industrial site) to an eastern landing point on Holywells Road, over Cliff Lane. Crossing B would provide a link to the Wet Dock Island Site and Crossing C (the existing swing bridge across the lock giving access to Neptune Marina) would be refurbished for cyclists and pedestrian use.
- 68.3 There would be public information events and focus groups with residents of Wherstead Road and Holywells Road before a formal consultation took place in the autumn with the design visualisations being available in the spring of 2019. Construction would be expected to commence in 2020.
- 68.4 The Chair asked how long the main bridge would be closed for should boat users require access to the Wet Dock? Mr Cliff said the Navigation Working

Group were analysing the boat data, work continued to assess the tidal range and it was anticipated that the bridge would not open during peak traffic times. The Chair also asked about the air quality when lorries were stationary, waiting for the bridge to open? The Officer said that baseline air quality surveys would assess the air quality although as the bridge was an open area there should be no overall impact. In fact the air quality in the Star Lane area should improve due to reduced congestion.

- 68.5 Councillor Vickery asked where the access would be for Crossing B to the Island site? Mr Cliff said that this would be accessed via an existing roundabout on Felaw Street by the Felaw Maltings building.
- 68.6 Councillor Meudec expressed concern that congestion could move from one area to another and that some housing was very close to the alignment of the proposed bridge which would affect their noise levels. Mr Cliff said that the road level of the new road would be similar to the existing road level of Virginia Street however, the road would be between 10 and 20 metres away. Road noise would also be assessed as part of the air quality monitoring and transport modelling and if necessary noise barriers would be put in place.
- 68.7 A resident asked about whether the traffic noise on Landseer Road would increase? Mr Cliff said that there could be a knock on effect on other roads in the area of Landseer Road and a focus group would be looking at this in more detail.
- 68.8 A resident asked whether strong winds on Crossing A could be a problem and whether wind proofing measures would be installed? Mr Cliff said that the bridge would be a lot lower than the Orwell Bridge and was more sheltered but this would be looked at as part of the assessment.
- 68.9 Councillor Goldsmith said that initially there should not be any increase in the amount of lorries already using Wherstead Road, just that a different route would be taken and Mr Cliff said that future demand would be looked at in regards to any increase in traffic movements. The Chair thanked the Suffolk County Council Officer for his attendance.

69. Big Local Trust Update

- 69.1 Faye Smith, Project Officer gave an update on the North West Ipswich Big Local Trust. A successful Christmas Extravaganza had been held at the Castle Hill Community Centre and a free Easter event would be held on 31 March 2018 from 10-2pm at the Meeting Place. There would be a Dog Show on 9 June 2018 on the park at Congreve Road in Castle Hill ward from 11.00am – 3.00pm.
- 69.2 The Whitton Youth Partnership offered Learning Support Partners to primary school age children, parents and carers for additional teaching and the opportunity to meet with a dyslexia tutor on Wednesdays from 3.00 - 5.30pm.

69.3 The Big Local Trust (BLT) had extended the closing date to apply for the 'Community Hubs' research project. These looked at developing the resources in the area to promote facilities and bring organisations in. Nationally the BLT were developing clusters which had shared area interests and locally prevention work continued with Westbourne Academy around youth gangs and violence.

69.4 The Friday Friends Café opened every week from 10.00 - 2.00pm at Whitehouse Baptist Church to provide social support to those with dementia or carers of people living with dementia. The BLT were also looking at ways of funding the installation of a compost toilet at the 'Lottie Shed' on Whitton allotments. The Chair thanked Ms Smith for her attendance.

70. Updates on Actions from Previous Meetings

70.1 The Chair paid tribute to a North West Ipswich Community Leader, Mr Bob Goodhall who had recently passed away. He was a figure much respected by the young people at the Whitehouse Skate Park, where he used to spend evenings and weekends supporting his two young sons who were keen skaters and scooter riders. He was much treasured by the skating community as he often made quick repairs, sorted out any minor disagreements or helped with injuries.

70.2 Councillor Goldsmith updated that, in the new financial year, the Castle Hill toilets would receive a cosmetic tidy and minor repairs would be rectified.

70.3 The Managing Director of Ipswich Buses had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend. He would be invited to the next meeting to speak about the changes to the No 8 bus service and other bus routes.

71. Ward Councillors Feedback

71.1 Whitton ward

Councillor Meudec reported that she had attended an event for teachers and young people by the New Wolsey Theatre, which had been funded by the Making A Difference (MAD) budget. It was a production called 'Based on a True Story (Part One)' which explored difference, disability and diversity. A part of Stratford Road (up to Coleridge Road) and parts of Shakespeare Road had been resurfaced. Permission had been requested to install a refuse bin on a footpath leading up to the Anglia Retail Park. Planning permission had been granted to build 60 houses, part of which would include both IBC and affordable accommodation on the old Tooks Bakery site. Work would commence in June 2018 and it was proposed that a health centre would also be built at this site.

Whitehouse ward

Councillors Chisholm and Wright also reported that they had attended the New Wolsey Theatre production at Whitehouse Primary School and Councillor

Chisholm thanked the other Whitehouse Councillors for taking on his case work while he had recently been 'out of action.'

Councillor Goldsmith in his capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor, said that a comprehensive yellow lining scheme was under consideration by the Highways Department, for the industrial areas near Whitehouse Road. Several roads had been resurfaced in Whitton ward and he had allocated SCC Locality funding to 'The Meeting Place' and to a path at Whitton allotments.

72. Responses to Public Questions and Feedback on Local Issues

- 72.1 No questions had been received prior to the meeting, however if residents submitted a question by letter or e-mail prior to the meeting they would receive a full response from an appropriate Officer of the Council.
- 72.2 A resident reported that dog walkers were not clearing up after their pets in the area known as the 'Dales', most especially in Cromer Road and many residents were now putting up their own signs. The Chair encouraged residents to report any fouling incidents as they happened in an effort to identify the dog owners not acting responsibly. Councillor Meudec added that any incidents could be reported to the Cleaner Ipswich Hotline on <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/report>
- 72.3 In relation to the allocated space for a proposed Doctors Surgery at the Tooks Bakery Site, Councillor Meudec said that no documents had been submitted to the Planning Department as yet but that GP's would be liaising with the NHS and a full consultation would take place. A resident expressed concern that bus stops on route to the new surgery had no shelters and the Committee confirmed that this would be part of the consultation, S106 money would be available as part of the development and if there were a need for shelters then they would be considered for installation.

73. NWAC/17/21 Funding request - IBC Holiday Sports Programme

- 73.1 Andrew Wilesmith, the Assistant Operations Manager for Sport presented this funding request for £4,350.44 to deliver the Jumpers for Goalposts summer holiday activities in North West Ipswich.
- 73.2 It was proposed that park activities would be delivered by Catch 22 Positive Futures during 2018/19 and it was confirmed that during 2017, 248 participants had taken part using green spaces and parks in the area. The activities had included football, street golf, tag rugby, kwik cricket and rounders. The Wildcats 'This Girl Can' programme would continue to be an opportunity to promote girl's football at Whitton Sports Centre which had consistently been popular last year. This year, as a National Football Association initiative the activity would be available for 5 – 14 year olds.
- 73.3 Tennis for Free, a community sports charity working with tennis clubs would offer free family sessions at Christchurch Park and Northgate Sports Centre in conjunction with Ipswich Tennis clubs. During 2017 there had been 239

attendances in July and August, which had more than doubled the 2016 numbers, with over 30 attendees each session and many had been families.

- 73.4 Basketball had also proved very popular in the North West last year with the 8 – 19 year age group and this popularity had been seen across the town. It was confirmed that varied sports would be held at Whitehouse Park and Whitton Recreation Ground such as girl's football, basketball and Tennis for Free.
- 73.5 Councillor Chisholm said that all sports sessions were good for teaching discipline and teamwork and it was confirmed that stronger promotional links had been built with the school sports organisers this year and leaflet advertising would take place dependent on the mailing options or social media preferences of each school. Advertising via Suffolk County Council, the Police, Catch 22 and IBC would also take place on websites and literature.

Resolved:

that £4,350.44 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget for summer holiday sports activities to be delivered in the North West of Ipswich, be agreed.

Reason: The Jumpers for Goalposts programme had increased participation numbers over the last 4 years and this would allow young people across the town to participate in physical activity over the summer.

74. NWAC/17/22 Funding request - BSEVC Family Carers Group

- 74.1 David Finn, Manager of the Group presented this funding request for £1,761.75 towards the running costs of the BSEVC (formerly Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre) Ipswich Family Carers Coffee Corner Drop-in group. The group sessions provided peer support, information and learning opportunities for local residents who were carers for a family member.
- 74.2 The group met fortnightly at the 'Meeting Place' Community Centre at Limerick Close on alternate Tuesdays from 10.00am-2.00pm and currently 90% of users were from the North West area. There were 22 members, sessions were free for the carers to attend and they offered a support network, allowed friendship groups to form and reduced isolation.

Resolved:

that £1,761.75 be allocated towards the running costs of the BSEVC Ipswich Family Carers Coffee Corner Drop-in group.

Reason: To provide peer support and information for local residents with caring responsibilities.

75. NWAC/17/23 Funding request - Whitehouse Skate Park 'Jump Off' Improvements

- 75.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented this funding request for £3,227.92 towards the cost of improving one of the 'jump off' points at the Whitehouse skate park. The area in question had begun to deteriorate, breaking down the mound and a muddy deposit had washed down onto the northwest ramp causing safety issues for skaters.
- 75.2 It was proposed to install a solid aggregate base with stepped sleepers covered by an artificial grass carpet to extend the jump point and provide a solid and durable seating structure.
- 75.3 A 'variation of condition' application would be necessary which would then allow a National Lottery 'Awards for All' application to be made however, this required partner contributions to have been secured first. The partner contributions would be split between the NW Ipswich Big Local Trust and the North West Area Committee, amounting to £3,000 and £3,227.92 respectively. Once the partner contributions had been agreed this would allow for the Planning Application and the National Lottery award to be applied for.

Resolved:

that £3,227.92 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of improving one of the 'jump off' points at the Whitehouse Skate Park.

Reason: To allow an application to be made for external funding and to protect the use of the Whitehouse Skate Park for local residents.

76. NWAC/17/24 Section 106 Allocations in the North West Area

- 76.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented this report regarding the details of outstanding Section 106 legal agreement contributions in the North West area. The Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 23 November 2017 had requested that each Area Committee be made aware of the S106 contributions not yet committed in order to identify any potential projects.
- 76.2 In the North West area there were 2 available S106 funding allocations of £3,393.10 and £4,080.15, to improve the attractiveness of the Central Shopping Area or the area immediately adjacent to Whitton Conservation Area and both still required project identification. Any ideas of how the money could be spent to improve the attractiveness would be welcomed.

Resolved:

that the report be noted.

77. NWAC/17/25 Area Action Plan Update

- 77.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Action Plan for the North West Ipswich area and detailed that the allocation of £945 of Area

Committee funding to Lofty Heights CIC in January 2018 still remained in the budget as it was dependent on other funding being drawn down.

Resolved:

that the Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/17/25, be noted.

Reason: Developing priorities to provide the basis of an area action plan enabled the Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and helped demonstrate how its budget was being allocated to deliver the priorities for the Area.

78. NWAC/17/26 Area Committee Budget Update

78.1 The Operations Manager, Finance presented this item and confirmed that since the last meeting £440 and £220 Making A Difference (MAD) funding had been allocated to the New Wolsey Theatre for Whitton ward and Whitehouse ward respectively.

78.2 At the beginning of the meeting, the North West Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £9,834.30 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North West Ipswich.

Resolved:

- 1. that the financial statement, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/17/26, be noted.**
- 2. that the £660 Making A Difference (MAD) funding allocated, 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.

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

- Thursday 7 June 2018 – St Raphael Club, St Raphael Court, Highfield Road IP1 6DA**
- Thursday 19 July 2018 – Westbourne Academy, Marlow Road IP1 5JN (Venues to be arranged)**
- Thursday 13 September 2018**
- Thursday 8 November 2018**
- Thursday 17 January 2019**
- Thursday 14 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm

Chair