

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, CAULDWELL HALL
ROAD, IPSWICH IP4 4QE
7.30 PM**

Present: Bixley Ward Councillors: J Carnall, E Phillips and R Pope
Rushmere Ward Councillors: S Gage, A Ross and S Ion
St John's Ward Councillors: E Elavalakan, N MacDonald and S Darwin
Suffolk County Councillors: S Adams & P West

There were 26 members of the public in attendance.

52. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

53. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017, be signed as a true record.

54. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the Order of Business be as confirmed on the Agenda.

55. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

56. Chairman's Update on Action Points from the Previous Meetings (Verbal)

- 56.1 Councillor Darwin reported that she had written to the Manager of Hair Ministry Group at the junction of Foxhall Road and Orwell Road in response to parking concerns by residents of Pearce Road. Following a positive response from the Manager, the Chair had been assured that smarter parking by users and staff would occur in the future and residents were welcome to discuss any future concerns with him.
- 56.2 A missing road sign at the junction of Renfrew Road and Selkirk Road had been reported and listed for inspection. Officers would assess a replacement and a decision would be taken whether to replace it in the new financial year.
- 56.3 The Committee had supported the 'More than Mum' project in January 2016 and the feedback had been so positive that another group had now been set up.
- 56.4 The Kerala Community Supplementary School had held festive celebration performances at the end of 2017.

57. Ward Councillors Update from their Communities

57.1 Rushmere ward

Councillor Gage said that, within the last minutes of the meeting there had been a reference to a 'tidy up' at the back of the shops in Selkirk Road and work had now taken place.

£300 had previously been allocated from the North East Area Committees Making A Difference (MAD) budget for Sidegate School's Parliament and a letter of thanks had been received from the 'Prime Minister' of Sidegate School. The funding had been used to plant bulbs and shrubs in flower beds around the school and working with Ipswich Buzz had created a wildflower area along the edge of the school field. A football cage had also been assembled for use and jars and marbles had been purchased to use for recording class rewards. Paint would be purchased for fences when the weather improved.

Councillor Ion said that four new trees had been planted at Westbury Avenue and he made reference to a resident request for additional lighting at each end of Stradbroke Lane and Bristol Road. Suffolk County Council were primarily responsible for the street light function and discussion had taken place about the ownership and maintenance of any installation. A report to fund the provision of four additional street lights had been submitted to Executive for their consideration which had been refused. The Chair confirmed that the North East Area Committee did not have the delegated powers to make such a decision and that was why the report had been submitted to Executive.

St John's ward

Councillor Darwin said that she had attended the Christmas fete at the Foxhall Day Centre, Lavender Trust Social Hub and it had been a great success.

Bixley ward

Councillor Carnall said that residents were concerned about noise caused by the development at the former St Clements Hospital site and a site management visit had been arranged to conclude a satisfactory outcome. Details of the planning permission had been given to the residents, contact had been made with both the planners and the contractors and the site management had taken a positive approach. It was reported that yellow lines which had recently been placed around a local school had been very successful in alleviating the parking problems.

Councillor Phillips had attended the Carol Service on Broke Hall Green at Peshurst Road before Christmas which had received Making A Difference (MAD) funding from the North East Area Committee. At the last Area Committee there had been concerns about the roadworks on Woodbridge Road and anti-social behaviour had been reported at the car park at Pearson Road.

58. Suffolk County Councillors Feedback from their Divisions

- 58.1 Suffolk County Councillor Paul West gave an update on the impending road improvements to create more efficient traffic movement at the Foxhall Road, Bixley Road and Heath Road roundabout, which would commence on 22 January 2018 until 14 April 2018. Two approach roads would be widened to create two lanes at an earlier stage, no landowners would be affected and the roads would also be resurfaced. Details of the works were available at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks/junction-improvements-at-foxhall-road-heath-road-ipswich/> Improvements were also due to be made to the St Augustine's roundabout in the late spring.
- 58.2 Suffolk County Councillor Sarah Adams said that she had dealt with some issues with trees at the St Clements Hospital site and with traffic and parking issues at Goring Road and Lattice Avenue.
- 58.3 Councillor Gage in her capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor said that resurfacing work for potholes would take place in Sidegate Lane and Brunswick Road. A 'No cold calling' zone (NCC) would be set up in Furness Road in February 2018 and if any residents would like to be considered for a NCC zone they could get in touch with her. The Suffolk County Council Policy for dropped kerbs had been changed and extensions to the kerbs would no longer be allowed. Recent BT roadworks to an access road at Sidegate Lane had caused chaos and she would be contacting the Highways Department to ensure that residents would be better informed of any such works in the future.

59. Police Priorities in North East Ipswich

- 59.1 Inspector Andy Pursehouse presented this item aided by Chris Chaplain from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and he reported that the priorities had changed to prioritise the prevention and diversion of gangs across the whole of Ipswich. The total number of investigations had reduced and he asked residents to continue to report any problems in order to gain information. Enquiries were ongoing after an incident of criminal damage which had occurred in Goring Road.

- 59.2 There had been anti-social behaviour issues at the Athena Hall car park and at an underpass at Kesgrave which were being dealt with but he reassured residents that compared to other areas of East Anglia the figures for anti-social behaviour were far lower in Ipswich. He reminded residents to properly secure any outbuildings, garages and sheds and to lock their vehicles.
- 59.3 Figures were available which detailed a typical week in Suffolk; approximately 1,803 emergency 999 calls were received, 2,891 incidents were recorded, 188 arrests were made, 860 crimes were reported and 253 incidents of anti-social behaviour were dealt with. There had been 71 missing persons, 5 road incidents (which involved death or serious injury) and 214 breath tests had been carried out. A typical week in the Ipswich East SNT area (which included the South East Area wards too) were; 2.8 residential burglaries, 1.8 thefts, 6.5 thefts from a motor vehicle, 0.9 thefts of a motor vehicle, 25.1 violent crimes, 0.4 robberies, 2 sexual assaults and 0.9 rapes. Officers would issue 1.1 cautions, 0.1 penalty notices for disorder and 0.4 cannabis warnings.
- 59.4 A resident asked if much of the violence was between the drug gangs themselves and the Inspector confirmed that the majority of violent incidents were very much related to drug activity and a further newsletter would be released shortly.

60. Responses to Public Questions Received and Open Discussion on Local Issues

- 60.1 No questions had been received prior to the meeting however, if residents submitted a question prior to the Committee by post or e-mail then they would receive a full response from an appropriate Officer of the Council.
- 60.2 A resident asked whether diversion routes for the projected roadworks would go through the Australia estate and Suffolk County Councillor Paul West assured the resident that any official diversions would be on main routes, they would be signposted and available on the website. It was agreed that if the agenda allowed and staff were available then an item on transport schemes could come to the March meeting.

61. NEAC/17/19 Funding request - Lofty Heights

- 61.1 Ms Olive Quinton presented this item which sought a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase the capacity and efficiency of Lofty Heights CIC. Lofty Heights were a non-profit making Community Interest Company with no funding or grants being received from the Government which specialised in de-cluttering, deep cleaning, loft and garden clearance. Disadvantaged young people aged between 18-24 years of age worked respectfully and compassionately with residents to improve their surroundings and reduce the risk of trips and falls.
- 61.2 Councillor Pope said that Lofty Heights raised the aspirations of young people and gave them a sense of purpose and achievement but he questioned the date of the statistics supplied. Ms Quinton confirmed that the 'Not in

Education, employment, education or training' (NEET) figures were from 2014. He also asked how the service would be promoted in the North East area and Ms Quinton said by advertising e.g. in local community newspapers.

- 61.3 Discussion took place about whether the income generated by hourly or day rates covered the costs of running the scheme and it was confirmed that over the whole of Suffolk, 200 enquiries were taken last year. This had resulted in 80% of the enquiries becoming jobs for the 5 young people and the 2 part time workers involved in the project.
- 61.4 Councillor Gage said that she had seen first-hand how some of work had helped tenants and she asked what would happen to the existing van. Ms Quinton said that the van would be kept as it would give the option to increase work capacity and therefore help more people. The company also helped the young disadvantaged adults by giving them the opportunity to learn how to drive.

Resolved:

that £945 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget as a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase capacity and improve the efficiency of the work of Lofty Heights CIC 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,

62. NEAC/17/20 Funding request - Waldringfield Bowls Club

- 62.1 Linda Nunn from the Waldringfield Bowls Club presented this item and said that the club had been playing at the renovated facility at Ransomes Pavilion since September 2016 with members attending between 9 – 83 years of age, with 10 of the users being under the age of 21. Taster and coaching sessions were available and the benefits of the sport included enjoyment, competition, health and social integration.
- 62.2 Currently the concrete pathway to the green was hazardous, especially to anyone unsure of their footing or wheelchair users and by relaying the path the trip hazards would be removed and it would allow safe access to the bowls club. It would also enhance the appearance, encourage visitors and increase membership. The cost of the materials would be £871.80 and voluntary labour would be used for the preparation and re-laying of the path which was estimated would take 50 hours.
- 62.3 Councillor Carnall asked whether the Bowls Club were considering extending the current 5 year lease? It was confirmed that enquiries about the lease were being considered and Ms Nunn said that the plan was that this would follow within the next 2 years. A resident responded to questions from Councillor Phillips about how the preparation and building work would be undertaken.

Resolved:

that £871.80 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget to Waldringfield & District Bowls Club for the purchase of materials to re-lay the concrete path at the bowls green at Ransomes Sports Ground in the North East of Ipswich, be agreed.

Reason: To determine the allocation of funding to Waldringfield & District Bowls Club for the purchase of materials to re-lay the concrete path at the bowls green at Ransomes Sports Ground in the North East of Ipswich.

63. NEAC/17/21 Area Action Plan Update

- 63.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Action Plan for the North East area and, as part of the monitoring process, gave an update on the Future Females Society 'More than Mum' project and the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) funding which had been allocated on 26 January 2017.
- 63.2 The 'More than Mum' project had been visited by speakers and business women from the local community and had supported 10 women covering areas such as personal development and confidence building.
- 63.3 ISCRE had engaged employers to raise awareness about pregnancy/maternity rights of employees to tackle discrimination and two speakers from National Campaigns had participated. The Pregnancy and Discrimination in the Workplace Workshop had been recorded and was now available for use in hospitals. The number of attendees of the Workplace Workshop was unknown and would be requested from ISCRE.

Resolved:

that the North East Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NEAC/17/21, be noted.

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

64. NEAC/17/22 Area Committee Budget Update

- 64.1 The Head of Development reported that since the last meeting, £100 Making A Difference (MAD) funding had been agreed towards a Carol Service in Bixley ward. Due to a combination of changes to staffing and procedure, an unspent amount of £1,702.89 remained allocated to the Making A Difference budget for the years preceding 2017-18. At the beginning of the meeting the North East Committee had an unallocated budget of £6,783.26 available to spend on the priorities of the Action Plan of the North East Area Committee.

Resolved:

- 1. that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the report Ref No: NEAC/17/22, be noted.**
- 2. that the £100 MAD funding allocated to Bixley ward, be noted.**
- 3. that the unused MAD funding, as identified in the report, be returned to the unallocated North East Area Committee budget, be agreed.**

Reasons:

- a. To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its action plan.
- b. To release the North East Area Committee MAD funding which had been allocated for use but not drawn down.

65. Dates of Future Meetings for 2018/19 at 7.30pm - a presentation will be held prior to each meeting at 7.00pm.

- **Thursday 15 March 2018**
- **Thursday 14 June 2018**
- **Thursday 26 July 2018**
- **Thursday 20 September 2018**
- **Thursday 15 November 2018**
- **Thursday 24 January 2019**
- **Thursday 21 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chair