

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 8TH MARCH 2018

**CHANTRY METHODIST CHURCH, KINGSFISHER
AVENUE IP2 0QN**

6.30 PM

Present: Bridge Ward Councillors: P Smart
Gipping Ward Councillors: P Gardiner and J Macartney
Sprites Ward Councillors: R Fern and C Smart
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: B Hall

Suffolk County Councillor: J Abbott

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

68. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cenci, Rudkin, Clarke, Grant, Ellesmere, Powell and County Councillor Armitage.

69. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 18 January 2018

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2018 be signed as a true record.

70. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

That agenda item 6 Police Priorities – South West Ipswich be moved to agenda item 5.

71. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

72. Police Priorities - South West Ipswich

- 73.1. PC Curtis confirmed that the police priorities for March would continue to be around crime in the West of Ipswich and this would include the issue of stolen tools from commercial vehicles. The second priority would be around drug activity and antisocial behaviour in Alderman Park, Handford Park and Portman Road to ensure that these areas would be safe for all members of the public to visit. The third policing priority would focus on rough sleeping and homelessness and the antisocial behaviour which could be associated with this.
- 73.2. The Officer confirmed that since the knife bin had been implemented in 2011 there had been over 20,000 blades handed in. Suffolk Constabulary's message continued to be that there was zero tolerance to knife crime.
- 73.3. Councillor Hall asked if there were any figures available for how many rough sleepers there were. It was reported that the Central SNT collated the numbers of rough sleeping and these could be forwarded on. Councillor Fern confirmed in his position as a trustee for the Chaplin Centre that the most recent figures showed there were 27 people sleeping rough within Ipswich. He advised that an Ipswich Winter Night Shelter was available however, this had not been used to full capacity which was also reflected at Cavendish Lodge. This often could be due to the people in need not wanting to engage with Officers. Should members of the public see someone rough sleeping and have concerns they could ring the Street Link number on 0300 500 0194 to report this.
- 73.4. A resident asked if Chantry Library remained an issue and PC Curtis reported that this was ongoing. A lot of work had been undertaken with regards to the area around the Hawthorn Drive shops and this had resulted in a reduction of antisocial behaviour. Councillor Macartney confirmed that the staff at Chantry Library had advised that they felt well supported by the police.

73. Chair's Update and Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 72.1. Councillor P Smart reported that the new Ipswich Bus Timetables had been published the first week of February 2018 and this included the routes which had been funded by Ipswich Borough Council following a tender process. The number 14 service in its entirety would continue to run and timetables for this should now be available.

74. Upper Orwell Crossing Update (Presentation)

- 74.1. Suzanne Buck, Suffolk County Council, provided a presentation on the Upper Orwell Crossings and confirmed that the benefits of the crossings included a reduction in journey times, improved reliability and significant savings. Following the previous update provided to the South West Area Committee, the

- grounds investigation work undertaken in the river 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.
- 74.2. The alignment for the crossings had been announced online and would be as follows: the main crossing would connect to the existing highway at the Rapier Street roundabout on Wherstead Road and at a new junction north of Cliff Lane on Holywells Road. The second crossing would provide a new vehicular link to the Wet Dock Island Site, accessed from Felaw Street and the third crossing would be a refurbishment of the existing swing bridge over the lock for use for cyclist and pedestrian use. The main crossing would affect the Big Box Storage company and adjustments had been made to ensure there would be minimal impact on any nearby residential properties.
- 74.3. The bridge would not be as high as originally anticipated and there would be a number of businesses which would require access to be retained. A key part of the crossings would be the connectivity and ensuring that this would tie in to the existing network.
- 74.4. A number of public information days of an informal nature would be held between now and the formal consultation later in the year for any concerns to be addressed. The design visualisation would be announced in Spring 2018 and formal consultation would take place in early Autumn. Following this, construction would begin in 2020.
- 74.5. A resident asked if the possibility of building a tunnel had been considered. The Officer confirmed that a tunnel had been considered as part of the initial business case however, due to the practicalities of building a tunnel, this had been removed as an option before costs had been considered. With regards to noise pollution and the crossings, noise would be modelled and would be mitigated. There were a number of ways to minimise noise and this would be looked at as part of the planning process.
- 74.6. A resident asked what the frequency of lifting the bridge would be and if there would be a toll. The officer confirmed that there would be no tolls for the road or underneath the bridge. A boat survey would be undertaken to consider the impact of opening and closing the bridge on both traffic and boat users however, it was anticipated that the bridge would not open during peak traffic times.
- 74.7. Councillor Hall advised that he was concerned about the impact that vehicle noise could have on people living in the nearby flats and how residents could be affected by this. The impact of vehicle and noise pollution was also a concern. The Officer advised that Ipswich Borough Council's Environmental Health Officers' had installed additional monitoring air quality points along Wherstead Road and this data would be used as a baseline for the air quality and noise modelling which would take place. It was confirmed that transport modelling would also be undertaken so that a clear understanding of the different routes vehicle users used could be considered.

- 74.8. Councillor Fern asked for further information regarding the 20% improvement in journey times. The Officer confirmed that the journey times considered had been peak period journeys where different origination points across the town had been looked at. At the moment all the traffic tunnelled through the Star Lane gyratory and this information had been used to assess what the journey time savings would be. This included both cars and commercial vehicles. The implementation of the bridge would relieve the congestion going east to west.
- 74.9. Councillor Fern advised that there were a large number of homes where the roundabout was likely to be placed and had the impact on residents been considered. The Officer reaffirmed that both noise and air quality would be modelled and that the wider impacts of the crossings would be looked at.
- 74.10. A resident thanked Suffolk County Council for keeping residents informed with regards to Upper Orwell Crossings.
- 74.11. Councillor P Smart asked for further clarification with regards to the traffic modelling and the possibility that an extra bridge could bring more traffic and pollution into the town and put more pressure on junctions. The Officer explained that the modelling had addressed existing east west traffic and there would be changes in behaviour and how/where people drove.

75. Ward Councillor's Feedback from their Communities

Gipping Ward

- 75.1. Councillor Gardiner reported that residents could access the designated gritting routes for the County on the Suffolk County Council website. There had been a campaign a few years back to provide residents with grit bins and this process was still available and could be accessed via the Highways England website. This was a good option for residents who felt that although their road was not on a gritting route, would be beneficial to them, and advised that he would be happy to help any residents with this process.

Bridge Ward

- 75.2. Councillor P Smart advised that discussions had taken place with Suffolk County Council where it had been confirmed that no money would be put into supporting the resident parking process. It was possible that Ipswich Borough Council could assist with this in the future however, discussions continued with SCC to consider whether an agreement could be made between now and the first week of April 2018.
- 75.3. Councillor P Smart also reported that some of the bus shelters would be replaced/new ones installed and this would be through IBC's transport funds. There would also be some funded by advertiser contractors (on main roads) and some secured through Section 106 agreements. Some of the bus shelters included Hawthorn Drive, Prince of Wales Drive and Maidenhall Approach. It was confirmed that real time passenger information would also be installed in a few of the new bus shelters.

76. Suffolk County Councillors Update

76.1. County Councillor Abbott reported that the schools admission process was now underway and should parents have any issues, their local County Councillor could be contacted.

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

77.1. The following question had been received from a resident:-

“Have there been cutbacks or is litter picking reduced in the winter?”

77.2. There have been no reduction in Street Cleansing in this area – we have to prioritise high footfall areas paying particular attention to grass and other hazards on the footpaths and where possible we will then move onto litter in more hard to reach areas. The embankments can be dangerous to work on but we are always looking for suitable solutions to tackle litter issues in such areas Our new mechanical sweepers – which we are now starting to take delivery of, will help raise standard of footpath and road cleanliness in the area. Officers are happy to meet with residents to discuss.

77.3. The following question had been received from a resident:-

“Please inform me the latest date when the sporting former pub in Princes Street and the neighbouring former Mann Egerton garage is to be demolished and also the building in Burrell Road opposite the junction within Stoke Street. Please also inform me what action is to be taken on the potholes in Stoke Park Drive between ASDA and Prince of Wales Drive, as some of them are dangerous. Please also advise me on how I can report some potholes in the Pinewood Section of Belmont Road and a loose drain cover at the Sycamore Close Bus Stop, as I do not have access to the internet.”

77.4. The Drum and Monkey pub is planned for demolition this Spring and is subject to appointing a demolition contractor – hopefully in the next couple of months. This would not include the garages next door as suggested in the letter, only the pub. There was no recent planning history which identified the demolition of buildings at No’s 14-22 Stoke Street, which included the former Defiance Pub, opposite the junction with Burrell Road. A historic application for Conservation Area Consent had been approved for the demolition of a single-storey side addition to the Defiance Pub, but this had not been undertaken and the consent had now lapsed. Given the site was within the Stoke Conservation Area, planning permission would be required for any demolition of the buildings and normal public consultation would be undertaken.

77.5. The maintenance of the Highway was the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. The Committee was unable to provide information on individual actions of the SCC Highways Department. Mark Stevens, Director of Transport Highways at Suffolk County Council, provided a full presentation to the South West Area Committee on road maintenance within South West Ipswich on the

16th November and a full copy of the minutes of that discussion would be provided to the questioner.

- 77.6. The recommended ways to report highways issues were through the www.suffolk.gov.uk website or the call centre 0345 606 6171. If these were not satisfactory to the questioner, it was recommended to write to:

Highways
Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich IP2 2BX

- 77.7. The resident asked for further information regarding the Pinewood section of Belmont Road and it was reported that this would be covered by Suffolk County Councillor Chris Hudson who could be contacted.

- 77.8. Councillor Hall confirmed that if a resident discovered a pothole within the South West Ipswich they could report this to him and he would follow this up with Suffolk County Council on their behalf.

78. SWAC/17/21 Funding Request: Ipswich Borough Council Summer Holiday Activities Programme

- 78.1. Andrew Wilesmith, Ipswich Borough Council, provided an overview of IBC's Summer Holiday Activities Programme and advised that they sought a contribution of £3,354.00 from the South West Area Committee.

- 78.2. The Officer confirmed that the programme provided a number of sporting activities for all young people across Ipswich to participate in and would be run under the "Jumper of Goalposts" brand which had been very successful in previous years. The programme would include "This Girl Can" girls football, "Tennis For Free" family sessions and basketball which would both indoors and outdoors.

- 78.3. Councillor Gardiner suggested that where possible more activities could be ran in the South West Ipswich and the Officer confirmed that there had been some engagement with Roundwood Tennis Club which was based in this part of Ipswich.

Resolved:

that £3,354.00 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget to deliver the planned programme of Summer Holiday Activities in South West Ipswich

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

79. SWAC/17/22 Funding Request: Hillside Primary School Breakfast Club

- 79.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that the Hillside Primary School Breakfast Club catered for 3-11 year old children predominately living within the South West Ipswich. The school sought a contribution of £5,000 to support the running of a breakfast club for pupils. The club had originally been targeted as free for children on pupil premium with paid for spaces available however, take up for this had been low. Since the free spaces for all, 109 children regularly attended and the sessions had been a huge success.
- 79.2. Councillor Fern asked how the breakfast club would be sustainable after the first year of funding by the South West Area Committee. Ms Pettitt, Hillside Primary School, advised that the breakfast club was a high priority to the School and one of their high impact initiatives currently in place. It was anticipated that budgets would be adjusted accordingly in the future to ensure that the valuable service could be continued and the money had been requested by the South West Area Committee so that costs could be covered for this year only.
- 79.3. Discussion took place around the impact of pupil premium on the school and how it had become harder for parents to apply for free school dinners however, Hillside Primary School aimed to assist parents of eligible children where possible.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocate £5,000 to Hillside Primary School to support the running of a breakfast club for pupils

Reason:

- Free access to all removes the 'stigma' of attending the Breakfast Club
- The Club provides a safe environment for the children who arrive early at school unaccompanied
- A healthy breakfast means all children can be fed and ready to learn
- Extra-curricular activities to improve fitness

80. SWAC/17/23 Funding Request: London Road Allotments Compost Toilet

- 80.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £7,353.00 was sought by the South West Area Committee for the purchase and installation of a compost toilet at the Council's allotment field on London Road. There were 111 allotments in use by a huge variety of people which included community groups and Ranelagh Road Primary School. It was hoped that this would improve the facilities at the allotments and allow individuals to spend more time there.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocate £7,353.00 to the Parks & Landscape Service for the purchase and installation of a compost toilet at the Council's allotment field on London Road.

Reason:

- To improve the facilities at this Council owned amenity
- To improve the convenience of the allotment field for local residents
- To support the outdoor learning of children from Ranelagh Road Primary School and Fostering Changes
- To support the outdoor activities for adults accessing Suffolk MIND services

81. SWAC/17/24 Funding Request: St Peters Hall Refurbishment Project

81.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that the South West Ipswich Ministry Team sought funding of £10,172.50 for a new kitchen as part of the St Peters Hall Refurbishment Project. The team had invested a large amount of money into renovating the church hall and required funding towards the kitchen to improve the facilities. This would have a positive impact for the services which used the hall such as the Bright Sparks Nursery who were the biggest users of the hall.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocate £10,172.50 to the South West Ipswich Team Ministry for refurbishment of the kitchen at St Peters Church Hall.

Reason:

- To provide upgraded and refurbished facilities for the users of the hall, in principal Bright Sparks Nursery, providing a better and safer working environment.
- To support the provision of quality nursery provision in an area of identified deprivation and where nursery provision is limited.

82. SWAC/17/25 Funding Request: St Matthews Primary School Kit Car

82.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, presented the report and confirmed that St Matthews CEVA Primary School sought £835 funding towards the purchase of a Kit Car. The car could be built by pupils as part of their learning with the intention to inspire and raise aspiration in Science and Technology. At the end of the school year the car could be deconstructed and re-built again by another class.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocate £835.00 to St Matthews CEVA Primary School for the purchase of a battery powered kit car.

Reason:

- To raise learning aspirations of St Matthews Primary School pupils
- To support the teaching of science and technology at St Matthews Primary School

83. SWAC/17/26 Area Action Plan Update

83.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported on the previous projects which the South West Area Committee had funded and advised that ActivHubs continued to succeed, the improvements to the surface at Handford Court would soon be undertaken and Lofty Heights would be purchasing a new van shortly.

83.2. Councillor P Smart confirmed that a meeting would be held with Lofty Heights and the Waste Management Team to discuss the issues around charging for use of the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Resolved:

That the revised South West Area Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 be noted.

Reason:

Priorities provide the basis of an action plan that will enable the Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and will help demonstrate how its budget is being allocated to deliver the priorities set for the Area.

84. SWAC/17/27 Area Committee Budget Update

84.1. The Lead Officer confirmed that following the funding allocated by the South West Area Committee this meeting the total unallocated budget available was £17,480.00.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the report Ref No SWAC/17/27 be noted.

Reasons:

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

85. Dates of Future Meetings, all to be held at 6.30pm

85.1. The South West Area Committee recorded their thanks and appreciation to Councillor Macartney for her role as Chair of the Committee and Councillors Clarke and Powell for their years of serving as Ipswich Borough Council Councillors.

Dates of Future Meetings, all to be held at 6.30pm

- **Thursday 31 May 2018 – Chantry Academy, Mallard Way Ipswich IP2 8LR**
- **Thursday 12 July 2018 – Stoke Green Baptist Church, Ipswich IP2 8RE
(venues to be arranged)**
- **Thursday 6 September 2018**
- **Thursday 1 November 2018**
- **Thursday 10 January 2019 – Gipping Room, Grafton House, Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2DE**
- **Thursday 7 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 20:32pm

Chair