

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2018

**NANSEN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH HALL,
NANSEN ROAD, IP3 9HN**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly and M Cook
Holywells Ward Councillors: B Studd and G Debman
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber and B Knowles
SCC Councillors: K Clements, M Gaylard and B Quinton

There were 21 members of the public in attendance.

65. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harsant, Councillor Hopgood and Councillor Maguire.

66. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

66.1. The Consultation Officer for the Upper Orwell Crossings Project proposed that the following amendments be applied:

- Minute 53.1, last bullet point to read as: "Following the Ground Investigation works, engagement events would continue and this would include focus groups; the full public consultation of the scheme would take place in autumn 2018, and the application for Development Consent Order"
- Minute 53.4, the response should read as "... before the public consultation in autumn 2018".

Resolved:

that, subject to the amendments above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 be signed as a true record.

67. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

68. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

69. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that future dates and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 6 June 2018, 7pm – All Hallows Church Hall, Landseer Road, IP3 0JH**
- **Wednesday 18 July 2018, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 12 September 2018, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**
- **Wednesday 21 November 2018, 7pm – Gainsborough ward**
- **Wednesday 16 January 2019, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 13 March 2019, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

70. Chair's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

70.1. The Chair reported that a handout of the responses received to previous actions was available at the meeting. The following points were raised in relation to the actions:

- Minute 8.5: Learner HGVs on Cliff Lane: Councillor Debman reported that there had been learner HGVs, including 60-foot long articulated lorries, using Cliff Lane before 9am. A local resident also reported learner HGVs doing hill starts outside his house.
- Minute 54.2: Anglian Water odour issue: Further updates would be provided following the Odour Management Review Meeting on 15 March 2018.
- Minute 55.5: Use of Speed Indicator Device (SID): The Chair confirmed that Downham Boulevard was also on the list of roads where the SID was being deployed. A local resident asked for the speed device to also be used on Benacre Road. This request would be forwarded to the South East Neighbourhood Partnership Group (NPG).
- Section 106 Developer Contributions Update: The Chair highlighted that there were no outstanding Section 106 contributions within the South East area.

- Minute 24.3: Holywells Park Travel Plan: More work was planned to take place over the summer months. Councillor Debman requested that travel plan monitoring be done at the upcoming Holi Festival event before the summer events begin.

71. Upper Orwell Crossings Project Update

71.1. The Chair introduced Ms Suzanne Buck, Project Manager for the Upper Orwell Crossings, who gave an update with the following key points:

- Benefits of the project included a reduction in journey times through the town centre, improved connectivity, reduction in congestion, new sustainable routes for cyclists and pedestrians and savings relating to shortened journey times during peak hours.
- Ground investigation works in the river were complete and had confirmed the location and depth of chalk.
- Details of the alignment had been announced: the main crossing would connect to the highway at the Rapier Street roundabout on Wherstead Road on the west side of the river and to a new junction on Holywells Road, north of Cliff Lane, on the east side of the river.
- A public information event had been held at DanceEast on 6 March 2018 with over 400 people attending throughout the day.
- Engagement would take place with interested parties [e.g. Friends of Holywells Park, Ipswich Society, Engineering Society, Chamber of Commerce] and further informal public information events would take place leading up to the formal consultation period.
- Focus groups had already commenced with people from the Cliff Lane area to help understand local concerns and how they could best be addressed.
- The design visualisation would be announced in Spring 2018 and the formal consultation would commence in Autumn 2018; if consent was granted, construction would commence in 2020.
- Further project information could be found on the following website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/upperorwellcrossings, along with contact information.

71.2. Local resident: The Cliff Lane Focus Group met this morning, but needs more local residents to get involved. The Head Teacher of Cliff Lane Primary School was very concerned about the impact of traffic on road safety on Cliff Lane. The transport modelling is not accessible to the public – how can we look at this information?

The transport model has been updated following the announcement of the alignment and could now start being used to predict traffic scenarios. The outputs from the modelling would not be available until at least June 2018, but would be published on the Upper Orwell Crossings Project website in time for the public consultation.

71.3. Local resident: What is being done to address the Wherstead Road and Nacton Road junctions on the A14 as they are already at full capacity?

The A14 junctions were the responsibility of Highways England. Suffolk County Council (SCC) had submitted a funding bid for a package of improvements to the A14 Nacton/Wherstead/Copdock/Seven Hills junctions, which if successful,

would be delivered by Highways England.

- 71.4. Local resident: You are predicting £6.5million of savings by taking traffic off the A14 and keeping traffic moving when the Orwell Bridge is closed. Is Suffolk basically paying for a bypass to the bypass?

The £6.5million was not a saving for Highways England; it represented the GVA uplift in terms of benefits to Ipswich, e.g. increasing the number of quality jobs, environmental and regeneration benefits.

- 71.5. Local resident: How can you predict when the bridge section would need to be opened to let port traffic to come through when the arrival of port traffic can be unpredictable?

When designing the bridge, there had to be a balance between the level of incline that would allow pedestrians and cyclists to be able to use the crossing and the bridge being high enough to accommodate the height of most sea vessels and therefore limit the number of times the bridge section has to be opened. According to the boat survey, 70-80% of sea vessels using the port would be able to pass under the crossing, and there would be an opening protocol put in place for those vessels that could not.

- 71.6. Local resident: Where will the additional traffic go when it gets to the end of Landseer Road?

The key routes would include Landseer Road, Cliff Lane and Wherstead Road; thereafter traffic might take different routes to its destination and this would be informed by the transport model. The impact on key junctions would be considered and how best to mitigate this.

- 71.7. Councillor Cook: The business case in December 2015 indicated an hourly increase of 1,000+ vehicles along Cliff Lane and Landseer Road. When the bridge section has to be opened, there could be up to 2,000 vehicles per hour converging on the crossing, which will result in queueing cars up Cliff Lane, potentially as far as Greenwich.

The overall increase in traffic was unlikely to be that high and the bridge would not be opened on a whim as vessels could be held back in a lock. Signage on the highways network would display how long before the bridge section was due to be opened.

- 71.8. Councillor Cook: Will the night time restrictions on HGVs on certain roads still continue after the crossings are implemented?

Yes, there were no plans to remove these restrictions.

- 71.9. Local resident: Is the purpose of this crossing to provide a route when the Orwell Bridge is closed in high winds and will the new crossing also have to be closed in high winds?

The proposed crossing was not intended as a 'spare' bridge for when the Orwell Bridge was closed. The main crossing was half the height of the Orwell Bridge and further up the estuary, so therefore less likely to be closed in high winds; the impact of high winds would be taken into consideration as part of the design.

71.10. Councillor Barber: There is concern about the level of air pollution increasing as a result of queuing traffic whilst the bridge section is opened to allow sea vessels through.

Air quality monitoring tubes were installed over a year ago, in conjunction with the Council's Environmental Health Team, at various locations. An increase in traffic alone would not necessarily result in poor air quality, other environmental factors need to be taken into consideration, e.g. corridor effect of neighbouring buildings. Air quality and noise monitoring was part of the planning process and this development should not result in creating any additional air quality management areas (AQMAs). The proposed crossings should actually improve the air quality around the Star Lane gyratory system.

71.11. County Councillor Gaylard: If Toller Road is to be closed off, how will lorries accessing the port leave the port?

Traffic would use Patteson Road and Cliff Road instead.

71.12. County Councillor Gaylard: Without Toller Road, there would be increased HGV traffic along John Street, Patteson Road and Cliff Road; what will be done to mitigate the impact of this traffic to local residents?

Now that the alignment was known, the updated model would be used to look at the key junctions and the potential impact and how best to mitigate this.

71.13. Local resident: One of the objectives was to improve the docks, which would result in more industrial areas and further HGV traffic into Ipswich.

No new port areas were due to be developed and the regeneration of the island site would not be for industrial use. Predicted growth across all sectors had been taken into account where known in line with the Ipswich Local Plan.

71.14. Local resident: Will there be bus use on the new crossing? Currently Foxhall Road is often congested; will the new crossing reduce this congestion?

This matter has already been raised at the Cliff Lane Focus Group for consideration.

72. Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues

72.1. The Chair reported that no questions have been submitted in advance of the meeting.

72.2. Local resident: Whenever it rains heavily, a large puddle forms outside 67 Clapgate Lane (near Powling Road); some cones have been placed around it as there is also some subsidence.

Councillor Cook offered to report this issue via the Suffolk Highways online system.

72.3. Local resident: There has also been a large area of standing water on Clapgate Lane opposite Landseer Park.

The Chair commented that this could also be reported via the Suffolk Highways online system. Councillor Cook added that highway faults could also be reported through the Fix My Street website (www.fixmystreet.com), which was

easier to use and could also be downloaded as an app onto smart phones and tablets.

73. Policing Update

- 73.1. The Chair reported that Inspector Pursehouse was unable to attend and the cover he had arranged was also unable to attend due to illness. The Chair advised that issues could be raised and they would be passed on at the South East NPG meeting the following day.
- 73.2. Councillor Debman: Has any action been taken to address vehicles parking at the bottom of Cliff Lane, which made it difficult for buses to access Cliff Lane?
- 73.3. Councillor Cook: I have not received a response to explain the 70% increase in burglary in Ipswich when other parts of Suffolk had seen a decrease.
The Chair commented that Inspector Pursehouse would be responding on this matter.
- 73.4. Councillor Cook: It is disappointing that there is no Police presence at this meeting; a letter should be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner about the lack of attendance due to a lack of resource.
- 73.5. Local resident: Sergeant Chaplin has not got back in contact about the use of the SID on Ravenswood.
- 73.6. Local resident: Local residents are concerned about the lack of Police presence on Ravenswood and some residents have been doing their own street patrols. There has been an issue with a burnt out car outside the Primary School and it took several calls requesting to make it safe before it was eventually moved. Residents feel abandoned by the Police.

74. Presentation: Associated British Ports (ABP)

- 74.1. The Chair introduced Mr Andrew Harston, Regional Director for Short Sea Ports, and Mr Paul Ager, Divisional Port Manager for East Coast, who gave a presentation about the Associated British Ports (ABP) organisation, with the following key points:
- ABP was the biggest port operator in the UK and would soon be celebrating the 21st anniversary of purchasing the port of Ipswich.
 - ABP provided a £5.6billion GVA contribution across its UK operations and over 84,000 jobs; 5 of the 20 largest ports in the UK were operated by ABP.
 - Over 5,000 boats and 10,000 visitors came to the port of Ipswich each year.
 - Ipswich was the largest UK exporter of grain, but also handled a variety of cargo, e.g. brick imports from Benelux countries, aggregates, timber, recycling operations for metals.
 - There has been significant investment in the port of Ipswich in the Orwell and Cliff Bulk Terminals, automated lock gates for the Waterfront and use of solar energy.

- ABP have raised over £2million for various charities, sponsored and bought the 'Ipswich Blue' pig as part of the Pigs Gone Wild trail in 2016, and have also been involved in community work, e.g. tidy up of Ipswich Waterfront.
- ABP were broadly supportive of the proposed new crossings and would be working closely with SCC to ensure that the development would not impact on its statutory duty to operate the port.
- Future development of the island site, 21 acres on the Wet Dock, would be enhanced by the delivery of the 3 crossings, as this site could currently only be accessed via Stoke Bridge. ABP had appointed consultants to look at the future use and opportunities for this site.

74.2. Councillor Debman: Would there be an opportunity in the future to develop businesses on the east bank towards the Orwell Bridge and provide an access road up to the Orwell Bridge?

The land there, comprising the former power station land and Anglian Water plant, was not easy to develop. Significant business investment would be needed throughout the site to support a requirement for an access road. A more likely use would be ancillary storage, e.g. for timber, which could free up land on the quays.

74.3. Councillor Connelly: The normal route for lorries accessing the port was via Landseer Road and Toller Road; how will the Upper Orwell Crossings affect lorry movements?

The designs were only just emerging following confirmation of the alignment and further traffic assessment would be undertaken. Vehicles would access the port via Cliff Road rather than Toller Road and this roundabout would need to be redesigned; consideration would also need to be given to the unrestricted parking on Cliff Road.

74.4. Councillor Cook: Similarly, in light of the additional vehicle movements anticipated on Cliff Lane, parking restrictions may be required, and also on the Rivers estate.

There was still a lot of work to be done. If Cliff Road was to be the HGV route, there would need to be sufficient space for 2 lorries to pass each other. The transport modelling would predict the level of traffic on Cliff Lane and other routes.

75. SEAC/17/22 Funding Request: Ipswich Borough Council Summer Holiday Activities Programme

75.1. Mr Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £3,354.19 was requested to deliver a programme of free summer holiday sports activities in South East Ipswich under the Jumpers for Goalposts brand, with a range of activities in parks and open spaces, plus 3 main elements:

This Girl Can Football: Aimed at 5-14 year old girls, to be run in sports centres with the opportunity to transfer onto local clubs

Tennis For Free: Building on last year's success, this activity was also being offered as a family activity at Murray Park

Basketball: Very popular with young people and often helped to bring communities together, this would be offered at Gainsborough Sports Centre

- 75.2. Councillor Debman: These activities were good for the young people in the area; could they also be advertised in local shops and libraries?
- 75.3. Councillor Barber: The Ipswich Under-16 girls' basketball team have had a very successful season and were the national champions.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £3,354.19 from the South East Area Committee budget to deliver the planned programme of summer holiday activities in South East Ipswich.

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

76. SEAC/17/23 Funding Request: Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association - Holywells Holi Festival

- 76.1. Mr Lanning introduced Ms Poli Mohan, Chair of the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association, who reported that funding was requested towards supplying coloured powder for the Holi Festival, which had been an annual event in Holywells Park since 2013 and had grown considerably from 150 attendees in 2013 to over 5,000 attendees last year. The Holi Festival was a festival of colour and engaged people from all ages and faiths; it was scheduled to take place on 8 April 2018.
- 76.2. Councillor Cook: This event is not taking place on the traditional date of Holi (2 March), how will people know when it will be happening?
The first Holi Festival in Ipswich in 2013 had to be rescheduled for April due to snow at the beginning of March; as the weather at the beginning of March was not usually very warm, it was now scheduled for April so that people would be able to take part without needing to wear a coat.
- 76.3. Councillor Debman: Last year, traffic was gridlocked around Holywells Park for this event; has someone approached Cliff Lane Primary School about using their car park as an overflow car park?
The Council's Events Team would organise the parking arrangements for this event.
Local resident: As this will be a large event, please can the cones be put out along Nacton Road and Cliff Lane.
- 76.4. Councillor Debman: What is the £9 vehicle mileage cost for?
This represents the Council's cost for vehicle use for organising the event.
Could the Council waive this cost?

76.5. Councillor Cook proposed that an additional £9 be added to the £1,000 funding requested to cover the vehicle mileage cost and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £1,009 from the South East Area Committee budget as a contribution to the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association for the 2018 Holywells Holi Festival.

Reason: The Holi Festival would provide a public celebration for the benefit of Ipswich residents and nurture a diversity of cultures within Ipswich.

77. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

77.1. County Councillor Gaylard reported that the alley gates had been installed for Devonshire Road properties and residents were very pleased and felt much safer.

77.2. County Councillor Gaylard commented that she would monitor the HGV traffic situation on Patteson Road and Cliff Road should Toller Road be closed off in the future, as HGV traffic was already using Patteson Road when it wasn't permitted.

77.3. County Councillor Quinton reported that he was working with the Ravenswood Residents Association and Suffolk Highways to consider traffic-calming speed humps on Downham Boulevard.

77.4. Councillor Debman had raised concern about the impact on the punctuality of bus services when there were road closures for events, such as the Ipswich Half-Marathon. Councillor Debman commented that this would be his last meeting as a ward Councillor, as he was not standing for election in May, but added that he would be involved with the focus group for the Upper Orwell Crossings and would continue to raise local concerns.

78. SEAC/17/24 Area Committee Financial Update

78.1. Mr Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, reported that following the approval of funding bids totalling £4,363.19 the South East Area Committee now had £9,349.30 available to spend on the priorities in its Action Plan.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 to the report 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.

The meeting closed at 8.51 pm

Chair