

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2019
THE DEAF ASSOCIATION, SUFFOLK HOUSE, 2
WHARFEDALE ROAD, IPSWICH IP1 4JP
7.00 PM**

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

There were 28 members of the public in attendance.

75. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from absence were received from Councillor M Goonan. Suffolk County Councillor K Bole was also unable to attend the meeting.

76. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2019

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

77. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

78. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

79. Policing Priorities in North West Ipswich

79.1 Inspector Kevin Horton and Sgt Luke Turner provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues in the North West of Ipswich. The

Inspector spoke about the recent deaths in Swinburne Road, the families were being supported and the community had recently come together to commemorate what would have been the birthday of the child involved. The media had reported that a 17 year old had been arrested, this had not in fact taken place and the investigation continued.

- 79.2 In relation to the recent stabbing at Marlow Road, five persons had been arrested and today a further person had been arrested. A media update was due to be released however, he clarified that the stabbing had no connection to any schools in the area.
- 79.3 Operation Sceptre the 'Bin A Blade' amnesty would take place next week and alongside partner agencies the issue of knife crime would be raised in schools.
- 79.4 In respect of the burglary offences which took place in January 2019, 4 people had been arrested and investigations continued, while 3 arrests had been made in connection with other offences, such as car keys being taken from insecure properties. The amount of incidents such as these had significantly reduced since the arrests had been made.
- 79.5 Investigations into 'County Lines' continued and closure orders had been issued at Grebe Close. Work continued with vulnerable adults in relation to Class A drug premises being used for drug activities. Plain clothes and high-vis patrols continued in relation to robberies and anti-social behaviour. Investigations into on-street prostitution continued in an effort to prevent 'behind closed doors' activity including online exploitation and trafficking. Patrols for anti-social behaviour continued in parks and open spaces as did searches for drugs and needles.
- 79.6 A resident asked for any information about a child who had been stopped by the driver of a silver/grey car in Bramford Lane. It was confirmed that there had been no further reports and it was considered that there was no connection to the incidents in the North East of Ipswich.
- 79.7 Sgt Turner reported that, in respect of Castle Court, there had been both overt and plain clothes patrols and an arrest had been made. Improved lighting had been discussed with the Manager of the Court. Positive results had been achieved with offences occurring at the shops in Garrick Way and the Youth Offending Team were now involved. There had been a report of some damage and anti-social behaviour at Castle Hill Church and although there might still be some low level damage which was not being reported, he encouraged anyone to report any incidents which would go straight to his team for collating. He could then gather the data, offer crime advice to the Church and offer more targeted patrols. Councillor Vickery asked whether the anti-social behaviour at the Church in Garrick Way had been related but the Sgt said that the information about the incident at the Church had been very scant, he was not aware of a link however, these reports would be considered as part of the ongoing work. The Chair encouraged residents to report any suspicious behaviour or criminal activity either by phone or online as intelligence could

then be used to build a bigger picture. The Chair thanked Inspector Horton and Sgt Turner for their attendance.

80. Chair's Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 80.1 The Chair gave an update on the review of Parks and Play Equipment which had previously been undertaken. Parks were now visiting each site to see which equipment could be used to make larger destination parks.

81. Monitoring Updates

81.1 Playbus

A representative from the Playbus updated the Committee about the £2,500 funding allocation from the North West Area Committee agreed on 9 November 2017. The Playbus stopped at two locations in the North West area, at Ulster Avenue in Whitehouse ward and at Congreve Road in Castle Hill ward catering for 240 adults and children in total with 162 at Congreve Road and 78 at Ulster Avenue.

- 81.2 There were steady numbers throughout the year with dads, mums and grandparents attending and were also well supported by the local residents. The Playbus helped those feeling isolated, with mental health or personal issues and those with development issues. There were theme days with seasonal interests and at Christmas small items were made to sell as presents and in October 2018, 'Maggie' the Playbus celebrated 15 continuous years on the road.

- 81.3 Councillor Vickery asked whether there had been increasing costs with the running of the bus and the representative said that since the bus had received a new engine in 2013 there had been no further costs envisaged as the bus had been built to last.

81.4 BSEVC Family Carers

The Community Engagement Officer updated the Committee about the £1,761.75 funding allocated to the group by the North West Area Committee in March 2018, for the cost of the Coffee Corner Drop-in Group which had been formed in 2017. The sessions looked to improve health and wellbeing in the community, working with and supporting family carers in the North West of Ipswich with 6-12 regular attendees. Previously the Group had met at the 'Meeting Place' on Limerick Close but now met at Whitton Sports Centre for the 2 hour sessions.

- 81.5 The core benefits to the family carers was the moral and practical support of speaking to others experiencing similar challenges and guest speakers visited from Citizens Advice Bureau, Healthwatch, Suffolk Family Carers and the Suffolk Parent Carer Network. Activities included Indian head massage,

dreamcatcher and foam craft sessions, storytelling and seasonal activities like Easter fun and Xmas wreath making sessions.

82. NWAC/18/18 Proposed Bus Stop Clearways

- 82.1 Michael Newsham, Integrated Transport Officer presented this report which, working with Suffolk County Council, aimed to install raised bus stop kerbs to help passengers get on or off buses more easily, particularly the elderly or those with physical disabilities, wheelchair users or passengers with prams. It was usual to install bus stop clearway restrictions at the same time and the proposals were for stops on the 9 and 10 bus service which operated from the town centre to the Whitton and the Castle Hill areas.
- 82.2 Consultation had been carried out and the affected residents had been written to. Six objections to the proposals had been received and these were attached to the report at Appendix C.
- 82.3 Councillor Goldsmith asked whether there were any time restrictions to the clearway proposals and Mr Newsham said that the letters and plans stated that the restrictions would be in place at all times, as requested by the operators of the bus service (Ipswich Buses) as the 9 & 10 bus service ran from 6.00am – 11.30pm.
- 82.4 Councillor Fisher asked whether the clearway restriction was necessary at all and Mr Newsham said that, it was in order to ensure that the area was kept clear so that the buses could pull up flush with the kerb at all times and Ipswich Buses supported this provision at the bus stops it served.
- 82.5 Councillor Vickery asked whether the clearway restrictions would affect those properties with a dropped kerb and Mr Newsham clarified that none of the proposals would remove or restrict any dropped crossings as they were all on the carriageway.
- 82.6 Councillor Meudec said that she was aware that bus drivers were struggling to board residents who were wheelchair or pushchair users.

Resolved:

- 1. that a bus stop clearway restriction, in force at all times, be installed at the inbound bus stop outside 46 Elmcroft Road, in accordance with the plan shown in Appendix B of report Ref No: NWAC/18/18, be agreed.**

Reason: To ensure that bus passengers can easily and safely board and alight from buses.

2. **that a bus stop clearway restriction, in force at all times, be installed at the outbound bus stop outside 105/105A Fircroft Road, in accordance with the plan shown in Appendix B of report Ref No: NWAC/18/18, be agreed.**

Reason: To ensure that bus passengers can easily and safely board and alight from buses.

3. **that a bus stop clearway restriction, in force at all times, be installed at the inbound bus stop outside 108 Fircroft Road, in accordance with the plan shown in Appendix B of report Ref No: NWAC/18/18, be agreed.**

Reason: To ensure that bus passengers can easily and safely board and alight from buses.

4. **that a bus stop clearway restriction, in force at all times, be installed at the inbound bus stop outside 156 Fircroft Road, in accordance with the plan shown in Appendix B of report Ref No NWAC/18/18, be agreed.**

Reason: To ensure that bus passengers can easily and safely board and alight from buses.

83. Ward Councillors Feedback

83.1 Whitehouse ward

Councillor Chisholm spoke in praise of how the Police had responded during the recent incident in Marlow Road.

Castle Hill ward

Councillor Vickery reported no further issues apart from the anti-social behaviour on Garrick Way. Both he and Councillor Goldsmith had taken part in a discussion about the overhanging vegetation in Shrubland Avenue and it was confirmed that a resolution was close to agreement, with the use of Councillor Goldsmith's Locality budget.

Councillor Goldsmith reported that the play equipment was installed and being used at the Dales Road Play area. He had also used his Suffolk County Council Locality budget for the Castle Hill Community Garden, the Friends of the Dales Club and the Friends of Whitton School.

Whitton ward

Councillor Meudec reported that work had started at the Tooks Bakery site off Old Norwich Road and pointed out that the access to the site entrance was off Bury Road.

Councillor Shaw said that it had been reported in the Whitton Times (printed by Whitton Church) about the good work of the singing group.

84. Responses to Public Questions and Feedback on Local Issues

84.1 The following had been raised by a resident:-

With reference to the traffic on Old Norwich Road, Whitton Church Lane and Bury Road in regards to the development of the Tooks Bakery site, suggestions were given on how to alleviate the congestion due to the increase in traffic. The resident was concerned with how these were being addressed and how congestion could and would be eased.

Suffolk County Councillor West replied that the Transport Engineers at Suffolk County Council were working on proposals to address a lot of the issues raised. Section 106 funds had been obtained from the developer and there was every likelihood that Suffolk County Council would add to this by using its Integrated Transport Strategy budget. When the scheme was ready to discuss either a meeting of the North West Area Committee or a drop-in session would be arranged towards the end of the year. Congestion was an issue all around Ipswich and it was expected that what would be brought forward would ease the situation and solve the issues raised.

84.2 The Chair said that Councillors would welcome a presentation to the Area Committee and Councillor Meudec said that the suggestions made were positive and would be ideal to be discussed when the scheme came forward.

84.3 A resident spoke about HGV's which travelled along Old Norwich Road and into Whitton Church Lane and the Chair said that enforcement of prohibited vehicles was a Police matter and Suffolk County Councillor West said that if proof were available then the companies concerned would be written to. Any information on vehicles illegally entering a prohibited access should be taken up with the Police or to Suffolk County Council and the IBC Councillors would take up any issues on residents behalf. The resident suggested opening up the old bus terminal to allow HGV's who had mistakenly entered the area to turn round in and Suffolk County Councillor West agreed to take this back to the Transport Engineers. The speed limit on Whitton Church Lane was confirmed as being 30mph and the Police were to be informed of speeding vehicles so that they would be able to take action.

84.4 A resident asked what the Council procedure was about planting new trees as many had been taken down and not replaced and whether there was a street replanting scheme in place? Councillor Fisher said that IBC worked closely with SCC, there was a tree champion and he would speak to the resident after the meeting to discuss the details with him. Suffolk County Councillor Lockington said that it was difficult to get new trees planted in streets.

84.5 A resident asked whether the trees bordering Bury Road at the Tooks Development site would be kept after the development had taken place and it

was confirmed by looking at the plans of the site that, apart from 1 or 2 being taken down, they would be kept and there would be further planting put in around the other side of the site. Councillor Vickery, in his capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor said that trees could be planted which were funded by County Councillors Locality Budgets.

- 84.6 Councillor Chisholm said that there would be a survey taking place at St Thomas's Church on 19 March 2019 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm about improvements which could be made to the area and encouraged residents to attend.

85. NWAC/18/19 Funding request - Suffolk Pride Festival 2019

- 85.1 Andrew Knott, the Secretary of Suffolk Pride presented the request for funding for £750.00 towards the cost of holding a one-day parade and celebration event on Ipswich Waterfront on 22 June 2019. The origins of why the celebration began were detailed and the route of the planned festival was explained. There would be a variety of live music and entertainment with a range of food and beverage stalls in an effort to bring together people from across Ipswich, to celebrate and make new friends.
- 85.2 22 June 2019 was linked to Suffolk Day and many organisations and businesses would be taking part. A fund raising Pre-Pride party would be held on Thursday 18 April 2019 at Isaacs on the waterfront from 7.00pm until late.
- 85.3 Councillor Chisholm said that he was proud that the festival would be coming back to Ipswich after a five year break, as Ipswich was a diverse place and he commended the work taking place together with the local schools such as the Ormiston Academy.

Resolved:

that £750 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of the Suffolk Pride parade and celebration event for 2019, be agreed.

Reason: To benefit LGBTQ+ people in Ipswich and Suffolk and promote cultural and community cohesion for the whole town.

86. NWAC/18/20 Summer Holiday & Half Term Activities Programme

- 86.1 Andy Wilesmith, the Assistant Operations Manager for Sport presented this request for funding to deliver the Jumpers for Goalposts summer holiday and half-term activities in North West Ipswich. Last year had been a great success with nearly 300 young people taking part. No set programme was available as yet and it was confirmed that the free iCard offer would be returning again this year for those qualifying as this initiative had been so successful last year.
- 86.2 Park activities with Positive Futures would continue with marketing and promotion being via social media to connect with individuals, groups and

schools. IBC had become an accredited Sports Leader Provider through the Leadership Programme which provided future opportunities to attain a qualification.

- 86.3 Councillor Vickery asked whether swimming would be included in the activities and Mr Wilesmith said that the free iCard offer would be available for free swimming for holders of the card and it was confirmed that the activities programme would be held in sports centres, parks and open spaces.

Resolved:

that £2,960.00 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget to deliver the Jumpers for Goalposts summer holiday and half-term activities in North West 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 and half term holidays.

87. NWAC/18/21 Area Committee Budget Update

- 87.1 The Lead Officer for the North West Area Committee, the Operations Manager for Finance presented the Area Committee Financial Update and reported that the remaining unallocated budget available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North West Ipswich was £11,944.43.

Resolved:

that the financial position of the North West Area Committee, 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.

88. Dates of Future Meetings for 2019/20, all at 7.00pm

- **Thursday 6 June 2019 – Whitton Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane, IP1 6LT**
- **Thursday 18 July 2019 – The Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road IP1 6AJ (Venues to be arranged)**
- **Thursday 5 September 2019**
- **Thursday 7 November 2019**
- **Thursday 9 January 2020**
- **Thursday 5 March 2020**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chair