

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018
IPSWICH COMMUNITY CHURCH,
CLARKSON STREET, IP1 2JP
7.00 PM**

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: J Cook, A Leeder and J Riley
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: O Holmes, I Lockington and L Reynolds
Westgate Ward Councillors: J Gibbs, C Jones and C Kreidewolf
SCC Councillors: C Chambers, I Lockington

There were 18 members of the public in attendance.

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Abbott and County Councillor Gaylard.

17. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2018 be signed as a true record.

18. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Councillor Jones proposed that, as there was no representative from the Police present, agenda item 7 (report CAC/18/11) be considered prior to Agenda Item 6, and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that, subject to Agenda Item 7 being considered before Agenda Item 6, the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

19. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 7 November 2018, 7pm – St Margaret’s Primary School, Bolton Lane, IP4 2BT**
- **Wednesday 9 January 2019, 7pm – Museum Street Methodist Church, Black Horse Lane, IP1 2EF**
- **Wednesday 6 March 2019, 7pm – Westgate ward**

21. CAC/18/11 Retrospective Funding Request: Christ Church - Holiday at Home

- 21.1. The Chair reported that this funding request was retrospective due to the cancellation of the meeting that was scheduled to take place on 11 July 2018.
- 21.2. Ms Durnford reported that Christ Church was a town centre church with several elderly members in its congregation. Most of the regular church activities did not take place during the summer holidays, so Christ Church provide 3 days of activities at the end of July, known as Holiday at Home, which was now in its fifth year.
- 21.3. This year’s activities included war time memory boxes, picture quiz, bingo, exercise to music, various crafts, a trip to Wyevale Garden Centre, a concert by the Kesgrave Singers, outdoor cream tea; plus lunch was provided on each of the days. More than 20 volunteers were involved over the 3 days to help with cooking, transportation and providing one-to-one assistance to some of the attendees to enable them to participate in the activities.
- 21.4. Ms Durnford reported that although a budget of £545 was initially requested, the total expenditure for the activities was £438.04.
- 21.5. Councillor Jones supported the activities provided by Christ Church and asked whether there was any scope to extend the project or number of days provided with the use of more volunteers. Ms Durnford commented that the 3 days provided already took quite a lot of planning and resource to organise.
- 21.6. Councillor Cook congratulated Christ Church on the activities provided and commented that this was a good model that could be used by other church congregations in the town.
- 21.7. Councillor Cook proposed that the recommendation be amended to reflect the actual expenditure for the project (£438.04) and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee retrospectively approves funding of £438.04 from the Central Area Committee budget for Christ Church as a contribution towards their 'Holiday at Home' scheme.

Reason: To enable Christ Church to host a 'Holiday at Home' for elderly and/or more vulnerable members of the community in Ipswich

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

22.1. The Chair reported that Inspector Weaver of the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) was not able to attend and unfortunately his nominated representative was not able to attend due to illness. The Chair reported that 5 questions/issues had been received in writing in advance of the meeting.

22.2. Question/issue 1:

"I read in the Ipswich Star newspaper about a public consultation exhibition into some proposals to improve Norwich Road; the event was held at the former Co-op store on Barrack Corner. There was very little advance warning of the consultation. Please could you inform me whether further information will be available at both the Central and North West Area Committee meetings as I was unable to attend the consultation?"

That event was the first consultation with local businesses/residents to progress the ideas developed through the Destination Norwich Road Group's local economic plan (funded by DCLG). The next consultation would present the detailed design options for the street that were being developed.

22.3. Question/issue 2:

"Please inform me when the now demolished Drum and Monkey public house will become part of the Portman Road car park, and whether there are still proposals for offices to be built on the site of the former Mann Egerton garage, which is still trading at present, and whether the building will be demolished as a result of the new office buildings?"

The former Drum & Monkey site would become part of the Portman Road car park in the Autumn. The wider site, including the former Mann Egerton garage, was allocated in the Ipswich Local Plan for redevelopment, comprising of offices, hotel, leisure and car parking.

22.4. Question/issue 3:

"Please inform me when the new Crown Street car park will be open to the public. I notice that some steps are being constructed from the car park to Crown Street between Crown Pools and Crown House. Please inform me what measures will be put in place to deter beggars asking people for money in the area as this has been an issue previously."

The new Crown Street multi-storey car park opened on 30 July 2018. Street begging was not specific to the area of the car park and required a multi-

agency approach. As such, the Council would continue to work with partners in addressing issues arising from street begging.

22.5. Question/issue 4:

“I understand that a new school is to be built on the site of the former Co-op Supermarket. Please inform me when the construction is to commence on site and when planning permission is to be applied for.”

The Council was yet to receive a planning application in relation to this scheme. However, initial conversations had indicated that an application was expected in early 2019. Until any planning permission was granted, and to be clear, this was yet to be determined, construction timescales could not be confirmed.

22.6. Question/issue 5:

“Please can you confirm that the proposed Mint Quarter for the Cox Lane and Tacket Street car park site has been cancelled and whether a replacement development is proposed for this site?”

The current Local Plan, as adopted in 2017, allocated the Mint Quarter east of Cox Lane for residential use over 60% of the site, together with amenity space and a short stay multi-storey car park to cover the remaining 40% of the site. The local planning authority was working on the draft version of the next Local Plan, and consideration to potential future uses would be given as part of this process. At this time, no firm decisions have been made as to the future allocation of this site.

The Chair invited questions from the floor.

22.7. Local resident: We live in Ann Street and our house overlooks the South Street car park. Since August, there has been a group of young people congregating at the northern end of the car park who often behave in a lewd manner, smoke cannabis and leave litter behind, including broken glass. This is a Council-owned car park and is regularly visited by the Council’s Enforcement Officers. There is also CCTV cameras covering the northern boundary of the car park. We don’t ring 999 as the response would be too late. What else can the Police and the Council do to address this issue?

Councillor Jones reported that if the incident was not an emergency, it could be reported to the Police by emailing ipswichcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk and also copying in ward Councillors, especially as this issue involved a Council owned car park. Anti-social behaviour was happening in many areas of Westgate and Alexandra, but it was important that issues were reported to the Police so that their resources could be directed to where issues were taking place.

Councillor Kreidewolf added that Ward Councillors met with the Police every month as part of the Central Ipswich Neighbourhood Partnership Group (NPG) and this issue would be referred onto the next meeting.

- 22.8. Local resident: I am concerned about the campaign that has been started in response to the planning application to convert the Mulberry Tree public house into a community centre. A lot of resources have been put behind developing this proposal, including planning legal advice, but there have been bigoted comments on Facebook, plus threats to burn down the building and bury dead animals on site. The issue has been reported to the Police, but there has been no proper response and I am concerned about the potential for public disorder.

Councillor Lockington reported that she had forwarded some of the Facebook comments, which were very racist, onto the Police and added that leaflets had also been delivered in the area. Councillor Lockington added that when the planning application was determined by the Council's Planning and Development Committee, only planning matters would be taken into consideration.

Councillor Kreidewolf commented that he would not discuss the merits of the application, as he was a member of the Planning & Development Committee and did not want to pre-determine the application, but he did share concern about the extreme language being used.

Councillor Jones commented that there had not been a similar campaign in relation to the proposals to convert the former Odeon building into a church. [**Note: This minute was subsequently amended at the meeting held on 7 November 2018].

Councillor Jones added that Suffolk Police would be a statutory consultee on the Mulberry Tree planning application, but asked what action could be taken by the Police in response to the inappropriate language and sentiment being expressed on social media.

Action: The Chair to write to the Police on behalf of the Committee to ask what action could be taken by the Police in response to inappropriate comments published on social media.

- 22.9. Local resident: In the June Ipswich Central SNT newsletter, it was reported that a Community Protection Notice (CPN) had been issued against someone persistently begging on the streets. Has there been a reduction in the level of street begging in the town centre?

This enquiry would be forwarded onto the Police for a response.

23. CAC/18/12 Central Area Committee - Area Action Plan

- 23.1. Ms Firbank, Community Engagement Officer, reported that the Area Action Plan for the Central Area Committee had been reviewed against the priorities in the Domains of Deprivation and the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 23.2. This year the priorities would focus on alleviating deprivation relating to 'Crime', 'Education, Skills and Training' and 'Health and Disability' and supporting the Corporate Plan aims relating to 'A Sustainable Environment', 'A Healthy Community' and 'Safe Communities'.

- 23.3. Local resident: What activities sit under these priorities?
The activities would depend on community groups requesting funding to deliver projects that support the priorities; for example, previously the Area Committee has funded Lofty Heights, Holiday at Home, the Help our Homeless initiative and improvements to the Ipswich Community Church kitchen to enable them to act as one of the Winter Night Shelter providers.
- 23.4. Local resident: How are the priorities used? If a project meets the priorities meets the priorities will be it be funded?
There was a limited amount of funding available and not every project could be funded, so the priorities helped the Area Committee to focus where the funding should be directed. If a funding application did not meet the priorities, then the Area Committee could refuse to fund it on that basis.
- 23.5. Councillor Cook highlighted that the priorities in the appendix of the report were different to those presented. Ms Firbank confirmed that the wrong appendix had been included on the agenda and that the priorities presented were those identified by the ward Councillors.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee agrees the following priorities for the 2018/19 municipal year and adopts them as its Area Action Plan:

- **Domains of Deprivation: 'Crime', 'Education, Skills and Training' and 'Health and Disability'**
- **Corporate Plan: 'A Sustainable Environment', 'A Healthy Community' and 'Safe Communities'**

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.

24. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

- 24.1. The Chair reported that County Councillor West was not able to attend the meeting, but had provided the following updates in response to previously raised Suffolk Highways issues.
- 24.2. Anglesea Road 20mph scheme: The Anglesea Road 20mph speed limit proposal has been progressing since the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was given the approval to proceed to implementation by the Assistant Director for Highways and County Councillor Mary Evans on 11 June 2018. Since then an engineer has been assigned and has been drafting the detailed designs.

The first draft of these plans has been completed and was currently with the SCC Road Safety Speed and Traffic Management Team to review from an Asset Management perspective before being shared with County Councillor Lockington and County Councillor Chambers. It would then be included with the rest of the necessary works pack and passed on to the SCC Operations Team

to implement. At that stage a construction order would be placed and from the date of order, the SCC Operations Team would aim to implement the works on the ground within 14 weeks once the traffic management has been planned and scheduled, the labour resource has been programmed and the materials sourced.

Councillor Lockington added that she had seen the plans indicating where the signage was to be placed and this scheme was now being progressed.

- 24.3. Woodbridge Road 20mph scheme: Although initial progress has been slow on this project, the project has now been reassigned and following a preliminary design being drafted and some local consultation being undertaken, the next stage was to undertake a consultation with statutory stakeholders. The original plan was to implement a 20mph speed limit and any necessary associated traffic calming along Woodbridge Road, Palmerston Road and St Helen's Street. Recent discussions with the SCC Transport Strategy Team have highlighted that a strategic project to tackle congestion was being considered along St Helen's Street and it was therefore decided to separate the St Helen's Street element to allow this part of the proposal to be undertaken at the same time as the strategic project.

Further discussions, involving the SCC Transport Strategy Team and Ipswich Borough Councillors, had taken place and there was now some doubt over the future of the strategic project on St Helen's Street and significant delays were envisaged, at the very least, in being able to progress this project. Discussions would be held with County Councillor Gaylard, who was providing funding for the 20mph project, about whether to proceed with the consultation on the basis of the project including St Helen's Street or not. Once this has been determined, a statutory 3-week consultation would be carried out and the results analysed to inform whether any design amendments were required. Following that, the SCC legal department would prepare the Traffic Regulation Order, which would need to be formally advertised for 3 weeks, and any representations received would be reviewed, with a report produced for the consideration by Assistant Director for Highways and County Councillor Mary Evans. If no changes were required, the TRO would be sealed and the works pack would be compiled and passed on to the SCC Operations Team to enable the plans to be implemented. The SCC Operations Team would aim to deliver the works within 14 weeks of receipt of a construction order.

- 24.4. Safety concerns relating to the Woodbridge Road crossing near St Helen's Primary School: A replacement pedestrian crossing has been constructed with a revised layout that provided more space for users. The work was completed by 31 August 2018 in time for the beginning of the school term.
- 24.5. Project update - Ginnel Foto Fest 2018: Mr Chen, festival founder, reported that the third Ginnel Foto Fest had taken place in Clarkson Street over 2 days on the late May bank holiday, with over 200 people attending to visit the exhibition. Additionally, there was a marquee set up in the street, with live music and street food/drink. The exhibition, which included 12 international photographers, was then transferred to the Frame Workshop and Gallery on St

Nicholas Street, with over 150 people attending the opening night. 1,100 copies of the festival magazine were produced and the remaining 200-300 copies would be passed onto an international folk festival held in Amsterdam. Mr Chen commented that many people from minority groups had been invited into the exhibition space on Clarkson Street and this had helped to integrate people within the community.

25. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 25.1. Councillor Cook reported that he had been looking at environmental issues relating to Alexandra Park with Councillor Leeder, as there had been problems with drug-related debris around the play area, which would be addressed by replacing the bark chips with rubber matting. Debris was also an issue near to the toilets in the park, which were currently closed, and people would be consulted as to whether the toilets should remain closed. Councillor Cook added that he had also reported fly-tipping issues around Shaftsbury Square and Clifford Road School, which had been satisfactorily resolved by the Council.
- 25.2. Councillor Reynolds asked whether any funding bids had been received that had not been forwarded onto the Area Committee. Mr Fairclough, Head of Culture and Environment Services, commented that he did not have that information to hand.
- 25.3. Councillor Kreidewolf reported that he had been dealing with a variety of casework across Westgate relating to housing, anti-social behaviour and licensing matters. Councillor Kreidewolf added that he had been promoting the 'Meet up Mondays' coffee morning events held in the Greyhound public house, which helped to address social isolation, and also highlighted that the Jubilee Friends Group were holding a coffee and chat session tomorrow at 2pm. Councillor Kreidewolf highlighted the success of the Ipswich Reggae Choir, formed by the Jubilee Friends, who had performed at Global Rhythms and the Windrush Celebrations; this group met for rehearsals every Tuesday evening.
- 25.4. Councillor Lockington reported that there had been a spate of cars being hit by other cars around Christchurch Park, and questioned whether this was as a result of speeding.
- 25.5. Councillor Leeder reported that there had been an increase in Police and Park Patrols around Alexandra Park; some of the trees had been cut back to increase the visibility of these patrols in order to help reduce littering and anti-social behaviour.
[**Note: This minute was subsequently amended at the meeting held on 7 November 2018].
- 25.6. Councillor Jones commented on the importance of the physical environment, highlighting the issues relating to the former Rose and Crown public house and the Mason Arms, and the need to bring these buildings back into use or at least keep the areas secure and tidy. Councillor Jones added that there were plans to improve the Jubilee Park play area and consultations would be held to

identify what to include to help transform that area.

- 25.7. Councillor Gibbs highlighted the activities that had been provided by the Council over the summer, including Indian Mela, Global Rhythms, Ipswich Music Day, Maritime Festival and I-card activities for young people, all of which were free to access.
- 25.8. Local resident: How many young people signed up for the I-card activities? The outcomes from this initiative should be shared with the public, and it was good to see families taking part together in the activities. Councillor Kreidewolf reported that 12,000 people had signed up; data from the activities was currently being analysed.
- 25.9. Local resident (Christ Church): Is there a list of the 'Meet up Mondays' coffee morning events? Christ Church and St Mary-le-Tower Church were planning to hold drop-in coffee mornings and this information would be helpful to avoid clashes.
Action: Ms Firbank to supply information about the Meet up Monday events to Christ Church.
- 25.10. Councillor Riley congratulated Ms Firbank on her involvement with the launch activities of the 'Take the Lead' campaign on behalf of the Suffolk Guide Dog Forum, which helped to raise awareness of attacks made on guide dogs and the impact this had on their owners.

26. CAC/18/13 Area Committee Budget Update

- 26.1. Mr Fairclough, Head of Culture and Environment Services, reported that at the start of the meeting, the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £18,285.08 to spend on its priorities.
- 26.2. Following the financial commitment of £438.04 arising from the approved funding request, the unallocated Central Area Committee budget was now £17,847.04.
- 26.3. Mr Fairclough also reported that, since the last meeting, £100 had been allocated from the Making a Difference budget towards printing costs for flyers for the Jubilee Friends Group.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

Chair