

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2018
ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,
BOLTON LANE, IP4 2BT
7.00 PM

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: J Cook and A Leeder
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, M Gaylard and I Lockington

There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

27. Apologies for Absence

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

28. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

28.1. Re: Minute 22.8: The fourth paragraph of minute 22.8 should commence with "Councillor Cook commented ...".

28.2. Re: Minute 25.5: The second phrase should read as "... some of the trees were due to be cut back ...".

Resolved:

that, subject to the two amendments above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018 be signed as a true record.

29. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

30. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

31. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 9 January 2019, 7pm – Museum Street Methodist Church, Black Horse Lane, IP1 2EF**
- **Wednesday 6 March 2019, 7pm – Westgate ward**

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

- 32.1. The Chair introduced Sergeant Vicky McParland of the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following update on policing priorities:
- 32.2. A recent Suffolk Constabulary restructure has resulted in 100 officers being allocated across the SNTs; this means that for the Ipswich Central SNT, there would now be 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants (previously 2), 12 PCs (previously 6) and 3 PCSOs (previously 8, some of whom have since been deployed to other roles within Suffolk Constabulary). The additional Police Officers would provide more resource to tackle town centre issues in the evening, and there would be a Link Police Officer who would work closely with the PCSOs.
- 32.3. The setting of SNT priorities, previously based on local data, was now being done across the Southern Division as a whole; the current priorities were as follows: Operation Velocity (tackling drug dealing), Operation Notion (tackling organised crime in the community) and tackling acquisitive crime (burglary, theft, robbery). Intelligence from the community was vital and non-urgent crime could be reported via the website, email (ipswichcentral.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) or via ward Councillors.
- 32.4. In response to the enquiry at the previous meeting about inappropriate comments on publicity materials/social media relating to proposals to convert the Mulberry Tree into a community centre, Sergeant McParland commented that the pamphlet distributed in the St Margaret's area had been carefully worded and was not considered as an offence, although it might have influenced some people's views. The postings on Facebook had been made through a closed account and the Police had not received the details of the posts; if anyone had screenshots of this information, this could be forwarded to the Police for investigation. In general, if members of the public were unhappy about any information posted on Facebook, they could report it to Facebook and this would be removed quicker than if the Police were to issue the same request to Facebook.
Councillor Cook commented that he had seen some of the comments on Facebook, so it couldn't have been part of a closed account, and added that he

had consulted a legal representative who advised that some of the content could have been considered an offence due to the inflammatory and racist nature of the comments. Sergeant McParland commented that any information could be forwarded onto the Central Desktop Investigation Unit for further investigation.

- 32.5. In response to the enquiry at the last meeting about street begging in the town centre, Sergeant McParland reported that this was a longstanding issue and the Police were working with the Ipswich Locality Homelessness Partnership (ILHP) and other agencies to tackle it. There was still a group of individuals who were difficult to engage with, but the Police would now have additional Police Officers on the streets. Sergeant McParland added that some individuals had complex issues to address and not all street beggars were homeless.
- 32.6. Councillor Lockington asked when the names of the Police Officers would be updated on the Ipswich Central SNT webpage as this hadn't been done as yet. Sergeant McParland commented that she would highlight this to the Suffolk Police ICT Team.
- 32.7. Councillor Jones reported that there had been drug dealing and young people congregating in Providence Street and in the South Street car park. Sergeant McParland reported that additional resource had been used to patrol these areas and arrests had been made.
- 32.8. Sergeant McParland confirmed that PC John Cuff had been assigned as the Police Community Engagement Officer for Central Ipswich, based at SNT office on Museum Street, and would be supervised by the Sergeant leading on Crime Reduction and Engagement. PC Cuff would be undertaking public engagement events at schools, University, Open Days and on the radio, acting as the face of the Police within the community.
- 32.9. Councillor Cook reported that he had been in Alexandra Park recently when there was police activity taking place and he had asked Police Officers what was happening, and they had advised him to speak to the Martlesham Press Team. Councillor Cook reported that they had been undertaking a sweep for drugs/blades and commented that the Police could have been more open as this was a positive action being undertaken. Sergeant McParland reported that the default response for Police Officers was to refer queries to the Press Officer.
- 32.10. The Chair reported that 2 questions/issues had been received in advance of the meeting.
- 32.11. Question/Issue 1: Local resident

“Suffolk County Council (SCC) Councillor Paul West attended a Kings Avenue residents meeting on 26th March 2018 to hear residents' concerns with traffic in Kings Avenue. Paul West confirmed that SCC was currently looking at ways to improve traffic in St Helen's Street and that Kings Avenue would be included in

this review. Given the update provided in the Minutes of Central Area Committee meeting 5th September (24.3), can I ask what steps will now be taken as regards traffic issues in Kings Avenue and when might we know more about the future of the proposed review of St Helen's Street congestion?"

County Councillor West reported that investigations were still ongoing with regards to improvements to the St Helen's Street corridor, including what could be done for Kings Avenue. As yet, no decisions had been made. In the last 3 months, SCC Officers and Councillors had met with Ipswich Borough Council and Sandy Martin MP to discuss the issues and had also visited the area. There would be a further meeting with Ipswich Borough Council's officers and Portfolio Holder, Councillor Smart, in late November. After that meeting, SCC intend to be in a position by the end of 2018 to provide information on options and to share this information with Officers and Councillors.

Local resident: If, after the further discussions, there was no further movement on this issue, would SCC consider a scheme just for Kings Avenue?

County Councillor West reported that he hoped that Kings Avenue would be included in the overall review, but no options were ruled out at this stage. In response to County Councillor Gaylard, County Councillor West reported that discussions to date had been held with himself, County Councillor Mary Evans and Councillor Phil Smart; once options were available, this information would be shared with County Councillor Gaylard and IBC ward Councillors.

32.12. Question/issue 2: Local resident

"I have now raised two reports regarding concerns with the SCC building in Rope Walk opposite St Edmund House. Serious littering and fly-tipping plagues this abandoned and empty building together with general decay, neglect, overgrown plants and vandalism. Nothing has been done about this eyesore or about my reports to IBC. Given the importance that is placed on the physical environment, (reference Cllr Jones in the Minutes), can I ask when this site will be cleaned up to remove the rubbish, clear the site of overgrown weeds and remove the unsightly metal barriers, and more importantly when will this building be either reinstated as a useful building or be demolished? Rope Walk has its problems and I feel that leaving a building like this adds to them and may even attract them."

County Councillor West reported that the former SCC canteen and social club building on Rope Walk had been sold in 2005 and therefore SCC was not responsible for the maintenance of the site since that time. The site was currently owned by DBS Contracting Ltd and in October 2017 planning permission had been granted for a new development of homes and offices on the site.

Councillor Jones added that the Council had pursued getting this site developed in order to make the area safer; the site was privately owned and had planning permission for a development, but the owner was currently looking to sell the site on. Councillor Jones added that the Council had the

power under Section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to require that land be cleaned up if adversely affecting the amenity of an area.

Councillor Cook commented that vacant sites often attracted rubbish and fly-tipping and added that he had reported this site to Council Officers and the area had recently been cleared up.

32.13. With regards to the request for a 20mph scheme on Anglesea Road, County Councillor West reported that the costs of the proposed scheme had been forwarded to County Councillors Chambers and Lockington today, who had both agreed that the scheme go ahead. The scheme would now be passed onto the Operations Team for implementation and a start date would be programmed within the next 14 weeks.

32.14. With regards to the request for a 20mph scheme on Woodbridge Road, County Councillor Gaylard reported that this was being progressed, albeit slowly, but it would only include Woodbridge Road and Palmerston Road, not St Helen's Street; Suffolk Highways engineers were currently drawing up plans for speed cushions on these roads.

33. CAC/18/14 Funding Request: Ipswich Jazz Festival 2019

33.1. The Chair reported that the Director of the Ipswich Jazz Festival was unable to attend due to a family matter. Ms Moseley, Performance and Projects Manager, reported that £581.25 was requested by the Ipswich Jazz Festival towards the costs of 2 free jazz shows, plus 75 concessionary tickets for a further show to be made available to those on low income as part of the Ipswich Jazz Festival in June 2019.

33.2. Councillor Lockington asked where flyers would be distributed and how those young people who might be interested would be contacted.

33.3. Councillor Jones commented that the aim of this project was to enable those people who couldn't otherwise afford it to attend and asked how this project would target these people. Councillor Jones added that the Council had information on the areas of deprivation within Ipswich and requested that the funding be subject to the provision of a promotion campaign to target individuals and groups who would be unlikely to be able to afford to attend.

33.4. Councillor Kreidewolf asked how this funding application met the priorities of the Central Area Committee Area Action Plan.

33.5. In light of the queries raised, it was agreed to defer this report to the next meeting in order to allow a representative from the Ipswich Jazz Festival to attend and respond to these matters.

Resolved:

that the report be deferred to the next meeting.

Reason: To enable a representative from the Ipswich Jazz Festival to answer queries raised by the Central Area Committee

34. CAC/18/15 Funding Request: Oyster Community Press CIC: 'Who Cares' Project

- 34.1. Ms Smyth, Director of the Oyster Community Press CIC, reported that the Oyster Community Press had previously run projects that helped to give people a voice through the creative art of print making. Suffolk Family Carers had approached the Oyster Community Press to deliver a project for up to 48 young adult carers to participate in printmaking workshops leading to their work being part of an exhibition. £20,000 of funding had already been secured from the Suffolk Carers Fund administered by the Suffolk Community Foundation, and the remaining £2,400 was being requested from the 5 Area Committees to cover the cost of framing the artwork.
- 34.2. Councillor Jones supported providing access to the creative arts for those who would not normally have the opportunity and understood the importance of framing an individual's piece of art. Councillor Jones suggested that 9 participants should come from the Central Ipswich area.
- 34.3. Councillor Kreidewolf proposed that there should be a condition that some of the participants come from the Central Ipswich area in order to satisfy the priorities of the Area Action Plan by providing a benefit to Central Ipswich residents, and this was agreed.
- 34.4. Councillor Leeder commented that the monitoring report of the project should indicate the number of participants from each area.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £450 from the Central Area Committee budget towards Oyster Community Press for the 'Who Cares' project, subject to a proportion of the participants being from the Central Ipswich area.

Reason: To provide funding towards the 'Who Cares' project to improve the opportunity for Ipswich young adult carers to access arts respite

35. Project Update - Help Our Homeless Campaign

- 35.1. Ms Susie Mills, Ipswich Locality Homelessness Partnership (ILHP) Manager, provided an update on the Help Our Homeless Campaign, with the following key points:
- Central Area Committee funding was used to provide promotional materials for the campaign, such as information cards outlining the agencies working together to reduce begging in the town centre.
 - Begging has not been eradicated, but it has reduced and agencies were aware of who was genuinely homeless and those who were just begging, some of whom have moved to the outskirts of the town centre.

- Instead of people giving money to street beggars, they could now make donations in tins, but many still give money directly to street beggars.
 - The promotional materials also reinforced the message that it was ok to say to no to street beggars and provided information on places where those begging could seek help.
 - The IHLP have attended various public events to promote the campaign to the public, with a further event taking place on 13 December.
 - A mobile dentist would be set up in the Napier car park by the New Wolsey Theatre at the end of November to provide focused dental treatment for free for rough sleepers and homeless people.
 - Donations received had been used to help people return to their country of residence, provide taxis for those fleeing domestic violence, educational activities, such as a visit to Sutton Hoo, and offer B&B for people awaiting accommodation.
 - In future, the ILHP would also be targeting the night-time economy by handing out information cards at the old Cattle Market bus station. By informing the public, it could help to break the dependency culture that has been created by people giving money to street beggars.
- 35.2. Councillor Jones asked about the Big Issue sellers and how that scheme worked.
The sellers were licensed to sell this publication and keep a percentage of the takings; however, some people were not always selling the latest edition.
- 35.3. The Chair commented that this small amount of funding had made a significant impact and thanked the ILHP for all their hard work on this initiative.

36. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

- 36.1. I-Card summer activities outcomes: Mr Fairclough, Head of Culture and Environment, provided the following update:
- The Council's summer holiday i-Card was made available to school age children either living in Ipswich or attending school in Ipswich.
 - Approximately 13,000 i-Cards were issued, of which roughly half were used, and 24,000 visits were recorded at sports centres, with an average number of visits of 3.77 per person.
 - One young person from the IP1 postcode area had made 38 visits to Crown Pools over the summer.
 - Age group 11-14 years accounted for 47% of the recorded visits and overall 55% of visitors were male and 45% female.
 - Where visitors came from was evenly spread across the town: IP1 29%, IP2 21%, IP3 25%, IP4 24%.
 - The most popular activity was swimming, accounting for 70% of visits.
 - Visits to centres for i-Card users were 13% up on the previous year, which was a great success bearing in mind the hot summer this year as visitor numbers would usually increase when the weather was not so good.

37. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 37.1. Councillor Lockington reported that she was keeping a watching brief on applications to fell trees as there had been issues with works being done to protected trees in the St Margaret's area.
- 37.2. Councillor Kreidewolf reported that the Parks Officers had held consultations at St Matthews School and Handford Hall School about proposed play equipment for Jubilee Park; new equipment was due to be implemented in early 2019.
- 37.3. Councillor Cook reported that there had been issues with parking enforcement in restricted parking areas on Rope Walk as there was no signage to enable the Parking Enforcement Officers to enforce the restrictions. Councillor Cook had referred the signage issue to SCC, but there were no plans to replace the signage. Councillor Cook added that there were approximately 150 places in the town where parking restrictions were unenforceable due to missing signage or the poor condition of road markings.
County Councillor West commented that he had raised this issue with the Head of Transport Strategy at SCC and added that he would discuss the matter with Councillor Smart, IBC Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, at their next meeting.
- 37.4. County Councillor Gaylard reported that the Ipswich Arts Centre 'Memories and Recollections' Project was seeking to capture the memories of members of the public that had any historic connections to St Clements Church on Fore Street – more information was available at: www.iacmemories.org.
- 37.5. Councillor Jones reported that the Jubilee Friends Group were holding an 80's night on Saturday 24 November as part of their fundraising activities.

38. CAC/18/16 Area Committee Budget Update

- 38.1. Mr Fairclough reported that at the start of the meeting the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £17,847.04 available to spend on its priorities.
- 38.2. Following the financial commitment of £450 arising from the approved funding request, the unallocated Central Area Committee budget was now £17,397.04.

Resolved:

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

Reason: To provide an audit trail of funding that has been spent from the Central Area Committee budget.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Chair