

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2018

**MURRAYSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE, NACTON ROAD,
IPSWICH IP3 9JL**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly and S Handley
Holywells Ward Councillors: E Harsant and J Parry
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber and B Knowles
SCC Division Councillors: M Gaylard, B Quinton

There were 40 members of the public in attendance.

33. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Cook, Maguire and Studd.

34. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 be signed as a true record.

35. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

It was proposed that Agenda Item 8 (SEAC/18/14 – Policing Update) be considered prior to Agenda Item 7 (Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues).

Resolved:

that subject to Agenda Item 8 being considered before Agenda Item 7, the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

36. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Knowles, being involved with another local Bowls Club, declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 (report SEAC/18/15) and left the room during the consideration of this item.

37. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 21 November 2018, 7pm – Ipswich Academy**
- **Wednesday 16 January 2019, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 13 March 2019, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

38. Chair's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

38.1 The Chair reported that a handout was available at the meeting with updates on and responses to actions raised at previous meetings.

39. SEAC/18/14 Policing Update

39.1 Inspector Pursehouse explained that the Safer Neighbourhoods Team for Ipswich East had focussed on Anti-Social Behaviour over the Summer months. Inspector Pursehouse said that there had not been a significant increase in Anti-Social Behaviour, although there had been some localised issues. Residents were urged to report Anti-Social Behaviour as this intelligence would help the Police to target their resources.

39.2 Inspector Pursehouse reported that 6 people had been charged in relation to the Murder of Tavis Spencer-Aitkins, with 1 more person on bail and another who had been arrested earlier in the day. Inspector Pursehouse noted that it was not too late to report any information members of the public might have about the murder and encouraged anyone with such information to report it to the Police. Inspector Pursehouse also explained that problems with Gangs and Drugs were being worked on at a County level by the Police, Councils and other relevant agencies.

39.3 Inspector Pursehouse reported that crime was increasing across the County. Inspector Pursehouse noted that some of this increase was as a result of increased awareness and reporting of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, with the Police better supporting reporting of these crimes.

39.4 A local resident explained that there had been an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour in the area between Duke Street and the Waterfront with two groups of people perpetrating Anti-Social Behaviour; a younger group were sitting on people's cars and dropping litter, whilst a group of 20-25 year olds were more

threatening. Inspector Pursehouse agreed that there had been a spike in Anti-Social Behaviour in the area and noted that some of this had to do with cultural differences. Inspector Pursehouse reported that patrols in the area had been increased and that the Police were working with other agencies such as the Council's Licensing Department to try to deal with the problem. Where possible the Police would also take formal action, however, evidence was needed and this was hard to obtain as when Police arrived groups tended to either disperse or cease their anti-social behaviour.

- 39.5 A resident asked whether videos recorded by residents could be used as evidence in court. Inspector Pursehouse advised that members of the public needed to be very careful if they were to try to record Anti-Social Behaviour or Crime as they could put themselves at risk. Inspector Pursehouse confirmed however that such videos could be admissible, so long as they were accompanied by a witness statement from the person making the recording.
- 39.6 A local resident asked whether the CCTV Cameras in the South East Area were working. Inspector Pursehouse confirmed that the CCTV cameras did work and that Police could access these whenever necessary.
- 39.7 A resident asked whether the Police took action against cyclists who cycled without lights or on pavements. Inspector Pursehouse said that generally this was dealt with by 'strong advice' being given.
- 39.8 A resident asked why the Police did not take action against illegally parked vehicles on Cliff Lane. Inspector Pursehouse said that officers did visit the area but that with limited resources they could not prevent all of the illegal parking which occurred. Councillor Harsant explained that double yellow lines were due to be installed at the junction of Cliff Lane and Landseer Road which should alleviate the problem.
- 39.9 Councillor Harsant said that she understood that notices could be served on tenants who were perpetrating Anti-Social Behaviour. Inspector Pursehouse confirmed that this was accurate and explained that the Police were working with the Council's housing officers where this was necessary.

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

- 40.1 A local resident noted that the 2016 traffic management plan for events in Holywells Park referred to the deployment of cones in specified roads. The resident explained that this had not happened in 2018 and that he had not been able to find out why from officers. Other elements of the plan such as directional signage and manning of the entrance had also been neglected. The resident asked how the events team justified the deviation from published plans.
- 40.2 Councillor Harsant explained that Ipswich Borough Council was seeking a variation to a traffic order to allow the placement of cones on the highway. The Chair explained that a formal response would be sought from officers and provided to the resident as soon as possible and reported to the next meeting.

- 40.3 A local resident noted that Section 4.13 of the Holywells Park Travel Plan proposed 10 car parking permits for bowling club members, this being the estimated number of car visits per match. The resident asked why bowlers were parking on Cliff Lane. The Chair said that a written response would need to be provided as those present did not know the answer. The response would be reported to the next meeting.
- 40.4 A local resident asked for an update on the Speed Survey proposed to be carried out on Benacre Road. The Chair said that SCC Councillor Clements had informed her that the survey was due to be carried out in October.
- 40.5 A local resident thanked Ipswich Borough Council for its initiative of Free Summer Holiday Activities which she felt had been of great benefit to the community.
- 40.6 A local resident asked whether the planned development of a residential centre and therapy hub by Headway near to Bluebird Lodge would affect the plans for a sports park for the Ravenswood area which was planned to be nearby. The Chair agreed to seek more information on this issue.
- 40.7 A local resident asked when the potholes at the top of Landseer Road would be fixed. SCC Councillor West agreed to take details from the residents and contact him directly about the issue.

41. SEAC/18/15 Funding Request: Margaret Catchpole Bowls Club Pavilion Extension

- 41.1 Charlie Sharp, a representative of the Margaret Catchpole Bowls Club, explained that the Club had been established for 70 years behind the Margaret Catchpole Public House. The Club shared toilet facilities with the Public House and this meant that it was difficult to recruit young people into the Club. The Bowls Club therefore planned to extend its clubhouse to provide toilet facilities and a small kitchen. Mr Sharp explained that Planning Permission had already been obtained and work on clearing the derelict land to be built on was well underway.
- 41.2 Mr Sharp said that the Margaret Catchpole Bowls Club was keen to involve the local community and engage with local schools; for example, a Christmas Carol Service was planned to be held at the Club on Christmas Eve.
- 41.3 Councillor Harsant said that she supported the proposals, although she was disappointed that a greater amount could not be given to the Club. Councillor Harsant said that she was pleased that SCC Councillor Clements had offered £1,500 from her locality budget for the scheme.
- 41.4 Councillor Connelly asked how many members the Club had and what the age profile of those members was. Mr Sharp responded to say that the Club had 55 members and that the age of those ranged from 20 to over 80.

- 41.5 Councillor Connelly asked how the Club had sought to raise funds for the project. Mr Sharp explained that the Club ran two open tournaments a year which raised significant amounts of money, as well as organising race, bingo and disco nights. The Club also had a local lottery which was well supported. Members also paid an annual subscription and match fees.
- 41.6 Councillor Handley congratulated the Club on its fundraising efforts and went on to ask whether it would have the capacity to accommodate the new members it hoped to attract. Mr Sharp explained that there was capacity within the Club for additional members and that more teams could be added if necessary.
- 41.7 Councillor Connelly asked whether the Club would run open days to attract new members. Mr Sharp confirmed that the Club planned to do this once the toilet facilities were available.
- 41.8 Councillor Parry said that she had had the opportunity to discuss the application with members of the Bowls Club and felt that it was a very worthwhile activity to support.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £1,500 from the South East Area Committee budget to the Margaret Catchpole Bowls Club for their Pavilion Extension.

Reasons:

- To improve leisure opportunities for residents of South East Ipswich
- To improve local amenities for Holywells residents.

42. Update on CCTV In Ipswich

- 42.1 Ian Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, gave a presentation on the Council's CCTV system. The key points raised in the presentation were:
- Ipswich Borough Council ran and funded a network of 180 CCTV cameras.
 - The majority of the CCTV cameras were in the town centre, although there were some in other parts of the town, for example, at local shopping parades.
 - The cameras were monitored by two controllers, although only a small number of cameras could be monitored in detail at any one time.
 - There was a direct link between the CCTV control room and the Police Headquarters which allowed Police to view live footage and control cameras.
 - In 2017, the CCTV network had recorded 3,505 incidents, leading to 406 arrests and 35 Section 35 Notices. Copies of footage had been taken by Police on 262 occasions.
 - A £500,000 upgrade to the network was planned, which would replace all cameras with digital ones giving better picture quality and link all cameras to the control room via secure WiFi.

- CCTV cameras had to be used in compliance with a number of strict laws. Cameras had to be justified, proportionate and have specific aims.
- CCTV cameras would not prevent crime on their own and that other security measures might be more effective.

42.2 Councillor Parry asked how long recordings were kept for. Ian Blofield explained that these were kept for 3 years.

42.3 Councillor Connelly asked whether the Police contributed to the cost of the system. Ian Blofield confirmed that they did not. Councillor Ross, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Customer Services, explained that the Council had repeatedly written to the Police and Crime Commissioner highlighting the value of the system and the unfairness of the Police, who were the main users of the system, not contributing to its running costs. Councillor Ross explained however that the Council believed that the system was worth funding as it was an important way of making the town a safer place to live.

42.4 A resident asked what savings would be made by upgrading the system. Ian Blofield said that the running costs of the system, mostly relating to repairs, were predicted to reduce by about £100,000 per year.

42.5 A resident asked whether the new cameras would have facial recognition technology. Councillor Ross explained that the cameras would not have this technology but that they would give a much better picture quality than the existing cameras.

43. Upper Orwell Crossings - Discussion on the Present Position

43.1 The Chair explained that this item had been placed on the agenda in response to requests made at the previous South East Area Committee meeting. Councillor Barber explained that since the previous meeting Suffolk County Council had launched a review of the Upper Orwell Crossing costs. Councillor Barber read the latest Press Release from Suffolk County Council, published on 31 July 2018, as follows:

The leader of Suffolk County Council has launched an independent review of the costs of building the Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich.

The major bridge project, which is still in its planning stages, was originally calculated to cost £97 million, with around three quarters of the funding coming from the Government and remaining money coming from Suffolk taxpayers.

But a recent internal review of costs has forecast that the total amount needed to complete the project could increase significantly. Unless additional funding from Government can be secured, this additional money would most likely have to be found locally, either from Suffolk businesses or taxpayers.

The project will therefore be paused temporarily while the independent review is carried out by engineering specialists from Jacobs. The outcome of the review is expected in September 2018.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council's leader, said:

"Since becoming leader, I have asked my senior team to review the major infrastructure projects Suffolk County Council is working on. The Upper Orwell Crossings is one of the biggest and most complex.

"It's clear to me that whilst the significant project is being managed well, there is currently some uncertainty around the costs. If we're going to proceed and build these bridges, that uncertainty needs to be addressed right now.

"We're going to pause work temporarily, pending the outcome of this review. Then, based on sound and independent advice and considering everything we know about the project, Suffolk County Council will make a decision on the future of the Upper Orwell Crossings."

- 43.2 SCC Councillor Gaylard explained that Jacobs' report on the Upper Orwell Crossings costs would be released by the end of September.
- 43.3 A local resident said that he was concerned that the pausing of work on the Upper Orwell Crossings meant that crucial traffic monitoring information would have been missed. SCC Councillor West explained that there would be robust scrutiny of the evidence base by a planning inspector, should the scheme be proceeded with.
- 43.4 A local resident asked whether there was a price at which Suffolk County Council would decide that the project was no longer viable. SCC Councillor West explained that Suffolk County Council was not prepared to allow costs to continue to increase and that once the review had been completed the Suffolk County Council Cabinet would consider whether the benefits of the scheme continued to outweigh the costs.
- 43.5 A local resident asked whether an estimate was available for the construction of the often discussed North Ipswich Bypass. SCC Councillor West explained that a business case for the project was being worked on and would probably be released later in the year. SCC Councillor West noted that the schemes were intended to solve different problems, with the Upper Orwell Crossings designed to improve traffic routes within the town and the bypass to allow through traffic to avoid using Ipswich's roads altogether.
- 43.6 Councillor Parry asked how Jacobs would be able to estimate the cost of the Upper Orwell Crossings when the designs were not finalised. SCC Councillor West explained that whilst designs were not finalised it remained possible for experts to review the likely cost of the project.
- 43.7 A resident questioned the logic behind the building of the Upper Orwell Crossings, saying that the justification submitted to Central Government was to reduce pressure on the A14 and to provide a diversionary route when the Orwell Bridge was closed. SCC Councillor West confirmed that by improving traffic routes within Ipswich it was hoped that less people would use the A14 to

travel between different parts of the town. Ipswich Borough Council's Local Plan identified a need to relieve pressure on the Star Lane Gyratory, which the Crossings would do.

44. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 44.1 Councillor Connelly praised the work of the Gainsborough Forum and encouraged those eligible to apply for grants from that body. Councillor Connelly also reminded residents of the need to report Graffiti so that it could be removed.
- 44.2 SCC Councillor Gaylard explained that she had recently given a grant from her Locality Budget to the Student Life Magazine to enable its distribution at Ipswich Academy. SCC Councillor Gaylard had also been working on traffic issues around Cavendish Street.
- 44.3 Councillor Parry explained that she had attended a recent Speedwatch meeting and hoped to get a team of residents to carry out Community Speedwatches in Holywells.
- 44.4 Councillor Knowles explained that he had been focussing on the impact of the recent murder and violence in Priory Heath and the social issues which had been revealed by the incidents.
- 44.5 Councillor Handley reported that an application to the Gainsborough Forum had been submitted by the Landseer Park BMX club. Councillor Handley had been to a meeting discussing the organisations and activities available within Gainsborough and seeking to identify where any gaps could be filled. Councillor Handley also highlighted the Fun Palaces event taking place on 6 and 7 October.
- 44.6 Councillor Harsant explained that there had been a significant amount of petty crime in Holywells, including a beehive being knocked over and the bike project suffering a break in. Councillor Harsant promoted the Apple Day event in Holywells Park on 13 October.

45. SEAC/18/16 Area Committee Financial Update

45.1 Ian Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, reported that at the start of the meeting, the South East Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £5,267.83. Following the commitment of £1,500 arising from the approved funding requests the unallocated South East Area Committee budget was now £3,767.83.

Resolved:

That the financial statement at Appendix 1 of 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 8.50 pm

Chair