

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2019

**ALAN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, 161 ROSEHILL RD,
IPSWICH IP3 8EZ**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly and M Cook
Holywells Ward Councillors: E Harsant
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber, B Knowles and D Maguire

Suffolk County Council Councillors: Gaylard and Quinton.

There were 43 members of the public in attendance.

63. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Parry, Studd and Handley.

64. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2018 be signed as a true record.

65. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the order of business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

66. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Knowles being involved with another local Bowls Club, declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 (report SEAC/18/25) and left the room during consideration of this item.

Councillor Maguire, being an employee of Ipswich Buses, declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 (report SEAC/18/26) and left the room during consideration of this item.

67. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 13 March 2019, 7pm – Murrayfield Primary Academy**
- **Wednesday 29 May 2019, 7pm – Gainsborough Ward**
- **Wednesday 10 July 2019, 7pm – Holywells Ward**
- **Wednesday 4 September 2019, 7pm – Priory Heath Ward**
- **Wednesday 6 November 2019, 7pm – Gainsborough Ward**
- **Wednesday 8 January 2019, 7pm – Holywells Ward**
- **Wednesday 4 March 2019, 7pm – Priory Heath Ward**

68. Chair's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

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

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

69.1 A resident noted that in July 2018 it had been agreed by the Committee that bus stop clearways in Cliff Lane would be marked out and asked when this would take place. Michael Newsham, Integrated Transport Officer, explained that there had been some issues with the paperwork required for these markings but that it was anticipated that the markings would be installed within a month of the meeting.

70. SEAC/18/24 Policing Update

70.1 The Chair welcomed Inspector Sally Henderson, the new Safer Neighbourhoods Inspector responsible for Ipswich East, to the South East Area Committee.

70.2 A resident asked what was being done to deal with a group of young people who were perpetrating anti-social behaviour in and around Duke Street. Inspector Henderson explained that a residents meeting was to be held soon, but that a link officer had already visited and was working with Home from Home staff. Suffolk Constabulary's Design Out Crime Officer had been asked to advise on what improvements could be made to buildings and landscaping. Residents raised issues regarding the impact of crime on service charges and people breaking into communal areas. Inspector Henderson explained that if improvements were made to the buildings then there should be less clearing up required and less break-ins. Inspector Henderson advised residents to report all non-emergency issues experienced either online or via 101.

- 70.3 Inspector Henderson reported that Steve Jupp had been appointed as Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary. Inspector Henderson also explained that:
- More police officers had been trained to deploy the existing Speed Indicator Device which should allow for it to be used more frequently;
 - A County-wide Speed Awareness Campaign had been launched;
 - The Safer Neighbourhoods Team now had community engagement officers who would provide updates on what the police were doing locally;
 - Officers who were new to Ipswich East were now settling in to their new area.
- 70.4 A resident asked about anti-social behaviour in the Gladstone Road area, noting that residents had lost confidence in the Police to resolve the issues. Inspector Henderson said that she was sorry that residents were being disturbed and emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents as these were used to prioritise police resources.
- 70.5 A resident reported that rubbish was regularly being dumped outside the Red Cross Shop on Felixstowe Road. Ian Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services agreed speak to the resident outside of the meeting and to look into this issue.
- 70.6 A resident asked whether 20mph speed limits applied at all times. Inspector Henderson advised that if there were official speed limit signs, on a white background in a red circle, then the speed limit applied at all times; other schemes such as 20's plenty near schools were advisory.
- 70.7 Councillor Cook, referring to the statistics included in the report, noted that the crime rate in Ipswich had increased and asked what Inspector Henderson thought could be done to address this. Inspector Henderson commented that Suffolk Constabulary now had a very robust crime recording policy and a combination of this and the encouragement of reporting might have caused some of the changes in statistics. Inspector Henderson explained that the role of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams was to deal with problems affecting the community and that she believed that this was best done in partnership with other organisations working in the same area.
- 70.8 A resident was concerned that many of the bricks underneath the 'Handstanding' statue on Ravenswood had been removed. Inspector Henderson said that she was not aware of the issue and highlighted the need for issues to be reported to the police.
- 70.9 A resident asked how residents groups would be able to keep in contact with the police. Inspector Henderson explained that the Safer Neighbourhoods Team had a dedicated email address and that they attended public meetings such as the South East Area Committee.

71. SEAC/18/25 Variation to Funding Request Margaret Catchpole Bowls Club Pavilion Extension

Resolved:

That the funding conditions be varied to allow funds to be released, as Phase Two of the works had been completed.

72. SEAC/18/26 Funding Request: Bus Service 4 (Sundays & Bank Holidays)

72.1 Councillor P Smart, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, explained that bus services in most of the UK, including Ipswich, were run on a commercial basis, with operators required to compete rather than co-operate.

72.2 Councillor Smart explained that councils were allowed to subsidise socially necessary services, although the statutory duty to consider supporting services lay with Suffolk County Council, who were funded to do this. Councillor Smart noted that as Suffolk County Council had the responsibility to consider subsidies they had been informed of the service changes made by First Buses in August 2018 and so would have had time to make arrangements to support a service before residents were affected. Councillor Smart explained that Ipswich Borough Council only found out about the changes at the same time as residents and so did not have an opportunity to do this.

72.3 Councillor Smart reported that councils were restricted in what they were allowed to subsidise, and couldn't, for example, pay to increase the frequency on an existing route, or create a new route which follows a largely similar route to an existing commercial one. It was however possible to subsidise a service to run additional services at times when it would not otherwise run.

72.4 Councillor Smart noted that he had suggested to First Buses that they run services via Lindbergh Road at Off-Peak times, however, they were not willing to consider this. Councillor Smart had therefore looked at the possibility of subsidising the Number 4 bus to run on Sundays and Bank Holidays on an experimental basis. Suffolk County Council had been asked to provide £5,000 but were, in Councillor Smart's view, unlikely to agree to do this. Ipswich Borough Council's North East and South East Area Committees were being asked for funding as the residents of those areas would benefit from the bus being run.

72.5 A resident asked about the condition of the bus shelter used by the Number 4 at Tower Ramparts and about the bus stop at St Augustine's Church, noting that it was now difficult to cross Felixstowe Road. Councillor Smart agreed to look into the condition of the stop at Tower Ramparts and explained that the bus stop at St Augustine's Church had been moved as a result of a Suffolk County Council scheme and that he agreed that it had been badly placed.

72.6 A number of residents raised the impact which the changes to the First Bus route 76 had had on their lives, including people not being able to go where they wanted and significant amounts of money being spent on taxi fares.

Councillor Barber agreed that the Borough Council would continue to make the case to First Buses for returning buses to Lindbergh Road.

- 72.7 Councillor Cook said that he felt the changes to bus services were a catastrophe of competition and that he was disappointed that Suffolk County Council did not spend sufficient of its public transport budget on buses in Ipswich to ensure that residents had the services they needed. Councillor Cook commented that it was wrong that Ipswich Borough Council, which neither had the budget, nor the responsibility, for public transport, was being forced to subsidise bus routes.
- 72.8 Councillor Harsant noted that Suffolk County Council had not yet decided whether or not to contribute to the service in 2019-20. Councillor Harsant was disappointed that it was proposed to use Area Committee funding to support this service when other subsidies had been paid for from the Council's general budget. Councillor Harsant said that, despite this, she supported the recommendation of the report as the bus service was essential for residents.
- 72.9 Councillor Smart noted that he would rather not be using Area Committee, or indeed Ipswich Borough Council, funding to fund this experimental route but that as Suffolk County Council were not willing to support the Number 4, there was no better alternative. Councillor Smart reported that the sequence of events had meant that the public transport budget for the year had been allocated and so alternatives had to be found.
- 72.10 Councillor Knowles said that the system for the organisation of bus routes in England was not fit for purpose as it left communities without services which it took councils months to replace.
- 72.11 SCC Councillor Gaylard said that she realised the importance of the Number 4 running on Sundays and Bank Holidays and explained that both she and Councillor Quinton had agreed to allocate £1,000 from their locality budgets to the service. SCC Councillor West said that he would also contribute from his locality budget and said that he would be happy to work with Ipswich Borough Council on putting the case for subsidising the route in 2019/20 to the relevant people at Suffolk County Council.
- 72.12 Councillor Harsant asked whether the contributions from the Suffolk County Councillors locality budgets would reduce the amount of funding needed from the South East Area Committee. Councillor Smart explained that the amount requested was the maximum which would be needed, but that there were still a number of figures to be finalised.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £6,600 and £3,300 from the South East Area Committee budgets for 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively to subsidise the Operation of Service 4 on Sunday and Bank Holiday daytimes for an 18 month experimental period.

73. Planning Consultations: Ipswich Local Plan/Public Realm Strategy/Urban Character Study

- 73.1 Carlos Hone, Operations Manager for Planning and Development, explained that Ipswich was reviewing its local plan to align relevant strategic policies with neighbouring local authorities.
- 73.2 Mr Hone explained that the Council was also consulting on a new Town Centre and Waterfront Supplementary Planning Document which would provide design guidance on the renewal of Ipswich's public spaces. This consultation included the opportunity for residents to prioritise which area of the Town Centre needed to be invested in soonest.
- 73.3 Rebecca Styles, Conservation and Urban Design Officer, explained that Urban Character Studies had been completed to give developers guidance on the character of Ipswich's different areas in the same way as a Conservation Area Study would for the Town's Conservation Areas. Ms Styles gave a brief description of the contents of the document, including the history of the South East Area.
- 73.4 Mr Hone explained that information on the consultations had been displayed at the rear of the meeting room and that the consultation could be responded to online, by email, or by post. The deadline for the Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy, the Public Spaces Consultation, and the Urban Character Studies Consultation was 27 February 2019 and the deadline for the Local Plan Consultation was 13 March 2019.

74. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 74.1 Councillor Connelly reported that the Co-op would soon be introducing new recycling banks into their stores for hard to recycle plastics and batteries in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council. Councillor Connelly urged residents to make use of them.
- 74.2 Councillor Quinton noted that the Upper Orwell Crossings were due to be considered at Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on 29 January.
- 74.3 Councillor Harsant explained that she had been working with officers and residents to deal with issues around rough sleeping in Holywells.

75. SEAC/18/27 Area Committee Financial Update

- 75.1 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 £2,064.58. No funds had been newly committed from the 2018/19 budget, but up to £6,600 had been agreed from 2019/20 and £3,300 from 2020/21.

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 8.40 pm

Chair