

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2018

**ST PETER'S CHURCH HALL, STOKE PARK DRIVE IP2
9TH**

6.30 PM

Present: Bridge Ward Councillors: C Allen, B Rudkin and P Smart
Gipping Ward Councillors: D Ellesmere, P Gardiner and E Hughes
Sprites Ward Councillors: H Armitage, R Fern and C Smart
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: N Cenci and T Grant
Suffolk County Councillor: J Abbott
There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

37. Apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Hall.

38. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 12 July 2018

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 be signed as a true record.

39. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

40. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41. Chair's Update and Actions from the Previous Meeting

There were no actions to report from the previous meeting.

42. Police Priorities - South West Ipswich

- 42.1. Inspector Horton provided an overview of policing within Ipswich and advised that the consultation period regarding the changes to the Suffolk Constabulary policing model had concluded the previous week. A reduced number of PCSO's would be retained however, their roles would be changing. Recruitment within local policing would mean more changes to the force and there would be a change in teams across the organisation.
- 42.2. 'County Lines' continued to be a priority and a large amount of work had been undertaken behind the scenes which included several arrests. Focus remained around intervention, particularly with regards to young people and their involvement in crime, and work with schools would continue as a way to help divert individuals away from involvement in this type of crime.
- 42.3. Within the centre of Ipswich there had been an increase in theft from persons, evening robberies, etc. and a leaflet had been provided which gave further advice around personal safety.
- 42.4. Sgt Lee reported on the South West area of Ipswich and advised that focus continued to be placed on the hotspot areas for antisocial behaviour. Over the summer a football initiative had been held in conjunction with the Co-Op to steer young people away from antisocial behaviour and positive feedback had been received from those who worked at the shops in Hawthorn Drive and Chantry Library.
- 42.5. Sgt Lee advised that Grebe Close continued to be a priority and a multiagency approach had been undertaken within the area. It was anticipated that following consultation with residents, some structural changes would be made to the area to help improve antisocial behaviour. Barnard Square had also been made a priority area following issues associated to ASB.
- 42.6. A resident advised that a number of concerns had been reported with regards to on-street prostitution at Barrack Corner. Alongside this, antisocial behaviour had also increased which included large congregations in the area and an increase in litter. Sgt Lee advised that Barrack Corner had been patrolled as part of Operation Parkland and there had been alcohol seizures made during this. Following concerns in the area, the use of Public Space Protection Orders had been proposed as a potential enforcement tool and this continued to be considered further.
- 42.7. Discussion took place around an increase in prostitution and it was confirmed that Operation Silverton was in place to tackle this and any intelligence should be communicated to the police to investigate further. The importance of ensuring prostitution would not escalate within Ipswich was highly recognised by both the Police and Councillors. Should residents have any information to feed back to the Police this could be reported online.

- 42.8. Inspector Horton confirmed that as part of the police changes there would be more evening patrols made and therefore increased police presence would be available.
- 42.9. Councillor Hughes detailed some concerns within London Road and requested that street lights be kept on through the night. Sgt Lee advised that if there was evidence to show a need for this, a request could be made to Suffolk County Council, and agreed to discuss this with Councillor Hughes outside of the meeting further.
- 42.10. A resident asked for further information regarding motorbikes in Bobbits Lane. It was confirmed that this was under investigation by Hadleigh SNT in Babergh.

43. Ward Councillor's Feedback from their Communities

Sprites Ward

- 43.1. Councillor Armitage confirmed that there had been a number of highways issues reported including a query about potholes in Downside Close which would be inspected by Suffolk Highways. There had been confusion with regards to the Suffolk County Council truck route planner which had directed lorries down a weight restricted road however, this had now been corrected. A missing mirror had also been reported at the pedestrian underpass on Civic Drive and residents were advised to contact Councillor Armitage should similar issues be found elsewhere.
- 43.2. Councillor Fern advised that resurfacing was needed around Kingfisher Avenue, Hawthorn Drive and the junction of Bridgewater Road. A tree on Bridgewater Road had been reported to Suffolk Highways as this was on a verge but no response had been provided thus far.
- 43.3. Councillor C Smart reported that he had chaired a meeting regarding road surfaces and maintenance within Ipswich, which had been attended by representatives from bus companies, taxis, etc. Discussions around how and what could be done to improve the roads would continue in future meetings.

Bridge Ward

- 43.4. Councillor Rudkin reported that she had attended a meeting regarding the proposed Orwell Crossings bridge scheme. This had been well attended by a large number of concerned residents and a presentation had been provided in support of creating the two smaller bridges of the three proposed in the scheme.
- 43.5. Councillor Rudkin confirmed that there had been some antisocial behaviour reported in Bridge Ward and any concerns by residents could be forwarded to herself.
- 43.6. Councillor Allen advised that antisocial driving had been reported in Philip Road late at night. The Police advised that incidences of this nature should be

reported via the online reporting tool. A community litter pick event had also been scheduled within the ward and resident parking issues continued to be considered.

- 43.7. Councillor P Smart advised that the issues regarding the Wherstead Road underpass had been addressed since the previous meeting. With regards to the Upper Orwell Crossings, more information would be known about the future of the crossings once a review had been completed. There had been a number of complaints raised with regards to weed growth in pavements and following discussion with the appropriate officers, new wire cutter brushes had been invested in. It was anticipated that 80 days of weed clearance would be programmed between now and November to use these around the town. Councillor P Smart also advised that a number of public notices had been placed around the town which although appearing genuine, had been created for an art project which was not authorised by the Council and should be removed if seen.

Gipping Ward

- 43.8. Councillor Hughes advised that a walkabout had been held in Gipping Ward and a number of issues of fly tipping had been reported within the area. It was requested that a recorded recognition be given to Ipswich Borough Councils Waste & Cleansing Team for their quick response to a particularly bad fly tipping incident within the area.
- 43.9. Councillor Gardiner reported that his request to place a pedestrian crossing at Birkfield Drive and Stone Lodge Lane had been agreed with the final costings for the scheme provided and he was now waiting to see when the work would be programmed. A new procedure with regards to grit bins had been provided and this could be accessed via the Suffolk County Council website.
- 43.10. Councillor Ellesmere reported that he had received a number of reports regarding on-street prostitution and reports of fly tipping in residential streets. Following the murders in 2006 of five women, a number of alley gates had been installed and recently a request had been received for an alley gate to be provided on Emlen Street. It was confirmed that the Council would be considering this request alongside the current alley gate policy.

Stoke Park Ward

- 43.11. Councillor Grant confirmed that a walkabout had taken place on Birkfield Drive where improvements required to the area had been noted including the lights on the underpass.
- 43.12. Councillor Cenci confirmed that Mr Freebody, the Assistant Supervisor of the Arboriculture & Countryside Team who had attended the previous South West Area Committee meeting, had successfully dealt with each of the queries which had been raised by those who had been in attendance. Discussions had been held with the Police with regards to theft from work vans and it was advised that people remain vigilant.

44. Suffolk County Councillors Update

- 44.1. County Councillor Abbott reported that GCSE results within Ipswich had been positive and teachers had adapted well to the new school curriculum. Unfortunately, there continued to be large concerns with regards to special education provided within Suffolk and there was a number of pressures and issues which required immediate attention. Work would continue in this area over the upcoming months.

45. Response to Public Questions Received and Open Discussion on Local Issues

- 45.1. Two public questions had been received prior to the meeting.
- 45.2. **“I noticed a water leak on Birkfield Drive outside New Place House next to the Red Rose Chain Theatre near the corner with Gippeswyk Avenue. I reported this to Anglian Water who advised me that there was a spring in the area. Please inform me what action will be taken to fix this issue as the water is flowing across Birkfield Drive, and given that it is at the bottom of a hill, during icy weather conditions the issue will become dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians in the area.”**
- 45.3. Councillor Gardiner reported that there had been a previous problem within this area which had been fixed in one aspect by Anglian Water and in another by Suffolk County Council however, due to the dry weather, the spring had found another route. This had been reported and Suffolk County Council would be investigating in the near future.
- 45.4. **“Please inform me whether there are plans during the 2018/19 financial year to resurface Maidenhall Approach between Belstead Avenue and Prince of Wales Drive, and also Stoke Park Drive from the Pinewood boundary to Belstead Road (apart from the section from Fountains Road and Prince of Wales Road).**
- 45.5. Councillor Armitage reported that with regards to Stoke Park Drive, resurfacing would be undertaken but only on a specific part of this road. County Councillor Abbot explained that Maidenhall Approach had been included on the resurfacing programme which would have included lowering the speed humps however, due to gas work programming, this had now been delayed until 2019/2020. This had been deemed as unacceptable and therefore, an official confirmation of the work to be undertaken this year would be known at the end of the week.
- 45.6. A resident asked for further information with regards to the Great East Run taking place on the 16th September 2018. Temporary signs had been put in place around the town and flyers had been circulated to those who would be affected.

46. St Peters Church Hall Update on Kitchen Refurbishment

46.1. Reverend Robert Hinsley provided an update on the St Peters Church Hall Kitchen Refurbishment which had been funded by the South West Area Committee. The refurbishments had taken place over the Summer and had resulted in improved and better facilities for all users of the church to benefit from.

47. SWAC/18/14 Funding Request: Suffolk Housing Handford Cut Parking Area Barrier Gates

47.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that Suffolk Housing sought funding from the South West Area Committee of £975.00 toward the installation of parking area barrier gates at Handford Cut flats. It was hoped that gates would help deter the current persistent drug dealing activity which had been taking place from motor vehicles in the parking area.

Resolved:

that £975.00 funding be allocated from the South West Area Committee to Suffolk Housing for the installation of parking area barrier gates at Handford Cut.

48. SWAC/18/15 Area Action Plan Priorities

48.1. Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, confirmed that a meeting had been held with Committee members to discuss the priorities for the South West Area Committee and following this, the proposed priorities included working to alleviate deprivation in the domain of living environment, health and crime.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee priorities for the 2018/19 municipal year be adopted as its Area Action Plan

49. SWAC/18/16 Area Committee Budget Update

49.1. Shirley Jarlett, Lead Officer, reported that at the beginning of the meeting, the South West Area Committee had a total budget of £25,328.53 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for South West Ipswich. Following the funding request approved at the meeting, the total available budget totalled £24, 353.53.

Resolved:

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

50. Dates of Future Meetings

Thursday 1 November 2018 – Chantry Methodist Church, Kingfisher Avenue, IP2 0SQ

Thursday 10 January 2019 – Gipping Room, Grafton House, Russell Road IP1 2DE

Thursday 7 March 2019 – Venue to be Arranged.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chair