

# **SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2019**

**STOKE GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH, HALIFAX ROAD,  
IPSWICH IP2 8RE**

**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: T Grant and B Hall

There were 22 members of the public in attendance.

**79. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Cenci.

**80. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10 January 2019**

**Resolved:**

**that the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 10 January 2019 be signed as a true record.**

**81. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business**

**Resolved:**

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

**82. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**83. Chair's Update and Actions from Previous Meeting**

There were no updates from the previous meeting.

## **84. Police Priorities - South West Ipswich**

- 84.1. Inspector Horton, Local Policing Inspector for South West Ipswich, provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues within the South West. It was confirmed that investigation continued into the tragic deaths in Swinburne Road and no further comment could be made at this time.
- 84.2. At the previous meeting discussion had taken place around concerns raised with regards to prostitution at Barrack Corner. Following this, two Community Protection Notices had been issued to women within the area. Two of the women involved were now in receipt of support from Officers and a third woman had left the area. Further work would now be undertaken regarding those women who worked from the streets.
- 84.3. Inspector Horton confirmed that Operation Sceptre would soon be launched which would focus on knife crime across Suffolk. This would include searching areas where knife crime commonly occurred and undertaking stop searches. The multiagency gangs team would also be working with young people in schools and educating them on the dangers of knife crime and how to disengage from this lifestyle.
- 84.4. PC Matt Thomas confirmed that another closure order had been made within Grebe Close and two other addresses would now be considered. Patrols continued within the area and Ipswich Borough Council would be carrying out redesign work in the near future.
- 84.5. Overt High Visibility Patrols had been conducted around the Turin Street area and work continued to consider the ways in which Antisocial Behaviour could be reduced there and at Barnard Square and Stoke Quay. High Visibility foot patrols would also continue to be undertaken within both Gippeswyk and Alderman Park due to issues of drug litter and ASB.
- 84.6. A resident requested clarification as to why Police would not always intervene in certain situations (such as when large groups were engaging in antisocial behaviour) and would instead appear to drive past. It was confirmed that this information would be fed back to the Response Teams and Officers would be reminded that in these types of situations, engagement should always be made with the perpetrators.
- 84.7. A resident of Grebe Close publically thanked PC Godfrey and his team for their positive action within the Close to improve residents safety. However, with regards to the two addresses mentioned, they asked how long the timescales would be to obtain a closure order. It was confirmed that the evidence would need to be gathered before a closure order could be obtained and this work would be done as soon as possible.
- 84.8. Discussion took place around how Council Tax was split between the organisations and how the money was spent. It was requested that the Chair of the South West Area Committee write to the Police & Crime Commissioner with

regards to the issues in Grebe Close and it was confirmed that the PCC would be holding a public meeting in May which residents would be able to attend and ask questions of him.

- 84.9. Councillor Gardiner confirmed that as a member of the Police and Crime Panel, discussion had taken place around the increase in money and the PCC had confirmed that the extra funding would be used to ensure increase police presence on the streets within Suffolk.
- 84.10. A resident from the Stoke Park Association advised that the pathway that runs from Asda Stoke Park Drive through to Belstead Road had been the target of years of vandalism. This included antisocial behaviour and theft. Recently a knife had been found there and residents within the area had requested the use of a mobile CCTV camera. The Officer confirmed that a regular monthly meeting was held with Ipswich Borough Council and the Police to consider priority locations for CCTV. It was agreed that this request would be fed back at the next monthly meeting. It was also confirmed that any knives found should be reported to the police.

## **85. Ward Councillor's Feedback from their Communities**

### Bridge Ward

- 85.1. Councillor Allen reported that she had recently visited Stoke High School and assisted with litter picks within the Ward. Discussion had also taken place with Stoke Library where ambitions to establish the library as a 'community hub' to try and combat social isolation within the area had been discussed.
- 85.2. Councillor Rudkin confirmed that at the Planning & Development Committee meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 an application had been approved for a house to be built next to the garages on Luther Road which had been a positive outcome.
- 85.3. Councillor P Smart reported on some recent changes to bin collections following the Council's agreement to adopt the same method of disposal as other districts in the area to ensure brown bins could remain free for collection. The brown bin collections would no longer include any kitchen waste and in future, they would only be used for garden waste. Tetra Pak would also no longer be eligible for blue bin waste and this, plus kitchen utensils etc., would need to be disposed of in the black bin. All communication regarding the changes would be circulated to residents in the near future.

Councillor P Smart confirmed that a meeting had been held with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Head of Housing at Ipswich Borough Council to discuss a scheme to improve parking on Glamorgan Road. A proposal was due to be put forward later this month.

A resident meeting had been held with regards to a request for street lighting to be switched on longer in the Old Stoke area. This was a Suffolk County Council

responsibility and therefore, any petition would need to be received and considered there.

#### Gipping Ward

- 85.4. Councillor Hughes reported that she had taken part in the CCTV doorbell' scheme that had been successful within the North of Ipswich and had since launched in the Gipping & Westgate Wards. The results of this scheme could be used to consider the impact on residents when street lights were turned off.

Fly tipping continued to be an issue within the area however, all incidences reported had been quickly cleared by the Council. The waste tended to be household specific (such as sofas, beds) and residents were urged to contact the Council should they observe this.

- 85.5. Councillor Gardiner reported that repair work regarding the Birkfield Drive water leak would begin the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and was expected to take up to 10 days to complete. Councillor Ellesmere thanked Councillor Gardiner for his efforts ensuring that the repair work would be carried out quickly.
- 85.6. Councillor Ellesmere confirmed that a scheme to address the issue of fly tipping and waste disposal in the Elliott Street area would be brought to the next Area Committee to consider how this could be addressed. New equipment to improve the cleanliness of streets in the London Road area had also been considered and should this be successful, other areas would be considered.

#### Sprites Ward

- 85.7. Councillor C Smart confirmed that the concerns raised about Officers not responding to issues in the area, as mentioned within the Police Priorities item, had been raised with PC Kerry Cutler at a recent Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 85.8. Councillor Fern reported that there had been huge improvements made at Sprites School and Chantry Academy. Fore Street Swimming Pool would be celebrating its 125 year anniversary later this month and as part of the celebrations, a series of swimming sessions had been arranged for people living with dementia which would be launched on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019.

#### Stoke Park Ward

- 85.9. Councillor Grant reported that the issues outside McColl's on Ellenbrook Rd had started to increase and a referral had been made to Environmental Health to pursue this. A petition had also been received regarding a bus shelter on Cambridge Drive and this would be considered within the next financial year. Councillor P Smart confirmed that the bus shelter requested had been included as part of the Council's future investments and it was expected that this would be completed within 12 months. A letter had been sent to the petitioners.

85.10. Councillor Hall reiterated the concerns with regards to the litter problem outside of McColl's near Stoke Park ASDA. There had also been speeding problems reported within the area. A resident suggested the use of speed humps however, this would be a suggestion for SCC Highways.

**86. Suffolk County Councillors Update**

86.1. County Councillor Abbott received a petition from a resident at the meeting regarding street lighting. It was confirmed that the budget set by Suffolk County Council in February 2019 had agreed that funding would be cut towards street lighting. Therefore, street lighting would be on for a lesser period of time and switched off earlier. The issues that had been raised by the petition, and by residents at the meeting, would be fed back to County Councillor Paul West and it was agreed that he would be requested to attend the next South West Area Committee to discuss the petition and residents concerns.

86.2. County Councillor Abbott confirmed that he had visited a number of schools within the area including Hillside Primary School for a Volunteering Matters Event. He had also agreed to fund some projects at Stoke Library from his locality budget.

86.3. Unfortunately, two years on from the Bridge School Ofsted Inspection, very little improvement had been made and therefore this remained an important issue, which had to be addressed. It was hoped that through identifying these issues, that families and children would soon be provided the support they needed and changes could be made.

86.4. County Councillor Abbott apologised on behalf of the County Council to residents living on Prince of Wales Drive with regards to the letter which had been sent in error stating that works would be undertaken there.

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

87.1. There had been no written questions received prior to the meeting.

87.2. A resident asked what would happen to the proposed smaller bridges planned as part of the Upper Orwell Crossing now this had been cancelled. Councillor Ellesmere confirmed that although the largest bridge had been cancelled, Suffolk County Council had confirmed that the money committed to the project would be retained so that the possibility for the two smaller bridges to be built could be retained.

87.3. A resident reported difficulties with getting in contact with Suffolk County Council regarding a sign that had rusted away. Although this had been logged and recorded there had been no further action over a period of over a year. It was agreed that the resident would leave details of the sign with the Committee who would raise the issue with County Councillor Paul West.

## **88. SWAC/18/22 Proposed Bus Stop Clearways**

- 88.1. Michael Newsham, Integrated Transport Officer, stated that the Council had been working on a programme across the Borough for the installation of raised bus stop kerbs to remove the gap between the height of the kerb and the floor of the bus so that people with mobility issues could more easily and safely board busses.
- 88.2. As part of the above, the Council would usually also propose to install a bus stop clearway restriction which made it an offence to stop or park at the bus stop during its time of operation so that busses could pull up flush to the kerb. A number of locations within the South West of Ipswich had been proposed and following this, some objections had been received. Although there were numerous reasons why someone could object, the most common was due to the loss of on street parking. However, the Officer confirmed that there was no 'right' for the public to be able to park on the highway and any proposals made had been done to ensure that people with mobility issues could have the same access to public services as anybody else.
- 88.3. The Officer provided a brief overview of each of the three sites which had been proposed within the report. With regards to the proposal to extend the length of the existing clearway outside the Triangle Community Centre on Dickens Road, a discussion had been held with the Objector who had been advised that in the event of snow covering the clearway markings, the Council would not enforce restrictions in these circumstances.
- 88.4. Ms Valerie Woodhouse, Resident of Dickens Road, raised the following points of her objection to the Committee:
- Ms Woodhouse confirmed that although she had access to off-street parking, due to her own disabilities, there were occasions where she needed to leave her vehicle on the roadside, such as when there had been bad weather.
  - As a single person who relied on the good will of friends and family, there were times when large vehicles would need to park outside her property so that work could be undertaken. Should the proposal be enforced, there could be reluctance from people to help.
  - The fences outside her property helped to prevent Antisocial Behaviour and it was in her best interest that these be retained.
- 88.5. Ms Woodhouse confirmed that she normally parked on her driveway however, she was concerned about visitors and friends/family who would no longer be able to park there. Mr Newsham confirmed that there was an exemption within the regulations with respect to vehicles which stopped on the bus stop clearway restrictions for the purpose of carrying out building related works which could help to alleviate Ms Woodhouse's concerns. He advised that in such circumstances it would be best to contact the Council's Parking Services

section first. However, in terms of general visitor parking, there was no such exemption and they would have to use other unrestricted spaces available.

- 88.6. In response to a question, Mr Newsham confirmed that the current standards used by the Council for bus stop clearway restrictions resulted in them being positioned so that 19 and a ½ metres of the clearway was on the approach to the bus stop and 3 and a ½ metres was on the exit side. Unfortunately, in this case the clearway could not be placed closer to the junction with Kelly Road as this would cause visibility issues at the junction and would therefore be unlikely to be approved on safety grounds. There were also raised kerbs installed at the current bus stop which would need to be moved.

**It was RESOLVED that:-**

- 1. the bus stop clearway restriction at the bus stop on Dickens Road outside the Triangle Community Centre be extended to 23 metres in length.**

Reason: to provide sufficient space for buses to manoeuvre flush against the existing raised kerbs at the bus stop in order to ensure that bus passengers could easily and safely board and alight from buses.

- 2. the bus stop adjacent to the side of 87 Fountains Road be relocated as proposed and that the bus stop clearway restriction be extended to 23 metres in length with the times of its operation being extended so as to be from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday.**

Reason: to provide sufficient space for busses to manoeuvre flush against the proposed raised kerbs at this bus stop at all times at which it is currently served by buses in order to ensure that bus passengers could easily and safely board and alight from buses.

- 3. the bus stop outside 13 Heatherhayes be relocated to a new position adjacent to land at the front of the flats at 157 – 167 Belstead Road and that a bus stop clearway restriction with a length of 23 metres be installed with the times of its operation being from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday.**

Reason: in order to reduce the impact caused to local residents by the loss of on street parking spaces as a result of the installation of the bus stop clearway restriction and to provide sufficient space for buses to manoeuvre flush against the proposed raised kerbs at this bus stop at all times at which it is currently served by buses in order to ensure that bus passengers could easily and safely board and alight from buses.

**89. SWAC/18/23 Funding Request: Summer and Half-Term Holiday Activities Programme**

- 89.1. Andrew Wilesmith, Sports & Leisure Manager, provided an overview of the spending proposal requested toward the Summer and Half-Term Holiday Activities Programme. The programme had been designed to bring free sport

closer to the young people of Ipswich and last year 294 individual participants had been involved with the park activities.

89.2. The programme would take place over four weeks in Summer, one week in October and one week in February. Following the recent announcement that the free summer holiday iCards would be continued in 2019, the programme had been adjusted to make sure each complemented the other and marketing would tie the two schemes together. Social media, engagement with local schools and working with a number of partners would be used to promote and encourage young people to attend.

89.3. Mr Wilesmith confirmed that a leadership programme had also been introduced this year, which would allow young people aged 14-19 to undertake a Level 2 Sports Leaders Course without charge. Once qualified, they would be able to train other young people and could be a future asset to the Council (such as becoming qualified coaches, fitness instructors, etc.)

**RESOLVED:-**

**that £2,960.00 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget to deliver the programme of summer holiday and half-term activities in South West Ipswich in 2019/20, be agreed.**

Reason: The Jumpers for Goalposts programme had increased participation numbers over the last 5 years and this would allow young people across the town to participate in physical activity over the summer and half-term holidays.

**90. SWAC/18/24 Funding Request: Suffolk Pride Festival 2019**

90.1. Ben Harvey, Vice Chair of Suffolk Pride, presented the request for funding for £1,000 towards the cost of holding a one-day parade and celebration event on Ipswich Waterfront on 22 June 2019. Suffolk Pride 2019 would be an opportunity for a variety of organisations to be involved with and would be held in partnership with the Ipswich Food & Drink Festival. There would be live music from local bands, a programme of speakers and 'pre-pride' activities would be undertaken with schools and libraries in the week up to the main event.

**Resolved:**

**that £1,000 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget towards the cost of the Suffolk Pride parade and celebration event for 2019, be agreed.**

Reason: To benefit the LGBTQ+ people in Ipswich and Suffolk and promote cultural and community cohesion for the whole town.

**91. SWAC/18/25 Funding Request: ActivLives 'Carry on Gardening' at Chantry Walled Garden**

- 91.1. Danny Thorrington, ActivGardens Project Co-ordinator, presented this request for £4,680.00 funding to sustain the 'Carry on Gardening!' project for older people at the Chantry Walled Garden in Chantry Park.
- 91.2. Mr Thorrington confirmed that the project had benefited many people and had helped combat loneliness, provided the opportunity for older people to be more active and to learn new skills.
- 91.3. ActivLives continued to consider all different areas of funding available and the possibility of creating paid sessions had also been considered.

**Resolved:**

**that £4,680.00 be allocated from the South West Area Committee funding to ActivLives to sustain the 'Carry on Gardening!' project for older people delivered at the Chantry Walled Garden in Chantry Park.**

Reason: To support opportunities for older people in the South West area and to sustain the health and wellbeing of participants in the Carry on Gardening programme.

**92. SWAC/18/26 Funding Request: ActivLives 'Grow to Learn' Programme**

- 91.1. Mr Thorrington presented this request for £4,920.00 funding to sustain the 'Grow to Learn' project in the People's Community Garden, which involved young people who experienced multiple disadvantages learning about horticulture, nature conservation, carpentry and construction, enterprise and citizenship.
- 92.1. Discussion took place around how much funding the schools involved had provided and if the project had been supported by Suffolk County Council. It was agreed that the 'Grow to Learn' programme didn't fit the criteria of the Area Committee funding as this was predominately an education based project.

**Resolved:**

**That the South West Area Committee agree that funding be refused for the ActivLives 'Grown to Learn Programme'.**

Reason: The criteria for Area Committee funding had not been met.

**93. SWAC/18/27 Funding Request: Creative Computing Centre**

- 93.1. Matthew Applegate, Creative Computing Club Director, presented this request for £4,408.45 funding toward the purchase of furniture and decoration cost following the opening of a Creative Computing Centre on London Road.
- 93.2. The Creative Computing Club delivers a number of different courses including computer programming and video game design. Since the club began in 2012, hundreds of young people had benefited from learning new skills and increased confidence.

93.3. The centre would be based on London Road and opened on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The building would allow a private space for those attending and would include a GCSE qualification area.

**Resolved: that £4,408.45 funding toward the Creative Computing Centre on London Road be allocated for the purchase of furniture and decoration cost.**

Reason: To promote learning in technology subjects, to promote aspiration and opportunity to young people in South West Ipswich and to enhance access to learning for young people in the South West Area.

**94. SWAC/18/28 Funding Request: St Francis Pop Up Shop**

94.1. Sue Strutt, Churchwarden with the South West Ipswich Team Ministry, presented this request for £1,154.08 funding toward the purchase of a refrigerator and shelving for the Pop Up Shop at St Francis Church on Hawthorn Drive.

94.2. The Pop Up Shop is held once a week in the church hall and provided affordable groceries to local people who experienced financial hardship, and from Summer 2019 would include the provision of a school uniform bank. It was hoped that following the purchase of a refrigerator, the range of food on offer could be increased, as could the quantity of food available with the extra shelving.

94.3. It was suggested that shoe repair could be included as part of the service available for those in need.

**Resolved:**

**that £1,154.08 funding be allocated toward the purchase of a refrigerator and shelving for the Pop Up Shop at St Francis Church on Hawthorn Drive.**

Reason: to support residents of South West Ipswich who are experiencing financial hardship.

**95. SWAC/18/29 Area Committee Budget Update**

95.1. Shirley Jarlett, Head of People & Governance, confirmed that prior to the meeting the South West Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £20,901.53 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for South West Ipswich. Following the funding requests that had been agreed, £6,699.00 remained in the unallocated budget.

**Resolved:**

**that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the reported 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.

**96. Dates of Future Meetings**

The dates of future meetings were noted.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

**Chair**