

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY
19 SEPTEMBER 2019
RANSOMES SPORTS PAVILION,
SIDEGATE AVENUE, IPSWICH IP4 4JJ
7.30 PM

Present: Bixley Ward Councillors: J Carnall, E Phillips and R Pope
Rushmere Ward Councillors: K Cracknell, S Gage and A Ross
St John's Ward Councillors: S Darwin, K E Elavalakan and N MacDonald
SCC Councillors: S Gage and P West

There were 13 members of the public in attendance.

28. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Adams.

29. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 July 2019

29.1. Re: Minute 22.3: County Councillor Gage highlighted that the Children's Centre she reported as being at risk of closure was Wooden House, not Chatterbox.

Resolved:

that, subject to the amendment above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2019 be signed as a true record.

30. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

31. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32. Police Priorities in North East Ipswich

- 32.1. Sergeant Tim Gregory of the Ipswich East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) provided the following update on policing priorities:
- 32.2. Police resource levels would be increasing from 7 October 2019, with Student Officers joining the SNTs for up to 10 months before moving to Response Policing.
- 32.3. Tackling drug-dealing activities around Trafalgar Close continued to be a priority and was being addressed through additional patrols and covert gathering of intelligence.
- 32.4. There had been a number of car key fob fraud cases over the summer, where someone asked to borrow £200 as their key fob was not working, with 10 cases across Ipswich, of which 2 were in North East Ipswich; the offender, who was also wanted for similar offences in other counties, was now detained in prison.
- 32.5. Local resident: There was a spate of cars being broken into at the beginning of the month, with 20-30 cases in Ipswich; previously the Police used to do a leaflet drop in affected areas, but this had not happened in our street despite an incident taking place there.
Sergeant Gregory reported that a prolific vehicle theft offender, who gained entry to unlocked vehicles, had been charged; with the advent of contactless credit cards, it was important not to leave them in unlocked vehicles.
- 32.6. Local resident: People need to make vehicle theft a harder target by hiding any possessions from view and locking their vehicles. Were any of the vehicle thefts caused by the proximity of a key fob?
Sergeant Gregory commented that that was a different type of crime; the recent incidents were due to the offender gaining entry to unlocked vehicles by trying door handles.
- 32.7. Local resident: The Police were called out as parked vehicles connected with drug dealing activities in Trafalgar Close were blocking the road/driveways in St Mary's Road and the matter was resolved.

33. Chair's Update on Action Points from the Previous Meetings (Verbal)

- 33.1. Councillor Darwin reported that there were no actions arising from the previous meeting.
- 33.2. Councillor Darwin commented that Ipswich had been busy over the summer months with the Ed Sheeran concerts, the Elmer Parade and free i-Card activities for young people.

34. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities

St John's ward:

- 34.1. Councillor Darwin reported that speeding vehicles was still an issue on Camden Road and this issue had been referred to County Councillor Adams. Councillor Darwin also highlighted that there had been a number of doorbells stolen in Cowper Street, which had been reported to the Police.
- 34.2. Councillor Darwin had also been dealing with the safety issue of Transit vans causing obstruction by parking on verges, weeds on pavements, and campaigning against the proposed closures of Children's Centres.
- 34.3. Councillor Darwin reported that the 'Think before you park' initiative had been launched this week, in conjunction with the Fire Service, with leaflets being placed on vehicle windscreens in Orwell Road, Stanley Avenue and Pearce Road, to advise drivers to park considerately so that Emergency Services vehicles could access these narrow streets.
- 34.4. Councillor MacDonald commented that whilst it was possible to apply to SCC for a dropped kerb at a cost of £300, there was no guarantee that this request would be granted, as it would need to meet a set of criteria in line with the latest policy; this could result in an inconsistent approach with the potential for a resident having a dropped kerb, whilst a neighbouring resident might have their request turned down. Councillor MacDonald added that he had been dealing with the issue of overgrown hedges.

Bixley ward:

- 34.5. Councillor Carnall commented that he had reported issues relating to weeds in gutters and the poor condition of grass verges, and commended the prompt action taken by Council Officers.
- 34.6. Councillor Carnall reported that he had been dealing with a number of queries relating to planning applications, including an application for 4 flats behind a shop on Woodbridge Road East that had not been well received by residents and had since been withdrawn by the agent.
- 34.7. Councillor Carnall commented on the cost of the plinths on the Cornhill that had been removed and would not be replaced. Councillor Ross highlighted that the plinths had not been paid for and therefore bore no cost to the Council.
- 34.8. Councillor Carnall commented that the Ed Sheeran concerts had been good for the town and added that he had requested information on the financial outcome for the Council; this information could not be released at this time, but there would be a report to Executive once the outcomes of the concerts were known.
- 34.9. Councillor Phillips reported that there had been some dubious tradesmen knocking on doors and advised residents to refuse their offers of work. Councillor Phillips added that he had also been dealing with issues of

overgrown hedges and trees.

- 34.10. Councillor Pope reported that he had also been dealing with a larger number of planning application queries than usual. Councillor Pope reported that on the footpath behind Temple Road, the developers had cut back shrubs leaving the roots exposed and had also left the fence in a dangerous state. Councillor Pope commented that whilst it would be beneficial for the footpaths to be joined up as part of the St Clements Hospital development, it was being done in a rather haphazard manner.

Rushmere ward:

- 34.11. Councillor Cracknell reported that he had met with Renfrew Road residents and Council Officers in relation to ASB issues. Councillor Cracknell added that he had reported issues relating to an overgrown garden in Inverness Road to the Council's Tenancy Services and had also been dealing with pothole issues.
- 34.12. Councillor Gage reported that the request for a dropped kerb on Humber Doucy Lane to benefit a less mobile resident had been assessed by Suffolk Highways and was considered to be appropriate at that location. Councillor Gage reported that the potholes on Westbury Road had now been highlighted with yellow paint.
- 34.13. Councillor Gage commented that a resident had reported some damaged fencing on Brunswick Road recreation ground and this had since been replaced.
- 34.14. Councillor Gage reported that a refuse cart had been unable to access Hutland Road due to the gas works; Councillor Gage reported the poor standard of these works and the failure to provide residents with contact information.
- 34.15. Councillor Gage reported that there had been an issue in Caithness Close with an overgrown tree touching a BT phone line and affecting a resident's HEARS phone service; this tree and four other trees were cut back promptly by Suffolk Highways.

35. Suffolk County Councillors Feedback from their Divisions

Bixley Division:

- 35.1. County Councillor West reported that an extension of the grass verge scheme on Chilton Road, which prevented vehicles from parking on it, was being considered in other areas; this would require wider consultation.
- 35.2. County Councillor West reported that an ongoing request for a dropped kerb had been referred to County Councillor Mary Evans, Cabinet Member, to consider a more generous response to dropped kerb requests where reasonable; Officers were declining this request in order to preserve the on-street parking provision.

- 35.3. County Councillor West added that he had also been dealing with the issue of overgrown trees and various casework matters.

Rushmere Division:

- 35.4. County Councillor Gage reported that the waiting restrictions sign on Rushmere Road at the junction with Victory Road had recently changed to 8am – 6pm, Mondays to Saturdays, resulting in residents no longer being able to park outside their homes on a Saturday, which had resulted in a resident receiving a parking penalty notice.
- 35.5. County Councillor Gage reported that there had been a road traffic accident on the junction of Belvedere Road and Whitby Road, resulting in a vehicle ending up in a garden and an ambulance attending the scene. There had been a long-running campaign regarding road safety on Belvedere Road, which was used as a rat-run with vehicles speeding and driving on pavements. Although Suffolk Highways had advised that no action would be taken and no funding was available, County Councillor Gage has asked Officers to look at this issue again in light of ongoing safety concerns.
- 35.6. County Councillor Gage reported that this was the last week of the public consultation for the proposed 20mph zone on Woodbridge Road outside of St Helen's Primary School.

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

- 36.1. Councillor Darwin confirmed that no questions had been received prior to the meeting and highlighted that if a question was received by 10am on the Tuesday 2 days before a North East Area Committee meeting, then a response would be provided by an appropriate Officer.
- 36.2. Local resident: Do redundant road signs that are painted on the road get removed, e.g. bus stops that were no longer in use? Who should redundant signs be reported to?
County Councillor West commented that these markings would be removed, but these works were likely to be a low priority. County Councillor West commented that redundant signs could be reported to him and he would pass the information onto the relevant Officers.
- 36.3. Local resident: A speed ramp would be helpful on Woodbridge Road as traffic often accelerated down the slope towards St Helen's School.
County Councillor Gage reported that a 20mph zone had been proposed in this location; speed cushions, rather than a ramp, had been proposed as this road was part of a bus route.

37. NEAC/19/07 Funding Request: Football and Well-Being Programme

- 37.1. Mr Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £471.08 was requested by the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum

(CACHSF) towards the delivery of a Football and Wellbeing Programme.

- 37.2. Mr Clem Turner, Chairman of CACHSF, reported that this programme would enable a group of young people, of differing backgrounds and cultures, to continue to participate in football activities whilst also receiving regular educational sessions relating to health and well-being. The group were already linked with the Suffolk FA 'Just Play' initiative and during the summer had used Christchurch Park as a free venue to play, but a new venue was required during the winter months.
- 37.3. Mr Turner reported that the group of players were already registered and had been affiliated as a club with Suffolk FA and would play in a league next year. Mr Turner added that attendance of the health and well-being sessions was part of the agreement for the young people to continue playing for the team. Mr Turner commented that whilst there was no guarantee that this project would solve all problems, it would provide young people with somewhere to go/something to do.
- 37.4. Councillor Phillips commented that engaging young people in this project could provide them with some sense of social responsibility. Councillor Phillips noted that 59 young people had attended the sessions and asked how the amount requested from the North East Area Committee had been calculated. Mr Turner commented that the number of attendees had increased, with 72 young people now involved, many of whom were asylum seekers or refugees who had been signposted to this project. The funding requested was based on where the young people resided.
- 37.5. Councillor Ross commented that this project could also be considered for the Roma population as football was a common language, regardless of background. Councillor Ross supported the requirement for the young people to attend the health and well-being sessions as part of the project.
- 37.6. Councillor Pope asked where the team would play their home games. Mr Turner commented that now that the team was affiliated, a home pitch was being sought. Mr Turner added that a few of the players had been signposted onto professional clubs.
- 37.7. Councillor Pope commented that there was a pitch at Murrayfield Recreation Ground. Councillor Ross added that pitches were also available at Gainsborough Sports Centre and Whitton Sports Centre.

Resolved:

that the North East Area Committee approve funding of £471.08 from the North East Area Committee budget to the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum towards the delivery of a Football and Wellbeing Programme.

Reason: The football and wellbeing programme would provide young people from all communities within Ipswich with an opportunity to access structured physical activity and education in health and wellbeing.

38. NEAC/19/08 Funding Request: Emmaus Suffolk Volunteer Support

- 38.1. Mr Lanning reported that £645.16 was requested by Emmaus Suffolk towards costs for travel, lunch and food parcels for volunteers who travel to the Emmaus site in the Dales area of Ipswich.
- 38.2. Ms Claire Staddon, Executive Lead for Emmaus Suffolk, reported that the '@ The Dales' community hub provided volunteering opportunities for vulnerable people who were homeless and out of work to help them to progress towards getting back into employment.
- 38.3. Emmaus Suffolk had already added value to the community through the provision of a Community Café, Workshop for renovating furniture, Accessible Wildlife Garden, and Shower and Launderette facilities for the homeless.
- 38.4. The '@The Dales' community hub provided a range of activities for the volunteers to participate in, including making a cold snack/food parcel to take away. Due to its location, the bus fare to '@ The Dales' was refunded to volunteers when they attended. The split of the funding requested per Area Committee was in line with the postcode areas of the volunteers.
- 38.5. Councillor Pope asked what was the average period of time that volunteers continued to attend the community hub.
Ms Staddon commented that the volunteers attended for 4-hour sessions; those who were able to move on in the short term attended for about 6-9 months, others who needed to develop trust and unload issues were long-term cases.
- 38.6. Councillor Phillips commented that it was unusual to fund a request based outside of the North East Ipswich area. Councillor Phillips noted that Emmaus Suffolk had unrestricted reserves below the 'significant reserves' threshold and asked whether this project would be sustainable going forward or if it would require further funding.
Ms Staddon reported that Emmaus Suffolk had to have a minimum of 3 months working reserves; Emmaus Suffolk were working on launching a house clearance business involving the volunteers in order to become financially sustainable.

Resolved:

that the North East Area Committee approve funding of £645.16 from the North East Area Committee budget to Emmaus Suffolk for the costs of volunteers' travel and food.

Reason: To reduce barriers to inclusion and employment for people affected by long-term unemployment and support vulnerable adults with facilities that boost an increase in confidence, skills and self-worth.

39. NEAC/19/09 Area Committee Budget Update

39.1. Mr Fulcher, Head of Development, reported that at the last meeting £5,569.70 had been allocated for the Black History Month Celebration Event and the Let's Talk Reading Literacy Programme, leaving an unallocated budget of £13,276.75 available for the North East Area Committee to spend on the priorities of its Action Plan.

39.2. Following the financial commitment of £1,116.24 arising from the approved funding requests, the unallocated North East Area Committee budget was now £12,160.51.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in 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.

40. Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the remaining meetings for 2019/20 be held at Ransomes Sports Pavilion, Sidegate Avenue, IP4 4JJ as per the following dates:

- **Thursday 28 November 2019**
- **Thursday 23 January 2020**
- **Thursday 19 March 2020**

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Chair