

# **NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**THURSDAY  
23 JANUARY 2020  
RANSOMES SPORTS PAVILION,  
SIDEGATE AVENUE, IPSWICH IP4 4JJ  
7.30 PM**

**Present:** Bixley Ward Councillors: J Carnall and E Phillips  
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 10 members of the public in attendance.

**41. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pope and County Councillor Adams.

**42. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2019**

**Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019 be signed as a true record.

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

**Resolved:**

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

**44. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **45. Police Priorities in North East Ipswich**

As there was no representative from the Police in attendance, the Police Priorities in North East Ipswich were not discussed.

#### **46. Chair's Update on Action Points from the Previous Meetings (Verbal)**

46.1. The Chair reported that the Suffolk County Council (SCC) consultation on Children's Centres was open until 1 March 2020 and encouraged people to have their say on the proposals. The Ed Sheeran 'Made in Suffolk' exhibition was still on at Christchurch Mansion until 19 March 2020, and any musicians interested in taking part in the Ipswich Music Day in July 2020 have until 23 March 2020 to apply.

46.2. The Chair provided the following update in relation to grit bins located in the North East Ipswich area:

The Council currently provided a number of grit bins in various locations across Ipswich as part of a self-help community volunteer gritting scheme, whereby members of the local community could apply grit to roads that were not gritted by the County Council during periods of severe winter weather. Grit bins tend to be placed on cul-de-sacs and other residential roads, usually those with a steep hill.

Suffolk County Council fill the grit bins and provide insurance cover to volunteers registered with the Borough Council. Volunteers were co-ordinated in their streets by a lead community volunteer. The Borough Council were seeking to find members of the local community in Stradbroke Road to act as the lead community volunteer for this street. The role of a lead community volunteers was to act as a contact point with the Borough Council and with the volunteers on their streets who carry out the gritting, and to seek more volunteers where necessary. Lead community volunteers could carry out gritting themselves, but provided they have at least 2 volunteers for their street then they did not have to, meaning that this role could be suitable for all members of the community.

Anyone interested in acting in this capacity should contact the Council's Integrated Transport Officer on: (01473) 432064 for further information. The Council would prefer to avoid having to remove any existing grit bins, but regrettably if no-one was willing to act as a lead community volunteer, then this might be necessary.

#### **47. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities**

Rushmere ward:

47.1. Councillor Gage reported that she had been involved as a lead Councillor on the Suffolk Cross-Authority Scrutiny Task and Finish Group looking at the impact of funding cuts on Citizens Advice, and the resulting recommendations were endorsed by the Council's Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee and

requested that SCC and district authorities maintain their current core funding levels to enable Citizens Advice to provide their services.

- 47.2. Councillor Gage added that Highways England would be attending the Council's Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2020 in relation to closures of the Orwell Bridge in windy conditions and what options could be considered to limit such closures in the future.
- 47.3. Councillor Gage reported that there had been issues with bulky waste on footpaths in Belvedere Road over several weeks; the waste had been removed by the Council's Waste Team and this issue would be monitoring going forward.
- 47.4. Councillor Cracknell reported that he had been dealing with pothole issues and assisting residents with applications for Council housing, and added that he would be visiting East Villa.

Bixley ward:

- 47.5. Councillor Carnall reported that following the withdrawal of a planning application for 4 flats behind the shops on Woodbridge Road East, a further application was submitted, which was recommended for approval and was of concern to local traders because of issues with parking and access for deliveries. Councillor Carnall spoke at the Planning & Development Committee to raise these concerns, which led to a site visit by the Committee and subsequent refusal of the application.
- 47.6. Councillor Carnall reported that a planning application had been received to remove the car wash at the Applegreen Garage on Woodbridge Road East and replace it with a drive-through coffee shop; local residents were opposed to this proposal because of noise and traffic concerns. The planning application was likely to go to the Planning & Development Committee on 4 March/1 April 2020 if recommended for approval.
- 47.7. Councillor Carnall commented that he had also been dealing with parking issues in Bixley ward, with assistance from County Councillor West, and some progress had been made.
- 47.8. Councillor Phillips reported that there had been people with fake id trying to access properties under the pretence of looking at gas meters and advised people not to let them in. Councillor Phillips reported that people wanting to contact the new MP for Ipswich, Tom Hunt, could do so via his website whilst his office was being set up.

St John's ward:

- 47.9. Councillor MacDonald highlighted that the Chatterbox Children's Centre was cited for closure in SCC's Children's Centres consultation. Councillor MacDonald reported that he had attended the opening of 17 new Council

homes on Cauldwell Hall Road, with the Mayor presenting the key to the first new Council tenants.

#### **48. Suffolk County Councillors Feedback from their Divisions**

##### St John's Division:

- 48.1. Councillor Ross provided the following update on behalf of County Councillor Adams: In relation to speeding issues on Camden Road and Dover Road, the average speed measured on these roads 3 years ago was 19mph and 20mph respectively; the speed tests were measured again in December 2019 and the results were the same. However, following an accident over the Christmas period, residents were concerned that the speed of traffic on these roads was still inappropriate and County Councillor Adams would be meeting with Suffolk Highways to discuss the issue further.

##### Rushmere Division:

- 48.2. County Councillor Gage reported that in September 2019 responsibility for the provision of timetables at bus stops had moved from SCC to the bus operators; whilst Ipswich Buses were providing paper copies of timetables, First Bus were not. Councillor Gage followed up this matter with First Bus, and copies were finally provided on bus route 66 bus stops in December 2019.
- 48.3. County Councillor Gage reported that there were problems with the yellow lines on the old Fire Station development on Sidegate Lane/Colchester Road as there was no clear indication when the yellow lines applied, resulting in drivers parking haphazardly.
- 48.4. County Councillor Gage reported that she had made contributions from her Locality budget towards replacement computers for Lighthouse Women's Aid and new gym equipment for Ipswich Gymnastics Centre, which was used by residents in North East Ipswich despite being based in South East Ipswich.

##### Bixley Division:

- 48.5. County Councillor West reported that residents on Bixley Road, Colchester Road and Valley Road had been frustrated by the recent closures of the Orwell Bridge and traffic subsequently being diverted along these roads, especially by the additional noise of traffic generated when this occurred at night; County Councillor West hoped that Highways England would be able to provide a solution to limit future closures of the bridge in windy conditions.
- 48.6. County Councillor West reported that he had been dealing with a number of parking issues in the last few months.
- 48.7. County Councillor West encouraged residents to respond to SCC's Children's Centres consultation and highlighted that any savings would be reinvested into Children's Services.

#### **49. Responses to Public Questions Received and Open Discussion on Local Issues**

49.1. Councillor Darwin confirmed that no questions had been received in advance of 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.

#### **50. Presentation: Sense of Place Project**

50.1. Mr Swaraj Jeyasingh, local resident and Chair of the Sense of Place community group, provided an overview of the Sense of Place project, with the following points:

- Many people have lost the sense of belonging to a place and its community, resulting in social isolation, poor mental health, lack of respect for local environment and increased crime levels
- The local community needed to come together to recreate a sense of place, increase community energy through community engagement and activities, such as:

an organised 3.5mile urban walk around North East Ipswich, taking in local historic assets, such as James Ransome's former home, remains of Cauldwell Hall and St John's workhouse

holding a local photo exhibition by encouraging local residents to send in photographs about the area from the last 50 years

setting up a local business/enterprise club to support and promote local businesses and create a 'shop local' leaflet

use of public art to attract people to assets in the area, similar to the Pigs Gone Wild/Elmer Parade exhibits

- The area for consideration would cover one square mile, have clearly defined boundaries and a defined centre that could be walked to in 5-10 minutes
- The proposed centre would be where Woodbridge Road meets with Cauldwell Hall Road and the area would be bounded by the ring road and the railway line
- A small pilot was proposed to engage with local residents through a survey and feedback the outcomes

50.2. Councillor Darwin asked how this project would engage with people, how it could be narrowed down to something more workable and what was the evidence of need for this project, for example, what would make this project different from existing community engagement work, the Urban Characterisation Study and walks offered by the Tourist Information Centre. If funding was to be requested from the Making a Difference budget, how much would be requested and from which wards.  
A very small pilot was proposed, over a few streets, to find out what was

people's current perception of how they identify with their local place and possible outcomes. The survey would be done using a mixture of reply postcards and online surveys. As the centre of the proposed area would be where the 3 wards meet, then funding would be sought from all 3 wards.

- 50.3. County Councillor West commented that it would be preferable to fund a specific event rather than the overall project; urban walks could be advertised on social media and a photo exhibition could be held to tie in with Heritage Open Days across the town.
- 50.4. Councillor Cracknell asked how much research had been, as there were already community groups in the area, and would this be a new group or would it be combined with existing community groups to make a larger community. There would be some overlap, but the focus would be on a particular place.
- 50.5. Councillor Cracknell asked if existing groups had already been contacted to see what they were doing in the proposed place. Links had been made through Community Action Suffolk.
- 50.6. Councillor Gage commented that the local business leaflet produced in 2013 for Woodbridge Road was worth revisiting as it would support local independent businesses; it would be helpful to also include 'odd job' tradesmen.

**51. NEAC/19/10 Funding Request: Ipswich Model Engineering Society Planning Application**

- 51.1. Mr Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £970.20 was requested by the Ipswich Model Engineering Society towards the cost of a planning application for a new Clubhouse building.
- 51.2. Mr Andrew Grace, Chair of the Ipswich Model Engineering Society, reported that the Society had 75 members and also involved the community through various events, such as Open Days and birthday parties; additionally, 25 pupils from nearby Copleston High School had been engaged in activities, including driving the steam trains.
- 51.3. Mr Grace reported that the clubhouse, built in 1949, was now in need of modernisation, especially the kitchen and toilets. The Society had been researching other funding sources, and having planning permission in place would make it easier to draw down funding as the project would in a position to be progressed.
- 51.4. Local resident: If you get planning permission, how would the rest of the money be raised in the future?  
An application had been made to the Council's Cash Grants and bids would be made to other funding sources.
- 51.5. Councillor Darwin commented that planning permission would enable the project to move forward and added that the premises were also used as a

- community space, e.g. ABC Childcare held Easter Egg hunts on the premises, but the clubhouse had become dated.
- 51.6. Councillor Ross highlighted that other funding bids set out how the community would be engaged in the future, but the Society was already involving 25 schoolchildren.
- 51.7. Councillor Phillips asked how the cost of the redevelopment had been derived and how the funding would be sourced over time.  
The figure of £200,000 would cover materials and the work required to be done by a contractor; the more minor works would be done by Society members. The project would be broken down into a number of phases, with the finance allocated as smaller amounts across the project. The Society had raised approximately £30,000 and would continue to apply to funding sources, such as Landfill Tax Credits and the Belstead Trust.
- 51.8. County Councillor West commented that he had pledged funding from his Locality budget towards the next stage of the project and highlighted that the Society provided activities to help address social isolation.
- 51.9. Councillor Darwin questioned whether all of the £970.20 was required for the planning application. Mr Fulcher, Head of Development, reported that the cost of a planning application was correct and was based on the square meterage of the site.

**Resolved:**

**that the North East Area Committee approve funding of £970.20 from the North East Area Committee budget towards the cost of a planning application for a new Clubhouse building.**

Reason: To enable the Ipswich Model Engineering Society to progress its redevelopment for the benefit of its members and visitors.

**52. NEAC/19/11 Area Committee Budget Update**

- 52.1. Mr Fulcher reported that at the last meeting £1,116.24 had been allocated for the Football and Well-Being Programme and Emmaus Suffolk Volunteer Support, leaving an unallocated budget of £12,160.51 available for the North East Area Committee to spend on the priorities of its Action Plan.
- 52.2. Since the last meeting, £80 had been allocated from the Bixley ward Making a Difference budget towards the St Augustine's Church Carol Service on Broke Hall Green.
- 52.3. As a result of the finalised costs for the experimental operation of Bus Service 4 on Sundays and Bank Holidays, a small surplus of £108.80 had been identified and the North East Ipswich Area Committee agreed to return this funding to its unallocated budget. The return of this surplus, together with the financial

commitment of £970.20 arising from the approved funding bid, resulted in an unallocated North East Ipswich Area Committee budget of £11,299.11.

**Resolved:**

**(i) that the financial position of the North East Area Committee 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.

**(ii) that the return of £108.80 of funding that was not required to subsidise the Bus Service 4 on Sundays and Bank Holidays be approved.**

Reason: To release any North East Area Committee budget funding where there is no further expenditure anticipated.

### **53. Dates of Future Meetings**

**Resolved:**

**that the future meetings of the North East Area Committee be held at Ransomes Sports Pavilion, Sidegate Avenue, IP4 4JJ as per the following dates:**

- **Thursday 19 March 2020**
- **Thursday 18 June 2020**
- **Thursday 30 July 2020**
- **Thursday 24 September 2020**
- **Thursday 19 November 2020**
- **Thursday 28 January 2021**
- **Thursday 18 March 2021**

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm

**Chair**