

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019
ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,
BOLTON LANE, IP4 2BT
7.00 PM**

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: J Cook and J Riley
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: O Holmes, I Lockington and T Lockington
Westgate Ward Councillors: J Gibbs, C Jones and C Kreidewolf
SCC Councillors: J Abbott, C Chambers, I Lockington

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

29. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Gaylard.

The Chair reported that Councillor Adam Leeder had resigned from the Council, having represented Alexandra ward since May 2012, and thanked him for his contribution to the Committee over the years.

30. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2019 be signed as a true record.

31. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

32. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cook, being a Director of the East of England Co-operative Society who owned the building where Emmaus Suffolk were based, declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 (report CAC/19/10).

33. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 20 November 2019, 7pm – Ipswich Community Church, Clarkson Street, IP1 2JP**
- **Wednesday 15 January 2020, 7pm – Christ Church – Langston Hall, Tacket Street, IP4 1AU**
- **Wednesday 11 March 2020, 7pm – St Margaret’s ward**

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

- 34.1. The Chair introduced Inspector Richard Burton of the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following policing updates:
- 34.2. Arras Square: Drug activity was being investigated at a ‘cuckoo’ address as part of Operation Volcanic.
- 34.3. Maple Park: A clear strategy was being developed to tackle ASB going forward.
- 34.4. Operation Sceptre: A week of action was being planned to tackle knife crime, with the Police Community Engagement Officer PC Woodmansee being based in the town centre at 10am each day and the Police Enforcement Team targeting locations, addresses and individuals the following week.
- 34.5. Councillor I Lockington asked if the Police were aware of people breaking into cars in the Central Ipswich area. Inspector Burton confirmed that there had been thefts from vehicles taking place across the South Suffolk area and media messages had been sent out to stress the importance of locking vehicles and not leaving possessions on display.
- 34.6. Councillor Jones reported that there had been complaints of ASB and drug use on Cecil Road and Geneva Road. Councillor Jones also highlighted that vehicles were using the restricted access areas in the town centre, for example, turning into Dogs Head Street from Lower Brook Street. Inspector Burton commented that there had been issues at night time by the Vodka Revolution bar. Councillor Jones confirmed that this illegal access had been occurring during the day.
[Note: This minute was subsequently amended at the meeting held on 15 January 2020.]
- 34.7. Councillor Kreidewolf requested that the Police Traffic Unit carry out further enforcement in relation to speeding vehicles on Anglesea Road. Despite the implementation of a 20mph zone and improved road signage, vehicles were still speeding on this road; a raised road table would be a better solution, but SCC did not have funding available for this. Inspector Burton reported that the Police had been working with Suffolk

Highways to make the signage more visible and Special Constables had recently carried out a day of speeding enforcement on Berner Street and Anglesea Road where 30 people were stopped and given advice. Inspector Burton added he would make a request to the Traffic Unit to give this issue further attention.

- 34.8. Local resident: During the rush hour, a lot of traffic turns left out of Berner Street and along Warrington Road to avoid using Henley Road, with many vehicles doing 40-50mph along Warrington Road in late afternoon; the 20mph signs were useless unless the speed limit was enforced. The issue had been made worse by one of the signs being knocked through 90° and no longer visible to oncoming traffic. Inspector Burton commented that he would visit the area and raise the issues with Suffolk Highways.
- 34.9. Councillor T Lockington commented that there had been drug dealing activity at the top end of Broomhill Road near to Broomhill Pool. Inspector Burton wasn't aware of issues in this area and added that he would pass this intelligence on.
- 34.10. County Councillor Chambers reported that he had met with Suffolk Highways and Councillor I Lockington and had offered to provide funding to enable '20' signs to be painted on the road for the Anglesea Road 20mph zone. County Councillor Chambers had also requested that speed survey cables be used on Anglesea Road and Warrington Road to get a true indication of speeds in this area.
- 34.11. Local resident: Speeding was also an issue on Woodbridge Road, in particular, near to St Helens Primary School, but there were no markings on the road to slow traffic down. Councillor Cook commented that County Councillor Gaylard had been dealing with issue and a formal consultation was currently taking place for the Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a 20mph zone outside the school.
- 34.12. The Chair highlighted that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Tim Passmore and Chief Constable Steve Jupp were holding a public meeting about policing in Ipswich on Thursday 31 October 2019 at 7pm at Ipswich Community Church on Clarkson Street.

35. CAC/19/09 Funding Request: Football and Wellbeing Programme

- 35.1. Mr Turnbull, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £1,345.32 was requested by the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum (CACHSF) to enable the delivery of a Football and Wellbeing Programme.
- 35.2. 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.

- 35.3. Mr Turner reported that 67 young people [over 16s] were already registered and the group had been affiliated as a club with Suffolk FA and would play in a league next year. Mr Turner added that whilst this project wouldn't solve all problems, it would provide young people with somewhere to go/something to do.
- 35.4. Councillor Holmes commented that the PCC also had funding available for diversionary activities for young people and added that there might be some synergy with that programme.
Mr Turner reported that he was not aware of this funding and had limited resource to make applications, but would contact the PCC about potential funding as this was a long-term project.
- 35.5. Councillor Kreidewolf asked what day of week this group trained as there was another group from Westgate and Gipping wards who played on Alderman Road Recreation Ground on Fridays with kit donated by Ipswich School.
Mr Turner reported that the group had played on Thursdays during the summer, and added that he had contacted the YMCA about using their facilities, with Tuesdays and Fridays being a possibility.
- 35.6. Councillor I Lockington commented that it was not easy to engage with young people.
Mr Turner reported that there were 18 different languages spoken across the group and a variety of differing cultures, but when playing football, the players needed to show discipline regardless of where they were from.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £1,345.32 from the Central 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 will provide young people from all communities in Ipswich with an opportunity to access structured physical activity and education in health and wellbeing.

36. CAC/19/10 Funding Request: Emmaus Suffolk Volunteer Support

- 36.1. Mr Turnbull reported that £3,225.81 was requested by Emmaus Suffolk to subsidise costs for travel, lunch and food parcels for volunteers who travel to the Emmaus site in the Dales area of Ipswich.
- 36.2. 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.

- 36.3. 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.
- 36.4. 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.
- 36.5. Councillor Riley asked how long volunteers continued to attend the community hub.
Ms Staddon commented that some volunteers were quick to recognise their self-worth and moved on into employment after 4-5 months, adding that Emmaus Suffolk had links with an employer who could take on people with low skills; other volunteers were slower to progress, but with some education and self-management could start to progress after 12 months or so, and some did not have the appropriate interpersonal skills to move into employment, but still provided value to Emmaus Suffolk and themselves.
- 36.6. Councillor T Lockington questioned how this project would be funded going forward and whether this model of funding individuals was setting a precedent.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £3,225.81 from the Central Area Committee budget to Emmaus Suffolk for the costs of volunteer travel and food.

Reasons: 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.

37. CAC/19/11 Funding Request: Let's Talk Reading Literacy Programme

- 37.1. Mr Turnbull reported that £4,158.25 was requested by Let's Talk Reading to enable the further development of its literacy programme in Central Ipswich.
- 37.2. Mr John Helleur, Chair of Let's Talk Reading, highlighted the aims of the Literacy Programme, which was in the third year of a ten-year programme and had built a sustainable base with partners and volunteers. To date, Let's Talk Reading had worked with 15 schools, 30 nurseries/pre-school groups, attended ante-natal and post-natal classes, issued book bags to 2-year olds and 375 adult literacy manuals and now had 34 volunteers actively working.
- 37.3. The 2019/20 programme would seek to continue with the issue of books and book bags for Early Years, deliver post-natal classes through Suffolk Babies and provide materials to establish a 'Read Easy Ipswich' hub to deliver one-to-one coaching for adults. If funded in full, the programme would seek to improve literacy of 680 children, 125 adults and 20 staff in Central Ipswich.

- 37.4. Councillor Kreidewolf highlighted that children learn most in the first 3 years of their lives and that education was failing in Suffolk, and commented that the closure of children's centres would only exacerbate this problem.
- 37.5. Councillor Jones asked how often the Let's Talk Reading team attended the nurseries located in Central Ipswich listed in the appendix and whether this was just for Story Time or if parents were also taught to read to their children. Ms Pyper reported that staff at nurseries were often of low literacy and so were given training in story-telling. Parents were invited to attend when dropping off their children and encouraged to read with them to understand the importance of reading to their children.
- 37.6. Councillor Jones asked whether it was possible to determine whether the parents who got involved with Story Time sessions were already reading to their children. Ms Pyper commented that staff would try to get parents engaged in story-telling and identify those who did not.
- 37.7. Councillor Cook asked whether Let's Talking Reading had approached SCC for funding and if there was any indication that this could be supported. Ms Pyper commented that Early Years work would not be funded by SCC. Let's Talk Reading had approached County Councillors for locality funding for the parent engagement and adult literacy elements and were waiting for a response.
- 37.8. Councillor I Lockington commented that if there was a shortage of books in households, parents should be referred to libraries. Ms Pyper reported that the book bags included details of local libraries and story-telling opportunities.
- 37.9. Councillor I Lockington commented that at the North West Area Committee it had been suggested that Waterstones be approached for sponsorship of the book bags and added that some parents were not good readers. Ms Pyper commented that the books selected for the book bags were not too difficult to read.
- 37.10. Councillor Riley highlighted the problem of pre-school staff not being well trained and the wide scope of Let's Talk Reading's Literacy Programme, and suggested that the focus should be on Early Years and Adult Literacy, not schools; however, funding would be required from other sources to make a real difference.
- 37.11. County Councillor Abbott commented on the education challenge for Suffolk, especially in relation to Early Years in disadvantaged areas, and highlighted the rise in the number of children being excluded from early schooling due to challenging behaviour. County Councillor Abbott added that education was not the responsibility of Ipswich Borough Council and suggested that Let's Talk Reading approach the Ipswich Opportunity Area for support.

- 37.12. Councillor Jones commented that the Suffolk Babies website did not indicate any services being provided in Ipswich and questioned whether the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) should be funding the work with babies. Mr Helleur reported that Suffolk Babies was the chosen supplier for ante-natal classes in hospitals, but most parents from disadvantaged areas did not attend these classes. Let's Talk Reading had established free classes in the Gainsborough area and wanted to expand this service to other disadvantaged areas, with an emphasis placed on reading and communication from an early age. Ms Pyper added that the CCG did commission Suffolk Babies, but did not fund them.
- 37.13. Councillor Jones commented on the small number of adults taking up the adult literacy service despite the number of volunteers available. Councillor Jones proposed that £3,500 be allocated to Let's Talk Reading and this was agreed. Councillor Jones added that County Councillors could be approached for locality funding.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £3,500 from the Central Area Committee budget to Let's Talk Reading to deliver its Literacy Programme in Central Ipswich.

Reason: To improve the life chances of residents in Central Ipswich, to improve the education and skills levels in Central Ipswich and to support the economy in Central Ipswich.

38. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

- 38.1. Retention Period of CCTV Footage: The Chair reported that the following responses had been provided:

Inspector Burton, Ipswich Central SNT:

"There was nothing set in stone and every premises had different conditions, but most, if they have CCTV conditions stipulated on their premises licence, have to retain it for 28 days; this was based on licenced premises. Some off-licences or pubs who have licences that did not require CCTV might still have it and only keep footage for 2 weeks or less. As for the Council's CCTV system, footage was kept for 28 days."

Council's Licensing Team:

"CCTV footage retention depends on the individual licence conditions. Most conditions required footage to be held for 28-30 days, however, some licences did not have any CCTV requirement. It was not a mandatory licensing condition and was usually requested by the Police, who were now standardising CCTV footage retention at 30 days."

- 38.2. Silent Street – reinstatement of highway after works: County Councillor West reported that some remedial works had been undertaken recently. Councillor Cook commented that some areas had been rectified, but there were still

further works required [2 cracked slabs, 1 missing, temporary tarmac, movable cobbles].

- 38.3. St Helen's Street Corridor improvements: County Councillor West reported that a meeting had been arranged on 12 September 2019 for local residents to meet with the highway engineers to discuss the proposals.

39. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 39.1. Councillor I Lockington commented that at the last meeting she had requested traffic flow information for Tuddenham Road from the Ipswich Northern Route Project Officers, and after waiting a while for a response, was informed that this information would not be provided by the consultants. County Councillor West offered to raise this matter with the Project Officers.

40. CAC/19/12 Area Committee Budget Update

- 40.1. Mr Fairclough, Head of Culture and Environment, reported that at the start of the meeting the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £14,764.05 available to spend on its priorities.
- 40.2. Following the financial commitment of £8,071.13 arising from the approved funding requests, the unallocated Central Area Committee budget was now £6,692.92.

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.

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm

Chair