

# **SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

**NANSEN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, NANSEN ROAD,  
IPSWICH IP3 9HN**

**7.00 PM**

**Present:** Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly, M Cook and S Handley  
Holywells Ward Councillors: E Harsant and B Studd  
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber, D Maguire and L Richardson  
  
Suffolk County Council Councillors: B Quinton and K Clements.  
  
There were 13 members of the public in attendance.

**30. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parry and Suffolk County Councillor Gaylard.

**31. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July be signed as a true record.**

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

**Resolved:**

**that the order of business be confirmed as printed on the agenda.**

**33. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **34. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings**

**Resolved:**

**that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:**

- **Wednesday 6 November 2019, 7pm – Ipswich Academy, Braziers Wood Road, Ipswich IP3 0SP (Gainsborough ward)**
- **Wednesday 8 January 2020, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 4 March 2020, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

#### **35. Chair's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings**

35.1 The Chair explained that Suffolk County Council Councillor Clements had reported that she had met with Suffolk County Council Highways and a parent on 17 July regarding road safety around Cliff Lane School. The outcomes of this meeting were that the road markings needed to be repainted and that further education of parents needed to be given. Engineering options were considered by Suffolk County Council Highways to be unsuitable owing to the layout of the road. Councillor Clements reported that she continued to try to push Suffolk County Council's Highways department to take action.

35.2 The Chair explained that Suffolk County Council Councillor Paul West had reported that no reply had been received from the medical centre on Cliff Lane regarding the implementation of the planning permission and that Suffolk County Council Highways had chased them again for a response.

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

36.1 A resident raised a concern about bags of clothing being dumped. The Head of Housing and Communities agreed to discuss this with the resident outside of the meeting.

36.2 A resident raised concerns about the legal status of routes across the Orwell Country Park and disabled access to the park from Gainsborough Lane. The Chair said that an officer would be asked to respond to the resident in writing.

#### **37. Drug Related Litter Presentation**

37.1 Lauren Bell, Senior Community Safety Officer, gave a presentation on the Council's recording of Drugs Related Litter, the key points being:

- that Drugs Related Litter could be reported via the Cleaner Ipswich Hotline (01473 433000) or online via ([www.ipswich.gov.uk/report](http://www.ipswich.gov.uk/report));
- that Drugs Related Litter on public land would be cleared by the Council's Parks Team, Cleansing Team or Community Caretakers depending on where it was found;
- that the clearance of Drugs Related Litter on private land was the responsibility of the owner.

### **38. SEAC/19/10 Policing Update**

- 38.1 Sergeant Russ Mason explained that the results of Operation Parkland, which had involved police patrolling anti-social behaviour hotspots, would be reported to a future meeting. A number of issues at Gainsborough Library had been dealt with, whilst a motoring offences day of action had been held on 31 August which had identified speeding and moving traffic offences. There had been a focus on drugs issues and a number of warrants had been executed with positive results. Sergeant Mason explained the importance of giving as much detail as possible when making reports to the police and reminded residents to check their home security arrangements as the evenings became darker.
- 38.2 Sergeant Mason reported that the East Ipswich Safer Neighbourhoods Team would benefit from the appointment of a new Engagement Officer, and an additional Schools Officer had been appointed to cover Ipswich.
- 38.3 In response to a question raised by a member of the public, Sergeant Mason said that the police would target resource to deal with motorbikes using the pedestrianised areas of Orwell Quay, but noted that barriers preventing cars from accessing the area needed to be retained to maintain public safety.
- 38.4 Sergeant Mason agreed to pass Councillor M Cook's concerns about statistics to senior officers and ask them to discuss them with him.
- 38.5 Councillor Barber thanked Sergeant Mason for the prompt response she received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, but expressed her disappointment that crime rates in Ipswich were so much higher than in other parts of Suffolk. Sergeant Mason noted that the Police had performance management measures intended to reduce the crime rate and that East Ipswich remained a safe place to live.
- 38.6 A representative of the Ravenswood Residents Association asked that they be given the contact details of the new Engagement Officer for East Ipswich. Sergeant Mason agreed to discuss this outside of the meeting.

### **39. Broomhill Pool Update Presentation**

- 39.1 Tim Mills, a representative of Fusion Leisure, gave a presentation on the project to restore and re-open Broomhill Pool. Key points made in the presentation were:
- that a new Health and Wellbeing Centre was to be built to make the site sustainable;
  - that disabled access to the pool would be improved significantly;
  - that a Café would be provided at the poolside;
  - that the clocktower on top of the kiosk was to be rebuilt;
  - the diving stage, which was the last remaining Wicksteed diving stage in the county, would be restored, although this was subject to funding and the higher levels would be closed owing to new regulations regarding spacing between boards;
  - it was hoped that the pool would re-open in Spring 2021.

- 39.2 A resident asked how it was proposed to prevent customers from using the higher levels of the diving board. Mr Mills explained that the ladders would be made inaccessible by using boards or plates.
- 39.3 A resident asked whether the car park at the site would be sufficiently for the numbers of people going to the pool. Mr Mills said that the car park was smaller than the project team would like, however, it would provide sufficient space for disabled users and that cycle racks would be provided. It was also noted that the site was easily accessible by bus.

**40. SEAC/19/11 Ravenswood Community Fund Administration**

- 40.1 Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, introduced the report, explaining that it proposed a mechanism for the administration of the Ravenswood Community Fund. The fund contained £59,797.95 which had been contributed by the developers of the Ravenswood Estate and could be spent on the fund's priorities.
- 40.2 Suffolk County Council Councillor Quinton commented that it was important that the administration of the fund be arranged so that the available money could be spent to the benefit of residents.
- 40.3 Councillor M Cook asked whether there was a reason behind the funding laying dormant for a number of years. Mr Lanning explained that the Steering Group had ceased to meet which had meant that there was no mechanism by which to allocate the funds.
- 40.4 A local resident commented that he was pleased that the fund would be able to be allocated and suggested that an outdoor gym be installed. Councillor Connelly noted that the item was about the administration of the fund and suggested that residents discuss any proposals with their local Councillors outside of the meeting.

**It was RESOLVED:**

**that the South East Area Committee adopt the management of the Ravenswood Community Fund in line with process for Area Committee Funding Applications and Spending Proposals but specifically for uses benefitting residents of Ravenswood.**

Reasons: To resolve the status of the Ravenswood Community Fund and to benefit the residents of the Ravenswood Area.

**41. SEAC/19/12 Ravenswood Community Fund Request: Ravenswood Wildlife Area Improvements**

- 41.1 James Baker, Greenways Project Manager, explained that it was proposed to install new paths, fences and steps on and around the 'Tump' in the

Ravenswood Wildlife Area. The project was intended to improve access for Ravenswood residents and protect nesting skylarks.

- 41.2 A resident asked whether the money would be better spent dedicating paths as rights of way. Mr Baker noted that proposed new byelaws would address most of the issues which might be faced as a result of paths not being rights of way.
- 41.3 A resident asked whether vehicles used in the construction of the paths and steps would impact on the wildlife in the area. Mr Baker confirmed that the use of vehicles would be minimised, with most work done by hand, and tools and equipment being carried to working areas. There would be a need for a JCB and some other vehicle movements but the routes for these would be planned and the impact minimised.

**It was RESOLVED:**

**that £26,400 be allocated to the Ravenswood Wildlife Area Improvements from the Ravenswood Community Fund.**

Reasons: To greatly enhance the quality of access to and around the 'Tump' and between Ravenswood and the Orwell Country Park (Bridge Wood), to help reduce disturbance to ground-nesting birds and other wildlife, and to help improve the appearance of the area by rationalising informal access and attempts to prevent it, in a way that meets the needs of local people and wildlife.

#### **42. SEAC/19/13 Football and Wellbeing Programme**

- 42.1 Clem Turner, representing the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum, explained that the forum wanted to run a project to help young adults from across Ipswich's community, including refugees and those vulnerable to becoming involved in gangs and Anti-Social Behaviour. The project would be based around Unity FC, a football club which had been established through the 'Play Football' initiative. 69 young adults were involved in the project and participants would be required to attend health sessions every 5<sup>th</sup> week, meaning that they would learn as well as enjoy playing football.
- 42.2 Councillor Handley commented that the principle of the project was good but asked whether alternative venues had been considered to reduce costs. Mr Turner explained that a wide range of venues had been assessed but that others were either impractical in the winter or were inaccessible to many participants.
- 42.3 A resident asked whether the sessions would be open to all young adults. Mr Turner confirmed that, whilst the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum had been set up to support particular communities with issues which affected them disproportionately, the football project was open to all.

**It was RESOLVED:**

**that £740.15 be allocated to Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum towards the Football and Wellbeing project from the South East Area Committee Budget.**

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

**43. SEAC/19/14 Emmaus Suffolk Volunteer Support**

43.1 Emma Francis, representing Emmaus Suffolk, explained that Emmaus was a charity which worked to reduce homelessness and provide meaningful activity to people. Emmaus Suffolk was an independent branch of the Emmaus network and was in the third year of a five year plan to become self sustaining.

43.2 Emmaus Suffolk was based in Dales Road and provided shower and laundry facilities, lunches and a wide range of meaningful activities. The centre drew people from all parts of Ipswich. Funding was being requested to pay for volunteers bus fares and food.

43.3 Councillor M Cook asked if any assurance could be given about the future sustainability of Emmaus Suffolk. Ms Francis explained that an increased number of volunteers had led to increased costs, however, plans were underway to increase revenue both through increased sales through its shops and through attracting funding attached to people referred to the service.

43.4 Councillor M Cook proposed that should funding be awarded, a detailed report on the future sustainability of Emmaus Suffolk be requested.

**It was RESOLVED:**

**that £725.81 be allocated from the South East 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 to support vulnerable adults with facilities that boost an increase in confidence, skills and self-worth.

**44. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors**

44.1 Councillor Barber noted the upcoming 'Life of Crime' event and also recommended the Ed Sheeran 'Made in Suffolk' exhibition at Christchurch Mansion. Councillor Barber thanked all those who had been involved in the Council's summer events programme for making it such a success.

44.2 Councillor Handley noted that the Landseer Park Community Sports events continued and that Uniform Swap events were also now being organised.

44.3 Councillor Connelly reported that the Caribbean Lunch Club would soon restart at All Hallows Church on Fridays.

**45. SEAC/19/15 Area Committee Financial Update**

45.1 Ian Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, explained that at the start of the meeting £2014.18 had been available to allocate. Following the approval of the funding requests, the balance of the South East Area Committee's unallocated budget was £548.86. The balance of the Nacton Road Community Fund was £1129.61, whilst the newly adopted Ravenswood Community Fund contained £33,397.95.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm

**Chair**