

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023
ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL, 32 BLENHEIM RD,
IPSWICH IP1 4EB
7.00 PM

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: John Cook and Jane Riley
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: Oliver Holmes, Inga Lockington and Tim Lockington
Westgate Ward Councillors: Carole Jones and Colin Kreidewolf
SCC Councillors: Debbie Richards

50. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gibbs and Rae, and County Councillors Bridgeman and Johnson.

51. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting - 4 January 2023

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 January 2023 be signed as a true record.

52. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the Order of Business be varied to consider Agenda Item 11 (CAC/22/17) Provision for Funding of the King's Coronation Community Grants after Agenda Item 7 (CAC/22/13) Area Committee Budget Update.

53. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Holmes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9 (CAC/22/15) Funding Request: Eastern Angles Theatre Company as he was previously a Trustee of Eastern Angles.

54. Responses to Public Questions

54.1. The Chair reported that 4 questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

54.2. **Question 1:** Is there a definitive plan of where the waste bins are in the Westgate area? Over the years many of the bins have disappeared and not been replaced, why? One bin in particular in Boss Hall Road went missing but people still leave their dog waste bags beside the post on which it used to be, not very pleasant, even in winter when they don't smell as much.

54.3. The following response was provided by the Council's Head of Waste and Fleet:

The Waste and Cleansing Team had a map of bins across the entire Borough. When a bin was lost or stolen, a review was completed based on footfall, capacity and ASB potential. This process was constantly updated and was currently going through a revision to look at using the My Three Words app to improve accuracy of locations. The Service Area was aware of one particular bin that was a target for ASB on Boss Hall Road. This container had been reported 10 times in the past 2 years. In consultation with the Parks Team, this bin was being replaced with a larger multi-use container, which should alleviate the ASB problems.

Residual waste streams were sent to the Energy from Waste (EFW) processor in Great Blakenham. Dog waste specific containers had been phased out over the Borough when a replacement bin was required. Multi waste containers were more suitable and reduced odours associated with animal waste only containers.

The Council was not responsible for bins on private land. The Boss Hall Road estate had a mixture of commercial and private land and Council land. The Council did not deal with the loss of private litter bins.

54.4. **Question 2:** Does the Committee believe it is fair that the amount of requests for funding being made upon the Central Area Committee purely on the basis of the event/exhibition being in the town centre (and thereby falling in this areas remit) when other areas enjoy funded events that are specifically to the benefit of that area? An example (not specifically this organisation though) is the funding request for Windrush, which is not a specific event that the Central area will benefit from; however, because it is being planned for the town centre, where all will benefit, it is the Central Area funding pot which is expected to fund it.

54.5. The following response was provided by the Chair of the Central Area Committee:

Each Area Committee had a budget that the Councillors for the wards within that area could allocate for funding in accordance with the Action Plan. In many

cases that funding would be for activities or projects taking place in that Area and for the benefit of residents in that Area. As Alexandra Ward included the town centre, activities might well be enjoyed by residents living in other parts of Ipswich or even outside the town itself, but where an event was open to the public that would of course be impossible to control. This was also true for activities in other areas, as an example, the South East Area Committee would be considering an application for the Cobbold 300 Event in Holywells Park at its meeting next week. It could be difficult to define which Area Committee an application for funding should be made to. The location of the project or activity was one of the criteria that could be used but ultimately it was left to Area Committee Councillors to decide whether the application should be funded.

- 54.6. **Question 3:** Bearing in mind the speed of the implementation of the Air Quality measures in Councillor Paul West's answer at the Ipswich Borough Council Central Area Committee meeting on 4 January 2023, what will be the cost in £ per year on the people of the Ipswich Central area directly and the costs to society generally of such matters as health, hospitalisation, absence from work, acid rain and corrosion due to the reduction in the Air Quality Action Plan (Enhanced Delivery) from £500,000 for the 5 years 2021/26 to £40,000 for the 5 years 2022/27, including taking into account the DEFRA Air Quality grant funded project Capital of £76,320 in 2022/23, in the budget agreed at the Ipswich Borough Council full Council Meeting 22 February 2023.

- 54.7. The following response was provided by the Council's Head of Public Protection:

The comments made by County Councillor West seemed to relate to Suffolk County Council's Air Quality Strategy and it would not be appropriate for the Borough Council to comment on any deliverables and timeframes contained within it.

Ipswich Borough Council's investment in air quality had not changed. Some funding had been consolidated and some reallocated to the green depot, including investment in lower carbon and electric fleet, both of which would contribute to improving air quality. The remainder of the funding would continue to be used for project work to improve air quality in conjunction with the DEFRA air quality grant. The comments in the question regarding the grant have only looked at the capital investment in the DEFRA grant. The capital element was £76,320 with a revenue investment of £39,315 and the Council was providing match funding.

The Council wasn't best placed to comment on potential societal effects of air quality and these queries might be best directed to Public Health, as they monitor the factors mentioned. The Council would continue to look for other funding opportunities and partnership working to progress air quality actions.

- 54.8. **Question 4:** At the IBC Central Area Committee meeting on Wednesday, 7 September 2022, I asked why the double yellow lines for the Ann Street passing place had not been properly completed to the extent shown on the Suffolk CC Traffic Orders mapping? A vehicle parked outside No30 had

prevented completion on Saturday, 21 May 2022, over three months previously. Now, a total of over nine months ago, the work is still not completed. My first question is, why is this taking so long?

Secondly, I read a short article about this issue on the Ipswich Star website recently, where Councillor Colin Kreidewolf is quoted as saying, "We are trying to alter the situation as many of the residents would want it to be parking spaces". He then goes on briefly to talk of making changes to TRO's. As I live on the other side of the street, where inconsiderate pavement parking is a significant problem, I ask all Councillors to consider that the situation should be addressed more holistically.

The double yellows of this passing place are an amenity that should have been implemented years ago according to the original TRO: Ann Street is narrow and over 160m long. The passing place also serves as access for loading/unloading for residents, delivery vans, trades and utilities, which otherwise would have to be carried out by pavement parking on the other side of the street. Nine months of incomplete double yellows have proved this to be so, but the original TRO space including outside No30 needs to be completed to make room for the bigger delivery vans to pull in.

With sixty dwellings in Ann Street entitled to one permit each and only twenty-three residents' parking spaces, there is always going to be insufficiency in the area planned before motor vehicles existed; especially now when some households have multiple vehicles. Ann Street residents do have another option though, as around the corner in South Street is an Ipswich BC Car Park, where we are entitled to apply for off-street season tickets and permits. We already have single yellows on the entire south side of Ann Street that I would favour changing to double yellows to deter pavement parking at all times. Along with the passing place, this would make for a safer and more accessible street. A dedicated (blue badge) bay would also be good next to the passing place.

So, my questions are about changing TRO's. At this stage, is it possible to release draft details of what changes are to be proposed? It is better to get comment on proposals early on. What sort of TRO's are proposed? What is the scope of the change? When and how are notices of the proposals being publicised? It is important that all residents get the opportunity to be consulted and comment. If the changes in Ann Street are bundled in with those for other areas, how can we find what applies to us? And where would the notices be posted?

54.9. The following response was provided by the Council's Integrated Transport Officer:

The Borough Council had the power, acting on behalf of Suffolk County Council and subject to their permission in each and every case, to make Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to create, amend or remove on-street paid for parking bays. The Council had received complaints about the particular location referred to in this question asking that parking bays be provided

instead of yellow lines in order to help address the shortage of supply of residents parking spaces compared to the level of demand.

The Council received a number of requests of this type for various locations in Ipswich and had only recently determined the means by which any changes could be funded.

As such, consideration would now be given to all sites where relevant requests that met the funding criteria had been made, and the location mentioned in Ann Street was one of these. Formal permission from Suffolk County Council as the Traffic Authority would be required to make any changes and as they were already aware of the possibility of a change in this location it was understood that they were holding off from marking any further yellow lines in case a decision was made by the Borough Council to replace these with residents parking bays.

It was noted that not all residents on this section of Ann Street might support such a change and, in accordance with usual procedure, a full public consultation would be undertaken before any changes were made. This would include writing to all residents of the relevant section of Ann Street, placing a public notice on site and in the local press, and providing a full set of the TRO documentation on the Council's website and at the Council's Customer Services Centre for inspection. This would go beyond the statutory minimum requirement for consultation.

In respect of timescales, as the Council believed in moving decisions on matters like this closer to those who were most affected by them, it was intended that any objections to any proposed changes in this location would come to the Central Area Committee to be determined, but as the Committee did not have this power at the current time, it would be necessary for the Council's Executive to consider a short report to approve granting such powers which it was intended to do in June. Therefore, subject to the formal permission of Suffolk County Council which would be sought in the interim, it should be possible to make any proposals at the same time.

54.10. A resident asked why Police and Community Support Officers in Suffolk failed to enforce the law about cyclists using pedestrian pavements and footpaths. Inspector Mann explained that due to the number of priorities that the Police had, and the limited resources available, this issue was not a main priority at this time.

54.11. A resident asked why the Council continued to ignore requests to enforce the law which said residents must not leave their wheelie bins permanently on the pedestrian pavements and footpaths throughout Ipswich (in particular in Westgate) which was unsightly, unhygienic and dangerous.

It was confirmed that a written response to this question would be provided following the meeting.

55. Policing Update

- 55.1. The Chair introduced Inspector Domenic Mann from the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who provided the following policing update.
- 55.2. Inspector Mann reported on the fatal stabbing which occurred in January 2023 and praised the actions of the people who had helped at the scene. Following the incident there had been huge resource implications; however, the backlog had now been cleared and this remained an active and ongoing investigation.
- 55.3. It was confirmed that incidences of theft from motor vehicles had increased; however, a suspect was being actively traced and following this, incidents had reduced.
- 55.4. A meeting was held with the Police, various departments from IBC and the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust regarding the ASB in St Lawrence's churchyard where it was agreed that cameras, lighting and landscaping changes would be implemented with the aim to find a future long-term solution. Work had also been undertaken with the Cardinal Park McDonalds around issues occurring in the evenings.
- 55.5. The Kestrel Team was providing additional presence in and around the town and funding from the Safer Streets scheme would be used as part of a campaign to change attitudes towards violence to women and girls.
- 55.6. Councillor Jones commented that the increased PCSO and Police presence had made a real difference and it was important that this be maintained. It was noted that month on month the crime figures had remained relatively stable which helped to provide reassurance to the public.
- 55.7. The Chair thanked Inspector Mann for his update.

56. CAC/22/13 Area Committee Budget Update

- 56.1. Mr Ian Blofield, Director, reported that the Area Committee had an opening balance of £3,845.26. The funding bids to be considered, if funded in full, would total £7,060.
- 56.2. It was confirmed that Area Committees were allowed, should they wish, to allocate money from the 2023/24 budgets in advance of the new Municipal Year for projects that would take place in that year, with any such funding allocations not being paid until the 2023/24 financial year.
- 56.3. The Committee agreed to hear all funding request presentations before deciding what funding would be allocated to each Group.

Resolved:

that financial update attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

Reason: to provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to support priorities in Central Ipswich.

57. CAC/22/17 Provision for Funding of the King's Coronation Community Grants

- 57.1. Mark Whiting, Head of Commercial Development, reported that £1,000 was being requested to support community celebrations in Central Ipswich as part of the events to celebrate and mark the Kings Coronation on Sunday 7 May 2023. Community Groups could apply online towards the costs of provisions such as refreshments and bunting, with a maximum award per event of £333.
- 57.2. The success of the events held following the community grant funding for the Queen's Jubilee last year was noted with a number of street parties taking place across the Central area. Due to this success, it was anticipated that an increased number of bids might be submitted; however, the fair process previously used would be followed when requests were considered.
- 57.3. Councillor Cook welcomed the proposal and advised that following the success of last year, the Committee should follow this precedent and moved that funding be allocated from the 2023-24 budget which was agreed.
- 57.4. Councillor Inga Lockington noted the importance of ensuring events were inclusive for all residents to attend and asked if most of the events funded would be for street parties. Mr Whiting confirmed that three of the five events funded the previous year by the Central Area Committee for the Queens Jubilee had taken place in clubs/community centres and other central events for all to attend would be taking place on the Cornhill, such as the screening of the Coronation.

Resolved:

that the Area Committee authorise the Assistant Director for Governance to invest up to £1,000 for the Central Area Committee in community led and based events, at a maximum value of £333 per event, to celebrate and mark the King's Coronation on Sunday 7 May 2023; prior to deciding whether or not to commit any funding, the Assistant Director for Governance should consult with the relevant Ward Councillors for the event area.

Reason: to provide funding to assist community led and based events held to commemorate the King's Coronation.

58. CAC/22/14 Funding Request: St Elizabeth Hospice

- 58.1. Hugh McElhinney and Jess Prosser, representatives of St Elizabeth Hospice, presented the funding application which sought £1,400 funding to enable the installation of a "Before I Die" wall in May. Every year over 3500 patients received care from the hospice with 70% of care provided within the local community and at people's homes.

- 58.2. Mr McElhinney confirmed that this would be the first “Before I Die” wall installed in East Anglia which offered an inclusive and rare opportunity for people to reflect on their lives publicly and share memories and aspirations. A QR Code would also be available which could be scanned for further information about what local support was available. The wall would be featured on the Waterfront throughout the month of May whilst other important events took place, such as “Dying Matters” week and the St Elizabeth Hospice Midnight Walk.
- 58.3. Concerns were raised due to the large proportion of funding requested for permission to use the wall which was owned by Ipswich Borough Council and leased to Eat Art. The costs also included support and project management from Eat Art to ensure the wall was managed properly and volunteers would be directly recruited from the IP1 postcode. It was confirmed that costs for materials were low as only chalk paint and chalks would be needed to decorate the wall.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee allocate £450 from the Central Area Committee budget to St Elizabeth Hospice to enable the installation of a “Before I Die” wall in May 2023.

Reason: to enable emotional expression, serve as an art feature and signposting tool to other support services and increase footfall to the Waterfront.

59. CAC/22/15 Funding Request: Eastern Angles Theatre Company

- 59.1. Jess Baker, representative of the Eastern Angles Theatre Company, presented the funding request which sought £2,160 to support a project officer in managing The Work Furnace Project. The Work Furnace was a heritage project which celebrated those who had worked in various industries within Ipswich and would comprise of a street procession and audio heritage trail and exhibition.
- 59.2. The street procession would take place on 17 June 2023 and an audio heritage trail was currently being created which involved recording individuals’ stories and creating a map and walking guide to go alongside this. An exhibition had also been planned for June which would be shared with other community organisations.
- 59.3. Following the initial launch of the project, a huge public response had been received whereby large numbers of people from different industries from Ipswich had attended the reminiscence sessions to share their stories and provide support. The project would also be supported and encouraged by more than 7 local partners, including Ipswich Museum and BBC Look East.
- 59.4. Councillor Inga Lockington asked if people attending the sessions were predominately from the Central area of Ipswich. Ms Baker confirmed that information about where people lived had not been collated; however, it was

known that some had attended using public transport and from outside of Ipswich.

59.5. Councillor Jones noted that due to the historic element of the project, many people may have moved within Ipswich, or outside of the town, since working in these industries.

59.6. Eastern Angles currently engaged with 15 different groups within the community, and it was hoped that the project would help to engage new people and create a lasting legacy. The funding would be used to help support the project officer with the unexpected demand.

Resolved:

That the Central Area Committee allocate £1,900 from the Central Area Committee budget to Eastern Angles Theatre Company to support a Project Officer in managing The Work Furnace Project.

Reason: to provide opportunities for working class communities to see their societal contributions recognised.

60. CAC/22/16 Funding Request: Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum (CACHSF)

60.1. Ivy Scott, representative of the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum, presented the funding request on behalf of the 'Windrush Select Committee' which sought £2,500 towards holding an annual exhibition in June 2023 to bring communities together in a celebration of the Windrush Celebration 2023.

60.2. This year was the 75th anniversary of Windrush, which was a national celebration, but Ipswich was important due to being one of the towns where people from the Caribbean had settled.

60.3. Some of the previous exhibitions undertaken included celebrating the lives of Windrush elders. Other activities included visiting schools and raising awareness about the legacy of the Windrush generation and expanding their knowledge.

60.4. The benefits to Ipswich included attracting people to the town centre, developing community cohesion, building networks and increasing business in the town. The Cornhill event would also provide an opportunity for people to come together to share their own stories.

60.5. It was noted that the funding would be used to enable ten panels to be created to represent topics such as elders' stories, the NHS, the Caribbean and looking at where the Windrush generation had begun. The panels would then be transferred to The Hold to form the exhibition. A book about Windrush elders in the community had also been created which could be purchased by the public.

- 60.6. Councillor Kreidewolf praised all three groups for their presentations which demonstrated great enthusiasm about Ipswich and passion for their projects.
- 60.7. It was confirmed that funding had not been requested from Suffolk County Council; however, it was suggested that Suffolk County Councillors could be approached for locality funding.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee allocate £1,500 from the Central Area Committee budget to the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum on behalf of the Windrush Select Committee to hold an annual exhibition in June 2023 to bring communities together in celebration of the Windrush Celebration 2023.

Reason: to bring communities together in celebration of the Windrush Celebration 2023.

61. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

- 61.1. The Chair reported that at the last meeting, a question was raised on whether the Council would consider introducing an anti-idling zone within its AQMAs which would enable the Council to enforce anti-idling in these areas and issue fixed penalty notices. A response was received from the Council's Head of Public Protection as follows:
- 61.2. The Council already had an action within its Air Quality Action Plan that specifically referenced anti-idling: Item 1A – Development and implementation of anti-idling campaign, including where appropriate an enforcement regime.
- 61.3. The Council together with neighbouring authorities had previously launched the Suffolk Idling Action Campaign. As part of this campaign, officers had progressed with educational measures to promote anti-idling, particularly around schools. To date, all drivers approached who were found to be idling, had switched their engines off when requested. This suggested that an educational approach had a positive impact on reducing vehicular idling without the need for enforcement.
- 61.4. In addition, officers had provided training to internal staff who conducted site visits. This had empowered them to approach and educate the public whom they might see idling on routing patrols, whether within or outside of an AQMA. It was hoped that over the next year, the Council would work with its partners, including Suffolk County Council Public Health, to conduct further anti-idling education and awareness events with the public. Most authorities, like Ipswich, were focusing on education as it achieved positive results.

62. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Councillors

- 62.1. Councillor Cook reported that he had been assisting with a number of planning issues in his ward. He had appreciated the Police response following the recent

incident in the Town Centre, which had prompted the Police & Crime Commissioner to consider what resources Ipswich needed.

- 62.2. Councillor Inga Lockington reported that fly-tipping remained an issue; however, work had been undertaken with IBC Officers in a known problem area and the person involved had been identified which had currently resolved the matter.

63. Dates of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the dates of future meetings be confirmed as:

- **Wednesday 21 June 2023, 7pm**
- **Wednesday 6 September 2023, 7pm**
- **Wednesday 1 November 2023, 7pm**
- **Wednesday 3 January 2024, 7pm**
- **Wednesday 21 February 2024, 7pm**

The meeting closed at 8.49 pm

Chair