

# CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2015  
ST HELEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
WOODBIDGE ROAD, IP4 2LT  
6.30 PM**

**Present:** Alexandra Ward Councillors: J Riley, J Cook and A Leeder  
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: C French, I Lockington and A Cann  
Westgate Ward Councillors: C Kreidewolf, J Gibbs and C Jones  
SCC Councillors: M Gaylard

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

#### **44. Apologies for Absence**

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

#### **45. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2014 be signed as a true record.**

#### **46. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business**

**Resolved:**

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

#### **47. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cann, being an observer on the board of the New Wolsey Theatre and a Friend of the New Wolsey Theatre, declared an interest in Item 8 (report CAC/14/15) and did not participate or vote on this item.

#### 48. To Confirm the Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- Wednesday 11 March 2015, 6.30pm – Bramford Road Methodist Church, IP1 4AY
- Thursday 11 June 2015, 7pm – Reg Driver Visitor Centre, Christchurch Park, IP4 2BX
- Thursday 30 July 2015, 7pm – Alexandra ward
- Thursday 24 September 2015, 7pm – Westgate ward
- Thursday 19 November 2015, 6.30pm – St Margaret's ward
- Thursday 28 January 2016, 6.30pm – Alexandra ward
- Thursday 24 March 2016, 6.30pm – Westgate ward

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

49.1. The Chair confirmed that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

##### Policing Priorities

49.2. The Chair introduced PC Shane Hughes from the Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following update on priorities:

Anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre: This priority included street drinkers, begging and other forms of public nuisance. The new powers available to the Police under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 would enable the Police to address anti-social behaviour more quickly and across a wider range of issues.

Cycle theft: There were still a considerable number of cycles being stolen and passed onto others. PC Bevan has been continuing to educate cycle owners on the importance of suitable quality locks and encouraging businesses to provide cycle racks that could be lit and monitored by CCTV.

Anti-social behaviour in Jubilee Park: There has been some improvement; however, some of the issues are cultural, e.g. young people wanting to congregate until the early hours of the morning, but not wishing to cause any harm. Agencies were working together to promote greater community awareness and understanding.

49.3. Local resident: What percentage of town centre crime is related to cycle theft? *Approximately 5% of crime in Ipswich is cycle theft related, but not all cycle thefts were reported to the Police by the public.*

49.4. Councillor Cook reported that having the post code stamped onto a cycle was worthwhile, as it makes it easier to reunite a recovered cycle with its owner. PC Hughes reported that whilst a frame number could be scratched off a cycle,

it was very difficult to remove stamping from a cycle. The Police were putting extra resource into this initiative, with cycle stamping being promoted at the station and on site at large companies. Additionally, there were two websites where cycles could be registered: Immobilise, the UK National Property Register, <https://www.immobilise.com/> and Bike Register <https://www.bikeregister.com>.

- 49.5. Councillor Lockington reported that PC Bevan was also promoting cycle safety and the use of lights on cycles.  
*PC Hughes commented that not just PC Bevan, but the whole of the SNT, were working on this priority, with the target of reducing the number of cycle thefts and increasing in the number of cycles registered.*
- 49.6. Councillor Riley asked how an individual could get their cycle registered/security marked.  
*Details could be found on the Bike Register website (<https://www.bikeregister.com>) or by contacting the SNT on 101.*
- 49.7. Councillor Jones: There has been drug-related crime occurring in Westgate ward, but this was being addressed by the Police, and they were aware of who was involved in these activities.
- 49.8. Local resident: I have previously raised the issue relating to non-ionizing radiation from mobile phone masts and how to get radiation levels tested, in particular, if the phone mast is located near to a school.

*Mr Miller, Town Planning Operations Manager, commented that for any planning application for the location of a mobile phone mast, the Council was required to consult with local schools within a certain radius from the mast. The applicant would need to provide self-certification information to evidence that any emissions from the mast comply with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, but it was not the role of the Council to question this information.*

Local resident: I have previously received a response from County Councillor Adams that it would be possible to validate the emissions from a phone mast and that this would cost in the region of £425, but this could be done for free if the mast was located near to a school, and had requested that this be done, but had had no reply.

The Chairman requested that the resident submit the information to the Council in order for a response to be given.

- 49.9. Local resident: There is an increasing conflict between residential and business uses of property in the town centre, resulting in anti-social operating hours impacting on residents, e.g. late night bars. In some zones within the town centre, priority has been given to one use, e.g. conservation areas.

*Mr Miller reported that in the Local Plan, land was allocated for particular uses; the town centre was of mixed use, with the primary function being retail, but*

*there was some sporadic housing use. Mr Miller added that potential impact on amenity would be one of the factors taken into account when any planning application was considered, and the Police and Environmental Health would be consulted; if planning permission was granted, conditions could be added to mitigate impact, e.g. restrictions on opening hours.*

Local resident: There have been changes of use from business to flats within the town centre, and town centre residents have to put up with noise into the night.

*Mr Miller reported that planning rules had recently been relaxed and planning permission was no longer required for changes of use from small office/retail to residential.*

49.10. Councillor Cann reported that there were limits set in relation to noise nuisance and Environmental Health were able to take enforcement action if these limits were not complied with. Additionally, licensed premises could be closed down if causing noise nuisance.

49.11. Local resident: When will the views of the public survey on how to take Ipswich forward be acted on?

*Some initiatives have already been implemented to help kick-start the retail element of the town centre, e.g. the 'Quids in' campaign and the upgrade of the Ipswich Market.*

## **50. Local Plan Consultation: Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations**

50.1. Mr Miller (Town Planning Operations Manager) gave a presentation on the Local Plan Consultation in respect of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations & Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD).

50.2. The Core Strategy Review has extended the plan period up to 2031, and sets out the requirement for 677 new dwellings per year and creation of 12,500 jobs by 2031; 3,500 new homes were to be allocated on the Ipswich Garden Suburb, and there was a greater emphasis on preserving the historic and natural environment.

50.3. The Site Allocations Plan identifies sites for development and their proposed use, with the following in the Central Ipswich area:

- 15-19 St Margaret's Green – housing (9 dwellings)
- Former Odeon Cinema – leisure uses to complement the Regent Theatre
- Mint Quarter – 60% housing (72 dwellings), 40% green space and short car parking
- Crown Car Park – public car park
- Silo, College Street – housing (48 dwellings), offices/leisure/small scale retail
- Key Street/Star Lane/Burtons site – employment (office/R&D/light industrial), hotel/leisure/small scale retail

- Land between Old Cattle Market & Star Lane – 30% housing (28 dwellings), office/leisure/small scale retail
- Smart Street/Foundation Street – 80% housing (50 dwellings), 20% employment (office/R&D/light industrial)
- Commercial Buildings & Jewish Burial Ground, Star Lane – 80% housing (50 dwellings), 20% employment (office/R&D/light industrial)
- Waterworks Street – housing (23 dwellings)
- Peter’s Ice Cream – housing (29 dwellings)
- Land at University Campus Suffolk – new primary school
- Civic Centre Area/Civic Drive – primary retail (10-15,000 square metres), housing
- West of Bridge Street/North of River Orwell – public open space
- Depot on Beaconsfield Road – housing (15 dwellings)
- 12a Arcade Street – housing (14 dwellings)
- Victoria Nurseries – housing (12 dwellings)
- 300 Old Foundry Road – housing (11 dwellings)
- Ipswich Garden Suburb – Strategic housing site and associated facilities

50.4. The 12-week consultation on the Local Plan documents commenced on 12 December 2014 and any comments should be submitted by 5pm on Thursday 5 March 2015. Details of the consultation, including details of drop-in exhibitions, could be found on the Council’s website at <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/current-consultations> and paper copies of the documents were available in libraries. Any questions could be raised with the Planning Policy Team: telephone Ipswich 432019 or email: [planningandregeneration@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:planningandregeneration@ipswich.gov.uk).

## **51. CAC/14/15 Funding Request: New Wolsey Theatre**

51.1. Mr Mole (Head of Community and Cultural Services) reported that £132 was requested for the New Wolsey Theatre to deliver one session of the educational ‘When I Grow Up’ project at a school within the Central Ipswich area.

51.2. Councillor Lockington reported that St Margaret’s Primary School and Springfield Junior School were interested in receiving this project and added that she had provided funding from her SCC locality budget to cover the required fee. Councillor Lockington asked that details of which school would benefit from this funding be reported to the Committee.

### **Resolved:**

**that the Central Area Committee approves funding of £132 from the Central Area Committee budget to part-fund the New Wolsey Theatre ‘When I Grow Up’ Project.**

Reason: By providing the sessions to schools, it encourages young people to give thought to their aspirations and choices they make in the future

## **52. CAC/14/16 Funding request: Fly-tipping and Graffiti removal**

- 52.1. Mr Mole reported that £3,000 was requested to tackle fly-tipping, gum and graffiti removal in the Central Ipswich area, as the funding previously allocated for this purpose was almost exhausted.
- 52.2. Councillor Jones commented that there was some gum that needed removing near the Old Cattle Market. A local resident also highlighted a build-up of grease on the pavement outside a fast food takeaway on Dogs Head Street.

### **Resolved:**

**that the Central Area Committee approve an additional £3,000 from the Central Area Committee budget to increase the funding available the removal of fly-tipping and graffiti in the Central Ipswich Area.**

Reason: The funding agreed will help tackle reported fly-tipping and graffiti in the Central Ipswich area effectively and quickly, helping to discourage the area being used by others looking to dispose of waste, reducing any environmental issues such as vermin, and maintaining the presentation of the area

## **53. Chairman's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings**

- 53.1. The Albany – Footpath Improvement Works: Signage would be put in place in the next few days and the improvement works would commence next week, with a target end date of the end of January 2015.
- 53.2. Upper Orwell Street – Landscaping: The new green open space was now complete.
- 53.3. Broomhill Pool Consultation update: Fusion Lifestyle were currently analysing the 3,300 completed questionnaires received; 95% of the responses were in favour of reopening Broomhill Pool if viable. A further update would be provided at a future meeting.
- 53.4. Alley Gates – Surrey Road: These have now been installed.
- 53.5. Signs left on unlit pavements: Councillor Lockington reported she had raised this issue with SCC Highways, who responded that there was no requirement for signage on pavements to be lit, but signs should be left upright – if the public see any signs lying flat on the pavement, then this should be reported as a potential hazard.

## **54. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors**

- 54.1. Councillor Kreidewolf reported that the new powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014 would impact on how the Council tackles issues, e.g. noise abatement.

- 54.2. Councillor Cook reported that he had reported 4 faulty street lights and had also enquired why the replacement lighting on St Helen's Street had been delayed. Councillor Cook added that the rough sleeper outside Sainsbury's had now moved on.
- 54.3. Councillor Jones reported that agencies were still working together on addressing issues in the Jubilee Park area relating to anti-social behaviour and improving the environment.
- 54.4. Councillor Gibbs thanked the Police for their continued assistance in Westgate ward, and highlighted that a lot of activity was taking place behind the scenes to improve the situation. Environmental Health Officers have cleaned up the area around the Masons Arms and alley gates would be installed. The unused car park on Ainslie Road would be used to provide two new homes.
- 54.5. Councillor Cann commented that the issues in Westgate ward had been ongoing for many years and a lot of resource had been utilised in this time, but the right solution had not yet been found.
- 54.6. Councillor Jones reported that a working group had previously been set up under former Superintendent Ransome to tackle these issues, but this group had since been disbanded; however, a similar group was now being considered.
- 54.7. Councillor Lockington reported that there was a street walkabout planned in the Jubilee Park area for next week, and highlighted the transient nature of the population in this area. Councillor Lockington reported that this year had seen an increase in the amount of vermin in the town, in particular, rats.
- 54.8. County Councillor Gaylard reported that, following the presentation of funding to the successful applicants prior to the meeting, there was still some Alexandra Ward Community Pilot Project funding available – any potential applicants should contact County Councillor Gaylard for details. The decision on the potential closure of 2 Children's Centres in Ipswich was due to be taken by Suffolk County Council on 27 January 2015; if agreed, the Quayside Children's Centre behind Suffolk New College would be closed from April 2015. County Councillor Gaylard reported that half of the new streetlight posts had been replaced on St Helen's Street, but the remainder had been delayed due to problems with the underground wiring, which needed to be fixed first. The poor road surface by the Argyle Street/Woodbridge Road junction was due to be addressed as part of the Travel Ipswich signal works, but these works had been delayed until later in the year due to design issues; County Councillor Gaylard reported that she would request that the road surface be repaired in the interim.

**55. CAC/14/17 Area Committee Budget Update**

- 55.1. The Chair reported that at the start of the meeting, the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £30,222 available to support its priorities. Following the financial commitments of £3,132 arising from the approved

funding requests, the Central Area Committee now had a budget of £27,090 available.

**Resolved:**

**that the financial statement of the Central Area Committee in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.**

Reason: To provide an audit trail of funding that has been spent from the Central Area Committee budget

The meeting closed at 7.52 pm

**Chair**