

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
WHITTON CHURCH HALL,
WHITTON CHURCH LANE, IPSWICH IP1 6LT
7.00 PM**

Present: Castle Hill Ward Councillors: D Goldsmith and R Vickery
Whitehouse Ward Councillors: A Grant and C Wright
Whitton Ward Councillors: H Whittall, S Connelly and S Meudec

There were 29 members of the public in attendance.

59. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M Goonan and C Stewart. Suffolk County Councillors K Bole, J Crossley and I Lockington were also unable to attend.

60. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 January 2015

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015, be signed as a true record.

61. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the Order of Business be as printed on the agenda.

62. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

63. Update on Actions from the previous meeting

Q1. Overhanging vegetation obscuring the HGV weight restriction sign in Whitton Church Lane.

The Ipswich Area Highways Manager had inspected the site and confirmed that the sign was obscured by hanging vegetation from a private residence. In accordance with standard practice, a letter had been sent to the relevant property owner requesting that they attend to the overhanging vegetation. This matter would be followed up to ensure satisfactory completion.

Q2. Concern was raised about the time left on the King George V Playing Fields lease and the condition of the facilities.

As detailed at the last meeting the IBC Local Plan (which plans development to 2031) proposed to allocate part of the King George V playing field at Old Norwich Road for a mix of residential and amenity green space. The proposed allocation included the current Whitton United football ground, which is leased to Whitton United by the King George V Trustees who control the site. The proposed allocation was based on earlier proposals to move part of the playing fields to a site in the Mid Suffolk District Council area to the north of Whitton Church Lane, which currently has planning permission for this purpose.

Improvements to the Whitton United facilities are a matter between the football club and the King George V Trustees.

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

- 64.1 The Chair confirmed that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting and he reiterated that if a question was submitted by e-mail or letter any time up to 2 days before the meeting then a full response could be given by an appropriate Officer.
- 64.2 A resident confirmed that the overhanging vegetation at a residence in Whitton Church Lane had been cut back however, it was the poor positioning of the signage that meant often lorries had turned into the lane and then had to turn around. The Chair confirmed that new signage had been requested from Suffolk County Council, to be placed before the entrance to Whitton Church Lane to advise HGV drivers not to enter the lane and this should be in place soon.
- 64.3 The resident had also requested that signs be placed at Defoe Road, Byron Road and Shakespeare Road to stop lorries entering from Henley Road and the Chair confirmed that Suffolk County Council would be asked this question on her behalf.
- 64.4 In respect of the 20mph consultation which had been presented at the last meeting by Suffolk County Council, the Chair confirmed that it would be the SCC Policy Panel that would consider whether the 20mph speed limit would be progressed and residents would be informed when any decision was known. The date when any decision would be made and who would be sitting on the Policy Panel was unknown.

65. NWAC/14/18 Policing Priorities and Statistics

- 65.1 PCSO Chris Shields reported that the Police priorities for the North West area of Ipswich were:
1. To provide high visibility reassurance in the area of the Blakenham Park estate following reports of an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area.
 2. To provide high visibility reassurance in the area of Henniker Road following reports of an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area.
 3. To provide high visibility patrols and reassurance to residents in the area of Epsom Drive.
- 65.2 The PCSO asked that residents phone the 101 number to speak to the Safer Neighbourhood Team should they witness any incidents of crime in the area. He reported that overall the crime statistics showed that crime in the North West had reduced from the same period of last year. The burglary from buildings had reduced from 36 to 10 as there had been more burglaries from sheds and allotments last year.
- 65.3 He made reference to the recent robbery at Dales Hall Post Office, the details of which were available on the website and he encouraged anyone to come forward with any information, by phoning the 101 number, if any descriptions or vehicle registrations were known.
- 65.4 In response to Councillor Vickery, the PCSO stated that the 50% of crime which had been attributed to anti-social behaviour and violence & sexual offences was thought to be due to the incidents of drug related activity at Bramford Lane. Councillor Vickery also asked why 60 Court results were unavailable and the Officer replied that this could be because Court figures were reported one month in arrears. However, he agreed to look into these requests and be reported back to Councillors.
- 65.5 In response to a resident enquiry about the number of PCSO's in the North West area, the PCSO confirmed that currently there was one extra PCSO in the North West Area and an additional Police Officer was due to join the North West Policing Team in the next month so there had been no reduction of Officers.
- 65.6 The Chair reported that the Neighbourhood Policing Group (NPG) met monthly to discuss local policing issues in detail and included the Safer Neighbourhood Team, County Councillors, Ipswich Borough Councillors and representatives from the local high schools.

Resolved:

that the Policing Priorities (updated verbally) and the Statistics, as detailed in Appendices 1 & 2 report Ref No: NWAC/14/18, be noted.

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the crime statistics in the North West area of Ipswich.

66. Big Local Trust Update

- 66.1 Faye Smith, the Project Officer from the Big Local Trust presented this item and detailed the background of the 10 year project, currently in its third year. 150 areas in England had been given £1m of funding to be decided by a panel of local people in the community and this Partnership Panel met to make decisions about how the money was spent. There were currently 19 people on the Panel, any residents would be welcome to join, and also advisory members (a group of statutory agencies, business and the voluntary and community sector) gave their support.
- 66.2 The 10 key objectives for the Partnership were:
1. To bring people together from across the area to socialise, learn and develop new skills.
 2. To enable people to develop mechanisms to increase participation to better influence the provision of services.
 3. To work in collaboration with parents to develop skills and knowledge, which provide improved support for their children.
 4. To support young people to realise their full potential, increasing their life chances.
 5. To provide the necessary support to older people to tackle social isolation, maintaining physical and mental health.
 6. To increase interaction between older and younger people living in the NW Ipswich area.
 7. To increase the use of existing community facilities to provide a diverse and interesting menu of activities, in which all members of the community can participate.
 8. To increase the engagement and participation of people living and working in the NW Ipswich area, in community activity.
 9. To reduce high interest doorstep lending by providing access to alternative, reputable, value for money financial services.
 10. To encourage healthy lifestyles through a variety of approaches to reduce the risks of ill health.
- 66.3 Each resident member of the Partnership Panel had been assigned to a sub group of particular interest to them. Currently a sub group was working with the Suffolk Assembly of Youth to promote a local event. Work continued with IBC to help plan the Whitehouse skate park project, social investment (Eastern Savings and Loans), publicity and promotion and to support other organisations in the area.
- 66.4 The following four funding schemes were available:
1. Grant Award Scheme – up to £10k for projects and initiatives to support young people to realise their full potential and increase their life chances. To provide necessary support to older people to tackle social isolation and maintain their physical and mental health and to increase interaction between

older and younger people in North West Ipswich. 12 of these had been awarded.

2. Community Chest – £500 for new initiatives or projects bringing a direct benefit to the people living in the North West. 57 of these had been awarded.

3. Inspiration award – up to £1k. 2 of these had been awarded.

4. Community Stars – a small award such as flowers or a voucher.

66.5 Further information was available on the following website:

www.nwipswichblt.co.uk and on Facebook or Twitter. In response to a question by a resident it was confirmed that Community Action Suffolk provided support, advice and guidance to the Big Local Trust and other voluntary groups and organisations in Ipswich and were located at Brightspace at Hadleigh Road.

66.6 In response to a question by Councillor Meudec, about whether the Eastern Savings and Loans money would be for residents in the North West area only, a resident on the social investment sub group, dealing with Eastern Savings and Homes, reported that this initiative was in the early stages and the BLT contribution would only be to publicise the project in the North West area.

67. ActivLives Update

67.1 Julie Stokes from ActivLives reported that there were four ActivLives hubs in the North West and the following activities had taken place.

- On 1 May 2014 at the Castle Hill Community Centre a lunch had been held with 33 in attendance, to find out what activities already took place and invited discussion about future activities in the area.
- Since June 2014 monthly activity sessions had been held on Thursdays with seated and standing activities designed to increase mobility with a hot lunch provided. 14 residents had registered to attend and on average there were 12 attendees for each session. These sessions had now been relocated to 'The Meeting Place' and were held weekly.
- After Easter at 'The Meeting Place' there would be a re-launch with dance sessions, a sing along and a raffle. Ms Fortune and volunteers would be cooking a lunch and all residents from Whitehouse, Whitton and Castle Hill were welcome to attend.
- Walking football sessions for the over 45's, designed to increase fitness levels were held at 2.00pm every Friday at the Whitton Sports Centre and were also now held at Gainsborough Sports Centre.
- 'Keep on rocking' sessions were held at Stratford Court and the Community Music Facilitator had encouraged the ActivLives Community Singers to perform at the CRESS pavilion at the Maidenhall allotments in Halifax Road.
- Tenants at Stratford Court had also taken part in wider indoor activities such as new age curling and boccia (a target ball sport) sessions.

68. Fusion Lifestyle Update on Broomhill Pool

68.1 Tim Mills from Fusion Lifestyle updated residents on the consultation which had taken place in September 2014 and gave the following background into the

Broomhill Pool project. Opened in 1938, the pool had closed 13 years ago. In 2011, Ipswich Borough Council had committed £1m of funding to reopen the pool when Fusion Lifestyle had been appointed as the preferred partner to move the scheme forward. It was proposed to restore the Lido to its former glory with the grandstands, terraces, Clock Tower and a children's pool. In order to make the business sustainable it was proposed to create a small health and fitness centre with dedicated changing facilities, a kiosk and a café with an exhibition of the heritage of the site included.

- 68.2 Various media solutions had been used during the consultation, 3,300 replies had been received and 95% of residents had expressed their support. 92% had said that they would use the pool or the health and fitness facility, the café and dining facilities were considered important to cater for young people and families. Concerns identified through the survey process included car parking, accessibility, traffic control via public transport and affordability.
- 68.3 The £4m project would be funded by £1m from Ipswich Borough Council, £1m investment from Fusion Lifestyle and the remaining £2m would be from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid under the Heritage Enterprise Scheme. Following the consultation, Fusion Lifestyle would now put together a 1st stage HLF bid which would be submitted in June 2015. If this were to be successful then a 2nd stage bid would be submitted before the end of 2015. Should planning permission be granted by Ipswich Borough Council, with a 12 month build time for the project, it was anticipated that the pool could be opened in the summer of 2017.
- 68.4 Mr Mills confirmed that the pool would require no subsidy and would therefore not be a burden on Council Tax payers and he thanked all those who took part in the consultation. Councillor Vickery asked who would pay to complete the project should it go over budget and it was confirmed that this would be Fusion Lifestyle who would address any shortfall.
- 68.5 A resident asked where any on site car parking would be and Mr Mills confirmed that work on the bid continued and details of a sustainable travel plan for the site would be addressed as part of the planning application should the HLF bids come to fruition. Concern was raised by Rev Dotchin about the impact of a health and fitness facility on other sports centres in the area and Mr Mills said that the facility would be relatively small and this would also be taken into account as part of the planning permission.

69. NWAC/14/19 Funding request - The Meeting Place

- 69.1 Ms Fortune presented this funding request to the Committee and reported that since she had taken on 'The Meeting Place' the kitchen had been refurbished, the roof mended and it had been painted throughout. The 'Wots Up' group, for people with learning and physical difficulties used the facility on a daily basis and the building was also available for community use. A recent 'Table Top' sale had been successful but improvements were required to bring the toilets up to a decent standard.

- 69.2 Councillor Goldsmith expressed his concern about the application in respect of the lease requiring 'Wots Up' to repair the premises as detailed in the legal consideration at section 10 of the report. He felt that no financial background of 'Wots Up' had been reported and proof should be supplied about the people who were operating the facility. The Chair reassured him that a process was in place prior to the submission of a funding request, quotes for the work had been supplied and could be offered for Councillors to view but as they contained commercially sensitive information they could not be attached to the agenda.
- 69.3 At this point in the meeting Councillor Vickery expressed concern that residents present at the meeting were not being permitted to speak however, the Chair explained that when funding requests were discussed, during the formal part of the meeting, it was for the Committee only to debate and to ask questions of the applicant.
- 69.4 Cllr Grant said that he supported this funding request, the lease had been granted for three years and Ms Fortune had agreed to fund the repairs but that she was at liberty to seek assistance with this from local funders including the North West Area Committee.
- 69.5 Councillor Wright reiterated that this part of the meeting was not open to debate by the public and Legal Officers had agreed that this report be submitted. Ms Fortune had the right to request funding from any source, being responsible for the building the same as the funding request which had previously been received by Whitton Football Club. Councillor Vickery disputed this statement.
- 69.6 The Chair confirmed that the report had been submitted to both the Legal Department and the Monitoring Officer at IBC before it had been released for consideration by the Committee.
- 69.7 Cllr Meudec, in her capacity as Portfolio Holder for Communities for IBC said that as the community centre had now re-opened and was being used by residents and other community groups, more bookings would be expected.
- 69.8 Cllr Whittall said that as the Legal Department had agreed that Ms Fortune was entitled to seek funds from the North West Area Committee, any dispute about the lease could have been raised outside of the meeting and as he confirmed that the recommendation was within the remit of the Committee, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved:

that £7,774.25 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget, to refurbish the Ladies and Men's toilets and install a new cylinder in the boiler room at 'The Meeting Place', Limerick Close, Ipswich IP1 5LR, be agreed.

Reason: To meet the special needs of the 'Wots Up' user group to bring the centre's toilet facilities up to date and meet modern health and safety standards

for everyone who uses the Community Centre and that a cost effective hot water cylinder be fitted, bringing the health and safety standards up to date in the kitchen and cleaning cupboard.

Councillors R Vickery and D Goldsmith abstained from the vote.

70. NWAC/14/20 Area Action Plan

70.1 The Head of the Shared Revenues Partnership presented the Area Action Plan for the North West Area Committee and detailed the priorities with their outcomes updated since the last meeting.

Resolved:

that the North West Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/14/20, be noted.

Reason: Developing priorities to provide the basis of an area action plan would enable the North West Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and would help demonstrate how its budget would be allocated to deliver the priorities set for the Area.

71. NWAC/14/21 Area Committee Budget Update

71.1 The SRP Operations Manager for Business Support drew attention to the Dashboard which had been attached to the report as Appendix 3 and reported that the total amount of money spent by the North West Area Committee had been £111,379, on 33 different projects. A total of 387 residents had attended the North West Area Committee and the funding by the Committee had helped bring in £259,830 of other money to support the projects funded. It was confirmed that the remaining balance of the North West Area Committee budget would be rolled over into the next financial year.

Resolved:

that the financial statement and the Dashboard for the North West Area Committee, as detailed in Appendices 2 & 3 to report Ref No: NWAC/14/21, be noted.

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to deliver the priorities in the action plan.

72. Dates of Future Meetings for 2015/16, all at 7.00pm

- **Wednesday 10 June 2015 – ‘The Meeting Place’ Limerick Close, Ipswich IP1 5LR**
- **(Venues to be arranged)**
- **Tuesday 28 July 2015**
- **Tuesday 22 September 2015**

- **Tuesday 17 November 2015**
- **Tuesday 26 January 2016**
- **Tuesday 22 March 2016**

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Chair