

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

**MURRAYSIDE LEARNING CENTRE,
NACTON ROAD, IP3 9JL**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly and M Cook
Holywells Ward Councillors: B Studd and G Debman
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber and B Knowles
SCC Councillors: B Quinton

There were 41 members of the public in attendance.

18. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harsant, Councillor Hopgood, Councillor Maguire, County Councillor Clements and County Councillor Gaylard.

19. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017 be signed as a true record.

20. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

21. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

22. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that future dates and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 1 November 2017, 7pm – Ipswich Academy, Braziers Wood Road, IP3 0SP**
- **Wednesday 10 January 2018, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 14 March 2018, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

23. Chairman's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

23.1. The Chairman reported that a handout of the responses received to previous actions was available at the meeting. The Chairman highlighted that responses were still awaited in relation to the following items:

- Minute 8.4: Request for yellow lines on corners of junction with Elmhurst Drive and Cliff Lane
- Minute 8.5: Learner HGV drivers on Cliff Lane
- Minute 8.7: Cars waiting to access McDonald's on Ravenswood backing up onto Nacton Road
- Minute 8.9: Request for hourly bus service on Dereham Avenue

23.2. The Chairman highlighted that the request for an update on the Let's Talk Reading project would be considered for the November meeting.

24. Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues

24.1. The Chairman reported that no questions had been submitted in writing in advance of the meeting and invited questions from the public.

24.2. Local resident: The yellow lines on Benacre Road are not being adhered to. Drivers are parking at the bus stop to use the cashpoint machine and this prevents ambulances from turning into Benacre Road. Additionally, could a speed camera be considered on Benacre Road as traffic is speeding along this road?

24.3. Local resident: Last year, it was reported that no formal transport surveys had been undertaken in relation to the Holywells Park Travel Plan in the previous year. Could the outcome of any surveys done since then be reported back?

24.4. Local resident: Last year, the kerbing on Leslie Road was shaved to prevent HGVs from going across 2 carriageways when exiting from Leslie Road onto Nacton Road towards the A14; however, the kerbing has been reinstated. Please can the kerbing be shaved again to prevent this problem.

24.5. Local resident: How long will Star Lane/College Street be closed off as this is causing tailbacks onto Wherstead Road?
The Chairman reported that this would be a matter for Central Area Committee, not South East Area Committee.

- 24.6. Local resident: Traffic leaving the Riverside Clinic (Landseer Road) is still darting straight across the road into Cliff Lane, and traffic parking at the bottom of Cliff Lane makes it difficult to turn into Cliff Lane.
The Chairman reported that SCC Highways have previously looked at this junction and this was the safest layout that could be accommodated without creating further problems elsewhere.
- 24.7. Local resident: There have been traffic problems with vehicles trying to exit the Tesco Express car park on Nacton Road when buses were parked at the bus stop, which has resulted in several near misses.
The Chairman reported that a response was provided to this issue at the previous meeting.
- 24.8. Local resident: A range of parking measures has been trialled on Ravenswood Avenue to prevent parking on verges/kerbs and this has been working well. Can this be made a permanent feature and how can it be policed by traffic wardens?
The Chairman reported that a report would be produced reviewing this trial and a decision would then be made on whether to continue on that basis.
- 24.9. Local resident: The first stage of the Nacton Road corridor improvements has been completed; is there any update on the second stage of improvements?

25. Policing Update

- 25.1. The Chairman introduced Inspector Andy Pursehouse of the Ipswich East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who provided the following update on policing priorities:
- Operation Woven: Over the last 9 months there have been over 100 arrests in relation to drug-related anti-social behaviour, and diversionary activities were being considered.
 - Speeding: a Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been funded and was housed at the Heath Road base; the SID was in operation 2-3 times a day at a set of locations, which currently included Alan Road, Ravenswood, Nacton Road and Landseer Road; these locations were fluid and based on hotspot data.
 - Seasonal anti-social behaviour: Operation Parkland was set up with a dedicated team to tackle anti-social behaviour during the summer months based on intelligence, and this resulted in a 20% reduction in incidents compared to 2016. There were a couple issues reported relating to the McDonalds at Ravenswood; the individuals were identified and their parents were informed and the incidents have since stopped. The level of drug paraphernalia in Orwell Country Park, Landseer Park and Holywells Park has decreased and the Park Wildlife Officers have helped with targeting motorcyclists causing trouble in parks.

- Rough sleepers on Duke Street: A multi-agency approach was being taken to resolving the issue of rough sleepers and a good relationship had been established with local businesses.

Inspector Pursehouse commented that officers were on patrol 24 hours a day, but community intelligence was still important to enable issues to be targeted.

- 25.2. Councillor Cook: Looking at the overall crime figures for Ipswich up to March 2017, Ipswich has 2.5 x crime rate in comparison to other areas within Suffolk, and in comparison to other similar police areas in the UK, Ipswich was the second worst behind Leeds. Does Ipswich require more police resource to bring the crime rates down?
Resource levels would be a matter for the Chief Constable and the Senior Team to determine. The Police look at the patterns of crime and the demand on services and allocate resource accordingly. Ipswich, as a large town within Suffolk, would naturally attract a higher level of crime. Operations, such as Woven and Parkland, have been targeting particular issues and reducing crime in these areas. There has been an increase in the reporting of sexual offences and hate crime, but people have been encouraged to report these crimes; however, there has been a reduction in other types of crime.
- 25.3. Councillor Debman: If the Police were out on patrol, would they stop if they saw an offence taking place?
This would depend on whether they were on their way to attend a higher priority, such as visiting vulnerable victims of crime. If an assault was taking place, then they would be expected to stop, but not necessarily for a minor crime event.
- 25.4. Councillor Debman: Drivers are parking on the bend at the bottom of Cliff Lane - can the Police do something about this?
If this was dangerous parking, then the Police could take action, but this would depend on the priority of their workload, with threat being the highest priority.
- 25.5. Councillor Barber: The better way to gather intelligence would be to have more Police on the beat and PCSOs working evening shifts; this would build stronger links with the community.
PCSO resources were being looked at in terms of the best time to deploy them. Having PCSOs on the beat was a good deterrent, but PCSOs also performed a lot of work behind the scenes in addressing vulnerability issues, so resources have to be used as effectively as possible.
- 25.6. Councillor Barber: Do the Police want more officers?
More officers could do more work, but this would be a matter for the Government; the Police and Crime Commissioner was campaigning for a fair share of resources for Suffolk.
- 25.7. Councillor Connelly: Following the policing restructure resulting from cuts to funding, the Police now deal with areas such as mental health issues, which is more of a health issue than a policing matter.
Funding has been cut across public services as a whole, but public services

now work together more effectively, e.g. dealing with vulnerable people or mental health issues could not be dealt with by one agency alone. Working together provides a more effective solution to improve quality of life.

- 25.8. Local resident: The SID did appear briefly on Ravenswood for a few hours, but it was in the wrong location.
If the SID is not in the right place or if there were other locations where it should be deployed, please contact Sergeant Phil Barrett or your local Councillors. The locations for the SID were reviewed every month, so feedback was important to ensure that the SID was being deployed in the most effective locations.
Could it be deployed for a week at a time?
SIDs were most effective when deployed for just a few hours at a time and then moved on, i.e. when they were unexpected in a location.

Youth Gangs Research Report

- 25.9. The Chairman reported that a report had been commissioned from the University of Suffolk by SCC's Community Safety Team into the issues relating to Youth Gang activity in Ipswich. A copy of the report could be obtained by emailing: community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk
- 25.10. Councillor Barber: The report discusses the importance of youth provision, which has been largely cut, and reducing youth violence, but there is a lack of outreach youth workers. How will SCC tackle this issue?
Resolving these issues was not just a matter for just one agency, which was why the report was commissioned. Both Councils and the Police need to work better together to identify vulnerable groups at an earlier stage. This was a very complex issue, but it was occurring in every part of the UK, not just Ipswich. There were no easy answers, but agencies were committed to resolving these problems, and progress could be reported back to future Area Committee meetings.
- 25.11. County Councillor Quinton: Back in 2003, there were anti-social behaviour problems in South East Ipswich and agencies worked together with the community to resolve them. There is no mention of local Councillors being consulted in this report who would be able to feedback community intelligence.
- 25.12. Local resident: What are the Police doing about gang members that they know of and how are they stopping younger people from joining these gangs? What is being done to get young people out of this situation? Sometimes the whole family is involved, why are they not being moved on? Anyone out at night on Nacton Road will see drug dealing happening outside Pizza Gogo, often with young people dealing to adults – why isn't more being done to stop this?
This independent report was just the beginning; partner agencies, parents and residents would all need to be involved in helping to prevent young people from getting involved in crime. Where young people have not been diverted away from crime, it has been necessary to use enforcement. There needs to be investment in children from 5 years upwards to demonstrate that there were alternative options for a better life. There was already a significant amount of

Police activity taking place, but more work could be done, especially with the help of the community.

- 25.13. Councillor Debman: The loss of the SNT from the community is partly to blame as they used to gather intelligence by visiting the shops in the community, many of whom have CCTV.

The focus of the SNT was more professional, with hourly intelligence that was acted on. Crime reporting systems have changed to reflect a complex world and could now accept information via emails, texts and CCTV footage as most people now report information online rather than face to face.

- 25.14. Principal of Ipswich Academy: We need to ensure that children are safe in our care and we will set up a partnership straight away to provide a quick response to some of these issues and work together to stop children becoming involved in the first place.

- 25.15. Local resident: People blame the Police because of the lack of visible policing, but Central Government is at fault for taking the funding away from the Police, mental health services and youth provision. Cuts in benefits also mean that people are turning to drug dealing as a way of making money.

Financial cuts to services have been happening for more than 10 years, but funding was not the only issue, there needed to be a more joined-up approach to these issues.

- 25.16. Local resident: This is a national problem; the Police and Crime Commissioner reported that some of the youths involved have come from London areas. Local authorities need to talk with each other, some of the London authorities are not aware of these children being involved.

This was a national problem, not just affecting Ipswich and Suffolk. More work needed to be done, but with so many youths involved, it was difficult to keep track of them all, but a lot of work was being done behind the scenes.

- 25.17. Local resident: There are a lot of mothers here with young children. What is going to happen next about the drugs situation and gangs in this area? If the drug activities are happening more in the evening, then PCSOs need to be able to work after 6pm.

A leaflet was available at the meeting outlining what the Police were already doing to address these issues through Operation Woven and the Urban Street Gang Unit. There were many undercover operations in place with a lot of intelligence being gathered, resulting in people being taken to court for class A drug offences. Local children need to act as peer examples and not get involved in the activities of youths from London. Schools were ready to get involved in addressing issues, Children's Services would target those on the edge of getting involved and the community also had a role to play. Updates would be reported back to future meetings.

- 25.18. Councillor Cook: When will the Action Plan be produced to address these issues? SCC has £250million in reserves - will any funding be allocated to this work? Can the Police pool resources from rural areas of Suffolk where these issues were less prevalent?

All areas of the UK were affected by these issues, not just Ipswich, but London and other major towns. SCC reserves have already been ring-fenced for other projects, e.g. Upper Orwell Crossings, Schools Programme. SCC was committed to addressing these issues and has started the process by commissioning this report. The first draft of the Action Plan was expected to be produced by the end of September.

The Police have sufficient resources to deal with these issues by prioritising workloads. Resources could be pooled from within the county and also from within the Eastern region if necessary to address this top priority. The Police and Crime Commissioner has already allocated a lot of funding to organisations and youth groups from his budget and further applications could be made to this budget.

26. Consultation: Ipswich Local Plan Review - Issues and Options

26.1. Ms Moreno-Roberts, Senior Planning Policy Officer, gave a presentation on the Ipswich Local Plan Review, with the following key points:

- Current Ipswich Local Plan (up to 2031) was recently adopted, but the Planning Inspectorate requested that the Local Plan be reviewed with neighbouring authorities.
- The resulting aligned Local Plan was scheduled to be adopted in 2019/20 for the period up to 2036.
- The Plan would need to make allocation for 11,420 homes and 19,040 new jobs over this period.
- Public consultation for the Issues and Options stage of this Plan would run up to 30 October 2017 and details could be found on the Council's website under the 'Current consultations' section.

26.2. Local resident: What percentage of housing will be affordable, long-term secured rent for employees?

The housing need for Ipswich was housing for families, predominantly 3-4 bedroom properties.

27. Gainsborough Community People's Forum

27.1. Ms Fairbrother, Locality Officer at Community Action Suffolk (CAS), reported that £200,000 of funding had been set aside by the People's Health Trust (funded by the Health Lottery) to help create stronger communities within the Gainsborough area. Only 2 other areas in Suffolk have been awarded this type of grant, Haverhill and Lowestoft. In order to utilise the grant funding, there would need to be input from residents and proof of need.

27.2. The Gainsborough Community People's Forum has been set up to enable people in Gainsborough to decide how this funding should be spent and the top 3 priorities were identified as community activities, play/physical equipment and recreational spaces.

27.3. On the weekend of 7-8 October 2017, a Fun Palace would be held at the Gainsborough Community Library, from 10am to 4pm. This free event would

involve art, craft and science activities for all generations. There would also be a Gainsborough garden event held in May 2018.

27.4. The next meeting of the Gainsborough Community People's Forum, which included representatives from organisations operating in Gainsborough, would be on Friday 8 September 2017 at 2pm at Landseer Road Methodist Church and there would be a launch of the funding stream.

27.5. Local resident: Is this the same pot of money from a couple of years ago that was only for use in South East Ipswich and the group used to meet in the library?

Yes. The People's Health Trust want to ensure that the funding was spent correctly and other areas were starting to spend their funding now. An action plan was being set up for the next 6-9 months.

27.6. Local resident: Why isn't the meeting being held in the evening?

The meeting has changed time and location to get other people involved as it has to be the residents who shape how the funding is used by the community.

27.7. Local resident: Will the money be taken away if it isn't spent?

No, and there could potentially be more funding available at the end of the year.

28. SEAC/17/08 Funding Request: Little Learners Outdoor Activity Area

28.1. Mr Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £4,041.97 of funding had been requested by the Little Learners Nursery. The Nursery had received funding from the Department of Education and Suffolk County Council to extend the nursery to provide additional places to meet the need for additional childcare. The requested funding would enable a redundant climbing frame to be removed and provide an outdoor shelter area and fire pit, which could extend the outdoor activities offered.

28.2. Councillor Debman: How will the outdoor shelter be secured and has a risk assessment be done for the fire pit?

Little Learners have consulted other nurseries that had a similar structure in place and would not be storing anything of value in the outdoor shelter. Little Learners would carry out the appropriate risk assessments for activities involving the fire pit.

28.3. Local resident: Will there be any security fencing to prevent people getting in overnight?

Security systems and CCTV monitoring was already in place.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £4,041.97 from the South East Area Committee budget for the Little Learners Nursery for the removal of redundant play equipment, construction of a wooden outdoor shelter and purchase of a fire-pit and safety equipment.

Reason: The requested improvements to the outside area at the Little Learners Nursery would enrich the learning and play experiences of children attending the nursery

29. SEAC/17/09 Funding Request: Black History Month Celebration Event

29.1. Mr Lanning reported that £175 of funding was requested by the Ipswich African and Caribbean Cultural Development Association (IACCCA) as a contribution towards venue hire and performers' costs for a celebration event for Black History Month. The total amount requested across the five Area Committees was £930.

29.2. Mr McSheen, IACCCA chairman, reported that the event would be taking place at The Meeting Place Community Centre on 21 October 2017 from 12 noon to 11pm and would provide an opportunity for young people to get involved and express themselves.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £175 from the South East Area Committee budget for the Ipswich African and Caribbean Cultural Development Association as a contribution towards the costs of a celebration day as part of the Black History Month.

Reason: This event will promote the values of inclusivity and support the cultural life of the town.

30. SEAC/17/10 Funding Request: Sketchbook Strolls Equipment

30.1. Mr Lanning reported that £205 of funding was requested by Art Branches to provide materials for the Sketch Book Strolls sessions in Holywells Park. These monthly free art sessions were held on the last Sunday of the month in partnership with Suffolk MIND and were accessible for adults with mental health or learning difficulties.

30.2. Councillor Debman: Are these art sessions open to the general public?
Yes, anyone can participate in these sessions.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £205 from the South East Area Committee budget for Art Branches for the purchase of art materials for the participants of the Sketch Book Strolls in Holywells Park.

Reason: These art sessions provide an inexpensive and valuable opportunity to the people of South East Ipswich to engage with art and nature and to participate in a social activity.

31. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 31.1. Councillor Connelly reported a 6-week summer holiday brunch club had been held at Gainsborough Community Library, jointly funded by the John Dorkin charity and the South East Making a Difference funding. This initiative was facilitated by Mandy Grimwood and provided 500 brunches over the summer holidays.
- 31.2. Councillor Barber reported that some of the local Friends Groups had visited the Mayor's Parlour and added that the Noisy Group from Nansen Road Baptist Church had also been invited to the parlour.
- 31.3. Councillor Debman suggested that all the South East Councillors should get together to see what role ward Councillors could play in tackling the youth gang related issues.

32. SEAC/17/11 Area Committee Financial Update

- 32.1. Mr Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, reported that following the approval of funding bids totalling £4,421.97, the South East Area Committee now had £30,003.73 available to spend on the priorities in its Action Plan.
- 32.2. Mr Blofield also reported that since the last meeting, Making a Difference funding had been sought for the following items:
 - Communal wheelbarrows for Holywells Allotments
 - Removal of fly-tipping from Devonshire Road alleyway
 - Gainsborough Library Brunch Club
- 32.3. Mr Blofield reported that as a result of the Murray Park Multi-Use Games Area and Tennis Courts scheme being completed under budget, there was now a surplus of £3,386 available.
- 32.4. Councillor Knowles proposed that this surplus funding be returned to the unallocated South East Area Committee budget and that the Friends of Murray Park be invited to submit an application for another project in Murray Park for a similar amount of funding, and this was agreed.

Resolved:

- (i) **that the financial statement in 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 deliver the priorities in its action plan

- (ii) **that the surplus £3,386 arising from the Murray Park Multi-Use Games Area and Tennis Courts scheme be returned to the unallocated South East Area Committee budget;**

Reason: To release any South East Area Committee budget funding where no further expenditure was anticipated

- (iii) **that the Friends of Murray Park be invited to submit an application for funding of another project in Murray Park for a similar amount of funding (£3,386).**

Reason: To enable the Friends of Murray Park to utilise funding that had originally been allocated for improvements to Murray Park

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm

Chair