

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017
ST JOHN'S CHURCH,
CAULDWELL HALL ROAD IP4 4QE
7.30 PM**

Present: Bixley Ward Councillors: J Carnall, E Phillips and R Pope
Rushmere Ward Councillors: S Gage, A Ross and S Ion
St John's Ward Councillors: E Elavalakan, N MacDonald and S Darwin

Suffolk County Councillor S Adams
Suffolk County Councillor P West

There were 37 members of the public in attendance.

20. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

21. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2017

21.1 An amendment would be made to 3.1 '*Cllr Phillips*' as his name had been misspelt.

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017, with the amendment above, be signed as a true record.

22. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

22.1 Item 7 – Chair's Update on Action Points from the previous meeting, would be discussed after Item 5 on the agenda.

Resolved:

that the Order of Business, with the amendment detailed above, be as confirmed on the Agenda.

23. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24. Policing Priorities - North East Ipswich

- 24.1 No Police were available at the meeting to update on the Police Priorities. However, Sara Blake, Head of Communities & Partnerships at Suffolk County Council gave a presentation to the Committee about research commissioned in response to the recent increase in gang and drug related violence amongst vulnerable young people in Ipswich. The issues for Ipswich were local criminal families being supplied with drugs by 'Second Generation' London gangs, the taking over (cuckoo-ing) of houses of heroin addicts or vulnerable people and vulnerable children and young people from Ipswich being recruited to drugs run for gangs. Gangs were also affiliating young women to recruit younger girls for group sexual exploitation and there were wider risks to the health, education, employment opportunities and social inclusion of the young people.
- 24.2 Ms Blake confirmed that this was not just an Ipswich issue as it affected up to 70% of the country. The four key partners, the Police, Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council and the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner had committed to work together as a multi-agency response to produce a strategy which would stop gang-related violence and sexual exploitation of vulnerable children and young people who were involved in trafficking and the distribution of Class A drugs, disrupt the illicit drug distribution networks and neutralise the impact of County Lines drugs trafficking.
- 24.3 The Partnership response would be to use collective resources to stop gang violence and the involvement of young people in the drugs market, make it easier to access help and to take tough action against those who take advantage of others who undertake criminal activity. 8 dedicated Officers and a Sergeant would help develop a short term plan by the end of September 2017 and a longer term plan would be put in place to deal with underlying drug issues by the end of the year. The resources needed would be identified and links developed with national and regional partners who could help tackle this issue. Any information could be forwarded to community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk in confidence to add to the known intelligence and to allow those involved to be better equipped to tackle the problem.
- 24.4 Ms Blake said that engagement with schools was important, through the promotion of life skills and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lessons with parents also playing an important role. Suffolk County Councillor Adams referred to the multi-agency theatre project 'Who To Follow' which had been run at the Wolsey Theatre which raised issues about illegal drug misuse among Ipswich school children and which inspired young people to follow safe paths and make positive choices around illegal drugs.
- 24.5 Residents said that parents needed to be empowered as a community and the resources to be provided needed to be recognised. Councillor Gage in her

capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor and Suffolk County Councillor West said that Suffolk County Council were planning to review education funding and redirect funds between agencies as reinvestment in children's and youth services was needed. Ms Blake said that there was an area of community youth work where adults and mentors could provide positivity.

24.6 The Chair thanked Ms Blake for her presentation.

25. Chair's Update on Action Points from the Previous Meetings

25.1 The Chair confirmed that the small green space area in Clementine Gardens was the responsibility of Ipswich Borough Council who were looking into the prevention of nuisance at the space.

25.2 In respect of the data and analysis of passenger use for the temporary Dove Street bus stop location requested by a resident, Councillor Gage, in her capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor reported that the Senior Engineer at Suffolk Highways had reported that during the trial, urgent changes had been made to the traffic signal timings in the area to relieve congestion. Therefore the data was changed to the point where it was no longer valid. Whilst the trial data would have been important, multiple complaints from the public had been received about the congestion so it was felt that the signal timing changes had to take priority.

25.3 Councillor Gage reported that in response to a resident's question about the Dumbarton Road Recreation Ground football pitches being reduced, no information about this was known.

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

26.1 No questions had been received prior to the meeting however if residents submitted a question prior to the Committee by post or e-mail then they would receive a full response from an appropriate Officer of the Council.

26.2 In response to the reply from Councillor Gage about the temporary move of the location of the bus stop at Dove Street, the resident thought that the reply was unsatisfactory and asked for further information on any data collected.

26.3 In reply to a resident's question about when the Cornhill Regeneration proposals would commence, Councillor Ross replied that consent and the planning process was now complete and work would commence soon.

26.4 Residents were urged to speak to Suffolk County Councillor West about parking problems in the North East area in light of the yellow lines which had been installed at junctions around the hospital increasing parking issues on other roads.

27. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities

27.1 St John's ward

Councillor MacDonald said that he had reported an out of date resurfacing road sign at Henley Road and this had now been removed.

Rushmere ward

Councillor Gage said that she was pleased to have approved a Making A Difference (MAD) funding request from Sidegate Primary School's Parliament.

Bixley ward

The closure of the business which housed the Post Office at the junction with Foxhall Road and Health Road was mentioned and it was confirmed that should new tenants be found who would like a Post Office counter then the Post Office were willing to work with any new owner.

28. Suffolk County Councillors Feedback from their Divisions

- 28.1 Suffolk County Councillor West mentioned various road improvements in the North East area, particularly in Felixstowe Road and Bucklesham Road.
- 28.2 Suffolk County Councillor Gage said that there had been positive feedback from an experimental traffic order at Bixley Road and concerns continued about parking at Parade Road and River Street.
- 28.3 Suffolk County Councillor Adams mentioned several streets which had on street parking issues, the bridges at Fuchsia Lane and Wesley Road and a trial of one way traffic which County Councillor Mandy Gaylard had also been involved with.

29. Consultation - Ipswich Local Plan Review - Issues and Options

- 29.1 Natasha Moreno-Roberts, Senior Planning Officer - Policy presented the new Local Plan review, Issues & Options document which set out the level of growth and where and how it would be delivered. Working alongside Mid Suffolk/Babergh and Suffolk Coastal District Councils, the Plan would be adopted in 2019/20 and be applied until 2036 and the current consultation would run from 18 August 2017 until 30 October 2017.
- 29.2 It was projected that in the future Ipswich would need 11,420 new homes but at the moment only 9,000 new homes sites had been proposed. Work continued with neighbouring authorities looking at options for countryside fringes and brownfield sites. 19,040 new jobs or employment opportunities would also be needed and feedback was being sought for improvements to travel habits and the retail and leisure areas such as the Town Centre and the Buttermarket with its new cinema and restaurants.
- 29.3 Tourist attractions and heritage assets would also bring more visitors to the town and improvements would be made to make the best of these opportunities. There were 15 conservation areas, 600 listed buildings, parks, sports and bio diverse green spaces in the area and resident's views were sought. Postcards were available for residents to state their view and the Chair

encouraged residents to get involved in the consultation either by using the postcard or by going online at www.ipswich.gov.uk/currentconsultations

30. NEAC/17/09 Funding request - 'It's Tuesday' ESOL Group

- 30.1 Ms Jean Powis presented this funding request to the Committee for £4,720 from the North East Area Committee budget for English tuition for speakers of other languages held at St John's United Reformed Church to develop their English skills. The Group encouraged integration into the local community and equip students to contribute to and enjoy life in Ipswich.
- 30.2 Councillor Pope asked how sustainable the project would be after 2 years? Ms Powis said that the group intended to apply for other funding to secure their work in the future.
- 30.3 Councillor Carnall asked what qualifications the teachers had and what assurance could be given about standards? Ms Powis explained her experience had been gained in a state language school and that conversation skills were aspirational and more valuable than exams as this helped students to be fluent and be more able to engage in the community.
- 30.4 Councillor Phillips asked whether the tuition provided, for up to 15 students in total, would benefit students from the North East area and who currently provided any other funding? Ms Powis said that the additional students had not been sought yet and that St John's United Reformed Church offered the use of their venue for no charge.

Resolved:

that £4,720 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget to allow Ipswich Town of Sanctuary to continue to offer English tuition for speakers of other languages at the 'It's Tuesday' class held at St John's United Reformed Church, as detailed in Appendix 1 of report Ref No: NEAC/17/09, be agreed.

Reason: To enable the group to continue to offer English tuition to residents in the North East Area of Ipswich to improve student's English, encourage integration into the local community and equip students to contribute to and enjoy life in Ipswich.

31. NEAC/17/10 Funding request - Ipswich Ravens Volleyball Club

- 31.1 Amon Szocs, the Club Treasurer of Ipswich Ravens Volleyball Club presented this funding request for £3,436.36 from the North East Area Committee budget for the provision of apparatus and fittings to develop facilities in the sports hall at St Alban's High School. He explained that the club brought together people from all ages and diversity and that volleyball was the 4th most popular sport in the world. It was a high energy, non-contact sport which could be played both

indoor and outdoor. Upgrading the facilities at the Club would contribute to the Council's objective of increasing the health and well-being of local people.

- 31.2 The Club worked with Volleyball England with coaches that led and supported both male and female participants from 13 – 60 years of age. There was good interaction between players and English skills were also improved. The Club were willing to contribute £500 of their own reserves and it was explained how the planned reconfiguration of nets and posts would be used. This would allow better training to take place, improve the safety and benefit both the club and the school. Usage would increase and the one-off expenditure would be a long term asset to North East Ipswich.
- 31.3 Councillor Pope asked whether St Albans School were making a contribution to the new fixtures and it was confirmed that the school had no budget to do so and this item had been a Community Cash Grant bid which would be better supported by Area Committee funding.
- 31.3 Councillor Carnall asked how much Sport England had contributed to the fixtures and Mr Szocs said that the Group had an applied to Sport England through Volleyball England and that they were still awaiting the outcome of an application.

Resolved:

that £3,436.36 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget for the provision of apparatus and fittings to develop the facilities in the sports hall at St Alban's High School, as detailed in Appendix 1 of report Ref No: NEAC/17/10, be agreed.

Reason: To support the overall development of Ipswich Ravens Volleyball Club and to increase participation in volleyball by students at St Alban's High School and local residents.

32. NEAC/17/11 Funding request - Black History Month Celebration Event

- 32.1 Mr Cedric McSheen presented this funding request which sought £175 in contribution to the cost of a cultural celebration event as part of Black History Month. Mr McSheen said that the event was a chance to bring everyone together and be a platform for local artists to showcase their talent. There would be speakers who would inspire young people in the town and show them what could be achieved in life and everyone was welcome to attend.
- 32.2 Councillor Pope asked how the event tied into Black History Month and Mr McSheen said that there would be speeches from business leaders with lots of knowledge about heritage and the history of the community in Ipswich, such as Mr Charles Challenger who runs his own shipping and export agency in town.
- 32.3 Councillor Phillips said that as the business had only been constituted for 2 months it would be unable to submit 1 years' worth of accounts and he asked if the Ipswich African & Caribbean Cultural Development Association was new?

Mr McSheen said that this was the first time the Association had applied to the Area Committee and there was confusion as to whether this application was contrary to the Council's Area Committee funding protocol. Following input from the Performance & Projects Manager it was:

Resolved:

- 1. that £175 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget to the Ipswich African & Caribbean Development Association to contribute to the cost of a cultural celebration event as part of Black History Month.**
- 2. that this decision be agreed 'in principle', subject to consultation about whether the Area Committee funding protocol had been contravened.**

Reason: To provide funds to the Ipswich African & Caribbean Cultural Development Association for the costs of a celebration day as part of Black History Month.

33. NEAC/17/12 Funding request - Kerala Community Supplementary School

- 33.1 Suja Varughese from the Kerala Community Supplementary School presented this funding request for £4,720 from the North East Area Committee budget to support its programmes and activities aimed at improving self-confidence, achievement, inclusion and opportunities for local young people from ethnic minority communities experiencing deprivation.
- 33.2 Established in May 2010, the group provided out of school learning activities for children aged between 5 and 18 years. The programme promoted a healthy lifestyle, developed personalities and promoted traditional values and culture. It was held at St Alban's High School on Saturdays from 10.00am – 1.00pm and the project from now to December would coach children for the Christmas and New Year cultural celebrations. The long term plan involved evaluating feedback from parents and children and it was confirmed that most of the participants came from the North East area.
- 33.3 Councillor Pope asked for clarification about the £50 coaching for the Christmas and New Year performances and it was confirmed that in the lead up to the event specialist coaching would take place for up to 30 of the current 45 children.
- 33.4 Councillor Phillips asked for clarification of the annual income of the registered charity, including parent contributions and this was supplied.

Resolved:

that £4,720 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget to the Kerala Community Supplementary School to support its programmes and activities aimed at improving self-confidence, achievement, inclusion

and opportunities for local young people from ethnic minority communities experiencing deprivation.

Reason: To determine the merit in approving funds to Kerala Community Supplementary School to support its programmes and activities.

34. NEAC/17/13 Area Action Plan Update

34.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Action Plan for the North East area and reported that the Summer Holiday Activities Programme, which had been allocated funding at the last meeting had reported high attendance figures and walkabouts in the North East area had been planned for October.

Resolved:

that the North East Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NEAC/17/13, be noted.

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

35. NEAC/17/14 Area Committee Budget Update

35.1 The Operations Manager for Development and Planning reported that since the last meeting, £300 had been allocated from the Making A Difference (MAD) funding to Sidegate Primary School's Parliament to develop wildlife areas and routes in the school grounds, improve sports facilities and to improve the appearance of the playground with fresh paint and planting. This would be shown in the next budget update.

35.2 At the beginning of the meeting the North East Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £31,369.62 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North East Ipswich.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of report Ref No: NEAC/17/14, 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.

36. Dates of Future Meetings for 2017/18 at 7.30pm - a presentation will be held prior to each meeting at 7.00pm.

- **Thursday 2 November 2017**
- **Thursday 11 January 2018**

- **Thursday 15 March 2018**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chair