

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017

**STOKE GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH, HALIFAX ROAD,
IPSWICH IP1 8RE**

6.30 PM

Present: Bridge Ward Councillors: B Rudkin and P Smart
Gipping Ward Councillors: P Gardiner and J Macartney
Sprites Ward Councillors: R Fern and C Smart
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: N Cenci and T Grant
Suffolk County Councillors: H Armitage & J Abbott

There were 26 members of the public in attendance.

20. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellesmere, Clarke, Hall and Powell.

21. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 July 2017

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017, be signed as a true record.

22. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

to vary the Order of Business. To consider Item 12 – SWAC/17/08 – Funding request – Black History Month Celebration Event and Item 13 – SWAC/17/09 – Funding request – Temple FSK Self-Defence Training at Item 10 and Item 11, otherwise the Order of Business be as printed on the Agenda.

23. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24. Chair's Update and Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 24.1 A resident had raised the issue of traffic information signs that were completely overgrown at the Copdock roundabout and Councillor West reported that these would be cut back by the end of September.

25. Police Priorities - South West Ipswich

- 25.1 Sgt Stuart Curtis updated that there had been reports of anti-social behaviour in the Gibbons Street area and Barnard Square and there had been reports of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour at Downside Close. A tactical action plan had been put in place at Stone Lodge Lane and Hawthorn Road shops and residents asked to be kept aware of any results at this location. Newsletters were available which gave details of a Police & Crime Commissioner meeting at 7.00pm at Chantry Academy on 17 October 2017.
- 25.2 Reports of motorbikes at Bobbits Lane near Belstead Brook had been investigated but with many different ways in and out of the area it was difficult to cut off any exits.
- 25.3 Councillor P Smart asked if the anti-social behaviour at Downside Close and Gibbon Street was linked to gangs drug dealing and the Officer said that as far as he was aware the gangs dealing drugs were in the Central and South East area of Ipswich.
- 25.4 A resident mentioned response times to incidents and it was confirmed that these were graded around threat, harm or risk and the Police may not be able to achieve timely responses due to the amount of calls received.
- 25.5 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.
- 25.6 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.

- 25.7 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.
- 25.8 Councillor Rudkin reported that there was a lack of youth workers to signpost to any activities and Ms Blake said that this had been identified and that Officers from Suffolk County Council were looking at how to commission more youth workers through the voluntary sector. A resident said that a grant had been obtained by the European funded Opportunities Suffolk project to co-ordinate work such as this through the voluntary sector. Ms Blake said that intervention by reducing or preventing vulnerable young people and education through schools would be part of the multifaceted response of the action plan.
- 25.9 A resident said that social deprivation had a huge impact on drug use and decent housing should be provided and Ms Blake said that diversionary opportunities would be suggested and better use of the available resources would be a challenge. Councillor Fern asked who would be involved with the action plan in relation to education and it was confirmed that both secondary and primary schools would be involved and a youth panel from the pupil referral units had been suggested. Councillor Fern said that austerity was now having an impact on these issues and the number of PCSO's had fallen dramatically. Action and enforcement needed to be taken seriously and Sgt Curtis said that there was a heavy recruitment drive for Police Constables at the moment and whilst resource and austerity were an issue, the dedicated Police Team being put together would be part of the multi-agency team.
- 25.10 The Chief Executive at IBC said that all key agencies were looking to address these issues but Suffolk County Councillor Abbott expressed concern about where the resource to commission youth workers would come from. Ms Blake said that it would be about prioritising the available resources and the research alone would allow funding to be applied for.
- 25.10 Councillor Grant said that addiction was a health issue and with access to treatment being minimal, funding was difficult to attain. Ms Blake said that there were specific recommendations in the research which looked at the spectrum of health. Councillor P Smart said that there were differing needs which needed different support; relationships built, self-esteem raised and peer pressure addressed. Stronger structures needed to be organised and lessons learnt about the disorganisation of society.

25.11 A resident said that a long term strategy to prevent isolation would be to encourage volunteer and youth groups and Ms Blake said that the action plan would look at having the resource to do this.

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

26.1 Three questions had been received from a resident prior to the meeting:-

1. Were all the resurfacing works complete at Princes Street, Ranelagh Road and Burrell Road outside Ipswich Rail Station and when would the opening ceremony be held?

The resurfacing on parts of Ranelagh Road, Burrell Road and Princes Street had now been completed and Ipswich Station forecourt was fully open to the public. There were currently no immediate plans to have a grand opening of the station. However, the joint Suffolk/Essex Rail Conference in November might provide an opportunity to promote the improvements to the forecourt and station. County Council Officers were investigating whether this would be possible and an update would be provided. Councillor Rudkin suggested that there be signage for the taxi rank at the station.

2. Had the nameplate for Belstead Avenue opposite Maidenhall Approach been installed?

The Community Engagement Officer confirmed that this had now been installed.

3. Were Ipswich Buses going to make timetable changes to the following routes? No 12, No 13, No 14, No 15/15A, No 16, No 92, Nos 93/94, and Nos 98/202.

There might be some minor changes to some of the Ipswich Buses timetables in the future but these had not been finalised. Councillor Gardiner said that he was unable to give any information on routes outside of the town.

26.2 A resident reported further incidents of graffiti in the South West area at Austen Street, Stoke Road and on a bus stop at Belstead Avenue. He had reported these to the Cleaner Ipswich Hotline on cleaner.ipswich@ipswich.gov.uk Councillor Gardiner pointed out that graffiti on private property was not IBC's responsibility and could only be removed if it caused offence, in which case it would be removed and the owner of the property would be charged.

26.3 A tenant reported a decoration problem with his property and the Community Engagement Officer agreed to take this up with Housing Services at IBC.

27. ActivLives Monitoring Feedback

27.1 Suzanna Robirosa from ActivLives updated the Committee on the ActivLives projects which had started in April 2008 to which the South West Area Committee had allocated funding; the CRESS Pavilion, Chantry Walled Garden

and Maidenhall Allotments. The Bowls Pavilion had been turned into a Community Hub selling fresh produce from the allotments, a community café and welcomed groups and school parties.

- 27.2 She reported that adjacent to Stoke High School was a bee keeping site with wildflower meadows. 25,000 plants were grown for IBC at the Chantry Walled Garden site which also had accessible raised beds and a 'Forever Garden'. There were volunteering opportunities available which allowed people peace and tranquillity and a space to breathe which could aid mental health. Also there was a community safety programme working with offenders from HMP Hollesley Bay as part of a resettlement process.
- 27.3 There was a skills exchange which encouraged more women to take part and an ActivSheds project with opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to take part from Suffolk Refugee Support. Over 2,000 young people had taken part in a schools programme and there were events such as Fundays and plant sales. On 13 October 2017 there would be one of the monthly markets and on 8 December 2017 an Christmas market would be held. A Big Garden Party had been held on 22 July 2017 which highlighted Dementia and this event had contributed greatly to community awareness.
- 27.4 Councillor C Smart said what a great project ActivLives was for people of all ages although it was agreed by Ms Robirosa that it was a challenge to engage during the winter months. The Area Committee had previously contributed towards an accessible toilet at the Cress Pavilion and the ongoing contribution of people participation to the ActivLives community more than adequately met the IBC priorities in the Area Action Plan.

28. SWAC/17/08 Funding request - Black History Month Celebration Event

- 28.1 Mr Cedric McSheen presented this funding request which sought £230 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. It was clarified that the Black History Month celebration event would be held at The Meeting Place, Limerick Close on 21 October 2017.
- 28.2 The Community Engagement Officer explained that although the event had previously been run for two years, a full year's worth of accounts were not available. Therefore in line with the funding protocol, should the request be agreed by the Committee, the allocation of this funding would be at the discretion of the Chair.

Resolved:

that £230 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget to the Ipswich African & Caribbean Cultural Development Association in

contribution to the cost of a cultural celebration event as part of Black History Month, be agreed.

Reason: To determine the merit in providing the Ipswich African & Caribbean Cultural Development Association towards the costs of a celebration day as part of Black History Month.

29. SWAC/17/09 Funding request - Funding request - Temple FSK Self Defense Training

29.1 Steve Prentice, Lead Instructor of Temple FSK Martial Arts & Self Defence School presented this funding request for £700 to provide self-defence training to residents, primarily those referred by support organisations.

29.2 The Defence classes had been running for 3 years at the 36th Ipswich Scout Hall on Hawthorn Drive and engagement technique training had been provided to Lighthouse Women's Aid, Genesis, Emmaus Ipswich and Suffolk Young Carers. The course would be a 4 hour workshop for 40 people charged at £3.50 per person. No weapons were used as part of the training, it was basic survival techniques only and there were no limits for how mobile or active a person was.

Resolved:

that £700 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget to provide self-defence training to residents, primarily those referred by support organisations.

Reason: To determine the merit in providing Temple FSK martial arts school to provide self-defence training to residents of South West Ipswich and those referred by support organisations.

30. Consultation Ipswich Local Plan Review: Issues and Options

30.1 Robert Hobbs and Suzanne Williams, Planning Officers at IBC 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.

30.2 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. 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.

30.3 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 Councillor Gardiner, the Chair of the Planning and Development Committee encouraged residents to get involved in the consultation either by using the postcard or by going online at www.ipswich.gov.uk/currentconsultations

31. Ward Councillor's Feedback from their Communities

31.1 All wards

Councillor Fern commended Councillor C Smart for the excellent work he had produced to identify issues with road surfaces in the area. Councillor C Smart said that he had received positive support from Suffolk County Council on the subject of roads and highways and they had agreed to attend the next Area Committee meeting.

Bridge ward

Councillor Rudkin reported that Wherstead Road would be closed to traffic due to a running event on Sunday 24 September 2017 as those participating passed through.

Stoke Park ward

On behalf of Councillor Cenci, Councillor Grant reported that the issue of a 20mph speed limit at Annbrook Road had been taken up by Suffolk County Councillor West and that overhanging vegetation at Chesterton Road had been cleared.

32. Suffolk County Councillors Update

32.1 Councillor Gardiner in his capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor reported that he had been trying to recruit to the SpeedWatch Team which had been disbanded. Anyone wishing to volunteer should come forward to support this initiative as it provided a useful contribution to discourage speeding vehicles.

32.2 Suffolk County Councillor Abbott said that he was the opposition spokesperson for education in Suffolk at the County Council and the new funding formula had just been announced. Although the funding for Suffolk schools had increased it was still less per pupil than elsewhere and the pressure of rising costs was impacting on some schools.

33. SWAC/17/10 Area Action Plan Update

33.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Action Plan for the South West area and reported that the Summer Holiday Activities Programme, which had been allocated funding at the last meeting, had reported high attendance figures across Ipswich but only reasonable attendance in the South West for the park activities compared to the rest of the town. The majority of the participants had been 10 – 13 year olds, with 85% being male and the uptake being 30% BME and 70% White British. Any future funding requests could be submitted to the Officer.

34. SWAC/17/11 Area Committee Budget Update

- 34.1 The Lead Head of Service presented this item and reported that £2,400 had been agreed at the last meeting for the Making A Difference (MAD) budget for 2017/18 and since that meeting an award of £328.50 had been agreed for Safer School Parking Banners leaving a balance in the MAD fund of £2,071.50.
- 34.2 At the beginning of this meeting the South West Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £37,824.11 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for South West Ipswich.
- 34.3 An item of committed funds had been reviewed by the Community Development Officer which had not been drawn down against and was no longer required. It was £20,000 for the provision of exercise and play equipment at the Lavenham Road green space which had been agreed by the Committee on 10 September 2014 in report Ref No: SWAC/14/07. It had not been possible to secure agreement from the land owner, Suffolk County Council and the 3 year maximum period for the allocation of Committee funds had now lapsed. It was requested that the Committee agree to return this commitment to the South West Area Committee unallocated budget.

Resolved:

- 1. that the financial statement attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/17/11, be noted.**
- 2. that £20,000 funding allocated for Outdoor Youth Provision for the Triangle Area, Lavenham Road green space on 10 September 2014, SWAC/14/07, be returned to the unallocated South West Area Committee budget, be agreed.**

Reasons:

- a) To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its action plan.**
- b) To release any South West Area Committee budget funding where there was no further expenditure anticipated.**

35. Dates of Future Meetings 2017/18, all to be held at 6.30pm:

- Thursday 16 November 2017 – St Peters Church, Stoke Park Drive IP2 9YP**
- Thursday 18 January 2018 – Gipping Room, Grafton House, Russell Road IP1 2DE**
- Thursday 8 March 2018 – Chantry Methodist Church, Kingfisher Avenue IP2 0QN**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chair