

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017
IPSWICH LIBRARY - LECTURE HALL,
OLD FOUNDRY ROAD, IP1 3DE
7.00 PM**

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: J Cook, A Leeder and J Riley
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: O Holmes, I Lockington and L Reynolds
Westgate Ward Councillors: C Jones and C Kreidewolf
SCC Councillors: J Abbott, C Chambers and I Lockington

There were 15 members of the public in attendance.

30. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gibbs and County Councillor Gaylard.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Jones was elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

31. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2017 be signed as a true record.

32. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

33. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lockington, being a non-Executive Director of Ipswich Buses, declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (report CAC/17/10).

Councillor Kreidewolf, being the Chair of Governors at Sprites Primary School, declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 (report CAC/17/11).

34. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

An additional meeting was proposed for Tuesday 19 December 2017 at 7pm in the Ipswich Community Church on Clarkson Street, which would be a dedicated meeting for the public to raise their concerns about crime in Central Ipswich, and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Tuesday 19 December 2017, 7pm – Ipswich Community Church, Clarkson Street, IP1 2JP**
- **Wednesday 17 January 2018, 7pm – Reg Driver Visitor Centre, Christchurch Park, IP4 2BX**
- **Wednesday 7 March 2018, 7pm – Bramford Road Methodist Church, Bramford Road, IP1 4AY**

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

35.1. The Chair introduced Inspector Weaver from the Central Ipswich Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following update on policing priorities:

Gang and Drug Related Crime: An additional Central Area Committee meeting would be held in December for the public to raise their concerns. The Police were working with parents from the Jubilee Park and Nacton Road areas. The Urban Street Gang Unit had been established, led by Inspector Weaver, and a Gang Manager post was being advertised as part of the multi-agency response to gang related issues in Ipswich. As part of preventative measures partners would be seeking to identify and engage with vulnerable children through Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and the YMCA. A recent case resulted in a young man being given a suspended 2-year sentence and he was grateful as it had given him an opportunity to turn his life around.

Shoplifting in the Town Centre: An operation had been run by Humberside Police whereby the shops were encouraged to change their focus to preventing people from being arrested for shoplifting. Superintendent Cutler was leading on this initiative with town centre businesses in Ipswich, asking staff to be more overt in stores.

Prostitution: This issue was potentially on the increase; intelligence was being gathered and PC Canning was leading on a multi-agency approach with key partners in order to provide a way forward to those young women who were in need of help.

YMCA/Jubilee Park area: A lot of calls have been raised from this area in relation to missing people and susceptible young people, especially as some young people were being referred to the YMCA by Social Care agencies.

Rough sleeping/begging: A charity bus would be available soon that would be able to house 5 or 6 long-term homeless people. A recent arrest for breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) resulted in a £10 fine for someone who was already homeless. Superintendent Cutler was liaising with local magistrates about how best to use their powers to issue more reasonable sanctions.

- 35.2. Councillor Leeder: Has the outreach work and charity boxes in businesses on the Waterfront had a positive effect on rough sleeping on the Waterfront? *These initiatives have made a difference. As the winter shelters would be opening in 3 weeks' time, this should take many rough sleepers off the streets, so it would be difficult to assess the impact over the next few months. However, when people attend the winter shelters, there would also be the opportunity to signpost them to agencies to encourage them to take up accommodation after the shelters close at the end of winter.*
- 35.3. Councillor Lockington: I noticed 2 people begging in the town centre on Saturday; are there more people begging when there is a football game on? *Every Saturday in the town centre was busy, so that tended to result in more street begging; however, the Police were monitoring the situation as this was still one of their priorities.*
- 35.4. Councillor Kreidewolf commented that the winter night shelter as an excellent initiative and reported that last year this resulted in 3 or 4 people moving into mainstream accommodation. Councillor Kreidewolf added that funding from the Area Committee had been used to upgrade facilities at the Ipswich Community Church to enable it to participate in the night shelter programme.
- 35.5. Local resident: If someone breaches a CBO, do they go to prison? *This would depend on the sentence passed by the Magistrate.*
- 35.6. The Chair reported that no questions had been submitted in writing in advance of the meeting and invited questions from the floor.
- 35.7. Local resident: Would the Council consider re-establishing the former Access Panel that was disbanded after the Equality Act came into force? There are quite a few problems being experienced by disabled people and issues used to be reported to the advisory panel. *The Council has an Equalities Panel, with representatives from a number of organisations, including the Disabled Access Bureau, who provide valuable comments on Council policies and facilities. For further information, contact the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Meudec.*

36. Project Update: Bangladeshi Support Centre

36.1. The Chair introduced Ms Shayra Begum, Manager at the Bangladeshi Support Centre, to provide an update on the Health and Well-being Project that was part funded by the Central Area Committee.

36.2. Ms Begum provided the following update:

- 4 events were delivered at the Manor Ballroom/Tower Street in addition to those delivered in the Nacton Road area
- The number of attendees ranged from 40 to 100, with people from various diverse backgrounds being represented.
- Activities included Boccia, Curling, chair-based exercises, bingo, crafts and music.
- Talks were given by Healthwatch Suffolk, Clinical Commissioning Group, Citizens Advice Bureau, Disabled Advice Bureau, Police, Suffolk Records Office, IBC's Recycling Service, IBC's Parks Service and the University of Suffolk.
- Additionally, ward Councillors provided one-to-one discussions about local issues.
- Engagement work was also undertaken with the new Gambian community.

36.3. The Chair congratulated Ms Begum on the impressive amount of work undertaken by the Bangladeshi Support Centre for this project.

37. CAC/17/10 Funding Request: Ipswich Community Playbus

37.1. Ms Firbank, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £1,250 was requested as a contribution towards running costs of the Ipswich Community Playbus.

37.2. Mr Watson, Playbus Worker, reported that 8 free play sessions per week were provided across Ipswich during school term time, with the Central Ipswich stop being delivered on Bramford Road behind the Rosary Conservative Club. The Playbus provided pre-school play for up to 5 year olds, with a variety of themes, e.g. sand pit, toys, crafts, seating for accompanying adults downstairs and carpeted soft play, toys and lots of books upstairs.

37.3. Mr Watson added that the Bramford Road stop had recently changed its time slot to Monday afternoon, as the Rosary Club had set up a dementia club and there wasn't enough space in the car park to accommodate the Playbus at the same time, and people were adjusting to this change of time.

37.4. Councillor Riley: What is the maximum number of children and adults allowed at any time and what was the average number of users?
Only 16 children were permitted on board at any time; each stop provided a 2-hour session and some of the younger children might only be there for 30 minutes and then go. In the warmer months, people could go to the park and then come back when there was a space available, so numbers could be as

high as 25 children per session. The average was between 8 and 12 children per session.

- 37.5. Councillor Kreidewolf: Suffolk County Council (SCC) have withdrawn £30,000 of core funding and the Council has provided £5,000 cash grant plus £15,000 in kind for bus maintenance; how viable is the Playbus in the future, i.e. how will the SCC funding be replaced?
Ipswich Community Playbus have obtained a 3-year grant of £80,000 from Children in Need and were chasing other funding streams.
- 37.6. Councillor Lockington: Does Ipswich Buses maintain the Playbus?
Only for the occasional small thing, like a headlight bulb, but not for anything substantial, like the recent engine problem.
- 37.7. Councillor Jones: The Playbus often works with children from deprived families; how are the families/children referred?
The Playbus was primarily advertised via word of mouth and one family had been referred by the Lighthouse Women's Refuge. Children Centres also made the Playbus information available to its users. The Playbus was accessible for all of the community regardless of their background and for all generations.
- 37.8. The Chair commented that it would be helpful for an update to come back to a future meeting highlighting how audiences were targeted and to provide a demonstration of the need for the service.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £1,250 from the Central Area Committee for the Ipswich Community Playbus as a contribution towards the running costs of 8 weekly play session stops across Ipswich.

Reason: The Ipswich Community Playbus is a long established and valued 'Early Years' provision for families across Ipswich and beyond

38. CAC/17/11 Funding Request: Let's Talk Reading

- 38.1. Ms Firbank reported that £4,615 was requested as a contribution towards the Let's Talk Reading Project.
- 38.2. Mr John Helleur and Ms Clair Pyper from the Let's Talk Reading Project gave a presentation with the following key points:
- 1 in 6 adults in England were unable to read well enough to succeed in modern life; in the most disadvantaged areas, this could be as high as 1 in 3 people.
 - The project sought to engage with schools with poor literacy performance, to work with parents to encourage them to read with their children from an early age, signpost those parents who were struggling to read to adult tutoring and raise awareness of literacy issues.

- The project would run for 10 years.
 - In its first year, the project obtained £7,500 funding for participating schools for literacy improvements, distributed 500 book bags for 2-year olds and 200 'teach a friend to read' manuals, and engaged with a variety of agency partners.
 - These initiatives had resulted in KS2 SAT Reading Test improvements.
 - This year the project would focus on early years via the Suffolk Babies antenatal/postnatal classes and through the provision of reading volunteers in schools and nurseries via Beanstalk and Volunteer Matters.
 - Book bags would also be distributed for the next year of 2-year olds.
 - Other initiatives would include engagement with hard to reach parents with literacy problems, schools focus via the Reading Pledge, volunteers being trained through the Read Easy charity and consideration of the impact of health issues on reading, such as dyslexia and Irlen's syndrome.
- 38.3. Councillor Leeder: The results for the first year were good. However, there are fewer schools involved in the project for Central Ipswich should the Central Area Committee decide to provide funding.
Central Ipswich poses additional challenges due to the more diverse population, but the project would be bringing proven initiatives. There would be more emphasis on multiple languages and ESOL partners would be involved. Reading volunteers would be needed and Beanstalk and Read Easy charities would be able to train volunteers. Additionally work would be done with the Wellington Centre to help identify the main languages of parents whose children attend the Centre.
- 38.4. Councillor Cook: How will book bags be distributed bearing in mind that some parts of the Central Ipswich population was transient in nature?
Most of the book bags provided were taken up in Ipswich; they have been distributed through nurseries and play groups and have been well received by parents. Another outlet could be the Playbus.
- 38.5. Councillor Cook: What were the selection criteria for primary schools, why wasn't Clifford Road or Rosehill Primary Schools included?
The project started with the feeder schools to Ipswich Academy, e.g. Cliff Lane Primary, but not all the schools wanted to participate, so the scope was then widened to all ask primary schools; however, some schools still didn't want to engage. The project then made bids on behalf of participating schools to SCC's Raising the Bar funding to implement initiatives.
- 38.6. County Councillor West: Is Suffolk Dyslexia Association involved in relation to the health issues? They have speech therapists and other resources that could be useful.
Not yet, but they would be contacted.
- 38.7. Councillor Lockington: St Margaret's School is attended by children from all over town, but is not included.
All schools should be supported and be involved; however, it was a matter of capacity.

38.8. Councillor Holmes: Could Social Mobility in Opportunity Areas funding be considered?

Yes, this was a possibility as Ipswich was one of the areas identified in the first tranche.

38.9. Councillor Kreidewolf: Some schools have been subject to funding cuts that could prevent participation.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £4,615 from the Central Area Committee as a contribution towards the Let's Talk Reading project.

Reason: To improve child and adult literacy in Central Ipswich through interventions and additional support to children and families

39. CAC/17/12 Funding Request: Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum: Men's Group and Children's Dance Group

39.1. Ms Firbank reported that £2,000 was requested by the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum (CACHSF) to enable the Men's Health and Well-Being Group to continue and to initiate a Dance Group for young people.

39.2. Mr Clem Turner, Chair of the CACHSF, provided an overview of the work of the CACHSF with the following key points:

- Surveys were undertaken with the local African and Caribbean community to identify the health issues that most affected people.
- The top concerns were diabetes, prostate cancer and mental health.
- A 6-week course on diabetes was run, which included an exercise element, but it was not well attended by men.
- A separate men's group was then established that provided a focus on men's health issues, in particular prostate cancer awareness and mental health concerns. This group has currently been suspended due to lack of funding.
- CACHSF want to reinstate this men's group, which has proved to be a lifesaver in some cases, and some fundraising activities have taken place towards this.

39.3. Councillor Lockington: Prostate cancer could potentially affect any man; does there need to be a specific group for Caribbean men?

Prostate cancer was more prevalent in African and Caribbean men, with 1 in 4 men likely to contract this form of cancer, in comparison to 1 in 10 men in other parts of the population. Diabetes was also more prevalent due to the Caribbean diet and a healthy cooking class has been run and a book of healthy eating recipes was also produced. There has also been an increase in people attending the mental health group, both men and women.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £2,000 from the Central Area Committee for the Caribbean and African Community Health Support Forum for the continuation of the Men's Health and Well-Being Group and to initiate a Dance Group for young people.

Reason: These projects would provide activities that were beneficial for health and well-being and would also strengthen social integration and communication between community members and service providers.

40. CAC/17/13 Area Action Plan Update

40.1. Ms Firbank reported that the slideshow shown prior to the start of the meeting illustrated some of the outcomes from the Fun Palace event that took place at Ipswich County Library in October, which was funded by the Area Committee, and the resources provided would be used for future community events at the Library.

40.2. Ms Firbank reported that the Black History Month Celebration Event, that was also part funded by the Area Committee, had taken place on 21 October 2017 and was very successful.

Resolved:

that the updated Central Area Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 be noted.

Reason: Priorities provide the basis of an action plan that will enable the Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and will help demonstrate how its budget is being allocated to deliver the priorities set for the Area.

41. Chairman's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

41.1. The Chair reported that the outstanding issues from the Little Bramford Lane petition were being pursued and a letter would be sent to the lead petitioner.

41.2. In respect of the littering issue reported at Barrack Corner/Clarkson Street, the Chair provided the following update from the Operations Manager for Waste: The area in question was a popular spot for people to congregate as there was a low wall there and this resulted in littering; as such, the Town Centre crew would check the area daily and cleanse as required.

42. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

42.1. County Councillor Chambers reported that street lighting around the Jubilee Park area would continue to be kept on at night past the temporary period.

42.2. Councillor Lockington reported that the 'No entry' signs at the end of Little Bramford Lane were scheduled to be changed at the end of the next week at the same time as new street lighting was to be installed on Chevallier Street.

- 42.3. Councillor Leeder reported that the Council had tidied up and secured a vacant property on Grimwade Street and advised that people could contact their local Councillors if there was fly-tipping that needed to be cleared.
- 42.4. Councillor Kreidewolf clarified that Superintendent Cutler had requested that the street lighting remain on at night in the Jubilee Park area as the result of a resident-led petition.
- 42.5. Councillor Cook reported that drug-related issues remained prevalent in the east of the town centre, especially around Rope Walk, and the legal closure of premises had taken place. Councillor Cook added that a recent Licensing Sub-Committee had considered the application for a corner shop to be licensed till 5am, but in light of representations received, the licence was restricted to up to 11pm only.

43. CAC/17/14 Area Committee Budget Update

- 43.1. Mr Fairclough, Head of Culture and Environment, reported that at the start of the meeting the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £37,821.77 available to spend on its priorities.
- 43.2. Following the financial commitment of £7,865 arising from the approved funding requests, the Central Area Committee now had a budget of £29,956.77 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 8.28 pm

Chair