

# **SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2018**  
**GIPPING ROOM, GRAFTON HOUSE**  
**6.30 PM**

**Present:** Bridge Ward Councillors: B Rudkin and P Smart  
Gipping Ward Councillors: D Ellesmere, P Gardiner and J Macartney  
Sprites Ward Councillors: R Fern and C Smart  
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: N Cenci, T Grant and B Hall

There were 13 members of the public in attendance.

**52. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clarke and Councillor Powell.

**53. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2017**

53.1. Minute 43.1 – Bridge Ward The following amendment be made – ‘*Councillor P Smart advised that a recent planning application had been received for housing at Griffin Wharf. The application included play equipment that was much needed at this development.*’

**Resolved:**

**that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017, with the amendment above, be signed as a true record.**

**54. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business**

**Resolved:**

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

**55. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**56. Chair's Update and Actions from the Previous Meeting**

There were no updates from the previous meeting.

**57. Police Priorities - South West Ipswich**

- 57.1. Sgt Curtis reported that the policing priorities for January had been focussed around vehicle crime within South West Ipswich. This included theft from transit vans of both tools and loose change. Two significant arrests had been made and an ongoing investigation continued to be undertaken.
- 57.2. The second priority had been the issues identified within Alderman Park such as needle finds. Community intelligence continued to help highlight the issues and multiagency work would continue within the park to hopefully disrupt any drug activity and antisocial behaviour in the area. In relation to this, Operation Velocity continued as part of the County Lines initiative.
- 57.3. A resident asked for further information around the drug activity that had been witnessed in Gippeswyk Park. Sgt Curtis confirmed that no intelligence had been received regarding the area however, any information could be reported to the Police online and this would then be assessed.
- 57.4. A resident asked for an update on the issues around Shenstone Drive/Pelican Close. Sgt Curtis confirmed that with regards to Shenstone Drive there had been a specific issue raised and this had resulted in a closure order being issued.
- 57.5. A resident asked if there had been any concerns regarding motorbikes in Pinewood. It was confirmed that this would be Hadleigh SNT's responsibility however, work continued to be undertaken in this area to try and identify and resolve the issues that had been raised.
- 57.6. Councillor C Smart thanked the police for their assistance with a personal matter and their prompt service.

**58. Upper Orwell Crossing Update (Presentation)**

- 58.1. Suzanne Buck, Project Manager Upper Orwell Crossing, provided an update on the works that had started and the future works planned for the Upper Orwell Crossing.
- 58.2. The Officer confirmed that ground investigation work had begun and this would help provide more information about the geographical detail of the area. The works would be extensive and wherever the contractors for the project had been placed, there would be banners/fencing to identify what the work being undertaken there was for.
- 58.3. The Officer reported that cone penetration testing had begun around the Bishops Street area and that the work to be undertaken in the river, although

weather dependent, had been scheduled to commence Friday 19 January 2018. A total of 28 boreholes would be made and a number of tests would be carried out on the samples of material found to determine the strength of the material and guide the design of the crossing. Tests would also be undertaken for architectural purposes within the area.

- 58.4. The Officer confirmed that the noisiest part of the different types of testing being undertaken as part of the investigations would be due to the percussive and rotary drilling that had to be carried out to obtain the core of the materials. Noise barriers would be put in place and work restricted on land between 7am-7pm. With regards to the work in the river, this would cease at 11pm however, all work undertaken would be dependent on the tide.
- 58.5. With regards to the noise element, work continued to be carried out with IBC's Environmental Health Officers. Noise modelling had been undertaken and a number of different ways to reduce the noise had been considered such as what barriers could be implemented etc. and the operating times had been agreed with the EHO Officers. The work taking place would not cover a large residential area and letters/newsletters about the project had been sent to all residents (4800 properties) who could be affected including contact details for any queries/concerns. The project website also included a Q&A page and as the programme progressed this would be updated.
- 58.6. The Officer confirmed that Public Information Days would be arranged for people to meet with the project team to discuss more about the project.
- 58.7. 2018 would be a significant year for the project as this would be when the structure of the crossing would be developed. The ground investigation had started and later this year it had been anticipated that the alignment would be announced and the design developed could be publicised. The formal consultation for the project would be taking place this year with the formal planning application due to be submitted 2019. It was estimated that the crossing would be finished by 2023.
- 58.8. A resident asked if noise work had already begun and if this could be heard. The Officer confirmed that at present only the cone penetration on land had started and work in the river would not begin until 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- 58.9. The resident stated that the officers had measured the noise in decibels but this was not relevant to noise which would cause disturbance in a house. The Officer advised that the noise had been modelled against the type of noise that the equipment would make.
- 58.10. A concern was raised that the loud noise already heard in the area could be due to the Southern Cement Ship and it was agreed that the resident speak to Councillor Cenci regarding this outside of the meeting.
- 58.11. A resident asked if the Officers could indicate where the crossing would be built. The Officer confirmed that the alignment could not be revealed as this

would have an effect on some businesses however, no residential properties would be directly impacted.

58.12. A resident asked if the possibility of a tunnel had been ruled out. The Officer confirmed that 18 different options for the river crossing had been considered but due to issues with the land/size of the quay, a tunnel would not have been possible.

58.13. Councillor C Smart asked if there would be an effect on the time frame for the programme if something archaeologically significant was found. The Officer advised that at this stage there wouldn't be a direct effect and before any construction could start there would need to be some archaeological work carried out including trenching. This would provide an indication into whether there could be any more interest later on.

## **59. Urban Buzz (Presentation)**

59.1. David Dowding, Urban Buzz, provided a presentation on the wildlife project currently being undertaken in and around Ipswich.

59.2. Mr Dowding confirmed that he had been tasked with creating 100 new wildlife hotspots in Ipswich and surrounding areas that would total 25 hectares overall. The Urban Buzz project had been funded by BIFFA with 10% of funds for the project received by Ipswich Borough Council's Greenways Project.

59.3. The project would include meadows, trees, ponds etc. however, the main focus would be to increase the number of pollinators in the area due to recent decline. There had been some site plans drawn up such as in Bourne Park where different preparation techniques would be used to try and increase the amount of flowers and the number of habitats available for pollinators.

59.4. Mr Dowding confirmed that a number of promotional activities had been carried out including a YouTube video based in Landseer Park, a press release with the East Anglian Daily Times and the project launch at Maidenhall allotments alongside ActivLives.

59.5. With regards to the site work most of this would be undertaken by IBC's Ground Maintenance team and paid for by the project. Partnership working would enable there to be a number of joint events held with schools/different organisations including Suffolk Wildlife Trust and ActivLives. The University of Suffolk had also indicated an interest in recording the wildlife species within Ipswich.

59.6. Mr Dowding confirmed that wildflowers liked different types of soil so some areas had to be left to allow the long grass to grow and this could be a good time to plant seeds. Management of the habitats continued to be important especially with regards to cutting grass.

- 59.7. Councillor Hall asked if a map of the areas that would be targeted in Ipswich was available. Mr Dowding confirmed that once a map had been created this could be forwarded to Councillors.
- 59.8. Councillor Fern advised that the project would be well received by schools in the area and a positive project for them to be involved with. He also recommended that the long grass in Birkfield Drive be included as one of the hotspots.
- 59.9. Councillor Rudkin asked how invasive scouring an area could be and identified the roundabout at London Road as a potential area for consideration. Mr Dowding confirmed that scouring would be undertaken when dealing with tree roots however, work on roundabouts could be done with a handheld pedestrian machine although this would be slower.
- 59.10. In response to a resident, Mr Dowding confirmed that he would revisit their allotment in the summer and would provide seeds for planting.
- 59.11. A resident asked if specific seeds or a variety would be planted. Mr Dowding advised that pollinator friendly seeds would be used and the type of seed planted would be dependent on the soil.

## **60. Ward Councillor's Feedback from their Communities**

### Bridge Ward

- 60.1. Councillor P Smart reported that improvements to make the junction near Stoke bridge/Dock Street more vehicle and pedestrian friendly would be made within the next couple of months and had been funded with Section 106 money
- 60.2. Councillor Rudkin reported that she and Councillor P Smart had distributed leaflets in the area regarding the Upper Orwell Crossing and the concerns residents had on the effect this could have on traffic etc. and advised it would be important to continue to ask SCC questions regarding the traffic in particular.

### Stoke Park Ward

- 60.3. Councillor Cenci reported that vehicle crime had become an issue in Stoke Park and arrests had been made regarding this. Another key concern had been regarding trees and it was suggested that a presentation around the Council's Tree Policy could be brought to a future South West Area Committee meeting. Antisocial Behaviour had also picked up again and following concerns raised at the meeting, Councillor Cenci agreed to look into the matter around the Stoke Park shops area further.

### Gipping Ward

- 60.4. Councillor Ellesmere reported that with regards to the bus changes that had affected South West Ipswich, IBC had been particularly concerned that the

Number 14 service be maintained as this was much needed. Another concern had been regarding the changes that could leave the 'triangle' unserved during the evenings and IBC had been looking to ensure that the late night service could be continued.

- 60.5. A developer had been secured for The Malthouse for which a loan had been granted to them from the Local Enterprise Partnership. Once planning permissions had been approved work could start in the next few months. It was also confirmed that at the end of 2017 Ipswich's Purple Flag Scheme had been assessed and Ipswich had retained Purple Flag Status.
- 60.6. Councillor Ellesmere confirmed that funding had been secured from additional business rate income and this had been used to consider the areas where a clear link between deprived areas and education achievement had been identified. Four schools in Suffolk (two of which were located in the South West Ipswich) had been provided £250,000 funding for Head teachers to create a programme to raise the education achievement within their schools and this would be externally monitored.
- 60.7. Councillor Ellesmere also reported that with regards to the recent extreme weather, this generated a large amount of work for IBC and any issues with regards to trees may not be resolved immediately as urgent cases would require intervention first.

#### Sprites Ward

- 60.8. Councillor Fern advised that street lights and pothole's remained a regular concern and any identified had been reported online to Suffolk County Council.
- 60.9. A new engineering facility would be opened shortly at Suffolk New College and Councillor Fern reported that two information sessions would be provided on Dementia on Tuesday 23 January 2018 and Thursday 25 January 2018 at 2.00pm in the Methodist Church at Kingfisher Avenue.

### **61. Suffolk County Councillors Update**

- 61.1. County Councillor Gardiner reported that he was still waiting for the scheme to be provided for a crossing at Birkfield Drive and Stone Lodge Lane as reported at the previous meeting. The double yellow lines on Radcliffe Drive also required attention but there had been some issues around the ability to spend the locality highway budget. County Councillor P West agreed to speak with County Councillor Gardiner and County Councillor Armitage about this outside of the meeting.
- 61.2. County Councillor Abbot reminded residents that Suffolk County Council or the resident's local County Councillor could be contacted in the first instance of a street light going off to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

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

62.1. The following question had been received from a resident:-  
***“Chantry Library is sometimes closed due to the antisocial behaviour in the area. Please could you clarify?”***

62.2. Chantry Library would be temporarily closed on the following Sundays: 24 December, 31 December, 7 January, 14 January and 21 January. These closures were a temporary measure, affecting Sundays only, to enable Suffolk Libraries to work out how best to manage some anti-social behaviour issues which had escalated in recent weeks.

Suffolk Libraries apologised for any inconvenience but felt this move was in the best interests of customers and staff whose wellbeing was always their first priority. The problem had been worse on Sundays and it was hoped that closing on Sundays for a few weeks, would help the situation and also enable Suffolk Libraries to work with staff and other organisations on potential solutions. The library would remain open as normal at other times.

Libraries were warm and welcoming places which were open to everyone and from time to time some visitors to the library acted in a way which was detrimental to staff and other customers. They always took these issues very seriously and knew from past experience that sometimes closing a library at certain times or on certain days for a short time could help alleviate the issues. The monthly health walk which started from outside the library on 7 January would still be going ahead as usual.

62.3. The following question had been received from a resident:-

***“Please provide an update on the Ipswich Bus timetables in South West Ipswich, including the Carters bus timetables.”***

62.4. Councillor Gardiner reported that the new Ipswich Bus timetables would be available the first week of February 2018 and although there could be changes should some of the routes be supplemented by Ipswich Borough Council, revised timetables would be issued in that instance.

62.5. Councillor Ellesmere reported that the route and times that Ipswich Buses had deregistered where IBC hoped to subsidise these, would have to go out to tender legally and therefore it was not known at this time if the service would be run by Ipswich Buses or another operator.

62.6. A resident suggested that the building at the side of Chantry Library would be an appropriate place for the Safer Neighbourhood Watch/Police to reside. It was confirmed that this had been considered before and although planning permission had been granted, the team had instead been located at Landmark House.

62.7. A resident asked if the number 14 Service would be going to tender and it was confirmed that it would be and although the operator of the service would not

be known until the tender period had ended, the number 14 service would remain. Councillor P Smart advised that there could be a slight alteration to the route.

**63. SWAC/17/17 Funding Request: ActivLives ActivHubs Programme 2018-19**

- 63.1. Ms Thorton presented this item which sought a contribution towards the ActivLives ActivHubs Programme for 2018/19. ActivLives had been running for 11 years and became an independent charity in 2012 working across Ipswich to provide a number of different services predominately focussed on people aged 45+. The services provided aimed to reduce loneliness and deliver meaningful activities (such as sports, gardening etc.) Other activities included health walks, a former carer's project and lunch clubs.
- 63.2. Councillor Hall asked how immobile people could attend activities. It was confirmed that transport could be one of the biggest barriers for people and in the past fundraising events had been undertaken so that a one off minibus service could be provided. Another part of the service included assisting people from their homes to the activities.
- 63.3. It was agreed that the project had grown significantly since it had begun and continued to be a vital service.

**Resolved:**

**that £1,356.00 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget in contribution to the ActivHubs Programme 2018/19, be agreed.**

Reasons:

1. To improve the opportunity for social support of older people in South West Ipswich
2. To improve the opportunity for exercise for older people in South West Ipswich
3. To reduce the incidence of falls for older people in South West Ipswich

**64. SWAC/17/18 Funding Request: Lofty Heights**

- 64.1. Ms Olive Quinton presented this item which sought a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase the capacity and efficiency of Lofty Heights CIC. Lofty Heights were a community interest company whom provided training and employment opportunities for young people and the opportunity to work with residents who required assistance to improve their surroundings which included a de-cluttering service and garden clearance. Lofty Heights provided a compassionate service and was much needed for those vulnerable people.
- 64.2. Councillor Rudkin asked if early intervention was available for people at risk of extreme cluttered properties. Ms Quinton advised that unless severe mental health problems had been identified there was no support available at this time. Lofty Heights hoped to be able to expand their service further in the future and Ms Quinton agreed to speak to Councillor Rudkin outside of the meeting.



64.3. Ms Quinton reported that Lofty Heights had been charged to use the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Ipswich for "Commercial Waste". Councillor P Smart and County Councillor West agreed to consider the matter further as this should fall under domestic waste.

**Resolved:**

**that £1,260 be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget as a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase capacity and improve the efficiency of the work of Lofty Heights CIC in Ipswich, be agreed.**

Reason: To determine the allocation of funding as a contribution towards the purchase of a van to increase capacity and improve the efficiency of the organisation's work in Ipswich.

**65. SWAC/17/19 Area Action Plan Update**

65.1. The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Action Plan for the South West Area and as part of the monitoring process gave an update on the funding which had been allocated at the meeting held in November 2017.

65.2. The Ipswich Community Playbus continued to operate successfully and had secured additional funding from the South East Area Committee to provide a new location for the bus to stop.

65.3. The Let's Talk Reading project had also started working alongside Read Easy UK and a Read Easy Ipswich volunteer scheme would be launched in the near future aimed towards adult reading.

65.4. Councillor Ellesmere suggested that Stoke High and Chantry Academy could be asked to attend a future meeting to provide a presentation around the work which would be undertaken following the extra funding that had been received.

**Resolved:**

**That the revised South West Area action plan at appendix 1 of the report ref: SWAC/17/19, 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 in the area

**66. SWAC/17/20 Area Committee Budget Update**

66.1. The Head of Housing & Customer Services reported that at the beginning of the meeting the South West Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £46, 809. 73 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for South West Ipswich. Following the funding allocated, the budget now totalled £44,193.73.

**Resolved:**

**That the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the report Ref No: SWAC/17/20 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.

**67. Dates of Future Meetings 2018/19, all to be held at 6.30pm**

- **Thursday 8 March 2018 – Chantry Methodist Church, Kingfisher Avenue IP2 0QN**
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – Chantry Academy, Mallard Way (venues to be arranged)**
- **Thursday 6 September 2018**
- **Thursday 1 November 2018**
- **Thursday 10 January 2019 – Gipping Room, Grafton House, Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2DE**
- **Thursday 7 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

**Chair**