

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018

**ALAN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH,
ALAN ROAD, IP3 8EZ**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly, M Cook and A Hopgood
Holywells Ward Councillors: B Studd, G Debman and E Harsant
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber and B Knowles
SCC Councillors: M Gaylard and B Quinton

There were 42 members of the public in attendance.

47. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Maguire and County Councillor Clements.

48. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2017 be signed as a true record.

49. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

50. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Knowles, being involved with another local Bowls Club, declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (report SEAC/17/17) and left the room during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Harsant, being the accounts auditor for the Holywells Bowls Club, declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (report SEAC/17/17) and left the room during the consideration of this item.

51. To Confirm the Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that future dates and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 14 March 2018, 7pm – Nansen Road Baptist Church Hall, Nansen Road, IP3 9HN**
- **Wednesday 6 June 2018, 7pm – All Hallows Church Hall, Landseer Road, IP3 0JH**
- **Wednesday 18 July 2018, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 12 September 2018, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**
- **Wednesday 21 November 2018, 7pm – Gainsborough ward**
- **Wednesday 16 January 2019, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 13 March 2019, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

52. Chairman's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

52.1. The Chair reported that a handout of the responses received to previous actions was available at the meeting. The following points were raised in relation to the actions:

- Minute 24.3: Holywells Park Travel Plan: Councillor Debman was disappointed with the small number of responses received to previous Travel Plan surveys.
Action: Councillors to follow this up with Officers.
- Minute 24.4: Kerbs on Leslie Road: County Councillor Quinton reported that Suffolk Highways Officers had advised that improvements to this junction could potentially be included as part of the Ipswich Radial Routes scheme for Nacton Road.
- Minute 41.4: Quarterly crime statistics: Councillor Cook commented that the statistics on the Home Office website could be downloaded for future agendas.

53. Presentation: Upper Orwell Crossings Project Update

53.1. The Chair introduced Ms Suzanne Buck, Project Manager for the Upper Orwell Crossings, who gave a presentation with the following key points:

- Katherine Potts appointed as the Consultation Officer for the Ipswich and Lowestoft Crossings Projects.

- The Ground Investigation works would be starting next week by specialists Fugro Geo Services Ltd in order to map the local geology of the area and determine the strength of materials.
- Works would commence in the compound, with the river works due to start the following week.
- 28 bore holes would be drilled out, as well as cone penetration testing and excavated trial pits on land.
- Archaeologists would be undertaking a watching brief during the excavation works.
- Barriers would be employed to mitigate noise and the compound would operate off battery pack power overnight; noise levels would be monitored throughout the operations.
- 4,800 newsletters had been sent out to residents, local businesses and service providers to advise of changes in noise levels arising from the works, and the equipment and rigs used would be clearly marked with project banners.
- Project updates as the works progress could be found on the website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/upperorwellcrossings, along with telephone and email contact information.
- Following the Ground Investigation works, public consultation on the proposed designs would take place in autumn 2018, including focus groups, and the application for Development Consent Order (DCO) would be submitted in spring 2019; if consent was granted, construction would commence in 2020.

53.2. Councillor Debman: If the ground works don't find chalk, will the project still go ahead? It's clear that you already know where the bridge will be located and residents on the Rivers estate are very concerned.

The location of the chalk was known, but its depth needed to be confirmed to determine how many piles would be needed. The alignment of the bridge was a key issue; there was little scope for variation for the landing points due to physical constraints, e.g. railway sidings, navigation channels and general access. Two transport models were being developed to demonstrate the benefits and potential local impacts. Engaging with the public was key to identifying local issues and how best to mitigate them, and focus groups would be set up as part of this process.

53.3. Councillor Cook: If there are any noise nuisance issues, they can be reported to the Council's out of hours service on Ipswich 433115. Does the transport model reinforce the business case, i.e. a proposed increase of over 1,000 vehicles per hour along Cliff Lane?

The increase in traffic would be of that order; the impact would be looked at and measures put in place to mitigate it. Whilst there would be local impact, the new link would be of benefit to the town centre and Ipswich as a whole.

53.4. Councillor Cook: When will the new transport model be made public? *The model itself was not easy to share, but scenarios were being modelled for different times of the day. The outcomes from the model could be shared and would be available before the public consultation in May/June 2018.*

- 53.5. Local resident: Will there be any impact in terms of vibration from the drilling of the bore holes?
The drilling would be intermittent, as there would be breaks to clear out the bore holes. The impact of any vibration was not expected to extend too far and investigation works had been carried out in relation to neighbouring buildings.
- 53.6. County Councillor Gaylard: How will the focus groups be set up in terms of membership and resident involvement, what will be their purpose and how much weight will be given to their output?
The starting point for involvement in the focus groups would be those people who showed an interest in the project during the 2016 public consultation process, which would be mostly residents plus some business members. The purpose of the focus groups would be to get a greater understanding of the concerns of local people, looking at options to mitigate concerns and getting feedback on these options.
- 53.7. Local resident: There has not been much consultation recently. The boreholes are in quite discrete places, but there is no map of the route – is this a secret?
Since the consultation in 2016, a lot of work has been undertaken; there had been a delay in obtaining legal permissions for the ground investigation works to go ahead. These works, together with the impact on businesses, would then inform the alignment and location of the landing points, and members of the business community have been kept up-to-date. Once there was certainty over the alignment, this information would be made public.

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

- 54.1. Local resident: There was an article in the January edition of the Ipswich Flyer, where the Leader of the Council reported that the Secretary of State had turned down the Ravenswood UVW development as the 94 affordable homes was considered as ‘too much affordable housing’ and more expensive homes needed to be built. Was the Leader misquoted? Ravenswood residents have been happy with the mixture of tenure throughout the development to date and wished to see this approach adopted for the UVW development.
There has been no specific proposal put forward for the UVW development as yet. When this was taken forward, there would be proper consultation with residents, and the market housing would be considered as part of the planning application.
- 54.2. Local resident: I have lived in Hockney Gardens for 30 years and we have suffered the putrid odour from the sewerage works over the years. About 10 years ago, the Council worked closely with Anglian Water and the situation was cured, but the odour has returned again, especially about 5pm. Can the Council address this with Anglian Water?
Previously the odour was originating from the point where the sewerage was flowing into the site and Anglian Water adjusted the chemical dosing on route to the plant. In order to raise the issue with Anglian Water, the Council would need to have evidence of when and where this was happening; therefore, it was important that people report the issue to the Council’s Environmental Health Officers by calling Ipswich 433115, which would help Anglian Water to

identify what was causing the problem.

- 54.3. Councillor Debman: I have also noticed this problem on Cliff Lane. Previously, Anglian Water set up a consumer panel for the Rivers estate to raise these issues – could this be reinstated?
- 54.4. Local resident: There have been considerable traffic delays getting across town because of the number of roadworks being undertaken at the same time, i.e. on Nacton Road, Norwich Road, Wherstead Road.
Unfortunately, gas works have been scheduled on Norwich Road at the same time as other junction improvements were taking place in other parts of the town. Despite the current inconvenience, the junction improvements would be of long-term benefit.

55. Policing Update

- 55.1. The Chair introduced Inspector Andy Pursehouse of the Ipswich East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following update on policing priorities:

A new Sergeant, Chris Chaplin, has joined the SNT, alongside Sergeant Louisa Masterson.

Athena Hall Car Park anti-social behaviour: There has been recent issues with vehicle noise, loud music, youths hanging around and drug use. The Police were working with the Management Company of the car park to close the car park at 8pm in the evening; additionally, Section 59 powers could be used to seize a vehicle if it was being used in an anti-social manner and checks were being made in relation to the safety/insurance of vehicles.

Gladstone Road: There have been no further incidents of anti-social behaviour reported since mid-November; this issue may have been displaced to Athena Hall, but patrols were continuing. Retrospective planning permission had been granted in relation to the Mini Market on Foxhall Road, but conditions had been imposed on opening hours and management of the premises.

Holy Trinity Church: Covert CCTV was installed and no further incidents have been reported. The Church was considering installing permanent CCTV cameras.

Neptune and Orwell Quays: The Police were working with Suffolk Highways on signage and bollards to prevent access by motorcycles as the current bollards were set too far apart; patrols were continuing.

Youth anti-social behaviour at Gainsborough Library: A lot of work has taken place in conjunction with the Youth Offending Service and some individuals have received cautions or been barred. Whilst there has been a reduction in incidents, some of the offenders had returned and the response would be escalated as necessary.

The Speed Indication Device (SID) had been repaired and was now in use on a list of roads in the area, as suggested by local Councillors.

Theft of vehicle number plates: Stolen number plates could be used as false number plates anywhere; please report any incidents to the Police, especially if stolen at night.

- 55.2. Inspector Pursehouse presented Police statistics across Suffolk and for the Ipswich East SNT area, whose crime levels were lower in comparison to the other 2 Ipswich SNT areas. Comparative crime statistics for Norwich were 15% higher than in Ipswich.
- 55.3. Local resident: The issues in Gladstone Road were probably less frequent due to the winter weather. What is the cost of phone calls to 101 – does the public get charged for reporting crime?
A call to 101 cost 15p regardless of the length of the call; calls to 999 were free.
- 55.4. Councillor Cook: In Ipswich, burglaries were up by 70% year on year (to June 2017), whereas in West Suffolk there was only a 3% increase, Suffolk Coastal there was a 4% decrease and in Waveney there was an 18% decrease. Why was the increase in Ipswich so high – has Ipswich not got the right level of resource?
Inspector Pursehouse commented that he would need to look into the detail of this statistic in order to respond.
- 55.5. Councillor Debman: Could the SID be deployed on Cliff Lane?
Action: This request would be forwarded to the South East Neighbourhood Partnership meeting for consideration.

56. Presentation: Urban Buzz

- 56.1. Mr David Dowding, , Urban Buzz Project Officer, gave a presentation on the Buglife Urban Buzz project with the following key points:
- This 2-year initiative has been joint funded by BIFFA and the Council's Greenways Project in order to create 100 new wildlife hot spots across Ipswich and the surrounding area to attract pollinators.
 - The aim was to create 25 hectares of new habitats, e.g. wildflower meadows, hedgerows, ponds, to attract wildlife.
 - The project was launched in association with ActivLives, who would be cultivating plants and germinating seeds for this project.
 - Strips of land currently of minimal habitat value would be dug up and re-seeded.
 - Site plans for areas to be created would be circulated to local Friends groups, community groups, ward Councillors and local businesses to make them aware before the works commence.
 - The project would engage with wildlife groups and community groups, with events being held at various locations, such as Holywells Park; the University of Suffolk would also be undertaking recording of insects as part of their Biosciences course.

- For more information, see www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz or email: david.dowding@buglife.org.uk.

56.2. Local resident (Friends of Murray Park): There is a small area that has been designated as a wildlife area; the Friends would be keen to get involved in this project.
Further seeds were added to that designated area and another area was being cultivated at the top corner near the yellow gate; members of the public and Friends Groups were welcome to take part in the project.

57. SEAC/17/15 Funding Request: ActivLives ActivHubs Programme 2018/19

57.1. Ms Julie Stokes, CEO ActivLives, outlined the range of activities provided by ActivLives, which were focused on people in the 45+ age range, especially within some of the more deprived areas of Ipswich. £4,678.50 was requested to develop a new session at the existing hub at All Hallows Sheltered Housing Scheme and establish a new ActivHub within South East Ipswich to deliver a range of activities to help combat social isolation, improve health and reduced the risk of falls in the elderly.

57.2. Councillor Harsant: Was the California Club (listed under North East Ipswich) in South East Ipswich?
There has been issues finding venues within some areas; the North East Area Committee was consulted as this venue was just outside the North East Ipswich boundary, however, it was still accessible to people in that area. There has been some crossover of people attending venues in different areas, so the costs for the project have been spread across the 5 Area Committees.

57.3. Councillor Harsant: The conservatory at Holywells Park might be a suitable venue.
This venue would be considered; any other suggestions for potential venues were also welcomed.

57.4. Councillor Cook: ActivLives provides a big benefit to both SCC and the NHS in terms of social care; are these organisations contributing?
SCC have funded other ActivLives projects, and were approached for this project, but they have not allocated any funding. In terms of public health funding, clinical and hospital provision was the main priority, with little funding available for prevention.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £4,678.50 from the South East Area Committee budget for the delivery of the ActivHubs 2018-19 Programme in South East Ipswich.

Reason: The ActivHubs project will provide a service in South East Ipswich to improve the opportunity for social support of older people, to improve the opportunity for exercise for older people and to reduce the incidence of falls for older people.

58. SEAC/17/16 Funding Request: Lofty Heights

- 58.1. Ms Olive Quinton, Chief Executive of Lofty Heights, reported that Lofty Heights was established as a loft clearance service to enable those facing fuel poverty to have free loft insulation installed. The service has been expanded to offer a general de-cluttering service and has provided employment and training opportunities to young people currently not in education/employment/training (NEETs). £945 was requested as a contribution towards the purchase of a more reliable van to help undertake this work.
- 58.2. Councillor Connelly: Were all the work requests in the appendix met by Lofty Heights and do clients have to pay for the service?
Lofty Heights receive no funding, so there has to be a charge for the service in order to cover costs; however, 80% of requests were funded through either Public Health, Social Care or Social Housing providers.
- 58.3. Councillor Connelly: Costs could be a barrier to those who need the service most.
The Rope Trust charity might be able to help people with the costs.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £945 from the South East Area Committee budget for Lofty Heights as a contribution towards the purchase of a van.

Reason: The purchase of a van will increase capacity and improve the efficiency of the organisation's work in Ipswich.

59. SEAC/17/17 Funding Request: Holywells Bowls Club Green Improvements

- 59.1. In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Connelly was elected temporary Chair for the duration of this agenda item.
- 59.2. Mr Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £1,290 was requested by the Holywells Bowls Club for improvements to the bowls green and its surrounds to improve access and drainage. The Bowls Club was well-used by the local community, with most of its members living within a 3-mile radius, and was keen to engage with the community through Cliff Lane Primary School and events in Holywells Park.
- 59.3. Councillor Connelly: The Bowls Club were seeking funding for only the materials as the members would be carrying out the works themselves on a voluntary basis.
- 59.4. Councillor Debman: These improvements would benefit both the Club and the local community.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £1,290 from the South East Area Committee budget to the Holywells Bowls Club for improvements to its facilities.

Reason: The improvements to facilities at the Holywells Bowls Club would provide leisure and exercise benefits to the residents of South East Ipswich

60. SEAC/17/18 Funding Request: Back Hamlet Allotments

60.1. Mr Lanning reported that £731.83 was requested for tarmac repairs to the entranceway of the Back Hamlet allotments in accordance with the quote provided by the Council's Parks & Open Spaces Team.

60.2. In response to Councillor Debman's concern about the quality of the works, Mr Lanning reported that Councillors could view the works when complete and photographs could be presented at a future meeting.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £731.83 from the South East Area Committee budget for improvements to the entranceway of the Back Hamlet allotments.

Reason: To improve access to the Back Hamlet allotments for all allotment holders and their guests

61. SEAC/17/19 Funding Request: Trim Trail at Murray Park

61.1. Mr Lanning reported that the Friends of Murray Park were requesting £3,781.91 of funding as a contribution towards exercise equipment to provide a 'Trim Trail' at the north end of Murray Park and to provide a new set of goalposts that could be moved around the park as necessary. The options for the exercise equipment was set out in the report, depending on the level of funding received from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' community grant.

61.2. Councillor Cook: What is the cost of maintaining the new equipment after installation and how will this be met?

The Parks and Open Spaces Team would inspect and repair the equipment as necessary; the proposed equipment should last for a minimum of 10 years.

Councillor Cook requested that future funding requests for equipment include the cost of future maintenance.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £3,781.91 from the South East Area Committee budget towards the provision of Trim Trail exercise equipment and goalposts at Murray Park recreation ground.

Reason: To improve the provision for adults at the park, the opportunity for exercise in the area, the balance of use in the park and the play surface for football in the park.

62. SEAC/17/20 Funding Request: Devonshire Road Alley Gates

- 62.1. Mr Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, reported that a revised recommendation had been tabled as the correct County Councillor for this funding request was County Councillor Gaylard, plus the request was now for £2,000 from the South East Area Committee budget with the remainder to be funded by either County Councillor Gaylard's locality budget or, if unavailable, from the Council's Housing Revenue Account.
- 62.2. Mr Blofield reported that 4 alley gates had been requested behind properties 2 to 48 Devonshire Road in response to residents' concerns about the persistent anti-social behaviour, including drug activity, taking place in the alleyways.
- 62.3. County Councillor Gaylard commented that most of her locality funding had already been committed, but she would be able to make a small contribution.
- 62.4. Councillor Harsant: Residents were in support of the installation of these alley gates and would cover the cost of any replacement keys as necessary.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee supports the installation of alley gates to the passageways behind 2 to 48 Devonshire Road by allocating £2,000 from the South East Area Committee budget, with the remainder being funded either from County Councillor Gaylard's locality fund or, if unavailable, from the Council's Housing Revenue Account.

Reason: To stop the anti-social behaviour experienced by these residents by the current use of these alley ways.

63. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 63.1. Councillor Studd reported that the remembrance tree in Holywells Park, which commemorated infant deaths, had been vandalised again and Inspector Pursehouse was investigating this incident.
- 63.2. County Councillor Gaylard reported that a planning application had been submitted in relation to the woodland area behind Rosehill Road and Cavendish Street; objections to the proposals could be submitted until 22 January 2018.
- 63.3. Councillor Connelly reported that the Gainsborough Community People's Forum were still looking for new members to get involved with identifying community projects that could use the grant funding; please contact Gainsborough Library for more information.
- 63.4. County Councillor Quinton reported that there had been many objections to the Suffolk Highways proposals for junction improvements in the area. Meanwhile,

the traffic measures on Ravenswood were coming to fruition.

63.5. Councillor Knowles reported that the proposals for Rands Way to be made into a cul-de-sac had been dropped by Suffolk Highways.

64. SEAC/17/21 Area Committee Financial Update

64.1. Mr Blofield reported that following the approval of funding bids totalling £13,427.24, the South East Area Committee now had £13,712.49 available to spend on the priorities in its Action Plan.

Resolved:

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.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm

Chair