

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018
ST RAPHAEL CLUB, ST RAPHAEL COURT,
HIGHFIELD ROAD IP1 6DA
7.00 PM**

Present: Castle Hill Ward Councillors: I Fisher, D Goldsmith and R Vickery
Whitehouse Ward Councillors: G Chisholm, M Goonan and C Wright
Whitton Ward Councillors: S Meudec, C Shaw and E Xhaferaj

There were 26 members of the public in attendance.

1. Election of Chair

Resolved:

that Councillor C Wright be elected as Chair of the North West Area Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

1.1 The Chair welcomed Councillor C Shaw to the North West Area Committee who had been elected to Whitton ward. He confirmed that he and Councillor R Vickery had been re-elected to Whitehouse and Castle Hill wards respectively.

2. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

3. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2018

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2018, be signed as a true record.

4. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

- 4.1 The Chair reported that Item 14, NWAC/18/04 Area Action Plan Priorities, would be deferred until the next meeting to allow for further work to be undertaken.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Police Priorities

- 6.1 Sgt Stuart Curtis provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues in the North West of Ipswich.
- 6.2 There had been no further reports of criminal damage to vehicles at Kerry Avenue and the situation at Shenstone Drive had improved with no further reports of anti-social behaviour. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had been investigating general vehicle crime in the area and incidents had reduced since two individuals had been arrested.
- 6.3 The priorities for June 2018 would be, to continue to work with the Parks and Open Spaces Team at IBC, Greenways and Ipswich Wildlife Group to reduce anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and needle finds in parks across Ipswich with Street Meets occurring and increased patrols. Operation Parkland would continue (to address anti-social behaviour during the school summer holidays) through early engagement with schools and hotspots had been identified through resident consultation.
- 6.4 As a result of the recent incidents in the South East of Ipswich, an increased Police presence had been deployed in the area to manage community tension and to provide reassurance to the public. Dialogue with all agencies continued to take place and the Chair stressed the importance of reporting any issues of anti-social behaviour to the Police immediately it occurred.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked Sgt Curtis for his attendance at the meeting.

7. Ipswich Buses Update

- 7.1 Mr Andy Cook, the Operations Manager for Ipswich Buses reported that following a review of services across the town and in rural areas, there had been no change to the Nos 9 and 10 bus services in the North West and there had been minor changes to the No 8 service. The new No 7 route, extended to the Anglia Retail Park near Asda, had bedded in well and it was hoped it would be developed further as residents became more aware of the route. Core fares were unchanged although there had been some changes to saver fares.
- 7.2 Mr Cook said that consultants had been employed to undertake the service review and both historic and future routes had been considered. Data had been submitted from both Ipswich Buses and customer knowledge however, there had been a reduction to the service around the Adair Road area. In respect of the change to the route around the Whitehouse Road area it was

now a short walk to the bus stop for the No 7 service, however when the development at the Tooks Bakery site on Old Norwich Road was complete then the service would evolve to match any prospective need.

- 7.3 A resident asked what the criteria was to increase the frequency or to alter any service and Mr Cook said that it was simply passenger numbers however, although the number of concessionary passengers had increased there was a complicated formula and even though increased bus passes had been issued this would not attract any more revenue from Government.
- 7.4 In response to a question about advertising, Mr Cook said that additional promotion of the No 7 service would take place and employees at Asda and Anglia Retail Park would be encouraged to use the service more to travel to work to generate service growth. In respect of the No 8 service passenger numbers were increasing as more office workers were using this service.
- 7.5 Mr Cook confirmed that bus services provided in the North West area were now more reliable and drivers were able to keep to their timetables and as any planned infrastructure changes were made to road systems then changes to routes would evolve.
- 7.6 The Chair thanked Mr Cook for his attendance at the meeting.

8. Chairs Update on Actions from the last meeting

- 8.1 The Chair made reference to a document which was available for residents regarding road closure information for a running event (the Great East Run) due to take place on 16 September 2018.

9. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities

9.1 Whitehouse ward

Councillor Chisholm said that work continued in partnership with the Police and Housing Team with regards to anti-social behaviour and there had been an issue at the path outside The Meeting Place which had now been resolved.

The Central Suffolk and North Ipswich MP, Dr Dan Poulter would be holding an advice bureau on 22 June 2018 and he could be contacted on 01728 726588 to book an appointment to speak to him.

There had been reports of cold callers who claimed to be money saving experts in the North West area and Trading Standards should be contacted on 03454 040506 if any information about this was known.

Castle Hill ward

Councillor Goldsmith reported that the Friends of the Dales, in conjunction with IBC, were looking for volunteers to help with the open spaces in Dales Road to clear paths or remove weeds. The football pitch was now available for use and work was progressing on the play area.

The toilets at Castle Hill Recreation Ground were currently undergoing renovation and were being refurbished with new windows. Registration for the Dog Show on 9 June 2018 would take place at 10.30am with judging at 11.00am.

Whitton ward

Councillor Meudec reported that development work on the former Tooks Bakery site had been delayed until July 2018 and a further update would be given at the next meeting.

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

- 10.1 No questions had been received prior to the meeting however, if residents submitted a question by letter or e-mail prior to the meeting they would receive a full response from an appropriate Officer of the Council.
- 10.2 A resident made reference to serious car parking issues around the commercial area near Wharfedale Road which also presented problems for buses at the junction of Dales Road and Dale Hall Lane. Councillors acknowledged that this had been an ongoing concern however, all cars have roadway parking rights and unless they were illegally parked or not road tax registered then enforcement could not occur. Councillor Fisher said that he often received resident's concerns about this, a public meeting would be arranged and he would update with any details when known. Councillor Wright suggested that residents pass any concerns to the Highways Agency who were able to enforce clamp or removal action.
- 10.3 It was agreed that an update about the 'Jump Off' improvements at the Whitehouse Skate Park would be available at the next meeting.
- 10.4 It was also requested that brickwork at the Whitehouse Park toilets be repaired and it was agreed to pass this concern to the Parks Department.
- 10.5 Discussion took place about overhanging vegetation at the locations of Broadway Lane and Shrubland Avenue in relation to difficult access and the light into some resident's gardens being blocked. It was acknowledged that the trees were in the Academy School grounds at this site and Councillor Vickery agreed to discuss this issue with the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Ipswich & Communities.

11. NWAC/18/01 Area Committee Budget Update

- 11.1 The Operations Manager, Finance presented this item and confirmed that at the start of the new financial year a further £18,200 had been allocated to the North West Area committee budget and Appendix 1 set out the current financial position.
- 11.2 The Area Committee had an option to devolve up to 10% of its annual budget to establish a 'Making A Difference' (MAD) budget for small scale community initiatives and a 10% allocation would equate to £600 per ward for 2018/19.

11.3 The 'Making A Difference' budget spend for 2017/18 had totalled £806 which had resulted in an under spend of £994. It was requested that this be returned to the main unallocated North West Area Committee budget.

Resolved:

- 1. that the financial statement, attached as Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/18/01, be noted.**
- 2. that £1,800 (£600 per ward) be allocated to the Making A Difference (MAD) budget for 2018/19, be agreed.**
- 3. that £994, unspent MAD funding for 2017/18 be returned to the main unallocated North 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 allow the North West Area Committee to devolve up to 10% of its annual budget to support small scale community initiatives.
- c) To release any North West Area Committee budget funding where there is no further expenditure anticipated.

12. NWAC/18/02 Funding request - Venue Hire & Publicity Budget

12.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented this funding request for £500 from the North West Area Committee budget for costs associated with publicity and venue hire for the North West Area Committee for 2018/19.

Resolved:

that £500 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget for costs associated with advertising and venue hire for the North West Area Committee for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/18/02, be agreed.

Reason: To facilitate the good running of the Area Committee thereby meeting the goal of devolving power closer to the people.

13. NWAC/18/03 Area Committee Funding Guidelines

13.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented the Area Committee Funding Guidelines which set out the role of the Area Committees in providing financial support for groups and organisations in the Borough of Ipswich and the process for awarding funding via the Area Committees. The Making A Difference Budget Funding Guidelines had also been updated to clarify how this funding should be utilised and that any unspent funding would be return at the end of

the municipal year. These guidelines were attached at Appendices 1 & 2 of report NWAC/18/03.

- 13.2 Discussion took place about the level of grants determining the level of governance required to encourage smaller funding requests to be submitted, that the statutory requirements would be covered and whether a funding request would benefit a wider community initiative.

Resolved:

that the Area Committee Funding Guidelines and the Making A Difference Budget Funding Guidelines, attached at Appendices 1 & 2 of report Ref No: NWAC/18/03, be agreed and adopted.

Reason: To clearly set out the approach to providing support via Area Committee funding and to provide guidance for the allocation of funding.

14. NWAC/18/04 Area Action Plan Priorities

- 14.1 This item was deferred to the next meeting to allow the Committee to discuss the Area Action Plan priorities further.

15. NWAC/18/05 Funding Request - Bangladeshi Support Centre

- 15.1 Ms Shayra Begum from the Bangladeshi Support Centre presented this item which requested £653.32 from the North West Area Committee budget towards existing projects which would enable the organisation to continue to support vulnerable clients in Ipswich.
- 15.2 The organisation, based at Tower Street offered face to face support and advice to over 40 different nationalities such as; Benefit and Council Tax advice, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, Food Hygiene training and a Tenant Participation Project as well as organised annual cultural events and community fun days. A Supplementary School had been set up to engage in learning, extra-curricular activities and homework, sports clubs and a Befriending Scheme had also been set up.
- 15.3 The Bangladeshi Support Centre offered a valuable service to some of the 17% of the population of Ipswich who were from a non-white British background, improved access to mainstream services and provided relevant training for newcomers.
- 15.4 Councillor Chisholm remarked on the excellent work of the Support Centre to break down barriers and encourage social inclusion. Councillor Meudec explained that the Centre had been operational for over 20 years but since funding had been reduced, additional funding was now required to meet the shortfall. The Chair thanked Ms Shayra Begum for her presentation.

Resolved:

that £653.32 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the overall cost of existing projects run by the Bangladeshi Support Centre, as detailed in report Ref No: NWAC/18/05, be agreed.

Reason: To enable the organisation to continue to support vulnerable clients in Ipswich.

16. NWAC/18/06 Funding Request - Ipswich Women's Festival Group - Women's Voices, Women's Votes 100 Years On

- 16.1 Ms Julie Bateman and Ms Joy Bounds presented this item which requested £878.91 from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of a project to celebrate 100 years of the women's vote.
- 16.2 Among other events taking place over the summer, a celebratory day event would be held on 6 October 2018 at the University of Suffolk to help raise awareness and promote discussion with four keynote speakers attending to inspire, inform and encourage reflection and debate among local women.
- 16.3 Workshops would also be held in schools and links with Whitton Youth Partnership would promote a youth parliament to encourage women to vote and engage in public life. Locations used in the North West area would be Castle Hill Community Centre and The Meeting Place and it was envisaged that money would be brought into the local community.
- 16.4 Discussion took place about the accommodation and transport costs for the 'Women's Quilt' to be brought from Nottingham to be displayed in Ipswich, about the activities being procedural and not political, and the restrictions of women's voting rights from 100 years ago to date. The Chair thanked Ms Julie Bateman and Ms Joy Bounds for their presentation.

Resolved:

that £878.91 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of the Ipswich Women's Festival Group to celebrate 100 years of the women's vote, be agreed.

Reason: To provide funding towards the cost of the project to celebrate 100 years of the women's vote.

17. Dates of Future Meetings for 2018/19 at 7.00pm

- **Thursday 19 July 2018 – Westbourne Academy, Marlow Road IP1 5JN (Venues to be confirmed)**
- **Thursday 13 September 2018**
- **Thursday 8 November 2018**
- **Thursday 17 January 2019**
- **Thursday 14 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chair