

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2019
MUSEUM STREET METHODIST CHURCH,
BLACK HORSE LANE, IP1 2EF
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: J Gibbs, C Jones and C Kreidewolf
SCC Councillors: I Lockington, M Gaylard

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

39. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Abbott and County Councillor Chambers.

40. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018 be signed as a true record.

41. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

41.1. Councillor Jones proposed that Item 10 (report CAC/18/19) be considered directly after Item 6 (Responses to public questions), and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that, subject to Item 10 being considered directly after Item 6, the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

42. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jones, being the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Museums, declared an interest in Item 10 (report CAC/18/19) and left the meeting during the consideration of this item.

43. To Confirm the Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the dates and venues of future meetings be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 6 March 2019, 7pm – St Margaret’s Primary School, Bolton Lane, IP4 2BT**
- **Wednesday 5 June 2019, 7pm – Ipswich Community Church, Clarkson Street, IP1 2JP**
- **Wednesday 31 July 2019, 7pm – Alexandra ward**
- **Wednesday 11 September 2019, 7pm – St Margaret’s ward**
- **Wednesday 20 November 2019, 7pm – Westgate ward**
- **Wednesday 15 January 2020, 7pm – Alexandra ward**
- **Wednesday 11 March 2020, 7pm – St Margaret’s ward**

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

44.1. The Chair introduced Inspector Richard Burton, the new Inspector for the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following update on policing priorities:

44.2. The Police had been busy in the Town Centre over the Christmas period, with the SNT and Special Constables providing leaflets and advice to shoppers about personal security, e.g. not leaving valuables on display or bags open, and this work was continuing as robberies were still being reported.

44.3. The ‘Help our Homeless’ campaign was continuing to address the number of people sleeping rough in the Town Centre, which was currently down to single figures; the Winter Night Shelter scheme was now in operation and would run until spring, offering a referral mechanism for people to find help from various agencies.

44.4. The Police were working with the Council and other Housing providers to address people inappropriately gaining access to communal flats, including Pleasant Row. Additionally, the Police were working with the Council and Suffolk County Council (SCC) to tackle anti-social behaviour at the Cattle Market Bus Station and Arras Square through environmental design, patrols and CCTV.

44.5. The multi-agency approach to disrupt drug activity remained a key priority, currently focusing on the area around Bolton Lane and Woodbridge Road, including Samuel Court and Cemetery Road. Community intelligence was

important to enable the Police to direct resources where most needed; non-urgent incidents could be reported via the SNT website, by calling 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers.

- 44.6. Councillor Cook thanked the Police for the quick response to the incident on Pleasant Row, where the external door of a building had been kicked in and the communal area was being used inappropriately; Sanctuary Housing repaired the door within 24 hours and the Police had regularly patrolled the area in the interim.
- 44.7. Councillor Lockington reported that the Ipswich Central SNT website was not up to date and currently only showed 3 Officers, whereas previously it displayed the whole of the SNT.
Inspector Burton reported that he would request this be updated as the recent re-allocation of Officers was now complete.
- 44.8. Councillor Holmes reported that he and Councillor Lockington had seen drug activity taking place in the open at 11.30am on Saturday around Tuddenham Avenue and Cemetery Road.
Inspector Burton reported that this was one of the main priorities and added that covert operations were being considered in addition to patrols.
- 44.9. Councillor Kreidewolf reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was proposing a 2% Council Tax precept and commented that resource should be utilised to improve the response times of the 101 service, as people were often queued for 30-45 minutes when reporting non-urgent incidents, which in turn had led to people not bothering to report incidents and therefore a loss of intelligence. Councillor Jones concurred that this issue needed to be addressed.
- 44.10. Local resident: The CCTV camera pole near to the Westgate Social Club has been cut down and cables pulled out and left on the fence; a new larger pole has been installed next to it, but this does not have a camera on it. The nearby trees have recently been pollarded to ensure an unobscured view for the CCTV camera, but the CCTV installation had not been completed.
Councillor Kreidewolf commented that the Council was due to replace its current CCTV cameras as part of a £½million upgrade to switch to a digital camera system, and the smaller pole was due to be replaced as part of that upgrade.
- 44.11. Local resident: There were reports in the press of fights and anti-social behaviour at the Cattle Market Bus Station and arrests made.
There have been anti-social behaviour issues in this area, arising from people congregating there, and this was a priority for the Police in light on the impact on local residents.
- 44.12. Local resident: The latest SNT newsletter on the website was July 2018.
Inspector Burton commented that this would be fed back along with the other outstanding website updates.

- 44.13. Local resident: The last newsletter mentioned a Community Protection Notice (CPN) being served on a persistent street beggar; has the level of street begging reduced in the Town Centre?
The Police have been working with partners to reduce street begging and homelessness over the last 5 years, with CPNs as one of the powers available to them, and it remained a priority for the Police.
- 44.14. County Councillor Gaylard reported that the Police had recently apprehended 2 people in relation to a speeding car that hit another car on Belle Vue Road, and the Police had also served a Closure Order on a property in Spring Road as a result of intelligence. County Councillor Gaylard thanked the Police and highlighted the importance of reporting incidents and their outcomes.
- 44.15. The Chair reported that no questions/issues had been received in advance of the meeting and no further questions were raised at the meeting.

45. CAC/18/19 Spending Proposal: Ipswich Museums Workshops for School Visits

- 45.1. Mr Turnbull, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £4,528.59 was requested for the Ipswich Museums to develop three new innovative workshops for school children visiting Christchurch Mansion.
- 45.2. Mr Steward, Ipswich Museums Manager, reported that following changes in the national curriculum, Ipswich Museums was working with schools to develop curriculum based studies for Key Stage 2 pupils. The requested funding would be used to run a pilot scheme of workshops for school visits, with the aim of rolling it out to all schools in Ipswich.
- 45.3. Councillor Holmes commented that this project met with the criteria of the Ofsted Framework to provide a broader curriculum and suggested that the workshops be publicised to school teachers.
- 45.4. Councillor Kreidewolf asked which schools would be included in the pilot scheme. Mr Steward reported that the scheme had been offered to all primary schools in Central Ipswich, and so far, Clifford Road Primary School and St Matthews Primary School were interested; the offer would be repeated to those who had not yet responded and Mr Steward was confident that a third school would take up the offer.
- 45.5. Councillor Lockington asked how the project would be funded if the pilot scheme was successful. Mr Steward reported that the education programme was reviewed every year; the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service had been awarded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status funding and some funding could be allocated from the core budget towards schools provision.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £4,528.59 from the Central Area Committee budget to enable the development of 3 new workshops for school visits to Ipswich Museums.

Reason: To develop a new programme of educational sessions available to schools, and to enable the Ipswich Museum Service to support local schools by offering a different educational method for pupils to enhance curriculum core subject learning.

46. Consultations: Local Plan Review and Public Realm Strategy

- 46.1. Mr Hone, Planning & Development Operations Manager, reported that 2 public consultations were due to commence next week.
- 46.2. The Ipswich Local Plan was last adopted in February 2017. A review had commenced with input from the community and stakeholders, resulting in a set of Ipswich Local Plan Review Preferred Options documents for the plan period up to 2036. The Ipswich Local Plan was also being aligned with the Local Plans for Babergh, Mid-Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal in order to consider strategic issues, such as infrastructure and housing delivery.
- 46.3. The revised Ipswich Local Plan was proposing to deliver 479 housing units per year and to create 15,000 new jobs by the end of the plan period. New goals were identified for the town centre, as a result on pressure on the retail market, and these included regeneration of the Waterfront, supporting infrastructure and sustainable access to the town centre.
- 46.4. The Development Management policies in the Core Strategy have also been reviewed, in particular, policies relating to air quality, shop front design in the town centre, advertisements, town centre night-time economy and delivery of high speed broadband in new developments.
- 46.5. For the Central Ipswich area, the revised Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document identified brownfield sites that could deliver 952 new dwellings, with new housing allocation sites on Cardinal Park (Jewson), Former Police Station, Grimwade Street, plus car park allocation sites and the site for a new school on Carr Street.
- 46.6. The Ipswich Local Plan Review Preferred Options consultation would run from 16 January 2019 up to 13 March 2019.
- 46.7. Mr Taylor, Senior Conservation and Design Officer, reported that the second consultation was in relation to the Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which provided design guidance for the range of public spaces in Ipswich's town centre and Waterfront. Town centres were changing role and identity, and public realm played a key part in this; the aim was to provide quality public spaces through the design of street furniture, lighting and paving and other elements of public realm.
- 46.8. Views were being sought on potential sites to benefit from future funding for public realm improvements, and 4 sites had been identified:
 - Arras Square
 - Princes Street Bridge

- Majors Corner
- Extension of the Cornhill scheme (Lloyds Avenue, Princes Street, Westgate Street, Tavern Street)

Or alternatively, another site could be nominated for consideration.

46.9. The Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy SPD consultation would run from 16 January 2019 up to 27 February 2019.

46.10. Details of the consultations were available on the Council's website (under the Consultations section), at the Customer Service Centre, Grafton House Reception and Ipswich County Library, and at consultation events.

47. CAC/18/17 Funding Request: Ipswich Jazz Festival

47.1. Mr Turnbull reported that £581.25 was requested by the Ipswich Jazz Festival organisers towards the cost of 2 free jazz shows and 75 concessionary tickets for those on low incomes as part of the Ipswich Jazz Festival 2019.

47.2. Mr Pugh, one of the Festival Directors, reported that this would be the 4th year of the Ipswich Jazz Festival and would include 3 main concerts, a number of workshops and free music events in various venues around the town. Art Council funding had been secured for the infrastructure and marketing and to provide a course for young people through the Suffolk County Music Service.

47.3. The funding being requested from Area Committees would be used to put on 2 free shows, Brazilian Jazz Show and Family Jazz Show (for children aged 4-12), and to provide 75 £1 tickets for those people on low incomes. In terms of reaching the target audience, the following contacts would be used:

- Student Unions at Suffolk New College and University of Suffolk
- Welfare Advice Network
- JobCentrePlus
- Food Banks
- Local Church and Faith Groups
- Primary Schools and Children Centres
- Council's Benefits Team (in letters to customers)
- Council's Community Engagement and Entertainment Officers

47.4. Councillor Lockington asked about the price of a standard ticket to the show. Mr Pugh reported that this would be agreed when the contract was put in place with the artists, but was usually in the £15 - £20 range.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £581.25 from the Central Area Committee budget as a contribution towards the Ipswich Jazz Festival.

Reason: To provide funding for the Ipswich Jazz Festival in 2019 to improve the opportunity for Ipswich residents to access live arts.

48. CAC/18/18 Funding Request: Out Loud Music Mural at South Street

- 48.1. Mr Turnbull reported that funding of up to £4,515 was requested by Out Loud Music towards murals and sign lighting for South Street Studios and the Smokehouse.
- 48.2. Mr Bailey, Director of Out Loud Music, reported that South Street Studios had been set up 2 years ago and was providing courses to young people from a range of different backgrounds, with over 125 people attending each week. Additionally, the Smokehouse had been established as a live music venue, offering 120 gigs per year, with 900 original bands coming to Ipswich and performing to over 12,000 people across the year.
- 48.3. Mr Bailey added that the current buildings were grey and uninspiring, and wanted to create a more iconic venue. These improvements would form part of a larger project, which would include better toilet facilities.
- 48.4. Councillor Holmes asked about the lease arrangements on the two buildings. Mr Bailey reported that the main building was 2 years into a 15-year lease and the Smokehouse was 2 years into a 5-year lease with the option to re-negotiate for a further 5 years.
- 48.5. Councillor Kreidewolf commented that the buildings provided a good facility to engage positively with young people from the Westgate ward and beyond.
- 48.6. Councillor Lockington asked about the progress of the improvement to ladies toilet provision. Mr Bailey reported that the first phase would start next week, but would then need to be put on hold due to a relaunch of the Smokehouse on 28 January 2019 with 6 gigs in 6 days; the next phase would commence at the end of July 2019.
- 48.7. Councillor Gibbs commented that one of these gigs was the successful Suffolk singer/songwriter Bessie Turner, who had already featured on BBC Radio 1 and BBC 6 Music. Mr Bailey added that there would be another open day when the works were complete.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £4,515 from the Central Area Committee budget to Out Loud Music for improvements to South Street Studios and the Smokehouse as per Option 2 of the report.

Reason: To improve the appearance and atmosphere of South Street Studios and the Smokehouse for course participants and event attendees, and to improve the appearance of the area around South Street for local residents.

49. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

- 49.1. Re: Signage for Parking Restrictions: County Councillor West reported that there was a SCC budget for replacing signage and he had requested that

signage for Rope Walk be moved to the top of the programme of signage works.

- 49.2. Re: St Helen's Street Corridor Improvements: County Councillor West reported that the proposals to address Kings Avenue being used as a rat-run were due to be finalised in the next few days, and would then be circulated to ward Councillors and County Councillor Gaylard before going out to consultation.
- 49.3. Re: Anglesea Road 20mph scheme: County Councillor West reported that the works had been programmed for the end of February 2019.
- 49.4. Re: Woodbridge Road 20mph scheme: County Councillor West reported that the designs, which involved a number of features, were due to undergo an independent safety audit by the end of the following week. Once the designs were signed off, there would be a 3-week formal consultation. County Councillor West commented that he would seek a further update at that point. County Councillor Gaylard commented that she had informally consulted residents and hoped that the formal consultation would be straightforward.
- 49.5. Re: Untidy site on Rope Walk: Councillor Jones reported that the Council's Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the former SCC building on Rope Walk. The unauthorised parking on this site had now stopped and the site was now on the market.

50. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 50.1. Councillor Kreidewolf reported that the Destination Norwich Road website had been launched and could be viewed at: www.destinationnorwichroad.org. Councillor Kreidewolf also reported that works had been undertaken to Wellington Court, Rendlesham Court and Blenheim Court to stop unauthorised people from gaining access to these buildings, and similar works would also be done to Mountbatten Court.

51. CAC/18/20 Area Committee Budget Update

- 51.1. Mr Stebbings, Operations Manager for Sports and Leisure, reported that at the start of the meeting the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £17,397.04 available to spend on its priorities.
- 51.2. Following the financial commitment of £9,624.84 arising from the approved funding requests, the unallocated Central Area Committee budget was now £7,772.20.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm

Chair