

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2018
CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE,
HIGHFIELD ROAD, IP1 6DG
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 32 members of the public in attendance.

33. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

34. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2018

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 be confirmed as a true record.

35. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

36. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

37. Policing Priorities in North West Ipswich

37.1 Inspector Kevin Horton and Sgt Stuart Curtis provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues in the North West of Ipswich. Work

continued in partnership with schools and other agencies in relation to anti-social behaviour and violence from youth gangs.

- 37.2 The call response times remained at 92% with a 23% increase in 999 calls to the Police Control Room. Serious sexual offences and domestic abuse crimes had increased by 26% and 42% respectively.
- 37.3 The new Policing model would be brought in on 29 October 2018 with the 167 PCSO's being reduced to 48, of which 21 would be match funded. There would be an increase of Police Officers on the Safer Neighbourhood Team with the advantage that they would work on a shift pattern to provide 24/7 cover to address and respond to the type of crime being reported. Community Engagement Officers would be employed in each area and the Serious Crime Reduction Team would focus on safeguarding and vulnerable communities. The enhanced partnership team would focus on mental health, children and young people and anti-social behaviour.
- 37.4 Sgt Curtis reported that Operation Parkland had been wound up and a review of the findings was now taking place. Recent events had seen resources being pooled with the Central and Hadleigh Safer Neighbourhood Team to allow extra response teams and increased reporting for flexibility with criminal investigations continuing. The priority in the North West area of Ipswich was anti-social behaviour in the Garrick Way area and he assured residents that this was being dealt with. An engagement strategy was being worked on and information about this would be issued through the local Councillors and social media. Community Protection Notices would be drawn up to prevent future incidents.
- 37.5 A resident asked if a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) would help with such incidents and the Inspector said that there was currently a consultation underway, until 9 October 2018, which could be accessed by using this link:- <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/PSPOantisocial> Previous PSPO's had been beneficial and dispersal powers would continue.
- 37.6 A joined up intervention approach was underway with much unseen work taking place and the Chair encouraged residents to report every incident as it occurred. The Chair thanked Inspector Horton and Sgt Curtis for their attendance.

38. Big Local Trust Update

- 38.1 Faye Smith of the North West Ipswich Big Local Trust (BLT) gave a presentation on the work of the BLT and explained that the £1m lottery funding had been granted to the BLT to be used over 10-15 years for a development programme in Whitton, Whitehouse and Castle Hill wards. If any residents were interested in being involved then they should get in touch.
- 38.2 The Partnership Panel consisted of 32 residents with 22 resident members and 10 advisory members with many supporting partners from the local community.

38.3 Current projects included:-

- The Friday Friends Café at Whitehouse Baptist Church, Waterford Road from 10.30am to 2.00pm, contact Louise Bernard on 01473 345350
- A Book Club held on the last Wednesday of every month at The Meeting Place, Limerick Close, contact Isla on 07825 799531
- Social & Academic Support for 7 – 11's at Highfields Children's Centre on Wednesday's from 3.30pm – 5.00pm.
- The Community Garden, Castle Hill Allotments, contact Janet on 07851 912765 - The BLT had rented 3 plots from Ipswich Borough Council where local people could help grow fresh food, who might otherwise be unable to tend a whole plot.

38.4 Recent events included:-

- The Dog Show in June 2018
- An Easter Eggstravaganza
- A Christmas Extravaganza

Forthcoming Events:-

- Parties in October and at Christmas
- A possible Park event during 2019
- A Community Carnival was also under development

38.5 The objectives were to bring the community together and empower the community to create lasting change. To work with parents to improve the support for children and enable the young people to reach their full potential, improving their life chances. To tackle isolation and maintain the physical and mental health of older people and to get the old and young working together. To increase the range of activities, encourage healthy lifestyles and to enable the community to avoid high interest doorstep lending and loan sharks. A Youth Development Worker had been part funded by the BLT.

38.6 In response to a resident's question it was confirmed that around £600k was still to be allocated and the grants so far had been on a small scale but now larger long term projects were being considered. It was suggested that a youth centre be built and the suggestion from the community was welcomed. Councillor Meudec reminded all that the lottery grant had been allocated due to the North West of Ipswich being identified as an area of deprivation and the Chair said that any projects needed to ensure that they would be sustainable in the long term and bring in other funding from elsewhere. The Chair thanked Ms Smith for her attendance.

39. Black History Month Celebration Event Update

39.1 Due to the unavailability of a representative to present this item, it was deferred to the next meeting.

40. Chair's Update from Actions from Previous Meeting

- 40.1 The Chair thanked the resident who had reported damaged brickwork at the toilets at Whitehouse Park and they had now been repaired.
- 40.2 He explained that at previous meetings there had been concerns about overhanging vegetation in gardens in the Broadway Lane/Shrublands Avenue area. The trees were within the boundary of Westbourne Academy and Mr Gary Trott of the Academy had been invited to attend the North West Area Committee along with Suffolk County Councillor Paul West in November 2018.

41. Ward Councillors Feedback

41.1 Castle Hill ward

Councillor Fisher said that he had attended a session at Highfield Nursery who were working with 'Beanstalk' and were looking for volunteers to help with reading practice with pre-primary school children.

Councillor Vickery gave an update about the Shrubland Avenue / Broadway Lane issue of overhanging vegetation. A meeting had taken place with the residents concerned and a letter had been sent to Suffolk County Council's Highways Department requesting action. Suffolk County Councillor Goldsmith was willing to allocate funding from his locality budget and after September (the bird nesting season) had ended it was hoped to move this matter forward. Suffolk County Councillor West said that he would be meeting with the Highways Department to follow up on this and would report back via Councillor Vickery.

Whitehouse ward

Councillor Chisholm said that various casework received had been in relation to the recent anti-social behaviour and reminded residents to report every incident to the Police. Parenting classes were available and detached youth workers also worked in the Whitehouse area. There would be a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the FTC gym on Whitehouse Road on 28 September 2018 and on 29 September 2018 the Big Local Trust would be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Lottie Shed on Whitehouse allotments.

Whitton ward

Councillor Meudec reported that the 30 mph sign had been replaced on Old Norwich Road. Councillor Shaw said that she had worked the Whitton Youth Partnership at activities during August and it was good to see so many volunteers who should be thanked more often.

42. Responses to Public Questions and Feedback on Local Issues

- 42.1 Questions had been received by residents prior to the meeting:-

Question - What has happened to the increase in Council Tax which was voted for by taxpayers a couple of years ago, to increase and resource the Police?

Inspector Horton answered this question on behalf of the Police & Crime Commissioner and reported that from the outcomes of the PCC's proposed policing precept for 2017/18 document, £6.76m had to be saved over the next four years with £2.6m of savings yet to be identified. If the precept was not increased for the next four years then there would be £6.26m of savings yet to be identified.

Question - Why are we now firefighting rather than being proactive?

Inspector Horton also said that Operations such as Parkland and the response to the incidents at Garrick Way showed how, once incidents were reported, appropriate action could be taken which proved that the Police were now being proactive.

Question – How far have the SCC Consultants got with their feasibility study for the Northern Bypass?

Suffolk County Councillor West had received the following response from the Head of the Transport Strategy Strategic Team at Suffolk County Council.

The consultants, WSP were continuing to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case, which followed on from the work published in 2017. The earlier work had identified three potential corridors to provide extra capacity in the north of Ipswich. This had showed there was a need for greater transport capacity in the north of Ipswich. Each of the routes had different benefits and effects on traffic flows around Ipswich. The next stage would look in more detail at options and work on an Option Appraisal Report was nearing completion. This would assess a number of alternatives and would rank them to provide a short list to study in more depth. Suffolk County Council were intending to carry out public consultation in the next few months.

Question – It has been confirmed about the number of houses to be built on the Tooks site but there was no mention of the GP surgery, was there any news?

The Lead Officer for the Area Committee, Operations Manager for Finance at IBC gave the following response:-

The former Tooks bakery site would be developed in 2 parts. The first that is referred to, a residential development of 60 homes and the second, which is still under discussion is the development of a medical centre. The Council was doing all it could to enable the second development and was working closely with NHS England nationally and the local GP's (CCG's) to progress plans.

A resident asked whether land at the Whitton Football Club had been acquired to facilitate any building and the Officer agreed to bring more details about this to the next meeting.

Question – What progress had been made by the Police and local Housing Officers and what action was being taken to deal with the anti-

social behaviour and thefts in North West Ipswich efficiently and what measures would be put in place to make certain there was no recurrence?

Councillor Vickery responded (on behalf of the Castle Hill ward Councillors):-

The Council was aware of the issue and was actively working with partners to address the issue. Action was being taken and a period of time was needed to ensure it was being dealt with in a proper manner, It was anticipated that we would be in a position to report significant progress at the Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting next month. In the meantime please continue to report any incidents via the website, 101 or 999 if necessary.

Inspector Horton reiterated Sgt Curtis's earlier report that early intervention was taking place and the community partners were working hard to make sure there would be no recurrence.

- 42.2 Discussion took place around the legal obligation to be in education and the holistic method of enforcement being used to deal with anti-social behaviour.
- 42.3 In response to a question about the repairs being made to the skate park, the Chair said that he would bring an update to the next meeting. It was reported by a resident that graffiti had been put on the area around the skate park at Whitehouse Park.
- 42.4 Councillor Goldsmith reported that, in relation to a question about one of the toilets at the Castle Hill Recreation Ground, it was currently being used as a broom cupboard and would remain so.

43. NWAC/18/11 Area Committee Budget Update

- 43.1 The Operations Manager, Finance presented the Area Committee Financial Update and reported that £3,000 funding had been allocated at the last meeting with an unallocated budget remaining at £13,153.10.

Resolved:

that the financial statement, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NWAC/18/11, 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.

44. Dates of Future Meetings for 2018/19, all at 7.00pm.

- **Thursday 8 November 2018 – Whitton Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane IP1 6LT (Venues to be arranged)**
- **Thursday 17 January 2019**
- **Thursday 14 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Chair