

# NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

THURSDAY 26 JULY 2018  
RANSOMES SPORTS PAVILION, SIDGATE AVENUE  
IP4 4JJ  
7.30 PM

**Present:** Bixley Ward Councillors: E Phillips  
Rushmere Ward Councillors: S Gage and S Ion  
St John's Ward Councillors: K E Elavalakan, N MacDonald and S Darwin

Suffolk County Councillors: S Adams & P West

There were 23 members of the public in attendance.

19. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies have been received from Councillors J Carnall, R Pope and A Ross.

20. **Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2018**

20.1 Minute 5.1 - Declarations of Interest – the following amendment be made:-  
Councillor Darwin declared an interest... *'as the Branch Equality Officer of Suffolk Unite Community.'*

**Resolved:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018, with the amendment above, be signed as a true copy.

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

**Resolved:**

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

22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **23. Police Priorities in North East Ipswich**

- 23.1 Inspector Pursehouse presented this item and reported that there were no significant issues in the North East area of Ipswich. Operation Parkland would continue across the summer school holidays with dedicated officer patrols in the known hot spot areas.
- 23.2 There had been a slight increase in burglaries of which 50% had been from insecure properties so the Inspector reminded residents to lock their properties, cars and sheds securely.
- 23.3 Suffolk Constabulary had announced a proposed restructure which would move 100 Officers into the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and was expected to be completed by 29 October 2019. Due to the changing nature of crime it was proposed to reduce the number of PCSO's from 81 to 48 and increase the number of Police Officers to 159. This would enable the PC's to work a 2 shift pattern rather than the PCSO's day time only hours.
- 23.4 Information was available on the Suffolk Constabulary website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/news/latest-news> and copies of the information booklet about the review were available. The July newsletter would also shortly be available.

## **24. Highways Update**

- 24.1 Julia Procter, Senior Engineer for Transport Strategy at Suffolk County Council presented this item and reported on the progress of the £1.2m scheme, funded by Suffolk County Council and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP), to improve capacity at junctions on the Ipswich Radial Route at Felixstowe Road and near St Augustine's Church. Model data had been used to estimate the amount of traffic up to the year 2021 and a new Toucan crossing would be placed on Bixley Road.
- 24.2 Night works to prepare and maintain the site had taken place during June when gully's had been cleaned, street lights, signs and railings had been assessed and vegetation cut back.
- 24.3 Cycles lanes would be removed and footways would be widened for joint use by pedestrians and cyclists and existing street lights would be replaced with lower energy LED lights, saving £90 a year costs per light and the lights would not need to be replaced for 5 years.
- 24.4 Bollards would be replaced on road islands and two existing crossings (at Bixley Road and near Sainsbury's) would be upgraded with LED lights and would use intelligence around traffic speeds and stopping times. The roads would then be resurfaced overnight when the scheme of works had been completed.

- 24.5 Councillor Phillips commended resurfacing work which had been completed at Ashdown Way and in response to Councillor Gage's concern about increased capacity on the roads in Rushmere ward, the Officer said that future modelling work would be undertaken to bring any roundabouts in Rushmere to a better standard.
- 24.6 In respect of road signs being removed rather than being replaced, the Officer agreed to report back on these concerns and it was suggested that a more joined up approach be used by Network Assurance when multiple sets of roadworks occurred in the same road, especially when the Orwell Bridge was closed for traffic incidents. The Officer said that at the moment, 2 way traffic was still flowing and 3 way flows when roundabouts were worked on. If cones were still on a section of road then there had to be a reason to protect a pathway or crossing and as soon as acceptance work was completed then cones were removed.
- 24.7 Concerns about traffic signalling would be taken to the next traffic meeting e.g. reports of trenches, which had been badly patched when utility companies had worked on the roads or where potholes had been filled when the road had then been resurfaced. Councillor Gage asked, in respect of a permit scheme where a Council could charge utility companies to provide funds for inspection on completion, that more roads be inspected on the completion of works, other than the 10% at the moment.

## **25. Chair's Update on Action Points from the Previous Meetings**

- 25.1 The Chair reported that a comment had been received from a resident about local residential areas around Ipswich Hospital being used for staff parking. Councillor Pope had agreed to speak to the resident about this matter.

## **26. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities**

- 26.1 Rushmere ward  
Concerns had been raised over the proposed Homeless Unit at 214 Sidegate Lane, which had been approved by the Planning and Development Committee at IBC, for which over 200 representations from the public had been submitted. A management plan would be submitted which would help negate the concerns of residents.

Councillor Gage said that as a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee she had challenged Highways England about when the Orwell Bridge had been closed and all traffic was re-routed through the town. No timescales had been given to a suggestion about separating the traffic and allowing cars over the bridge during high winds but closing the road to high sided vehicles as this would make a huge difference to any congestion. Highways England had been invited to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the autumn to discuss timescales and diversion routes.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had also initiated a Task & Finish Group about road repairs, to request how repairs in Ipswich would be prioritised. This

was in response to Suffolk County Council funding which had been made available to invest in road repairs and improve the conditions of the roads in Suffolk.

#### St John's ward

In response to the concerns of the Rushmere Councillor, Councillor MacDonald (in his capacity as the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health) reported that the Head of Housing at IBC had agreed to host a drop-in event on 13 September 2018 at the Ransomes Pavilion to engage with residents and listen to their concerns about the Homeless Unit at Sidegate Lane. A letter would also be sent to local residents explaining the work which would be undertaken and how long it would take and that an opportunity would be available to visit the facility before it opened.

The facility would house homeless families and single people who for example, had been evicted by a landlord and who should be treated with dignity. It was stressed that no rough sleepers would be placed at the unit, there would be no risk to any children housed at the unit and the phone number of the duty management would be available for residents at all times should they be concerned.

Councillor Darwin reported that the ABC/Britannia Primary School Summer Fete held on 30 June 2018 had been very successful.

## **27. Suffolk County Councillors Feedback from their Divisions**

27.1 Suffolk County Councillor Adams reported that road markings and consultations had been discussed at a public meeting re: the Goring Road and Lattice Avenue area. The issue over utility companies not being co-ordinated in their approach to road repairs continued. Reference was also made to the Oaks Rehabilitation Centre in Felixstowe Road which, with links to the community helped clients prepare for the outside world.

Suffolk County Councillor West reported that the main issues had been about the work taking place at Felixstowe Road and the St Augustine's roundabout. There had also been issues reported of grass verges being parked on around the area of Princethorpe Road and Bixley Road.

Suffolk County Councillor Gage spoke about the upgrading of bus stops on the Super Route 66, especially where bus stops had been removed such as at Gordon Road as she was unsure if passenger data was available to constitute the removal of a bus stop. A disabled resident had contacted her about putting a dropped kerb in front of his property to enable access across the narrow footpath when cars parked across the front of his property. Suffolk County Council had said that no funding was available for this and as a consequence the resident was now housebound. It was confirmed that currently, some bus information signs were being refurbished.

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

- 28.1 No questions had been received prior to the meeting however, if residents submitted a question by post or e-mail they would receive a full response from the appropriate Officers of the Council.

Two questions had been received prior to the meeting and were the following:

Question 1. Was enough being done by the Council to help parents divert children from gangs to, for example:- sports/hobbies?

This response was received from the Operations Manager for Sports and Leisure at IBC – ***Ipswich Borough Council's Sport and Leisure Services, along with a number of partners, were providing a comprehensive range of activities for young people this summer. The Area Committees were helping to fund some of this in our 'Jumpers for Goalposts' programme.***

***In light of recent events the Council were offering all 5 to 16 year olds attending state schools in Ipswich the offer of a free iCard allowing them to take part in the summer holiday activity programme free of charge. This would allow free use of Crown Pools, Northgate, Gainsborough and Whitton Sports Centre as well as the outdoor activities being organised in parks across Ipswich.***

Question 2. Could income be generated by introducing concession fares (maybe means tested) for pensioner's bus travel rather than allowing free bus travel for all pensioners?

This response was received from the Portfolio Holder for Transport at IBC – ***Bus companies recorded every journey made by concessionary pass holders. This information would be used to claim reimbursement from the County Council as the local Transport Authority (TA). The rate would be approximately 90p per journey but the charge to the pass holder would be nil for each journey made. This charge was law and charging, even under a means tested arrangement would not be permitted. If bus companies were to charge for journeys made by concessionary pass holders they would lose the reimbursement from the TA. To generate any additional income, bus companies would need to charge a fare above 90p per journey and hope that this charge did not result in fewer journeys being made. Any change to the arrangement would require a change in the law nationally and there was no scope for introducing a variant scheme locally.***

- 28.2 The resident asked whether it was felt that Ipswich Borough Council was doing enough to publicise summer holiday events and the Chair said that publicity was the key, in local shops and on noticeboards and a noticeboard had been planned for the Ransomes Sports Pavilion. New detached youth working, social media advertising and school leafletting was important (dependent on the approach of each school) but so far 9,500 iCards had been issued.

28.3 Councillor Gage said that a piece of work would be prepared around the take up of the iCard and where gaps in take up were evident, advertising would be reinforced before the summer holidays were over. If the scheme was successful then it could be repeated next year.

28.4 Suffolk County Councillor West said that work at Murrayfield Community Youth Centre in Nacton Road would be completed in August and an open day in September would be held to raise the profile of the facility.

**29. NEAC/18/08 Funding Request - Suffolk Mind - EARLY Minds**

29.1 Due to the unavailability of a speaker this item had been deferred to the next meeting.

**30. NEAC/18/09 Area Action Plan & Priorities 2018/19**

30.1 The Community Engagement Officer presented this item, which set out the priorities of the Area Action Plan for the North East Ipswich area in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of Deprivation and the Council's Corporate Plan. Work would take place in the domain of Education, Skills and Training in line with the aims of making the North East area an enjoyable place to live, work and study, a healthy community and a sustainable environment.

**Resolved:**

**that the revised North East Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NEAC/18/09, be noted.**

Reason: Priorities provide the basis of an action plan that would enable the Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and would help demonstrate how its budget was being allocated to deliver the priorities set for the Area.

**31. NEAC/18/10 Area Committee Budget Update**

31.1 The Head of Development reported that, at the last meeting £3,929.30 was allocated to the funding requests leaving £13,845.70 available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North East Ipswich.

**Resolved:**

**that the financial statement for the North East Area Committee, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: NEAC/18/10, 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.

**32. Dates of Future Meetings for 2018/19 at 7.30pm - a presentation will be held prior to each meeting at 7.00pm.**

**All meetings to be held at Ransomes Sports Pavilion, Sidegate Avenue  
IP4 4JJ**

- **Thursday 20 September 2018**
- **Thursday 15 November 2018**
- **Thursday 24 January 2019**
- **Thursday 21 March 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

**Chair**