

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2018
ST THOMAS APOSTLE CHURCH,
BRAMFORD LANE IP1 5EP
7.00 PM**

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

There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

45. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Vickery and M Goonan. Suffolk County Councillor I Lockington also offered her apologies.

46. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2018

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 be confirmed as a true record.

47. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

48. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

49. Policing Priorities in North West Ipswich

- 49.1 Inspector Kevin Horton and Sgt Sally Henderson provided an update on policing across Ipswich and the specific issues in the North West of Ipswich. As of the 29 October 2018 there had been the reduction of PCSO's in the Western area from 12 to 3 and there had been an increase in PC's and Sgts. There was now also a Community Engagement Officer for the area who would focus on local crime and any anti-social behaviour problems.
- 49.2 The priorities in Ipswich as a whole were focussed on robberies in the Town Centre and thefts from persons. A week of action took place in October on 'County Lines' which had become more overt in nature. The changing of the clocks by one hour had seen an increase in burglaries taking place between the hours of 5.00 – 8.00pm and vigilance when locking doors was encouraged. Postcards were available which promoted the installation of a 'Ring' doorbell camera which had proved effective in Suffolk and had proved successful in reducing crime.
- 49.3 Cases of domestic abuse and violent crime continued and call response times at the call centre continued to be on target at 92%.
- 49.4 Sgt Henderson introduced herself and spoke of her experience in the Police force and although new to the area she had been part of the Safer Neighbourhood Team in other areas. Ulster Avenue had seen an arrest being made following officers targeting the area and this had been reported on social media. Following the work of plain clothes officers, their involvement had resulted in a drug warrant being issued and an arrest in Garrick Way for intent to supply drugs. Residents were encouraged to report any attempted burglaries or anti-social behaviour especially around Whitehouse Park immediately as direct radio messaging or reporting on social media was important. However, although general advice was given to people who had been burgled the Police respected residents wishes if they requested no publicity about the incident.
- 49.5 In response to a question by a resident it was confirmed that SNT stood for the Safer Neighbourhood Team which was an investigative response team to tackle crime in local areas and two further PC's would shortly be joining the Western area Policing Team.

50. Whitton Allotment Association Update

- 50.1 The Community Engagement Officer gave an update on the funding which had been allocated to the Whitton Allotments Association in June 2017 towards the purchase of a generator, two fire extinguishers, first aid kits, lighting and security cameras at 'Lottie' the community shed.
- 50.2 Pupils from Whitton Community Primary School were currently tending an allotment plot as part of the school curriculum and this had proved very successful.

51. Black History Month Celebration Event Update

- 51.1 Mr McSheen gave an update on the funding allocated to contribute to the cost of the Black History Month Celebration Event which had been held at the Meeting Place last year, to which 150 people had attended.
- 51.2 Due to the success of the 2017 event, this year in October 2018 the event had been held at The Manor Ballroom with 450 residents and a Reggae Choir attending. Plans were underway for the next event on 19 October 2019 and checks would be made on how a small underspend resulting from the 2017 event would be audited. The Chair thanked Mr McSheen for his update.
- 51.3 Councillor Chisholm stressed the importance of events such as these especially in light of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Windrush generation and the contribution made by the Caribbean community to Ipswich. The Chair thanked Mr McSheen for his attendance.

52. Broomhill Pool Update

- 52.1 The Lead Officer for the Area Committee, Operations Manager for Finance at IBC reported that more information would be available in the next few months about the development of Broomhill Pool. IBC were committed to supporting the development and a further update would be available at future meetings.

53. Chairs Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 53.1 The Chair gave the following updates:

Vegetation at Broadway Lane and Shrubland Avenue

Following deliberation about which areas of vegetation had been cleared it was agreed that Suffolk County Councillor West would liaise with residents regarding this matter.

Play Space Action Plan Update

The Operations Manager for Finance reported that the action plan was in the process of being updated and the Operations Manager from IBC Parks had agreed to attend the next meeting.

Whitton Football Club Land Update

The Operations Manager for Finance reported that the King George V Playing Fields had been identified for housing but there were currently no plans to develop at this location.

Skate Park Update

An update would be available at the end of the meeting.

54. Ward Councillors Feedback

- 54.1 Whitton ward

Councillor Shaw reported that residents were still concerned about incidents at Garrick Way but the situation had been addressed and Housing Officers were visiting the families concerned. Concern had been expressed about derelict

land at a site at Whitton Church Lane but the area was due to be cleared in January 2019.

Whitehouse ward

Councillor Chisholm reported that if any criminal activity was witnessed by residents that it should be reported to the Police or Councillors as soon as possible. He also reminded residents that there would be a commemoration for the 100 years anniversary of the end of WW1 in Christchurch Park on 11 November 2018. The North West Ipswich Big Local Trust tended a Community Garden at the Castle Hill allotments between Ashcroft Road and Dales Road.

Castle Hill ward

Councillor Goldsmith reported that he had around 50 paving slabs available to allow for wheelchair access at the Castle Hill Community Garden.

55. Responses to Public Questions and Feedback on Local Issues

- 55.1 A letter had been received from a resident about the funding for the Orwell Crossings being put towards a Northern Relief Road. Councillor P West said that a similar question had been put forward at the September meeting and he had reported that currently an Options Appraisal report in respect of a Northern Relief Road was being undertaken. Alternative routes were being considered as possibilities and consultation would be available in the New Year. Suffolk County Council were committed to deliver a Northern Relief Road and would need to present a business case to Central Government.
- 55.2 Suffolk County Council had agreed to fund £19m for the Upper Orwell Crossings and £26m for a Lowestoft Crossing with the balance being from Central Government. Whether any additional funding came from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Central Government or Suffolk County Council there would always be an argument about whether the funding would be better spent elsewhere as the proposed schemes addressed different problems at different locations.
- 55.3 In relation to further funding, the independent Jacobs report had identified that an extra £43m would be required for the Upper Orwell Crossings and Suffolk County Council had not agreed to underwrite any projected shortfall. It was acknowledged that the MP's of all the neighbouring land which could be affected by a Northern Relief Road should be encouraged to promote the project as it would affect many neighbouring local Councils. Councillors gave their individual views on both projects at this point in the meeting.

56. NWAC/18/12 Funding request - Oyster Community Press CIC: 'Who Cares' Project for Suffolk Family Carers

- 56.1 Alison Smyth from the Oyster Community Press presented this funding request which asked for an allocation of £450 towards the cost of delivering the 'Who Cares' project for clients of Suffolk Family Carers. The project taught print making, drawing and creative writing skills to people of all backgrounds and abilities and had been approached by Suffolk Carers about providing a series of

12 workshops at Tower Street, offering 48 places, to young carers who were providing unpaid care to loved ones. The project sought to give respite care, build confidence and tackle isolation for younger adult carers (from 23 to 30 years) who were not served by other schemes. An exhibition would be created at the end of the project with work on public display at DanceEast.

- 56.2 Suffolk County Council had committed £20k to the project and the Area Committees were being asked to make up a shortfall to provide frames for the work. Although it was confirmed that the service could be mobile it had been agreed that the central location next to the Tower Ramparts Bus Station would be ideal for all.
- 56.3 Councillor Chisholm said that he was aware of a project such as this which had been for those in long term unemployment and had reaped the benefits of gained confidence so that employment had been found. Ms Smyth said that she had been involved with this project and 4 people taking part in the project remained in employment.
- 56.4 Councillor Meudec asked about carer's time being limited when they could be away from those being cared for and Ms Smyth said that they were often able to adapt and workshops were for half a day, once a week for twelve weeks.

Resolved:

that £450 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of delivering the 'Who Cares' project, be agreed.

Reason: To improve the opportunity for Ipswich young adult carers to access arts.

57. NWAC/18/13 Funding request - Ipswich Jazz Festival 2019

- 57.1 Neil Bateman, a representative from Ipswich Jazz Festival Ltd presented this funding request which asked for an allocation of £581.25 towards providing free or concessionary tickets to shows in the Ipswich Jazz Festival which had been held at St Peter's Church on the Waterfront yearly since 2015. There would be a series of performances by local, national and international jazz musician performers.
- 57.2 Last year 1,000 people had attended with 52 musicians performing across the 3 days of live music and film screenings. It would be held on 21-23 June 2019 and the organisers would like to offer two weekend afternoon shows that would be free to attend. A Family Jazz Workshop on the 22nd June 2019 and a Brazilian Jazz Show on the afternoon of 23rd June 2018. It was also proposed to make 75 tickets for the paid evening shows available to people on lower incomes for just £1 per person.
- 57.3 It was hoped to build the Festival year on year so that it became a fixture in the town to celebrate live music and it was confirmed that about 20% of people attending would be from outside of Ipswich but they would bring in money to the

local economy by attending. Councillor Meudec said that the Whitton Youth Partnership in the North West of Ipswich could also possibly be able to engage with those who could not afford to attend.

Resolved:

that £581.25 be allocated from the North West Area Committee budget towards the cost of providing free or concessionary tickets at the Ipswich Jazz Festival, be agreed.

Reason: To improve the opportunity for Ipswich residents to access live arts.

58. NWAC/18/14 Area Committee Budget Update

58.1 The Lead Officer of the Area Committee, the Operations Manager, for Finance presented the Area Committee Financial Update and reported that as there had been no allocation of funding at the last North West Area Committee, the unallocated budget remained at £13,153.10, which was available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North West Ipswich.

Resolved:

that the financial position of the North West Area Committee, 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.

59. NWAC/18/15 Variation to Whitehouse Park Skate Park

59.1 A variation to a funding request had been received about the improvements to the Whitehouse Skate Park 'Jump Off'. In March 2018, (NWAC/17/23) an allocation of £3,227.92 had been agreed towards the cost of the project however, through consultation a revised improvement to a more durable and less costly solution was proposed. The Committee were requested to consider varying the allocation to the reduced amount of £3,085.36.

59.2 The original funding proposal had been for £16,227.92 split 3 ways between the North West Area Committee, NW Ipswich Big Local Trust and a National Lottery Award for All. The revised cost of £6,085.36 could be met by the NW Ipswich Big Local Trust allocation of £3,000.00 and the remaining £3,085.36 being allocated from the North West Area Committee. This would result in £142.56 being returned to the unallocated North West Area Committee budget.

Resolved:

that the amount allocated for the Whitehouse Skate Park 'Jump Off' (NWAC/17/23) on 22 March 2018 be amended to read £3,085.36 and the remaining £142.56 be returned to the unallocated budget, be agreed.

Reason: To protect the use of the Whitehouse Skate Park for local residents.

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

- **Thursday 17 January 2019 – St Raphael Club, St Raphael Court, Highfield Road IP1 6DA**
- **Thursday 14 March 2019 – The Deaf Association, Suffolk House, 2 Wharfedale Road IP1 4JP**

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Chair