

# NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2019  
RANSOMES SPORTS PAVILION, SIDEGATE AVENUE,  
IPSWICH IP4 4JJ  
7.30 PM

**Present:** Bixley Ward Councillors: E Phillips and R Pope  
Rushmere Ward Councillors: A Ross  
St John's Ward Councillors: K E Elavalakan, N MacDonald and S Darwin

There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

### 58. Apologies for Absence

58.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Carnall. S Gage and S Ion. Suffolk County Councillors S Adams and P West were also unable to attend the meeting.

### 59. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2018

59.1 Minute No 50.1 - Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities

Bixley ward amend to read 'He had also attended the Women's Festival Launch event celebrating the centenary of Women's Suffrage in Britain *'at the University'*.

**Resolved:**

**that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2018, with the amendment above, be signed as a true copy.**

### 60. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

**Resolved:**

**that the Order of Business be as printed on the Agenda.**

**61. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**62. Police Priorities in North East Ipswich**

62.1 Inspector Sally Henderson presented this item and said that there had been recent incidents of a person in a silver, grey or blue vehicle approaching children near schools and asking them to get into their vehicle. If any information about these incidents was known or if anyone had any dashcam footage please would they report it to the Police for their investigation? If an incident was witnessed then the 999 number should be used to allow a response team to be alerted immediately.

62.2 Changes to staffing levels had occurred at the end of October 2018 and she introduced PC Chris Garrod and reported that a new Community Engagement Officer, PC Rachael Partridge had been appointed as a community link. 1 PC and 3 PCSO's were now assigned to the North East area and the Police could be contacted by e-mail on [ipswicheast.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ipswicheast.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) by phoning 101 or reporting crime online: [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk)

**63. Chair's Update from the Previous Meeting (Verbal)**

63.1 There were no actions from the last meeting.

**64. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities**

64.1 Bixley ward

Councillor Pope said that in regard to 3 trees that he had suggested be trimmed by Suffolk County Council, they had agreed to trim one of them and he was making progress with his suggestions about the resurfacing of some cul-de-sacs. Hospital parking remained an issue in the North East area.

Councillor Phillips said that he had attended the Carol Service in Penshurst Road before Christmas which had been allocated Making A Difference (MAD) funding. He had also dealt with some drainage and parking issues.

Rushmere ward

Councillor Ross said that in respect of any anti-social behaviour issues he encouraged residents to report it to the Police on 101 or online, giving a full description of the issue so that resources could be allocated. He had joined the Housing Team in a walk round the North West area between 1.00am – 4.00am in the morning in an effort to locate rough sleepers. Residents should be reassured that Officers were interacting with them and he had been surprised by the amount of urban foxes they had located. Councillor Ross said that there had been a lack of road closure information from Suffolk County Council for residents when 3 roads had been closed for resurfacing at the same time. This

did not allow vehicles to avoid the area by using other routes and also residents were not given enough warning.

#### St John's ward

Councillor MacDonald said that he had dealt with reports of a large parked van and he had received positive feedback from a Neighbourhood Watch group about the removal of some graffiti.

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

65.1 No Suffolk County Councillors were available to give any updates.

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

66.1 A question had been received prior to the meeting and as always, if a question was received 2 days before the meeting then it would receive a full response from Officers.

Q. Re: Bus Stops in Woodbridge Road East

**Several of the bus stops in Woodbridge Road had been moved and improved but a major inconsistency existed in Woodbridge Road East. Two conflicting bus stops exist for buses destined towards Woodbridge town. The 800 service stopped in the purpose made bus lay by in the centre of this roundabout on the junction of Colchester Road and Woodbridge Road – this was the only service to use this purpose made facility. Meanwhile, all the other services headed in that direction only used the stop adjacent to the Co-Op on Woodbridge Road East, on the Woodbridge Road/Heath Road roundabout. It was so easy to miss the next Woodbridge bus by waiting at the wrong stop. The stops were at least 300 yards apart. Could all buses, including the recently re-routed Felixstowe buses, leaving Ipswich from Woodbridge Road make use of the purpose made stop facility?**

The Integrated Transport Officer at Ipswich Borough Council responded saying that most bus services in Ipswich were operated commercially, which meant that the bus operators determine the route, timetable and fares. The bus shelter on the roundabout island on Woodbridge Road East belonged to Suffolk County Council (SCC) and this bus stop facility was opened up by them several years ago in order to provide a closer location to the hospital for passengers using the Park & Ride service. At the time the Park & Ride service was operated under contract to Suffolk County Council and they were not able to determine that the service should use this bus stop but as most other bus services were operated commercially it was for the operator of those services to decide whether to also use this facility and they decided not to do so.

The Park & Ride service was now operated commercially by First Eastern Counties Buses and they have decided to continue to use this facility but they do not use it for their other commercial services in the area. This was their

decision and unfortunately not one that the council could control. IBC urged residents concerned about this to contact First Eastern Buses and IBC would do likewise.

**67. NEAC/18/16 Bus Service 4 (Sundays and Bank Holidays) - Spending Proposal**

- 67.1 Councillor P Smart, the IBC Portfolio Holder for Environment & Transport presented this report which sought funding towards the cost of operating a No 4 bus service on Sundays and Bank Holiday daytimes for an 18 month experimental period. He explained the background of how First Eastern Buses Ltd had rerouted the Nos 75, 76 and 77 buses between Ipswich and Felixstowe which had resulted in a section between Bishop's Hill and Bixley Road (and numerous residential side roads off this section) which included Felixstowe Road and Broke Hall, no longer being served.
- 67.2 As the bus companies operated on a commercial basis and were in competition with each other, local authorities had no control over the bus network but Suffolk County Council who were the 'Transport Authority' had a duty to consider support services. It received 10 weeks' notice of service changes by bus operators who were required to give the Department of Transport (VOSA) 6 weeks' notice. It was not IBC's duty to support bus services however, it does have the duty to provide bus stops and the power to locate bus shelters.
- 67.3 The progress so far was detailed as; the South East Area Committee had agreed a contribution from their budget, as had 3 Suffolk County Councillors from their locality funding, the proposed service (Sundays and Bank Holidays only) would be on an experimental basis for 18 months only and the Traffic Commissioner would require 42 days' notice.
- 67.4 Councillor Phillips pointed out that IBC had a fund for subsidising buses in Ipswich and asked why the fund was not being used for this service. Councillor P Smart said that this year's fund had been already been allocated to subsidise other services but should the experimental service prove sustainable then the budget could be increased to include this service.

**Resolved:**

**that £4,400 be funded from the 2018/19 North East Area Committee budget carry forward for the 2019/20 service and £2,200 be funded from the North East Area Committee budget for 2020/21 towards the cost of subsidising the operation of Service 4 on Sunday and Bank Holiday daytimes for an 18 month experimental period, be agreed.**

Reason: To help ensure that this service can operate.

**68. NEAC/18/17 Spending Proposal - Community Noticeboard for Ransomes Sports Pavilion**

- 68.1 The Community Engagement Officer James Turnbull presented this spending proposal which requested £1,008 for the installation of a community

noticeboard at the Ransomes Sports Pavilion. He explained that the pavilion was the venue for many clubs, the Pop-up Library and was available for hiring and the noticeboard would allow information to be displayed to promote these activities to the local community.

- 68.2 This application had been discussed at the previous meeting when concern had been raised about the VAT element of the provision and online marketing being promoted.
- 68.3 Councillor Ross requested that the phone number for event bookings be included on the noticeboard and that by locating the noticeboard at the site entrance, passing Rushmere residents and students from Northgate High School and Sidegate Lane Primary School would be able to take note of information about how to book.
- 68.4 Councillor Phillips expressed concern that the Area Committee would be subsidising the Sports and Leisure budget and suggested that 50% of the spending proposal be funded from the Sports & Leisure budget and 50% be funded from the North East Area Committee budget. Following this concern a recommendation that the spending proposal for the installation of a community noticeboard at Ransomes Pavilion be funded 50% by the North East Area Committee budget and 50% by the Sports and Leisure Services budget was suggested. It was proposed and seconded, the recommendation was **PUT** to the Committee and was **LOST**.

**Resolved:**

**that £1008.00 be allocated from the North East Area Committee budget for the installation of a community noticeboard at the Ransomes Sports Pavilion, be agreed.**

Reason: To promote health & wellbeing activities to residents of North East Ipswich and to promote the use of this Council owned community facility.

**69. NEAC/18/18 Area Committee Budget Update**

- 69.1 The Head of Development at IBC reported that at the last meeting it had been agreed that £1,031.25 would be allocated to the funding requests and since the last meeting, £60 Making A Difference (MAD) funding had been agreed to be allocated for the Bixley ward Carol Service. The unallocated budget of £13,094.45 remained available to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan for North East Ipswich.

**Resolved:**

**that the financial position of the North East 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.

**70. Dates of Future Meetings for 2019/20 at 7.30pm - a presentation will be held prior to each meeting at 7.00pm.**

- **Thursday 21 March 2019**
- **Thursday 13 June 2019\*\***
- **Thursday 25 July 2019**
- **Thursday 19 September 2019**
- **Thursday 28 November 2019**
- **Thursday 23 January 2020**
- **Thursday 19 March 2020**

**\*\*Please note that the meeting on 13 June 2019 would be held at the St John's United Reformed Church, 1 Cowper Street, Ipswich IP4 5JD**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

**Chair**