

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2019
ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,
BOLTON LANE, IP4 2BT
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

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

52. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Chambers.

53. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2019 be signed as a true record.

54. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

55. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lockington, having previously allocated locality funding to Suffolk Pride, declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 (report CAC/18/24).

56. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

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

- **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**

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

57.1. The Chair introduced Inspector Richard Burton of the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following policing updates:

57.2. SNT websites: Due to Police Officers frequently being posted elsewhere or seconded onto other operations, only the Inspector and Sergeants were listed on the SNT websites, otherwise these webpages would become out of date very quickly. A new Community Engagement Officer, Dominic Woodmansee, would be starting with the Ipswich Central SNT on 1 April 2019, and his contact information would also be added to the SNT website and social media. With regards to out-of-date newsletters, a paper was currently being considered by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that would seek to cancel the current SNT newsletters and replace them with a county-wide newsletter, “Constables County”.

57.3. Priorities: Additional patrols have been undertaken in the Old Cattle Market/St Stephens Lane area in response to reports of aggressive begging and street drinking related anti-social behaviour, resulting in 4 Community Protection Notices (CPNs) being served; as a result of partnership work with Ipswich Central, the number of known street beggars in the town centre has reduced from 50 to 19.

57.4. Work was ongoing to disrupt county lines operations, especially in relation to the premises of vulnerable young people. Operation Sceptre has been set up to target knife crime, with additional patrols and weapons sweeps taking place to help tackle youth-related violence, in addition to educational programmes being delivered by schools and Suffolk County Council (SCC) on knife crime awareness. Since the introduction of knife amnesty bins in Suffolk in 2011, over 20,000 bladed items have been deposited and in Central Ipswich, there were knife bins located on Princes Street and by Jubilee Park.

57.5. Councillor Gibbs asked about the latest position of the court case for the murder of Tavis Spencer-Aitkens. Inspector Burton reported that all the evidence had been summed up and the jury was now considering its verdict in relation to the 6 defendants. There was

- no intelligence of any Police threat at this stage, but the Police had allocated SNT Officers to provide public reassurance when the verdict was announced.
- 57.6. Councillor Cook commented that with only the Sergeants being displayed on the SNT website, it was not possible to see the level of resource allocated to the SNT.
Inspector Burton commented that it was the Inspector and Sergeants who would allocate tasks across the SNT, and to add all the other Officers could result in the website becoming out of date very quickly.
- 57.7. Councillor Cook asked what the current resource available to the Ipswich Central SNT was.
Inspector Burton reported that the SNTs each had 3 Sergeants and 5 PCs, plus there was a total of 3 PCSOs, 1 Link PC and 1 Community Engagement Officer, who was due to start on 1 April 2019.
- 57.8. Councillor Kreidewolf asked whether some police enforcement could be considered for Anglesea Road/Orford Road/Warrington Road area now that the 20mph speed limit scheme had been implemented.
Inspector Burton reported that he would request that the Road Traffic Unit undertake some speed awareness work in this area.
- 57.9. Councillor Reynolds asked whether the knife amnesty bins were moved to different locations to help reduce the number of bladed weapons.
Inspector Burton reported that a number of knife bins had been installed since 2011 and bids could be made to fund further bins; the current number of bins was considered sufficient, but they only covered certain locations.
- 57.10. Councillor Lockington commented that a resident had reported people driving into the town centre on a Sunday to beg as there was less Police and town centre security about, and asked whether there was any possibility of more Police resource being made available on Sundays.
Inspector Burton highlighted that not all street beggars were homeless and that Police Officers did work on Sundays, but he would allocate some resource to address this.
- 57.11. Councillor Leeder commented that last year's policing in the parks during the summer had been successful and had given the public reassurance. Councillor Leeder asked whether a similar action was being planned for this summer, and if so, whether it could start earlier this year.
Inspector Burton commented that the crime statistics relating to violence with injury had highlighted that most of these incidents had taken place in public places, especially parks, and confirmed that Operation Parkland would be repeated this summer.
- 57.12. Local resident (St Margaret's Neighbourhood Watch): Could the Police attend the next quarterly Neighbourhood Watch (NW) meeting taking place next week on Park Road, as there were usually 30 NW schemes represented at these meetings?
Inspector Burton reported that this was one of the engagement events that the

new Community Engagement Officer would be involved with and he would be tasked to attend the next meeting in June 2019.

58. CAC/18/21 Area Committee Budget Update

- 58.1. Mr Stebbings, Operations Manager for Sport and Leisure, reported that at the start of the meeting the Central Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £7,772.20 available to spend on its priorities.
- 58.2. In light of the funding bids to be determined, which if funded in full would total £8,118.45, the Area Committee agreed to return the surplus of £335 from the 2018/19 venue hire budget to the unallocated budget.
- 58.3. Mr Stebbings also reported that £300 had been allocated from the Making a Difference (MAD) budget for the Alexandra ward for a defibrillator for the Marlborough Bowls Club.
- 58.4. Councillor Jones asked whether it would be possible to increase the amount of Central Area Committee budget that could be set aside each year as a MAD budget. The Committee Services Officer reported that 10% of the annual Central Area Committee budget was the maximum amount permitted to be allocated for this reason, as set out in the terms of reference for Area Committees in the Council's Constitution.

Resolved:

- (i) that the financial statement in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;**
- (ii) that the budgetary surplus of £335 from the Venue Hire budget for 2018/19 be returned to the Central Area Committee unallocated budget.**

Reasons:

- (i) To provide an audit trail of funding that has been spent from the Central Area Committee budget;
- (ii) To release any Central Area Committee budget where no further expenditure was anticipated.

59. CAC/18/22 Funding Request: Creative Computing Centre

- 59.1. Mr Turnbull, Community Engagement Officer, reported that £4,408.45 was requested by the Creative Computing Club towards furniture and decorating costs for its new centre on London Road.
- 59.2. Matthew Applegate, Director of the Creative Computing Club, gave a presentation with the following key points:
 - Started in Chantry Library in 2012 with 10 children as an after-school pilot; now teaching 300 children a week across Suffolk

- 7 of the 10 on the original pilot were now in technology jobs and 1 was taking a Masters Degree
- The majority of attendees were from the Central and South West Ipswich areas
- GCSE in Computer Science was taught on Saturdays or all in one week during the summer holiday, with an average grade of A being attained
- The Club was run on the basis of 3 simple rules: respect each other, respect the equipment and respect the venue
- The Club has won awards and has major corporate sponsors, including AWS Educate, Google, IBM, Microsoft, Playstation, UK Youth Program, Digital Schoolhouse
- Through the UK Youth Program, young people were also being trained as assistants
- Three 16-year olds had attended Microsoft in Reading as part of an apprentice event
- Derivco, who had 2 employees that had originally attended the Club, had donated £22,000 of second hand computer equipment for the new centre
- The first floor of the new centre would be used for sitting GCSE exams, providing a quiet environment, which was important for people with special needs, such as autism
- The Club would be looking to work with more young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
- A test run of the new centre was due to take place on 8 April 2019

59.3. Councillor Holmes asked how young people found out about the Club. Mr Applegate reported that only £12.50 had ever been spent on advertising; the facilities and courses were advertised online and through social media, and parents had passed details onto other parents and relatives. Additionally, Mr Applegate had contacted schools to offer courses outside of school and provided leaflets for schools to pass onto parents. The Club would continue to offer courses both at its new base and at primary schools.

59.4. Councillor Cook asked whether there was any option for the Council to procure equipment on behalf of the Creative Computing Club exempt of VAT.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £4,408.45 from the Central Area Committee budget to the Creative Computing Club towards the cost of opening a new Centre on London Road.

Reason: To promote learning in technology subjects, to promote aspiration and opportunity to young people in Central Ipswich and to enhance access to learning for young people in the Central Ipswich area.

60. CAC/18/23 Spending Proposal: Summer and Half-Term Holiday Activities Programme

- 60.1. Mr Turnbull reported that £2,960 was requested to deliver the Jumpers for Goalposts programme of summer and half-term holiday activities in Central Ipswich for 2019/20.
- 60.2. Mr Wilesmith, Sports and Leisure Manager, highlighted the success of the Jumpers for Goalposts activities in previous years, which last year had been complemented by the free iCard initiative over the summer holiday. The plan of activities and locations had not yet been finalised for 2019/20 as this would be integrated into the wider summer holiday programme, but the types of activities would be similar to last year, with the same number of sessions being offered in each area.
- 60.3. In addition to the activities, a Sports Leadership Programme would be offered to young people to enable them to undertake a Sports Leaders course and potentially help to deliver activities in the future. The requested funding would be used to deliver activities for 4 weeks in the summer and the October 2019 and February 2020 half-term weeks.
- 60.4. Councillor Cook asked why the funding requested was a fifth of the overall costs, rather than three-sixteenths i.e. in line with the number of wards in Central Ipswich. Mr Wilesmith reported that the activities were being delivered on an area basis rather than on a ward basis, i.e. the same number of activity sessions would be delivered in each area.
- 60.5. Councillor Leeder asked what information was collected from participants and whether the programme was reaching the target groups of young people. Mr Wilesmith reported that just the gender and postcode area information was captured from those taking part, and added that the Positive Futures staff were aware who the young people were that the programme was aiming to engage. Mr Wilesmith added that there had been some excellent attendance levels previously in Jubilee Park, with as many as 42 people at the basketball sessions.
- 60.6. Councillor Riley commented that Northgate School could be able to assist with the Sports Leaders course as it was an accredited centre.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £2,960 from the Central Area Committee budget to deliver the programme of summer holiday and half-term holiday activities in Central Ipswich in 2019/20.

Reason: The Jumpers for Goalposts programme has increased participation numbers over the last 5 years and this will allow young people across the town to participate in physical activities over the summer and half-term holidays.

61. CAC/18/24 Funding Request: Suffolk Pride Festival 2019

- 61.1. Mr Turnbull reported that £750 was requested by Suffolk Pride as a contribution towards the Suffolk Pride Festival taking place in June 2019.
- 61.2. Ms Adria Pittock, Chair of the Suffolk Pride Committee, gave a presentation with the following key points:
- Pride started 50 years ago in response to the Stonewall Inn riots in New York
 - It remained a huge movement across the world and needed to be celebrated as many people still faced stigma and hate crime relating to gender orientation
 - The last Pride event in Suffolk was held in 2014, but there was considerable interest in Pride across Suffolk, with support from many partner organisations, including all the Suffolk Councils, Police, Fire & Rescue, NHS and University of Suffolk
 - Suffolk Pride Festival 2019 would include a parade on 22 June 2019 along the Ipswich Waterfront from Dance East down to the Cult Café, a programme of speakers and presentations at University of Suffolk on the day, and many educational activities leading up to the Festival
 - A Pre-Pride party would be held at Isaacs on the Quay on 18 April 2019
 - Suffolk Pride Festival 2019 would also provide opportunities to link with other events taking place, e.g. Ipswich Food and Drink Festival, Suffolk Day (21 June 2019), Windrush, Ipswich Jazz Festival, and showcase local businesses and the many organisations taking part
- 61.3. In light of the minor shortfall in the Central Area Committee unallocated budget for 2018/19, it was agreed to commit £11.25 from the 2019/20 Central Area Committee budget in order to allocate £750 to Suffolk Pride.

Resolved:

that the Central Area Committee approve funding of £750 from the Central Area Committee budget, with £738.75 to be allocated from the 2018/19 budget and £11.25 to be allocated from the 2019/20 budget, to Suffolk Pride as a contribution towards the cost of the Suffolk Pride Parade and celebration event for 2019.

Reason: To benefit the LGBT+ people in Ipswich and Suffolk and to promote cultural and community cohesion for the whole town.

62. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

- 62.1. Re: Anglesea Road 20mph scheme: The Chair reported that this scheme had been implemented.
- 62.2. Re: Woodbridge Road 20mph scheme: County Councillor West reported that the independent safety audit was complete and some suggestions had been

raised, and these would be discussed with County Councillor Gaylard.

- 62.3. Re: St Helen's Street Corridor Improvements: County Councillor West reported that SCC Highways Officers had met with County Councillor Gaylard and Alexandra ward Councillors about the proposals for Milner Street and a public drop-in event would be arranged in the next few weeks.
- 62.4. Re: Rope Walk signage for parking restrictions: County Councillor West reported that the signage had been ordered and would be installed in the next 14 weeks.
- 62.5. Re: CCTV cameras at Westgate Social Club: The Chair reported that the new digital CCTV camera had been installed and was in operation, and the images provided on the new CCTV system were of an excellent quality.

63. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 63.1. Councillor Jones reported that planning permission had been granted for part of the former SCC Social Club site on Rope Walk for a new education hub for Suffolk New College; this would help to kick start redevelopment in this area and in turn reduce the anti-social behaviour experienced in relation to this vacant site.
- 63.2. Councillor Lockington had spoken to SCC Highways Officers about making the 20mph signage in the Anglesea Road 20mph scheme more visible.
- 63.3. Councillor Cook commented that previous utility works on Silent Street had resulted in the poor reinstatement of the public highway, with cracked paving slabs, some of which could easily be lifted out; as Transco contractors were currently carrying out further works in this location, Councillor Cook requested that the highway be properly reinstated when these works were completed.
- 63.4. Councillor Cook commented that he had raised the issue of drug-dealing activities on Rope Walk and St Helen's Street with Inspector Burton.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm

Chair