

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2019

**18TH IPSWICH SCOUT HUT, CLIFF LANE,
IPSWICH IP3 0PE**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly, M Cook and S Handley
Holywells Ward Councillors: E Harsant, J Parry and B Studd
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber, D Maguire and L Richardson

There were 21 members of the public in attendance.

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Suffolk County Councillors Clements, Gaylard and Quinton.

18. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2019 be signed as a true record.

19. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

The Chair explained that item 10 (Little Learners Presentation) had been withdrawn owing to the presenter becoming unavailable.

Resolved:

that, subject to item 10 not being considered, the order of business be confirmed as printed on the agenda.

20. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

21. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that the meetings and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 4 September 2019, 7pm – Nansen Road Baptist Church, Nansen Road, IP3 9HN (Priory Heath ward)**
- **Wednesday 6 November 2019, 7pm – Gainsborough ward**
- **Wednesday 8 January 2020, 7pm – Holywells ward**
- **Wednesday 4 March 2020, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

22. Chair's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

22.1 The Chair reported that Suffolk County Councillor West had asked Highways officers to write to the Riverside Clinic to enquire whether they plan to make any changes in accordance with their planning permission granted in 2016, part of which was to make some amendments to the parking and to change the access arrangements on to Landseer Road. This planning permission had not been implemented yet. Councillor West had agreed to report back when a reply is received from the Clinic.

22.2 The Chair reported that Suffolk County Councillor West had not met with residents and SCC officers regarding a road crossing at Cliff Lane School but that he would need to discuss this with Councillor Clements as the Division Councillor.

23. Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues

23.1 A representative of the Friends of Murray Park explained that the park was currently suffering from issues of drug taking, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Councillor Barber explained that the Police had been informed of the issue and would be increasing their patrols, whilst the Parks team would be cutting back some of the bushes in the park where drug taking was known to occur.

23.2 A resident noted that there would be a closure on Landseer Road and asked what the diversion route would be. The Chair explained that there would be different diversions when different sections of the road were closed and that Suffolk County Council would notify these nearer the time with signs. Councillor Cook explained that details of roadworks could be found easily via www.roadworks.org.

23.3 A local resident explained that at present the Ravenswood Estate only had 20mph signage at the entrances on Ravenswood Avenue and Alnesbourn Crescent and asked whether repeater signs could be installed in other locations around the estate as she was concerned about speeding. The resident also raised concerns about dangerous parking near to Ravenswood Primary School; she understood that 5 minutes 'observation time' had to be left before a parking ticket could be issued and asked whether that could be waived near to schools

as this allowed parents sufficient time to park and drop their children off whilst still parking unsafely. The Chair explained that Ipswich Borough Council had asked for 20mph limits to be introduced across Ipswich's residential areas but that Suffolk County Council could not fund this. Councillor Connelly reported that signage had been invested in by Ipswich Borough Council to deter parking near schools but agreed that it remained an issue.

24. SEAC/19/07 Policing Update

- 24.1 Sergeant Russ Mason explained that priorities for the Safer Neighbourhoods team had included Drug Use and Rough Sleeping in Holywells Park and Anti-Social Behaviour around Duke Street. The Police had also worked with the Raedwald Trust to deal with gang issues and had held an evening of action on 29 June and had identified 18 traffic offences. Weapons searches had been carried out in the Nacton area.
- 24.2 Sergeant Mason asked residents to report suspicious activity and non-urgent issues via www.suffolk.police.uk giving as much detail as possible.
- 24.3 A resident asked about the removal of an abandoned foreign vehicle. Sergeant Mason explained that the DVLA did have a system to allow for the removal of abandoned foreign vehicles but that it took a long time. Suffolk County Council Councillor West explained that the County Council was working to allow Ipswich Borough Council to clamp and remove persistent offenders.
- 24.4 Councillor Cook commented that crime in Ipswich was continuing to rise more quickly than the rest of Suffolk and questioned whether an appropriate amount of resources were being allocated to the town. Sergeant Mason explained that the number of police had fallen across the County but noted that officers from other areas did work in Ipswich.

25. Ipswich Northern Route Consultation - Presentation

- 25.1 Suzanne Buck, Suffolk County Council Highways, gave a presentation regarding the Ipswich Northern Route project. The aim of the project was to provide increased capacity and an alternative to the A14 and also to support growth in the local economy.
- 25.2 Ms Buck explained that there were three possible alignments for the route and that a consultation on these was currently underway. Each route had different benefits, with the inner route having the clearest benefits for Ipswich.
- 25.3 Councillor Barber asked whether an estimate of costs for each route had been developed. Ms Buck explained that the new route was estimated to cost £500-560 million but that there was relatively little difference between the different alignments with the inner and middle routes the more expensive because of the required junction works.

- 25.4 Councillor Barber asked whether the number and location of additional homes and the potential traffic generation had been modelled. Ms Buck explained that these assessments would be part of a future stage in the project.
- 25.5 Councillor Cook noted that the route was expected to carry 14,000-23,000 vehicles per day and asked whether any figures were available to make that number more comprehensible. Ms Buck explained that the Orwell Bridge currently carried 70,000 vehicles per day. Councillor Cook commented that more detailed cost estimates and traffic modelling for Ipswich would be useful to allow residents of Ipswich to respond. Ms Buck agreed to look into whether any further information could be made available via the consultation website.
- 25.6 A resident asked whether anything was being considered to prevent the Orwell Bridge from being closed. Ms Buck reported that Highways England were investigating options for reducing the number of restrictions and closures on the Orwell Bridge but noted that the Ipswich Northern Route had wider benefits.
- 25.7 A resident commented that building the Ipswich Northern Route would undermine Suffolk County Council's objective of being the greenest county.
- 25.8 Councillor Richardson left at this point in the meeting.
- 25.9 A resident asked whether the Ipswich Northern Route would relieve the pressure on the roads in the centre of Ipswich. Ms Buck commented that the cancelled Upper Orwell Crossings Project would have alleviated pressure on the Star Lane Gyratory and whilst this project would have some benefits for the town centre that was not its intended purpose.
- 25.10 The Chair thanked Ms Buck for her presentation to the committee and encouraged those present to respond to the consultation.

26. Race for Change - Presentation

- 26.1 Maria Baressi and Phaniel Mutumburi, representatives of Race for Change, explained that the organisation was a group of people committed to improving the Racecourse Estate and the surrounding area. The group had been set up shortly after the death of Tavis Spencer-Aitkens and that members had run a number of events to engage with other members of their community. The group was supported by Ipswich Borough Council and would act as a link between public sector organisations and the local community who were reluctant to engage through more traditional routes.
- 26.2 Councillor Barber thanked members of Race for Change for their work.
- 26.3 A resident asked how many projects had been supported by the group. Ms Baressi explained that 5 projects had been funded and that other applicants had been signposted to more appropriate sources of funds. Mr Mutumburi commented that the group also allowed the community to problem solve its issues and that it was much more than a funding source.

26.4 A resident commented that the work the group was doing to engage young people was important and said he hoped that this would be successful.

26.5 The Chair thanked Ms Baressi and Mr Mutumburi for their presentation.

27. SEAC/19/08 Funding Request: Black History Month

27.1 Cedric McSheen, representing the Ipswich African & Caribbean Cultural Development Association, explained that it was intended that a Black History Month event be held at the Manor Ballroom. In 2018, 500 people had attended a similar event with a range of activities available to participants. Mr McSheen commented that the town centre location of the event helped to bring young people from across Ipswich together which he hoped would deter gang membership.

27.2 Councillor Barber commented that the event appeared to have grown significantly and hoped that it would do so again.

It was RESOLVED:

that £168.70 be allocated to the Ipswich African & Caribbean Cultural Development Association for the costs of a celebration day as part of Black History Month.

28. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

28.1 Councillor Harsant reported that Anti-Social Behaviour issues involving young people continued in the Waterfront area. Councillor Harsant commented that some of those perpetrating the Anti-Social Behaviour were suffering from neglect and that Suffolk County Council's Social Services teams had been involved. Councillor Harsant said that she was hoping that diversionary activity could be developed and felt that the issue was one which the whole community needed to address.

28.2 Councillor Parry explained that she had been trying to work with schools as young people across Ipswich faced challenges. Councillor Parry said that she was also working on a parking issue on Gladstone Road.

28.3 Councillor Cook noted that he was continuing to work with Suffolk County Councillors Quinton and Clements on removing the physical speed restrictions on Maryon Road.

28.4 Councillor Connelly noted that a group called Playing Out were encouraging residents to get their streets closed temporarily to make them safe areas for children to play in.

28.5 Councillor Handley explained that Ipswich BMX Club continued to work on redeveloping their track and that they would be hosting a regional event at their current facility in Landseer Park. Councillor Connelly also noted that the Landseer Park Funday was to be held soon.

29. SEAC/19/09 Area Committee Financial Update

29.1 Ian Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, explained that at the start of the meeting £2184.21 had been available to spend. Following the approval of the funding request, the balance of the South East Area Committee's unallocated budget was £2014.51

29.2 Mr Blofield reported that the remaining balance of the Nacton Road Community Fund for 2019/20 was £1129.61.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chair