

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2020

**GIPPING ROOM, GRAFTON HOUSE, RUSSELL ROAD
IPSWICH IP1 2DE**

6.30 PM

Present: Bridge Ward Councillors: C Allen, B Rudkin and P Smart
Gipping Ward Councillors: D Ellesmere and P Gardiner
Sprites Ward Councillors: H Armitage, C Smart and J Smith
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: N Cenci and T Grant
County Councillor: J Abbott

There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

50. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Hall and Councillor Hughes.

51. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 12 September 2019

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 12 September 2019 be signed as a true record.

52. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

That Item 6 – Police Priorities be moved under Item 4.

That Items 11 – Connect to Health, 12 – Eastern Angles Theatre Company and 13 – SWAC/19/15 Funding Request: Ginnel Foto Fest & PHOTOEASTfringe 2020 be moved under Item 5.

53. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

54. Police Priorities

- 54.1. Kirsty Graeffe, Acting Inspector, reported that following a recent restructure, three new Sergeants had joined the team and three new priorities had been agreed for the West of Ipswich.
- 54.2. Antisocial behaviour and drug crime in Austin Street/Bell Close had been made the first priority and part of tackling this would be through arranging street meets and engaging with the community. It was agreed that local Councillors would be notified to ensure they could be involved with any events.
- 54.3. The second priority agreed was around the issue of 'cuckoo'ing' and continuing to work with other partners to support victims of this. The third priority was tackling antisocial behaviour in Garrick Way/Castle Court.

55. Chair's Update and Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 56.1. The Chair confirmed that the grit bins were under review, including their location, condition, need and whether there were any active volunteers. Where no active volunteers had been identified, it had been recommended that the grit bins be removed. Should any residents wish to volunteer in their area, please could they contact Committee Services (committee.services@ipswich.gov.uk) who would forward their request on.
- 56.2. Councillor P Smart confirmed the locations within the South West where a grit bin volunteer had yet to be identified and it was agreed that Councillors would try and engage with residents in those areas to secure volunteers. It was also requested that special recognition be recorded to Mr Newsham, Integrated Transport Officer, who had undertaken an enormous task identifying all of the grit bins and locating volunteers for these.
- 56.3. The Chair confirmed that a recommendation had been included in the Area Committee Budget Update for two financial commitments from 2015 to be returned to the South West Area Committee's unallocated budget as the commitment period had expired and the funds were no longer required/valid.

56. Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk - Q&A Session

- 56.1. The Chair welcomed Mr Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, to the meeting.
- 56.2. Mr Passmore provided an overview on the service and confirmed that following the increase in Council Tax last year, an extra 21 Officers had been recruited across Suffolk (3 Police Sergeants and 18 Police Constables) of whom were highly trained, equipped with great technology and responsible for tackling significant issues such as organised crime groups. The increase had also ensured the recruitment of eight extra Officers within the Ipswich Safer Neighbourhood Teams and 45 new employees, which continued to make a big difference to policing .There would always be a need for extra resources

however, the funding model used by Central Government meant unfortunately, funding continued to be limited for Suffolk.

- 56.3. County Lines continued to be one of the biggest challenges facing Suffolk of which progress had been positive and had resulted in a number of arrests. Other important issues included knife crime, illegal immigration and modern day slavery, and a multi-agency approach would be used to continue to tackle this.
- 56.4. Mr Passmore confirmed that the new Police Station, which would be joint with Suffolk Fire & Rescue in Queens Street, was due to open in 2021 and would be a state of the art facility.
- 56.5. With regards to commissioning work, the Police Cadets had been expanded and a new Youth Intervention Fund had been established where applications could be made for funding by organisations who delivered services which supported young people. This had been highly successful and the results would be published later in the year.
- 56.6. The Government had announced their police officer uplift numbers and it was anticipated that 50-60 new Officers would be recruited within Suffolk over the next few years. This would increase Officers by 15% and would be transformational for policing in the area. With regards to this years' Council Tax, an online survey had been published with a 4% increase assumption made, which showed the areas where this extra money would be allocated. All residents were encouraged to undertake the survey which was available on the Suffolk Constabulary's website.
- 56.7. The Chair thanked Mr Passmore for his presentation and questions were taken from the Councillors and residents.
- 56.8. Councillor Cenci: What are the Police doing with the anti-social behaviour and intimidating behaviour in the town centre, where many women feel vulnerable in some parts?
Mr Passmore advised that perception was key and there had to be increased publicity with regards to what the Police were doing. However, this did not undermine the fact that police presence within the town was important.
Acting Inspector Kirsty Graeffe confirmed that social media was being used to publicise the Police's work however, there had to be a combination of both online communication and Officers seen in the town.
- 56.9. Councillor P Smart: With regards to exploitation issues and joint working, In November 2018 the Police and Ipswich Borough Council visited a property in Harland Street where 27 people had been living within a four bedroom property. The offenders had recently been successfully prosecuted and this highlighted the importance of joint-working.
Mr Passmore agreed and advised that both rogue landlords and domestic slavery would continue to be considered and tackled.

56.10. Councillor Allen: What agencies would be involved when supporting victims of cases such as the above? Where would people be housed and what support would be provided?

Mr Passmore confirmed that a number of services would be collectively responsible for providing support and a multi-agency approach would be undertaken. Acting Inspector Kirsty Graeffe commented that victims would be fully supported through the various processes by the appropriate services, such as during court proceedings.

56.11. Councillor Ellesmere: To help improve the perception of the town centre, could an eye-catching initiative around antisocial behaviour in the town be considered?

Mr Passmore advised that Suffolk Constabulary were encouraged to publicise the Days of Actions held and to work alongside Ipswich Central. There had been a number of good undercover success rates recently which could be revealed following the event, and it was hoped that this would help act as a deterrent. However more resource would always be desired and the suggestion of a new initiative would be explored further.

56.12. Councillor Rudkin: With regards to the response times to 999 calls, how could reassurance be given that following a call, people would get the appropriate support from the right service?

Mr Passmore confirmed that the statistics from all 999 calls were monitored on a monthly basis which included how quickly a call had been answered and the response rate following a call received. Last month, this had been 93% on target. Should there be any concerns regarding a specific incident, residents were encouraged to contact the constabulary so that this could be investigated further.

Acting Inspector Kirsty Graeffe confirmed that a triage process was in place with regards to how 999 calls were managed and all calls would be assessed using the THRIVE matrix, where an assessment would be made as to which service was required and graded A-D. Phone calls graded D meant no police presence was required and a call graded A meant police assistance was required immediately (within 15 minutes). All calls would be logged and shared immediately with the appropriate service for them to assess further.

56.13. Councillor C Smart: Following recent reports that confidence in Suffolk Police was amongst the lowest in the Country, what could be done to restore public confidence in the Police Service?

Mr Passmore responded that this was an important issue whereby due to the high amount of public engagement and generally good support for the Constabulary, the recent reports had been a surprise. Suffolk Constabulary would be undertaking their own analysis and survey around this issue however, it was anticipated that low confidence could be due to resource challenges and communication. Discussions would continue to be undertaken within the force to improve this issue and further considered by the Police & Crime Panel.

56.14. Councillor T Grant: Will there be an increase in support staff?

Mr Passmore confirmed that the extra funding for police officers also included money toward the recruitment of support staff. It would be a challenge to recruit

the numbers of officers under the Government's new uplift numbers however, a welcome one, and this would include a number of different career roles within the Police.

- 56.15. Councillor Allen: With regards to the perceptions of the town centre, there had to be mindfulness that local newspapers could report more 'bad' stories than 'good', and this may have an affect on people's perceptions.

Mr Passmore commented that dealing with people's perceptions continued to be challenge. Town pastors had been funded and work was undertaken with Ipswich Borough Council to provide a Taxi Marshalling Scheme which made a big difference at weekends. With regards to a point made earlier, large groups of people could not be dispersed unless they were engaged in illegal activity.

- 56.16. Resident: With regards to the town centre perception, over the Christmas there had been a number of shops with windows broken by children as young as twelve and there had also been thefts from a shop on St Peters Street. It was important that police were seen patrolling the streets as people had started not reporting crimes as they felt there was no point.

Mr Passmore advised that he suspected that one of the issues which would come up in the next survey would be around communication and it was important that improvements would be made. He reiterated his point about the funding formula used by Central Government which allocated what funding would be provided to which police forces in the country and how this had to change. Evidence about any crime committed was important to show how further resources were required, and residents were strongly encouraged to report any issues to the Police.

- 56.17. County Councillor Abbott: Nationally there had been a rise in anti-Semitism in politics and society, and an increase in hate crime of other incidences. What are some of the things Police are doing to try and relieve this?

Mr Passmore responded that there were a huge number of different groups and communities within society, of which they were there to represent everyone. With regards to hate crime specifically, this was an important priority for the Constabulary and continued to be tackled.

- 56.18. The Chair thanked Mr Passmore for attending the South West Area Committee meeting.

57. Connect to Health (Presentation)

- 57.1. Ms Louise Hardwick, Head of Partnerships for CCG Ipswich and Suffolk, provided a presentation on 'Connect for Health' which was a new programme designed for social prescribing. Social prescribing was a new initiative which had been rolled out by the NHS and Central Government, which provided a means of referring people to a range of local non-clinical services and a service which recognised how people's health and wellbeing could be determined by a number of factors, such as economic and environmental.

- 57.2. Social prescribing allowed individuals to take greater control of their health and wellbeing with the support of a Link Worker, who would be able to refer them to

more relevant services within the Community (often provided through local charities and voluntary groups). All GP practices within Ipswich had a link worker employed and it was estimated that nearly 40% of appointments made with a GP or nurse were for non-clinical reasons, for which social prescribing would be more relevant for these types of needs.

- 57.3. £250,000 had been invested into the service in Ipswich, and alongside a further £150,000, the service would run until March 2021. It was hoped that through social prescribing, more support could be provided to both patients and the NHS Health Professionals and would help strengthen individual resilience. It was also expected to be particularly helpful for those with long-term conditions such as low level anxiety/depression. The service could be accessed by anyone over 18, was free/confidential and designed for people with multiple non-medical needs.
- 57.4. Currently, referrals could be made through the GP practice however, this would soon be extended for self referrals and referrals from other agencies (such as those in the voluntary sector). Once an individual had met with their link worker, a care plan would be agreed for them and they would then be assisted where possible, such as with help accessing other services etc.
- 57.5. Ms Hardwick confirmed in response to a question that they would be working closely with Ipswich Job Centre and considering further ways of securing additional funding for employability programmes (through social prescribing).
- 57.6. It was agreed that an electronic version of the presentation would be circulated to the Committee.

58. Eastern Angles Theatre Company - Gatacre Centre Presentation

- 58.1. Alyson Tipping and Jess Baker, Eastern Angles Theatre Company, provided a presentation on the Gatacre Centre which was a new arts and heritage hub within Westgate Ward, created as a space for all in the community to use. The company had been set up in 1982 and provided high quality theatre whilst maintaining and promoting regional identity. National tours were held across England, with three big shows a year and several smaller projects undertaken with community groups. The company worked with young and old, and students from Chantry Academy and Stoke High would be taking part in workshops over the course of 2020.
- 58.2. There were four new studio spaces available for use including a business hub which would be used for 'hot desking' and extra rehearsal spaces. The four main areas of focus would be around business, heritage, arts and community and there would be options in place for social prescribing activities.
- 58.3. The theatre worked with many local groups including Suffolk Refugees and Lighthouse and a number of primary schools in the area. It was confirmed that following the transition into the new building, guidelines such as their Green Policy would be reviewed and their carbon emissions were reported on an annual basis to the Arts Council.

59. SWAC/19/15 Funding Request: Ginnel Foto Fest & PHOTOEASTfringe 2020

- 59.1. Mr Mike Chen, Representative for Ginnel Foto Community, presented a funding request to the Committee which sought £1,600.00 to the Ginnel Foto Community towards the overall cost of running the Ginnel Foto Fest in May 2020 and the PHOTOEASTfringe event throughout May and June 2020.
- 59.2. This would be the fifth year of the photo festival which continued to be a successful and well attended event and included both local and international artists. This year there would be more publicity, including the use of vinyl banners in the town to advertise the event (of which planning permission would need to be sought dependant on location), and online through social media/their website.

It was RESOLVED:

that £1600 funding be allocated from the South West Area Committee budget to Ginnel Foto Community towards the overall cost of running the Ginnel Foto Fest in May 2020 and the PHOTOEASTfringe event throughout May and June 2020, with two conditions attached as per the below:

- 1) That the proposed PHOTOEASTfringe event should not use the PHOTOEAST brand and should be promoted under the Ginnel Foto Community brand;**
- 2) That Ginnel Foto Community liaise with Ipswich Borough Council to ensure that the vinyl banners are installed in appropriate locations and in a manner that would not require planning permission.**

Reason: to support Ginnel Foto Community in delivering a local arts project that intends to engage the whole community in a deprived and diverse area of the town, to educate, entertain and bring people together.

60. Ward Councillor's Feedback from their Communities

Stoke Park Ward

Councillor Grant reported on behalf of Councillor Cenci that the issue of car crime had been reported to the Police at an earlier meeting and it was important that residents continue to raise any concerns regarding this. There had been problems with theft of trolleys at Asda Stoke Park and a new app (TrolleyWise) had been launched where users could report trolleys which had been abandoned and they could be collected. The bench in Bourne Park had also been moved.

Bridge Ward

Councillor P Smart confirmed that the Residents Parking Scheme in Old Stoke was now at design stage and would hopefully be implemented by mid March 2020.

Tenders were being sought for the bus shelter in Vinnicombe Court however, it was possible that the installation could be delayed, although the Council would aim for this to be as soon as possible.

Councillor Rudkin reported that the issue of fly tipping continued to be considered and confirmed that she would attempt to identify volunteers for the grit bins in the area.

Gipping Ward

Councillor Ellesmere confirmed that there had been complaints regarding the smell from Alderman Cannel which had gradually gotten worse over the years. Some pumps had been put in place however, these had been inadequate and therefore the Council had agreed in their budget that further works would be undertaken to fix the issues later this year.

Sprites Ward

Councillor Smith confirmed that several pot holes had been successfully reported in Chantry and an area of paving replaced in Sheldrake Drive. There had been some issues reported in Hawthorn Drive which continued to be considered.

Councillor Armitage reported that the dip in Hawthorn Drive near Sprites School had been partially filled however, further consideration of this would be requested. Suffolk Highways had agreed to replace the steps with handrails on Speedwell Road and this was due to be undertaken shortly. There had also been resurfacing work planned for Holcombe Crescent, including a crossing.

Councillor Armitage requested that a special recognition be recorded to the Street Cleaning team for the quick removal of graffiti which had been reported at the shops on Hawthorn Drive.

Councillor C Smart reported that unfortunately there had been a collision outside Gusford School despite numerous warnings and more work had to be considered there by Highways and Parking Enforcement. A special thanks was recorded to the Council for the clearing up of tree debris in the ward which had been quickly dealt with once reported.

61. Suffolk County Councillors Update

61.1. County Councillor Abbott reported that the Orwell Bridge had suffered a number of closures recently which although had an affect on Ipswich overall, had a particularly negative effect on Wherstead Road. A report was expected shortly from Highways England which would consider potential alternatives to the bridge and a strategic outline case for the Northern Bypass.

61.2. The Suffolk County Council consultation on the closure of Children's Centres would be ending soon and residents were urged to look at the proposals (which

included full closures and cuts to hours to 11 of the 38 centres in Suffolk) and respond to the consultation.

62. SWAC/19/16 Area Committee Budget Update

62.1. Shirley Jarlett, Head of Governance, confirmed that on the 18th March 2015, a commitment of £4,000 was agreed by the South West Area Committee for Parking Improvements to Whinchat Close. Following a resident objection, the parking improvements had not been undertaken and therefore the agreed funding was no longer required.

62.2. On the 5th November 2015 a commitment of £2,667.30 was agreed by the South West Area Committee for Minor Improvements at Hawthorn Drive. Although some work had been completed, there was an underspend on £762.30, as part of the planned improvements could not be undertaken. Therefore, as the commitment period had expired for both, the Committee was recommended to return both allocations (totalling £4,762.30) to the unallocated South West Area Committee Budget.

It was RESOLVED:

- i. that the financial position of the South West Area Committee as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;**
- ii. that the two financial commitments relating to reports SWAC/14/27 and SWAC/15/11 be returned to the unallocated South West Area Committee Budget as the commitment period had expired.**

Reason: to provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities of its action plan.

63. Responses to Public Questions Received and Open Discussion on Local issues

63.1. A resident asked if the riverside site currently closed on the Ipswich Waterfront would be reinstated as a public footpath. It was confirmed that this would be a matter for Suffolk County Council.

64. Dates of Future Meetings 2020/21, to be held at 6.30pm

Thursday 12 March 2020 – Chantry Methodist Church, Kingfisher Avenue, Ipswich IP1 0QN

Thursday 11 June 2020

Thursday 23 July 2020

Thursday 17 September 2020

Thursday 12 November 2020

Thursday 14 January 2021

Thursday 25 February 2021

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Chair