

# **SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2019**

**IPSWICH ACADEMY, BRAZIERS WOOD ROAD, IPSWICH  
IP3 0SP**

**7.00 PM**

**Present:** Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly, M Cook and S Handley  
Holywells Ward Councillors: E Harsant  
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber and L Richardson

Suffolk County Councillors M Gaylard and K Clements

There were 12 members of the public in attendance.

**46. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maguire, Parry and Studd, and Suffolk County Councillor Quinton.

**47. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September be signed as a true record.**

**48. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business**

**It was RESOLVED:**

**that the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda, subject to Item 8 (Policing Update) being considered after Item 6 (Chair's Update).**

**49. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **50. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings**

50.1 The Chair explained that next meeting was scheduled to take place on 8 January 2020, however, this was likely to be subject to change. The Chair explained that residents who received letters or emails inviting them to attend the South East Area Committee would be kept informed and the Ipswich Borough Council website would be updated to reflect any changes.

## **51. Chair's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings**

51.1 The Chair explained that the issue regarding the dumping of bags had been discussed with the relevant charity who had confirmed that it was not a significant problem.

51.2 The Chair confirmed that a written response had been sent to the resident who had enquired about Public Rights of Way across the Orwell Country Park.

51.3 The Chair noted that information giving more financial details of Emmaus Suffolk had been circulated to Councillors as requested at the previous meeting.

## **52. Policing Update**

52.1 Sergeant Tim Gregory reported that Suffolk Constabulary had recently had a peer inspection carried out and had been considered to be good in all areas, which was a great result. As with every inspection there had been some learning points identified which the force was trying to resolve.

52.2 Sergeant Gregory explained that the number of burglaries, attempted burglaries and street robberies in Ipswich East had dropped significantly, falling to almost zero in October; this was thought to be because a number of persistent offenders were currently being detained. A priority had been set for the whole of Ipswich which was to prevent violent crime; additional patrols were taking place to try to achieve this.

52.3 The Ipswich East Safer Neighbourhood Team was expected to be at full strength from 25 November, which would help them to tackle issues successfully. PC Hannah Creasy was also now in post as the new Community Engagement Officer. Suffolk Constabulary was recruiting for new officers and Sergeant Gregory encouraged those present to tell anyone they thought might be interested in applying.

52.4 Councillor Barber asked whether the Community Engagement Officer would be able to attend local youth groups. PC Creasy confirmed that she would be happy to attend if Councillor Barber passed on the details.

52.5 Councillor Cook noted that, based on the statistics included in the agenda pack, the crime rate in Ipswich was 19 percent higher than the average for comparable areas and asked why this might be. Sergeant Gregory explained that there were a range of possible reasons for the higher crime rate

statistically, however, he noted that the number of crimes in most key areas had been dropping significantly in recent months and that the statistics quoted were from March 2019.

- 52.6 A resident asked about enforcement action against illegal parking in Benacre Road. Councillor Barber reported that most parking enforcement was carried out by Ipswich Borough Council and suggested that if residents needed to report illegal parking they should do so by calling 01473 432840.
- 52.7 A resident thanked Police Officers for having attended a recent meeting of the Ravenswood Residents Association.
- 52.8 A resident asked whether anything could be done to prevent speeding in Back Hamlet. Sergeant Gregory explained that the community could set up a Community Speedwatch scheme. Sergeant Gregory reported that residents would need to volunteer to make this possible and that further information could be provided by PC Creasy on request.

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

- 53.1 A representative of the Ravenswood Residents Association thanked Councillors for their assistance with a range of issues over the last few years.

### **54. Feedback: Ravenswood Wildlife Area Access Improvements**

- 54.1 James Baker, Greenways Project Manager, and Sarah Kilshaw, Wildlife and Education Ranger, explained that the aims of the project had been to improve access for people whilst protecting skylark nesting areas. New paths had been built and existing ones had been improved. A set of steps had been built up the tump; these had been made from local oak, cut using the Greenways project sawmill. The new path had already been tested in the recent wet weather and hadn't puddled which was very good news. There were still a few finishing touches to be done, including additional fencing, however, the project had been a success and had been well received by visitors who had spoken to officers and volunteers.
- 54.2 A resident noted that regular walks from Gainsborough Library often included walks in the Ravenswood Wildlife Area and encouraged those present to attend if they could.
- 54.3 A resident noted that path improvements in the area had been an aim of the Ravenswood Residents Association and Councillors for many years and was pleased that the funding had been found to deliver the scheme.

### **55. Feedback: Ipswich Boxing Club**

- 55.1 Martin Cherrington, a representative of Ipswich Boxing Club, explained that Amateur Boxing was an Olympic Sport and was very safe. Around 150 people now participated in the club's activities, although only a small proportion of these would compete. All attendees benefited from improving their fitness and

from a sense of discipline, which was vital in boxing to prevent anyone from being hurt.

- 55.2 The Ipswich Boxing Club had been forced to move venues a few times in the past three years, which had disrupted the club's activities and growth but was now based at the Murrayside Community Centre again where the facilities were excellent.
- 55.3 Mr Cherrington noted that in 2017 the South East Area Committee had given the club a grant of £1,000. This had been used to buy a large amount of second-hand equipment from another club which had had to close. This equipment had been important in allowing the club to develop and the club's success now meant that other sponsors were becoming easier to find.
- 55.4 A resident noted that Murrayside Community Centre had been converted from a school as a result of lots of work by volunteers and was pleased that Suffolk County Council was no longer planning to close it. Suffolk County Councillor Gaylard commented that it was shocking that Suffolk County Council's administration had intended to close Murrayside and replace it with housing, and agreed that it was positive that it would remain open and that the community centre provided such good facilities for the Ipswich Boxing Club.
- 55.5 Councillor Barber commented that she was glad that the grant from the South East Area Committee had been useful in growing the Ipswich Boxing Club and praised the hard work of those who ran the club.

## **56. Connect for Health Presentation**

- 56.1 Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, gave a presentation on a new initiative called Connect for Health, which was intended to reduce demand on GPs and improve outcomes for patients by enabling social prescribing. Mr Lanning explained that many people asked their doctor for help with issues which were not primarily medical conditions and where other services could provide appropriate assistance. Patients would be offered 45 minute appointments at their GP surgery with a dedicated link worker, employed through Citizen's Advice in Ipswich, who could signpost them to alternative services. There would also be £20,000 funding available for new services to be provided where the project identified significant needs which were not being met.
- 56.2 Councillor Barber asked how much time link workers would spend in each surgery per week. Mr Lanning explained that each surgery would have a link worker based at it for between ½ a day and 1 day per week, depending on demand.
- 56.3 A resident asked how referrals to the project would be made. Mr Lanning explained that GP surgery receptionists could refer patients, as could GPs.

## **57. Seeds for Change Presentation**

- 57.1 Simon Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, explained that the Seeds for Change Fund had been established in August 2019 and was aimed at improving the lives and life chances of young people in Ipswich. The project had funding of £140,000, of which £120,000 had been provided by Ipswich Borough Council and £20,000 by Suffolk County Council. The Seeds for Change Fund was accepting nominations and the process had been designed to be as simple as possible with officers able to offer support to work up ideas into projects.
- 57.2 Councillor Barber asked whether the Seeds for Change Fund had a closing date. Mr Lanning explained that the fund would remain available until the funding had been allocated and so there was no fixed closing date.
- 57.3 A resident suggested that a Youth Council be created to allow young people to have a structured voice. Councillor Connelly commented that such a scheme would require someone to run it. Mr Lanning agreed that if an organisation could be found to support the idea it would make it easier to progress the project but encouraged the resident to submit an application form.

## **58. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors**

- 58.1 Suffolk County Councillor Gaylard explained that the opening hours of Rosehill Library were being consulted upon and encouraged users of the library to take part. Suffolk County Councillor Gaylard reported that Suffolk County Council had been considering closing more Children's Centres and opening the remaining ones to all ages from 0-19; the consultation was due to have started in September but had been delayed. Suffolk County Councillor Gaylard also reported that the number of health visitors employed by Suffolk County Council had fallen from 117 to 41 as a result of service cuts.
- 58.2 Councillor Connelly explained that he had gone on a walkabout with Parking Enforcement Officers and that there were few vehicles parked badly in the places he had visited.
- 58.3 Councillor Barber noted that the Ipswich Boxing Club had been nominated for an award at the Suffolk Business Awards which she commented was impressive. Councillor Barber said that she had visited the Queensway Rainbows and Brownies unit to talk about democracy.
- 58.4 Councillor Handley reminded residents of the School Uniform Swap Shop and Café which was run at All Hallows Church from 3-5pm on Thursdays.

## **59. Area Committee Financial Update**

- 59.1 Ian Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, explained that at the start of the meeting £548.86 had been available to allocate. The Committee was asked to return £163.20 which had not been needed to subsidise Bus

Service 4 to the main South East Area Committee Budget which would bring the total available to £712.06.

59.2 Mr Blofield reported that the remaining balance of the Nacton Road Community Fund for 2019/20 was £169.61 and that the remaining balance of the Ravenswood Community Fund was £34,000.

**It was RESOLVED:**

**a) that the funding allocated to subsidise Service 4 on Sundays and Bank Holidays which had not been required, totalling £163.20, be returned to the unallocated South East Area Committee Budget.**

**b) that the Financial Statement at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.**

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

**Chair**