

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023
MUSEUM STREET METHODIST CHURCH,
17 BLACK HORSE LANE, IP1 2EF
7.00 PM

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: John Cook, Adam Rae and Jane Riley
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: Oliver Holmes, Inga Lockington and Tim Lockington
Westgate Ward Councillors: Julian Gibbs and Carole Jones

30. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kreidewolf, County Councillor Bridgeman and County Councillor Richards.

31. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting - 6 September 2023

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 be signed as a true record.

32. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

The Chair reported that Agenda Item 7 (report CAC/23/10) had been withdrawn on the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

Resolved:

that, subject to Agenda Item 7 being withdrawn, the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

33. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

34. Responses to Public Questions

34.1. The Chair reported that 3 questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

34.2. Question 1: As Ipswich is built on land that is roughly in the shape of a bowl with a river running through the middle resulting in surplus water accumulating in the central area, I was wondering following the recent flooding in Debenham and Framlingham if more should be done to adapt to climate change in the short and long term?

For example, in the short term could the Ipswich Borough Council Central Area Committee Chair ask the Chairs of the surrounding areas to encourage their residents to empty their water butts when intense rain is forecast? By doing so it would minimise water butts overflowing and adding to the water heading to the central area.

In the long term, a value of £100 million was recently accepted by the UK Treasury as the cost of flooding in Aldeburgh High Street and I was wondering if the cost of flooding in the central area of Ipswich should be established to justify a business case for long term adaptation measures.

34.3. The following response was provided by the Director for Operations and Place:

Ownership of surface water drainage features was fragmented across a range of both public and private stakeholders, including private individuals and businesses, local authorities, highway authorities and water companies. Responsibility for flood risk in Ipswich was divided between several different 'Flood Risk Authorities', including the Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council (SCC), Anglian Water and Ipswich Borough Council, who all worked together in a multi-agency approach, for example, through the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership and Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy, the details of both could be found online.

In an urban area such as Central Ipswich, the challenges were different to those in coastal areas or in rural areas, as was seen on 20th October when farmers and landowners suffered flooding of their land leading to significant flooding downstream. In Ipswich, the relevant authorities all worked hard all year round to manage the surface water network; this included maintaining standards of highway and gully maintenance, which often went unnoticed but was key to ensuring that the surface water in the town could be managed.

In terms of protecting the town from river flooding, the Environment Agency's new tidal flood defence barrier for Ipswich was completed in 2019. Costing almost £70 million, the new flood defences, which included the tidal barrier, new and refurbished flood walls and a series of flood gates on the banks of the River Orwell, helped to keep the town safe from tidal surges during storms.

In terms of flood risk and new development in Ipswich, Planning Policy set the policies for new development coming forward. There were a range of policies within the Ipswich Local Plan related to climate change and flood risk. There

were policies which set out water efficiency standards for new development and that sought to ensure that development was located within areas that were of low risk of flooding and did not increase risk of flooding elsewhere. The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems was maximised and would be mandatory from 2024.

Because of the ongoing day to day management of the surface water network, the Planning policies that applied to any new development and the recent significant investment in the tidal flood defence barrier, flooding risk in Central Ipswich was being well managed, so establishing the cost of flooding in the central area of Ipswich would not currently add value; if the resident wished to pursue this matter further, SCC, as the Lead Local Flooding Authority, might be able to assist further.

In response to the proposal that the Borough Council should request that residents empty their water butts when intense rain was forecast, this type of request was outside of the remit of the Borough Council as there were many pros and cons associated with that proposal and decisions such as this should rest with individual residents.

34.4. Local resident: Both the Environment Agency and Anglian Water did send out messages to advise residents to empty water butts ahead of storms.

34.5. Question 2: Is anything planned to control the traffic on Anglesea Road? The 20mph limit is not respected virtually by anyone (buses, taxis, police cars).

34.6. The following response was provided by County Councillor Paul West:

The 20mph scheme was introduced to encourage people to drive slower. The only party who could legally enforce a speed limit was the Police.

34.7. The resident asked whether any other infrastructure could be considered to make drivers aware of the 20mph speed limit, such as flashing lights.

34.8. Councillor I Lockington commented that Councillors had been working with SCC Traffic Management to look to improve signage and deploy mobile cameras; however, this would either require approval for a post to mount the camera on or for a camera to be attached to an existing lamppost.

34.9. Councillor Jones added that this issue had been ongoing for many years; the ideal solution to slow traffic would have been a tabletop at the junction of Anglesea Road/Warrington Road/Orford Road, but this was deemed too expensive, so a 20 mph zone was introduced but speed enforcement was not a priority for the Police. Councillor Jones suggested that a speed indicator sign could be useful but was usually reserved for more rural areas. Councillor I Lockington added that a speed indicator sign was being pursued, subject to finding a suitable post for its installation.

34.10. Question 3: Is anything going to be done about trees being cut down within the Anglesea Road conservation area without permission? This was in relation to a

tree that had been cut down in the front garden of 48 Anglesea Road.

34.11. The following response was provided by the Head of Planning & Development:

With regards to the beech tree in the front garden of 48 Anglesea Road, this was felled under a 5-day notice as it was assessed as being dead and had become dangerous. As the tree was protected, the owner had a duty to re-plant and officers would pursue this with the owner.

If residents had any concerns about works that have been undertaken on protected trees, they can contact the local planning authority via email:

development.management@ipswich.gov.uk.

35. Policing Update

- 35.1. The Chair introduced PC Gary Austin, Link Officer, from the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who provided the following policing update.
- 35.2. Speed enforcement: PC Austin commented that enforcement was requested across Central Ipswich, but it was difficult for the Police to be effective if only attending on site infrequently. Residents could raise this issue with Inspector Nicola Turner as a new Community Policing Team model was being introduced from 4 December 2023 which would focus on addressing more local issues.
- 35.3. Operation Silverton (addressing street prostitution around Barrack Corner) was ongoing; the number of street workers was currently low, and more emphasis was being placed on targeting their clientele.
- 35.4. Operation Hull (tackling ASB and drug related crime in the town centre): more patrols were being undertaken by the Kestrel Team which had led to a number of arrests recently.
- 35.5. Local priorities included: Great White Horse Hotel - a multi-agency approach had been taken to address ASB issues; Maple Park - patrols were continuing in the area and Education Welfare Officers were working with children not in education; work was continuing with the Ipswich Roma community to address ASB at the London Road flats; Cattle Market Bus Station – a multi-agency approach had been successful in reducing the level of ASB and Design Out Crime options were being considered; Wingfield Street/NCP car park – a multi-agency approach had been taken with patrols from the Police and Parking Services, and SCC had removed some of the trees from Rosemary Lane to increase natural surveillance; Waterfront/University of Suffolk/Suffolk New College – ASB in this area had reduced to a manageable level.
- 35.6. From 4 December 2023, a new system of working would see Police resources realigned and the SNTs would be replaced with Community Policing Teams, with 6 officers on shift but ringfenced to each area and a dedicated Beat Officer for each ward.
- 35.7. Councillor I Lockington asked whether the ASB issues at the Great White Horse Hotel were being caused by people congregating outside or people who

were staying at the hotel. PC Austin commented that it was a multi-faceted problem involving both.

35.8. Councillor Gibbs asked whether any intelligence had been received in relation to All Saints Road relating to drug activity and prostitution in brothels. PC Austin was aware of drug activity but had not heard of issues with prostitution at this location.

35.9. Councillor Jones welcomed the partnership work being done to address ASB by young children in the Maple Park/Ainslie Road area, and added that businesses on Bramford Road had been reassured by the Police response to alcohol related ASB.

36. CAC/23/10 Funding Request - St Helen's Church

This Agenda Item was withdrawn.

37. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

The Chair commented that there were no actions to update on from the previous meeting.

38. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Councillors

38.1. Councillor T Lockington highlighted that whilst SCC were the responsible authority for flood management, Ipswich Borough Council was responsible for clearing detritus to prevent drains from becoming blocked; the recent flood on Westerfield Road had been caused by just one drain becoming blocked.

38.2. Councillor I Lockington commented that one drain had been reported to SCC as it was full of litter; it was important that there were sufficient bins available and that drains be kept free of detritus/rubbish. Flooding had also been reported on Valley Road and by the new housing in Westerfield Village.

38.3. Councillor J Cook commented that there had been a couple of successful prosecutions relating to littering and dumping offences; the Council issued Penalty Charge Notices in the first instance, but if the fines were not paid, offenders would be taken to court.

38.4. Councillor Jones highlighted a recent homelessness case where a family had been evicted from private accommodation as the landlord had decided to sell the property. Local authorities did not have a duty to help, but the Council's Private Sector Housing Team did arrange temporary accommodation. More landlords were opting to sell their properties rather than rent them out which was creating a burden on local authorities.

38.5. Councillor Riley reported that the Spring Road Allotment composting toilet, which had been funded by the Central Area Committee, had been installed and operational since September 2023.

39. CAC/23/11 Area Committee Budget Update

- 39.1. Mr Robin Payne, Assistant Director for Operations, reported that the Central Area Committee currently had £2,552 available to spend on its priorities.
- 39.2. With regard to the Making a Difference funding, Christ Church had advised that there had been a surplus of £90.42 from the £405 of funding awarded for their Holiday at Home scheme, which would be returned to the Alexandra ward budget.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

Reason: To provide details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to support priorities in Central Ipswich.

40. Dates of Future Meetings

- 40.1. The Chair reported that the dates of future meetings were listed on the Agenda, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 7pm in All Saints Church Hall, Blenheim Road.

The meeting closed at 7.34 pm

Chair