

CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2024
MUSEUM STREET METHODIST CHURCH, 17 BLACK
HORSE LANE, IPSWICH IP1 2EF
7.00 PM

Present: Alexandra Ward Councillors: Adam Rae and Jane Riley
St Margaret's Ward Councillors: Oliver Holmes, Inga Lockington and
Tim Lockington
Westgate Ward Councillors: Julian Gibbs and Colin Kreidewolf

SCC: Rob Bridgeman and Debbie Richards

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Cook and Councillor Jones.

17. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 4 September 2024

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2024 be signed as a true record.

18. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

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

19. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Bridgeman declared that he was an employee of Ipswich Borough Council.

20. Responses to Public Questions

20.1. The Chair confirmed that one question was received in advance of the meeting.

20.2. **Question 1:** We are currently having issues with the amount of people meeting outside of the off licence across the road from our property. Almost every evening we have a large group of people who purchase alcohol from the shop and gather to drink and socialize outside of the shop. We have spoken to the store owner, Housing officers, shop owners on the road and the police in the past.

The problem is that they gather from 5pm until the store closes at 11pm, and sometimes well after it has closed, and obviously as the evening progresses, they get rowdier. The stores either side had to remove plant pots as the people were urinating in them. They now visibly urinate in the front garden of the next door flats or around the corner by a cafe.

We have reported fights happening, drunk people who can't walk being left on the side of the road, and other anti-social behaviour to no result.

The last time we reported a fight we were told that the police had reviewed the cameras in the area and failed to see anything as we described. This was very disheartening as we know we aren't crazy and had video footage from our own phones. It's hard not to take that as people just not caring.

The noise is so loud by around 8pm that we can hear it over our television. Other neighbours have shouted to them from their windows. It really is unbearable.

The only thing we are told is that now the summer is over, it won't be as frequent. But 2 years in a row we have suffered from the constant noise.

It is happening less frequently now with the weather, but honestly, we ended up staying out at other places as much as possible just to have a peaceful evening.

Is there anything that can be done about this please? I am aware it can be tricky, but any help would be appreciated.

20.3. The following response was provided by Inspector Partridge.

I am sorry to hear how this issue has made you feel and the upset it has caused. I have done some research, and it would appear we have only been called twice to that location for the premises itself. I have researched the wider area and can see that we have been called to offences in nearby locations, but these have not been directly outside the location mentioned. I would ask that any ASB is reported online or by telephone where appropriate. I will raise the concerns with the local policing team and ask them to visit the premises and nearby location.

21. Policing Update

- 21.1. Inspector Lawlor, Ipswich Central SNT, reported that licensed premises continued to be considered with work undertaken alongside Local Authorities to ensure Ipswich's Night Time Economy was safe. A number of visits had been carried out to various licensing premises and it was noted that the NTE also added to the local ASB profile and therefore, it was hoped that partnership working would help to reduce this. A closure order had been issued on the Supper Club this month due to disorder and this would be reviewed at the end of the year however, the premises remained open at present time.
- 21.2. A temporary closure order had also been issued on the Water Lily pub which was closed at this time. A warrant had been executed whereby four people were arrested for offences and this continued to be investigated. A review hearing would be held in November and it was likely that this would remain closed as the landlord had not contested this.
- 21.3. Priorities in Central Ipswich included Arras Square. Ongoing work had been dedicated to this area and regular meetings were taking place with local businesses. Local ASB would be reviewed of which most was tied into the NTE ASB. Overall reports of ASB had decreased which was in line with the issues being seasonal. The bus stop outside Vodka Revolution was investigated as a focal point for ASB but this did not appear to be the case however, the area would continue to be monitored.
- 21.4. Operation Spotlight was an externally funded operation for ASB patrols and was dedicated to the Ipswich Town centre. The Officers undertaking patrols were protected and would not be asked to attend any other live jobs during their patrols. This had enabled high vis patrols in the town centre with 478 extra policing hours in the Buttermarket shopping centre alone. 576 extra hours had been dedicated in Ipswich altogether alongside the usual patrols taking place.
- 21.5. A Day of Action had been held on 22 October which included the Joint Roads and Armed Policing Team, Road Casualty Reduction team and local Response Investigation Team. This was undertaken alongside other partnership agencies such as HRMC and IBC Licensing. 5 arrests were made, 5 vehicles seized, 102 Traffic Offence Reports issued, 17 breath tests, and 2 stop searches. This had been a highly successful day and it was aimed that another day of action would be held in January 2025.
- 21.6. Ongoing work continued with attendance at Maple Park for the Thursday night sport sessions. The last session would take place this week and it was hoped that more sessions of a similar nature would be held in future. The sessions had been well attended with 56 young persons engaged with at the most recent session.
- 21.7. Operation Golder targeted drug offences and violent crime and a number of targeted patrols had been held in certain areas. Officers had visited cuckoo'ed addresses where vulnerable people's houses had been taken over by drug

- users to deal drugs from. In the last month 120 visits had been made to vulnerable addresses with some visited daily. 57 arrests had been made, 18 warrants executed, 44 people stop searched and 200 pieces of intelligence submitted as a result. The Operation targeted prolific offenders and worked to use community protection notices and full community behaviour orders to the Court.
- 21.8. Work had been undertaken regarding juveniles accessing derelict buildings and causing risk to themselves or the public. The number of incidents had recently increased and identifying, educating and if need action, would be taken.
- 21.9. It was noted that there had been no increase in reported vehicle crime.
- 21.10. Councillor Gibbs asked for clarification regarding the law around electric bikes which were high speed and used on public highways. He noted that Westgate Street was particularly bad and had worsened over recent weeks. Sgt Throssell explained that as the bikes were mechanically assisted, they were road legal without a need for a licence, MOT etc. A trained traffic operator would need to establish if someone was causing a problem and no specific enforcement had been made around them as yet however, clarity on this subject would be sought. It was also hard to identify riders following complaints as often hoods, hats, etc. were worn.
- 21.11. Sgt Throssell reported that when he first began working with the Ipswich SNT a project was launched to try and resolve Westgate Street parking. This approach had been similar to IBC Parking Enforcement in which a warning would be given first and then a ticket. Parking powers would be devolved from the Police to IBC from 10th February 2025 and Police could only issue 6 different tickets for 6 specific offences. Currently, tickets were issued for dangerous or unnecessary obstruction (in cases where a wheelchair or push chair could not fit past on the pavement).
- 21.12. Councillor Gibbs commented that it seemed that the law needed to catch up to the issue of motorised bikes due to the speed that they could go.
- 21.13. County Councillor Bridgeman commented that he had received a letter from an elderly resident who had nearly been knocked over by an electric bike. He asked if when Police were patrolling and saw cyclists going at speed on a pedestrian pathway if they would stop them and be given words of advice. Sgt Throssell advised that match funded PCSO's patrolled the town centre during the day and would discuss this with people if observed.
- 21.14. County Councillor Bridgeman asked if the gang responsible for breaking into cars had been found since reports of this had decreased. Sgt Throssell explained that much of this work was covered by Operation Gladioli and advised that most of the thefts from cars had been opportunistic as opposed to being an organised group or gang. Offenders had been caught and dedicated patrols were undertaken at night.

21.15. Councillor I Lockington noted that Councillors who were members of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee had previously been invited and attended a NTE patrol with the Police and suggested that this opportunity be provided again as it was useful for Councillors to observe.

21.16. Further discussion took place around electric bikes and how as they were much faster than 16mph, they should be categorised as a motor vehicle. It was confirmed that the Police were highly reliant on legislation passed by Government and that they would try and use what powers they could to try and tackle this issue. It was explained that a particular calibrator was required to track the speed and this technology was not available in normal response vehicles.

21.17. Councillor T Lockington commented that these types of bikes were often used in London for criminal activity by gangs i.e. theft of personal belongings and noted that it appeared to be quite simple to deregulate these types of bikes. Inspector Lawlor advised that fortunately this type of criminality had not reached Ipswich however, conversations would be held with colleagues in London should it be required.

22. CAC/24/06 Area Committee Budget Update

Resolved:

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

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its Action Plan.

23. Chair's Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

23.1. The Chair reported that there were no actions from the previous meeting.

24. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Councillors

24.1. County Councillor Bridgeman reported that the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership were offering a Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer of 50% off (up to £200) eco-friendly loft insulation for homeowners in Suffolk. Lighting on the Waterfront continued to be monitored; SCC were installing more lighting in the area however; it was not confirmed exactly where this would be.

24.2. Councillor Kreidewolf confirmed that the railings at the Civic Drive roundabout had been replaced by SCC and the final part of the work would be completed shortly. The TRO on Berners Street was awaiting implementation following a number of dangerous situations occurring with regards to transport and it was hoped that this would be in place soon.

24.3. Councillor I Lockington noted that the TRO in Berners Street and Christchurch Street had been funded from her local SCC Highways budget and would continue to be chased to ensure it was implemented as soon as possible. A

number of residents had advised issues with drainage due to rainwater and it was hoped that Anglian Water could be supported and persuaded to provide better drains in the areas affected.

- 24.4. Councillor T Lockington noted that the use of glyphosate as weed treatment was extensive which had resulted in lots of detritus appearing on pavements which then became an IBC issue. Pavement weeds were a new hazard, and it was important that this was closely monitored.
- 24.5. County Councillor Richards noted that the children's football held at Maple Park had been stopped over the Winter as the surface was unsuitable for playing however, it was hoped that the sessions would commence again in Spring 2025. £1200 had been provided towards this from County Councillor Richard's locality budget and the charity hoped to raise the total amount needed by that time to continue the sessions.

25. Dates of Future Meetings

- 25.1. The Chair reported that the dates of future meetings were listed on the Agenda, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.34 pm

Chair