Present: Bridge Ward Councillors: P Smart, J Powell and B Rudkin
Gipping Ward Councillors: P Gardiner, J Macartney and D Ellesmere
Sprites Ward Councillors: R Fern, H Clarke and R Kirby
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: B Studd and G Chisholm

There were 28 members of the public in attendance.

31. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor N Cenci.

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

Resolved:

to vary the Order of Business. To consider Item 9 – Ipswich Buses Presentation and Item 10 – SWAC/14/13 – Aster Road – Bus Shelter Installation and Clearway Restriction at Item 8 on the agenda, then the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the agenda.

33. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R Fern declared an interest in item SWAC/14/15 – Funding request Tilted Productions Workshops, as his wife attends Asterbury Place Care Home, Aster Road one day a week.

34. **Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2014**

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2014, be signed as a true record.
35. **SWAC/14/12 Police Priorities and Statistics**

35.1 PC Sharon Haddock reported that the Police priorities for the South West of Ipswich were:

1. To deal with drug taking in the area of Alderman Recreation Ground. 2 warrants had been issued and 1 arrest had been made, regular high visibility patrols and ‘stop and searches’ continued, concentrating specifically on the area near the river. CCTV had been authorised for this area and would be installed.
2. To deal with antisocial behaviour issues in the Station Street area. Following extra patrols, more youth engagement and street intelligence this area had been quieter in recent weeks.

35.2 A reform of the Anti-Social Behaviour powers had recently come into effect in July 2014 which included criminal behaviour orders, community protection notices, public space protection orders and the continued power of dispersal order use. A dispersal order was an exclusion zone in a certain area (usually for up to 48hrs) and the Officer stressed the importance that all incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported.

35.3 A person had been charged over the recent spate of arsons in the area, any suspicious activity should be reported and residents were encouraged to lock their doors and windows and check the locks on their sheds.

35.4 Supported by all UK Police Forces, the UK National Property Register Immobilise was available on www.immobilise.com. It was an effective tool to help reduce crime and recover stolen personal property to its rightful owner linked to the Police national property database and was also used by recovery agents and lost property offices.

35.5 The Police Officer reported the following figures for the South West area in comparison to those of the previous 4 weeks:
- Violence with Injury – up by 4
- Domestic Burglary – down by 3
- Anti-Social Behaviour – down by 73

35.6 Parking problems outside schools remained an on-going issue in the South West area and the PCSO dedicated to this problem continued to undergo multi-agency meetings, radio interviews and also attend discussions held with Councillors, schools and the Parking Service. Suffolk County Council had been contacted and some road markings had been refreshed. In respect of young people’s safety, road safety officers had been contacted about how to make the problem areas safer.

35.7 Councillor Ellesmere thanked the Police for the work undertaken to apprehend the person over the recent spate of arsons and with the situation at Alderman Recreation Ground and the Committee echoed this sentiment.
35.8 In response to a comment by a resident of Holyrood Close, the Police reported that damage by dog walkers in this area had been flagged up to PC Craig Smith and if there was a fear of injury to an individual then the Police were at liberty to deal with any incidents.

**Resolved:**

that the Policing priorities (updated verbally) and the Statistics, as detailed in Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/12, be noted.

36. **Chairman’s Update and actions from the previous meeting**

36.1 No updates or actions from the previous meeting were outstanding.

37. **Suffolk County Councillor update**

37.1 Suffolk County Councillor H Armitage stated that work on the traffic improvements under the ‘Travel Ipswich’ scheme had now ceased until after the Christmas period and discussion took place about the alteration made to the pavement outside the Royal Mail Sorting Office on Princes Street.

38. **Ipswich Buses - Presentation**

38.1 Malcolm Robson of Ipswich Buses gave a presentation and reported that, from the bus company’s view there were no significant issues with buses in the South West area at the moment. He explained to residents about the bus situation both nationally and locally and how Ipswich Buses was one of the remaining 11 (of the former 58) municipally owned bus companies in the country. Owned by Ipswich Borough Council since 1908, by trading at arm’s length as a shareholder while taking no dividends but with a board of directors, all profits were put back into the business. 23,000 trips on Ipswich Buses were made daily and services could only run if they covered their basic running costs.

38.2 Ipswich Borough Council currently financially supports Service 14. The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme entitles senior citizens to free off peak travel on buses across England. Ipswich Buses currently received 93p per concession.

38.3 Bus Service Operators Grants (BSOG) were offered to operators of local bus services to recover fuel costs based on annual fuel consumption and Ipswich Buses currently received £210,000. This offset any delays due to road works, the retail being offered in the Town Centre as opposed to that in out of town locations and the low cost car parking available on many temporary sites.

38.4 This benefitted passengers by keeping fares down and operating services which would otherwise be unprofitable. The out of town retail centres e.g. John Lewis and Next had seen an increase in passenger travel around these locations and together with gaps left by the cessation of services by other
companies and more use of the park and ride sites, it was expected that the low cost temporary car parks should disappear.

38.5 Residents expressed their concerns about the amount of diesel on the road on bus routes which could be hazardous, especially to motorbike users and black smoke being emitted from exhausts. Mr Robson assured them that all vehicles have a Ministry of Transport (MOT) test and spot checks for leakage and fumes on each vehicle were undertaken regularly. A resident also mentioned the issue of the lack of space for disabled users or pushchairs on buses and Mr Robson said that the consideration of all passengers was important. Legislation dictated that drivers could ask passengers to move down the bus but should the situation arise and the driver felt the situation could not be resolved then he could, if necessary, switch off the engine and call the Police.

38.6 Mr Robson confirmed that, in respect of competitors prices being lower, the bus company would react to any lost revenue accordingly. A Smart Card was promoted, which could be charged with credit per week, month or year, and if used enough times within the allotted time frame, could result in fares being cheaper per journey.

39. **SWAC/14/13 - Aster Road - Bus Shelter Installation and Clearway Restriction**

39.1 Michael Newsham the Integrated Transport Officer of Ipswich Borough Council explained that a new bus shelter had been proposed at Aster Road near the junction with Shamrock Avenue. The proposed works would be funded by the developer of the new nearby care home as part of the planning conditions. Consultation had been undertaken with all affected residents and a letter was attached at Appendix 2 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/13. No objections had been received to the proposals.

39.2 Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) was discussed and it was confirmed that, as part of the 'Travel Ipswich' scheme this would be provided mostly within the Town Centre and that it would be fitted on posts adjacent to shelters and not within the actual shelter. However, this had been a Suffolk County Council decision and the cost for developers to provide signs on bus stops was also discussed.

39.3 The Officer responded to resident’s questions about retrospectively fitting end panels on existing bus shelters and replacing old bus shelters and he reported that funding was limited and each bus stop would be considered individually but concern was noted about a bus stop on Belstead Road (between Holyrood Close and Sandringham Close) which suffered from adverse weather conditions due to not having any end panels.

39.4 Suffolk County Council were looking at technical based solutions to address the lack of Real Time Passenger Information in areas outside the Town Centre and it was noted that phone 'apps' exist for smart phones and some companies operate a system in the UK where you could text and receive bus information messages.
Resolved:

that the installation of a new bus shelter at Aster Road with raised bus stop kerbs and a bus stop clearway restriction as detailed in Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/13 be approved.

Reason: The proposed works would provide an improvement to public transport facilities for residents of the local area, including residents, staff and visitors to the new nearby care home. There would be no financial implications as the work would be funded by the developer of a new adjacent care home as part of their planning conditions.

40. Responses to Public Questions Received and Open Discussion on Local Issues

40.1 Two questions had been received by e-mail prior to the meeting from residents of Sprites and Stoke Park wards respectively.

Question 1 – How had the ‘Suffolk One’ student parking problems in nearby residential streets been investigated?

Councillor R Fern responded that in 2009, a consultation had been undertaken by the Transport and Environment Engineers, Robert West, about parking controls in the area around Suffolk One in the South West of Ipswich and a report had been submitted to Suffolk County Council in July 2009. On this basis, Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO’s) were recommended on 28 May 2010 however, no recommendations were taken forward.

Regular dialogue had taken place with the residents who had submitted this question, together with visits from senior staff of Suffolk One. At a recent consultation held at Chantry Methodist Church, organised by Councillor Fern, various solutions had been put forward including a request for ‘access only’ restrictions to be installed in roads around the Suffolk One area. However ‘access only’ restrictions related only to moving traffic for which, if observed, a driver could be cautioned.

A petition of 400 signatures had been presented to the Highways Department at Suffolk County Council but no capacity had been available to deal with this or any consultations. Councillor Fern could only suggest that consultation continued and that local residents continued to complain to Suffolk One and Suffolk County Council but he was aware that enforcement of restrictions in some areas could just result in the problem moving to other roads in the area.

40.2 A resident agreed that several of the options in response to problem parking could be difficult to enforce and he drew attention to land adjacent to Suffolk One, owned by Ipswich Borough Council. It was also confirmed that the petition put forward to Suffolk County Council had included residents from the Pinewood area.
40.3 The Chair suggested that a Suffolk One representative, the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning and a Senior Traffic Officer of Suffolk County Council be invited to attend the next South West Area Committee to respond to resident’s concerns and that the invitation be extended to residents of the Pinewood area.

**Question 2 – Who is responsible for issuing parking tickets to illegally parked cars outside schools?**

The Chair responded on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council’s Parking Service Manager:

‘I can confirm that parking restrictions in Ipswich are enforced under civil law and are no longer the jurisdiction of the Police. (please note this does not apply to any other district in Suffolk as all restrictions are still dealt with under criminal law in these areas). There are occasions when the Police may choose to consider a vehicle is parked causing an obstruction and they can then issue a fixed penalty notice but Ipswich Borough Council cannot comment on this as it is down to Police policy.

*The Police and Crime Commissioner (Mr Passmore’s) assurance that ‘all PCSO’s’ have the powers of Traffic Wardens’ will have no meaning in Ipswich as the restrictions are not covered by criminal law.*

*In short – the Police cannot enforce the parking restrictions in Ipswich*.’

40.4 The Chair reported that the North East Area Committee had recently agreed funding to support additional parking enforcement to patrol schools in the area at drop off and pick up times on a random basis. It was suggested that a funding request be submitted to the next South West Area Committee for a similar initiative (to include a summary of the enforcement responsibility) to be put forward in the South West area of Ipswich.

41. **SWAC/14/14 - Funding request - 2015 Easter, Summer & October Holiday Activities**

41.1 Adam Keer, Sports Development Officer of Ipswich Borough Council presented this report which requested £6,515 of funding from the South West Area Committee budget for young people’s activities in 2015 for Easter, Summer and October holiday activities.

41.2 During 2014, there had been an 8% increase overall in attendance at activity days and the South West of Ipswich had the largest increase in attendance with 300 attendances during 1 day. Female participation had also increased with a 1083% increase in attendance and 71 females had attended.

41.3 It was proposed that there be 39 hours of activities across the South West area of Ipswich during 2015 as opposed to 27 hours in the other four Area
Committee areas of Ipswich to take into account the size and spread of the geographical area of the South West.

41.4 In response to how the activities had been advertised, the Officer confirmed that the Sports Service at Ipswich Borough Council had approached all primary schools in the area, shops, doctor’s surgeries, key supermarkets and that SNT Officers, Community Engagement Officers, Community Caretakers and Housing Officers had also promoted the sessions. Taster sessions would also be offered to schools in the area to introduce the activities for 2015 and it was confirmed that no additional resource would be required to organise this.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocates £6,515.00 from the South West Area Committee budget for young people’s sporting activities in the 2015 Easter, Summer and October school holidays, be agreed.

Reason: This would encourage young people to engage in sporting activity, particularly in their local areas where it is perceived they have nothing else to do, in order to promote healthy lifestyles and provide diversionary activities during the school holidays.

42. SWAC/14/15 - Funding request - Tilted Productions Workshops

42.1 Lib Fox presented this funding request from the touring performing arts company, Tilted Productions (based in Jerwood DanceHouse), for £2,280 from the South West Area Committee budget to deliver 20 community workshops in Ipswich in February 2015 for local groups of people. A cast of intergenerational dancers and performance artists would explore the connection with everyday objects around the theme of ‘belonging’.

42.2 Participants would be encouraged to take part in the final piece when it was performed in Ipswich during the two year national and international tour. Positive responses had been received from several nursing, care and retirement homes in the South West area.

42.3 In response to questions from the Committee it was confirmed that several other venues had been offered the workshops and that feedback was now part of the monitoring process of any funding allocated. It was also confirmed that all Councillors would be informed when events were taking place and input during discussions and observations at the workshops would be included by the community cast when performed in Ipswich.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocates £2,280 from the South West Area Committee budget for Tilted Productions to deliver community workshops in Ipswich, as detailed in Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/15, be agreed.
Reason: Workshops offered by Tilted Products would offer members of the South West area of Ipswich the opportunity to engage in stimulating and creative activity. Their input would feed directly into the final work, thus giving participants a sense of ownership over an internationally touring production.

43. **SWAC/14/16 - Funding request - Survivors in Transition**

43.1 Fiona Ellis, Operations Director from Survivors In Transition presented this report which requested a contribution of £2,000 funding to help run an outreach programme and target session delivery aimed at supporting and empowering adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) in Ipswich.

43.2 Councillors requested more information about how the full costs of the project would be met and whether the South West Area Committee would be asked to fund this project year on year. Fiona Ellis confirmed that £3,500 of funding had already been secured and that she had been employed in order to secure future major funding and if full funding was not secured year on year, then group and outreach sessions would be scaled back. It was also confirmed that 45% of referrals were from residents in the South West area of Ipswich.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocates £2,000 from the South West Area Committee budget for the delivery of an outreach programme and daily session delivery by Survivors In Transition, as detailed in report Ref No: SWAC/14/16, be agreed.

Reason: To improve the service offered to adult services of childhood sexual abuse based in Ipswich.

44. **SWAC/14/17 - Funding request - ActivLives**

44.1 Jo Whittall from ActivGardens presented this report which requested £3,500 of funding be allocated to purchase a second hand vehicle for ActivGardens to transport volunteers, learners, students and work placements to outreach projects at schools and sheltered housing projects as detailed in Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/17. The request linked to the Health and Well-Being priority in the South West Area Action Plan.

44.2 The Committee, whilst supporting the work undertaken by this project, raised concerns that a Business Plan had not been drawn up by ActivGardens to take into account any maintenance costs or a future replacement vehicle. The ActivGardens representative confirmed that maintenance would be dealt with by income generated and that it was hoped that a Community Interest Company would be formed, for which a Business Plan would be required.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Committee allocates £3,000 from the South West Area Committee budget for a vehicle for ActivGardens, as detailed
in Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/17, subject to a Business Plan being produced by ActivLives to ensure funding for a future replacement vehicle was identified, be agreed.

Reason: To help increase opportunities for volunteers and students with complex needs to participate in outreach gardening, attend events and deliver plants and produce to the local community.

45. **SWAC/14/18 - Area Action Plan Update**

45.1 The Community Engagement Officer reported that under the Young People’s Health Initiative priority, Youth Health Champions or Ambassadors training, by Live Well Suffolk Health Professionals, had taken place in Stoke High School – Ormiston Academy and Gusford Primary School.

45.2 New initiatives had been put in place to discuss the Debt and Fraud Prevention priority within schools and guidance notes had been drawn up to give tenants pre-tenancy advice.

45.3 Work continued to be undertaken by the designated PCSO on the Parking near Schools priority.

Resolved:

that the South West Area Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/18 and the verbal update, be noted.

Reason: Developing priorities to provide the basis of an area delivery plan would enable the Area Committee to clearly communicate its vision and priorities for the area and would help demonstrate how its budget was being allocated to deliver the priorities set for the Area.

46. **SWAC/14/19 - Area Committee Budget Update**

Resolved:

that the financial statement of the South West Area Committee, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/14/19, be noted.

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to deliver the priorities in the action plan.

47. **Dates of Future Meetings 2015, all to be held at 6.30pm:**

- Thursday 22 January 2015 – Hillside Community Primary School, Belstead Avenue IP2 8NU
- Wednesday 18 March 2015 – Orwell Room, Grafton House, Russell Road IP1 2DE
The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Chair