

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

AREA TWO COMMITTEE (BASFORD AND BESTWOOD WARDS)

MINUTES

of meeting held on **27 JULY 2011** at

Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham from 4.30 pm to 5.55 pm

Present

- ✓ Councillor Grocock (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Ottewell (Vice-Chair) (minutes 7-13 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Arnold
- Councillor Norris
- ✓ Councillor Smith
- Councillor Wildgust

✓ indicates present at meeting

Community Representatives

- Ms M Hemphill - Chair, Area 2 Panel
- Ms P Chambers)
- Mrs M Wright) Bestwood Estate Community Centre
- Mr R Glass - Leen Valley Tenants and Residents Association
- Mr M Nawrocki - Leen Valley Community Association
- Mr G Hall - Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch Association
- Rev. A Morris - St Matthews Church
- Mr P England - Whitemoor Neighbourhood Watch Association

City Council colleagues, partners and others in attendance

- Councillor J Morris
- Miss F Atkin - Biodiversity and Greenspace)
Policy Officer
- Mr J Dymond - Parks Development Manager)
- Mr A Henry - Neighbourhood) Communities
Environmental Manager)
- Ms H May - Neighbourhood Manager)
- Mr D Scothern LAC Co-ordinator (North)
Community Protection
- Mrs K Worthington - Centre Manager)
- Miss C Davies - Policy Officer)
- Mr G de Max Partnership Manager) Development
- Miss C M Jackson Constitutional Service Officer Resources

Please note: except where otherwise indicated, all items discussed at the meeting were the subject of a report which had been circulated beforehand.

ACTION

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Norris and Wildgust.

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of Councillor J Morris as an attendee at the meeting, the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 June 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

10 NEW LOCALITY ARRANGEMENTS

The Neighbourhood Manager, Heidi May, explained to the Area Committee, the proposed changes to the area committee structure. The key points were:

- discussions with stakeholders, including partner agencies had resulted in a decision to align boundaries in such a way as to improve the effectiveness of partnership working and deliver ongoing budget savings. 2011 was to be a transitional year;
- the proposals would allow the Council and key partners including the Police and Nottingham City Homes to reduce management costs whilst improving services to citizens through aligned delivery and an improved focus on service improvement;
- the aim was to work more effectively at a local level and work was currently being undertaken to ascertain what worked well at a local level and what did not;
- the current Area Committee boundaries would be retained until the municipal year 2012/13. From 2012/13 there would be changes to Area Committee boundaries and a consequent reduction from ten Area Committees to nine (including the City Centre);
- in support of these changes and of closer partnership working, approval had been given to the establishment of North, Central, South and City Centre Transformation and Performance Boards. The four Boards were to be developed over the course of the year for a full launch in 2012;
- it was proposed that Basford and Bestwood wards remain as Area 2 but joined with Bulwell and Bulwell Forest and Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley wards to form the North Locality;

- the number of Area Managers would be reduced from 6 to 4. In the meantime, there would be some crossover between the current Area Managers to ensure that all Area Committees were covered by at least one of them;
- it was also proposed to strengthen community representation on area committees by recruiting community representatives through a recruitment and selection process which would take place in September/October. It was hoped to recruit from tenants and residents groups, voluntary groups, faith groups, and other groups in the areas such as Neighbourhood Watch;

The following issues were raised in the discussion which followed:

- it was pointed out that the time and effort put into local issues by some volunteers was not always recognised and appreciated;
- it was regarded as important that Area Committees retain their identity in the new structure and that the voice of local representatives should not be lost;

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Area Committee to the Area Manager for the information provided be recorded and the position with regard to the re-organisation of Area Committees be noted.

11 CHEDISTON VALE OPEN SPACES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA DOG CONTROL ORDER

(Report of Director, Community Protection Service)

Further to minute 23, dated 24 November 2011, D Scothern, Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) Co-ordinator (North) Community Protection, updated the Area Committee on the outcome of the consultation which had taken place in response to the problems associated with the control of dogs using Chediston Vale open space/children's play area which impacted on the quality of life of both residents and visitors to the play area. The results of the consultation were set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report. The proposal to bring in a Dog Control Order for the land in question was supported by the majority of those who responded to the consultation.

In the discussion which followed, it was emphasised by the Chair that there was no intention to stop dogs going onto the children's play area and that there was no intention to penalise responsible dog owners. Any response to concerns had to be effective, necessary and proportionate. However, the fact could not be over-looked, that dog fouling was a major concern to the majority of citizens. It was recommended, therefore, that the recommendation outlined in the report at section 2 (b) be amended to make the requirement one of putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer as opposed to a requirement to put and keep a dog on a lead.

It was anticipated that the Order would be implemented on 1 October 2011.

RESOLVED

(1) that the results of the consultation on the proposal to introduce a

Dog Control Order for the Chediston Vale open space/park be noted;

- (2) **that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make an order to include:**

**Director of
Legal and
Democratic
services**

a requirement to remove dog faeces;

- (b) **a requirement to put and keep a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;**

- (3) **that the Director of Community Protection be authorised to carry out the necessary advertisements and arrange for appropriate signage to be erected in accordance with the legislative requirements.**

**Director of
Community
Protection**

12 THE EMERGING HOUSING STRATEGY FOR THE CITY

(Report of Corporate Director of Development)

The Housing Partnership Manager presented the Housing Nottingham Plan to the Committee. It set out the priorities and objectives for housing and housing related services in the next three years and highlighted the following points:

there were fundamental changes in progress due to:

the Government's emergency budget 2010;

the Comprehensive Spending Review in Autumn 2010;

- o proposed social housing reform and its effect on the length of tenancies;

the Localism Bill.

All of these meant that the Council's previous strategy was no longer fit for purpose.

the following measures had been achieved under the latest plan:

the development of Lark Hill Retirement Village;

- o the development of Albany House which was purpose built for older people in St Ann's;
- o 500+ affordable housing units had been developed, including 31 Council homes;

Stonebridge Park regeneration;

the Decent Homes strategy;

Warm Zone and the reduction of fuel poverty;

- o the City was an exemplar in homelessness prevention with targets being achieved;

the new approach had the following key features:

- a partnership approach to tackling changes;
- a focus on neighbourhoods - what was important and relevant to specific places;
- looking at housing's wider contribution to, for example, health, children and families, employment, crime, anti-social behaviour and the local environment;
- focussing on outcomes and not processes i.e. the Plan was not an end in itself;

the four themes for 2012-2015 were:

- the supply of homes;
- housing standards;
- housing for specific groups and inclusion;
- housings contribution to our neighbourhoods;
- the Council was looking for citizens to make their views on housing known and questionnaires were being distributed for that purpose;

The following issues arose out of the discussion which followed:

- there was concern that several plans/strategies had been brought to the Area Committee over the last ten years and that there appeared to be very little progress with implementing a housing strategy;
- energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty had to be a top priority when considering new housing;
- better use had to be made of the current housing stock by encouraging better use of under-occupied homes;
- landlords who had acquired ex-Council houses need to be encouraged to invest in them;
- it was important to retain the community feel of housing estates;
- when considering moving the elderly, some thought had to be given to changing the policy of 'no pets'. This may encourage more elderly people to move out of homes which were too big for them and into more suitable sheltered housing;
- concern was expressed about the cost of the current consultation. The Housing Partnership Manager explained that the methods being used, for example online surveys and simple questionnaires to ascertain citizen's

views, meant that the costs were being kept to a minimum.

RESOLVED:

- (1) **that the emerging themes, priorities and objectives of the Plan be noted;**
- (2) **that stakeholders be encouraged to comment on which housing issues were most relevant to the Area and feed into the Plan.**

All

13 LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DESIGNATIONS

(Report of Director, Sports Culture and Parks)

The Parks Development Manager introduced the report setting out the proposals to designate Sandy Banks and part of Hucknall Road Walkway as local nature reserves i.e. protected open spaces for both wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy. These two sites had been chosen for their ecological importance and their position within the community. It was proposed that further consultations be carried out with interested bodies and those who may have statutory rights over the land. The decision to formally declare either or both of the sites as Local Nature Reserves would then be referred to the relevant Portfolio Holder.

RESOLVED:

- (1) **that the proposals to designate Sandy Banks and part of Hucknall Road Walkway as Local Nature Reserves be supported;**
- (2) **that the process to be followed in designating the areas as Local Nature Reserves be noted.**

14 BASFORD AND BESTWOOD AREA ALLOCATION 2011/12

(Report of Director for Communities and Neighbourhoods)

The report outlined the Ward Councillor budget allocation for 2011/12

RESOLVED

- (1) **that it be noted that each Councillor had been allocated an individual Ward Councillor budget allocation of £8,000;**
- (2) **that it be noted that additional monies had been made available to the top 5% most deprived wards in the City based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007, under which the Bestwood Ward Councillors were to each receive an additional allowance of £3,000;**
- (3) **that it be noted that any unspent monies in individual Ward Councillor Support Budgets at the end of the Municipal Year would be reallocated to the relevant Area Committees Area Allocation budget;**
- (4) **that decisions regarding funding from the Community Local issues**

Area

Fund within the Area Allocation budget be delegated to the Area Manager, or, in their absence, to the Director of Local Communities, and that any such decisions be reported to the next available meeting of the Area Committee.

Manager