

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **BASFORD AND BESTWOOD AREA COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **28 NOVEMBER 2012** at

Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham from 4.33 pm to 5.39 pm

#### **Present**

- ✓ Councillor Ottewell (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Grocock (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Arnold (From minute 22)
- ✓ Councillor Norris
- ✓ Councillor Smith
- ✓ Councillor Wildgust

✓ indicates present at meeting

#### **Community Representatives**

- Mr P England - Whitemoor Neighbourhood Watch Association
- Mr R Glass - Leen Valley Community Association
- Mr G Hall - Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch Association
- Miss M Hemphill - Nottingham City Homes Area 2 Panel Chair
- Mr M Nawrocki - Leen Valley Tenants and Residents Association

#### **City Council colleagues, partners and others in attendance**

- Miss L Hoban - Tenants and Estate Manager - Nottingham City Homes
- Ms H May - North Locality Area Manager )
- Mr G Nijran - North Neighbourhood ) Communities  
Development Officer )
- Mrs Z West - Constitutional Services 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.**

#### **20 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Steven Peaks, Neighbourhood Policing Inspector.

#### **21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

## **22 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **23 MERGER OF NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES AREA PANELS WITH THE AREA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The presentation by the Director of Customer and Tenancy Services, Nottingham City Homes, was withdrawn

## **24 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Report of Director of Neighbourhoods Services)

Heidi May, North Locality Manager, presented the report to the Committee. The following key information was provided:

- the priorities in the performance report were shaped by community meetings and consultations;
- the report summarised information on community engagement, finances, such as ward councillor budgets and the amount allocated from the Area Capital Fund, crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), graffiti, fly tipping, cleanliness, unemployment, empty properties, rent collection and community protection.

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following additional information was provided:

- there were a number of problem areas in Bestwood in particular with dog fouling, near several parks and fields. It was an issue frequently raised by citizens and more effort was required in this area;
- the Committee expressed their gratitude to the community groups involved in organising and supporting community engagement events;
- the Leen Valley Tenants and Residents Association met monthly, and felt that it would be prudent to mention this in the Community Engagement section for future reports;
- the Committee noted that crime levels had reduced, which was beneficial to local people. They expressed their thanks and acknowledged the contribution of all involved in reporting, detection, prevention and enforcement;
- the Committee felt that the report added meaning to Area Committees and that the information was very clear and simple;
- the report authors were working on developing the graphs and graphics within the report to be clearer without the need for colour printing;
- it was felt that the information would be more relevant and meaningful if representatives from organisations and teams were present to discuss the content. It was felt particularly important that a representative from the Police be present at future meetings to discuss any issues raised in relation to crime and ASB;

- the Leen Valley Community Association Annual General Meeting was on 5 December, not 27 November as stated in the Community Engagement section;
- some members of the Committee felt that another Week of Action or Day of Action was required to stop the increase of littering and dog fouling, and that an increased Police or Community Protection presence on patrol was required to help tackle these issues. Weeks of Action were restricted to the six most deprived wards. Other wards could hold similar events, but they would have to be organised in a different way;
- some members of the Committee felt that the work of local Police was clearly delivering results, and that they frequently saw Police and Community Protection Officers on patrol. They also felt that the report showed concrete evidence of a decrease in crime and ASB, and that the report was very useful for moving from perception towards an evidence based approach;
- there were several fly tipping hotspots, and local residents often complained about fly tipping incidents, but had waste remain for up to ten days before removal;
- although the cleanliness index in Bestwood had improved, there were still problems in Leen Valley on the Bell Common grassed areas. Some residents of the flats were throwing rubbish out of windows. The area was cleaned every three weeks, and it was felt this was unfair to the more responsible local residents who had to endure the mess for a long period of time between cleans. Some members of the Committee felt that an on-site caretaker would be advantageous;
- some members of the Committee requested information on the number of 18-24 year olds in each ward to be provided at future meetings;
- it was felt that fly tipping levels were potentially higher than in other areas, as there were a high number of large vacant lots (such as a vacant school) in the area, which seemed to have very little in the way of maintenance. Councillors were asked to identify any sites of concern at their next meetings with Neighbourhood Development Officers as there should be maintenance contracts in place;
- it was suggested that a themed smaller Day of Action could be held, focusing just on the problem of dog fouling. This would be discussed further at the next Neighbourhood Action Team Meeting, and a multi-agency approach could be developed for tackling the issue;
- some Councillors queried why nothing could be done about messy gardens belonging to homeowners or private rental tenants, when action could be taken against Nottingham City Homes (NCH) tenants. It was suggested that letters could be sent to owners or private rental tenants asking them to tidy their front gardens;
- Councillors queried why regular reports were received on NCH tenants due to be evicted, when rent collection was showing as over 100%. It was explained that overpayments and back payments increased the amount shown and there were still some residents not paying. Eviction was always a last resort. Councillors requested more accurate figures on level of arrears;
- Heathfield School would be running a journalism project at the beginning of 2013 with a focus on dog fouling, which would help to raise awareness of the issue locally.

**RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.**

**25 AREA CAPITAL FUND**

(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

Gursharan Singh, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report to the Committee. The following information was provided:

- approximately £12,000 had been allocated for a Traffic Regulation Order on the junction of Church Street and Lincoln Street ;
- approximately £34,000 had been allocated for footpath improvements on Church Street;
- approximately £250 had been allocated for Zebrite Belisha Beacons on Mill Street;
- approximately £225 had been allocated for lining on Mill Street/Firecrest;
- approximately £500 had been allocated for signage on Tintern Drive;
- approximately £2,575 had been allocated for footpath and drainage works on Highbury Road;

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following additional information was provided:

- a survey was sent out in October 2012 regarding the 20mph speed limit works proposed in the Bestwood area. The contribution from the Bestwood Area Capital Fund had been held back and would be decommitted, and the scheme would be funded centrally;
- the consultation on the adoption of the High Pavement site was ending in December 2012. Assuming no objections, the site would be added to the asset register and absorbed into maintenance and cleaning schedules;
- congestion on Jackson Road was an issue due to misuse of parking provision. It was suggested that Councillors could advise local residents that the street could soon be adopted and parking could be enforced.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) **that the Area Capital programme of schemes for Basford and Bestwood, as set out in Appendices A and B to the report be approved;**
- (2) **that the monies available in the Basford and Bestwood wards, as outlined in Appendices A and B to the report be noted.**

**26 NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Leanne Hoban, Tenants and Estates Manager at Nottingham City Homes, presented the following information on proposed improvement schemes, to be funded from the Nottingham City Homes Environmental Budget:

- £22,434.05 had been allocated for the removal of fencing around Gorse Court and for it to be replaced with a 4 foot wall, re-tarmacing of the drying area, replacement of handrails, re-landscaping of the communal area, planting of flowers, replacement of wooden benches, and removal of ivy growing on flats;
- £3,040.31 had been allocated for the replacement of the communal steps and the handrail outside 38 Rosegarth Walk;
- approximately £8,000 had been allocated for the replacement of signs in nine locations in Bestwood;
- £2,833.56 had been allocated for the replacement of handrails and the painting of edges on the communal steps leading from Caldbeck Walk to the side of 38 Pedmore Valley;
- £6,140.40 had been allocated for the installation of a handrail along the top of the retaining wall on the communal path between 40/42 and 28/30 Trinstead Way;
- £2,604.06 had been allocated for the removal of damaged chain link fence at the garage site between 52 and 54 Trinstead Way and replacement with 4 foot hoop top to match the local flats;
- £2,998.80 had been allocated for the removal of knee height rail fencing and replacement with 3-4 foot high fencing and a gate at the front and side of 84 Cairns Close;
- £1,820.70 had been allocated for infill replacement of damaged wooden fencing with palisade fencing at 17-27 and 29-39 Chediston Vale;
- £8,650.21 had been allocated for 6 foot metal fencing and gates at the back of 2-10 Tudwal Walk, to include roll top security bars to prevent people from climbing on the roofs of the bungalows;
- £1,902.30 had been allocated for the replacement of missing fence panels on Bestwood Park Drive;
- £8,664.67 had been allocated for the replacement of handrails and painting of edges on communal steps opposite 45 Pedmore Valley;
- £11,435.24 had been allocated for the replacement of handrails, replacement of damaged or missing brickwork and painting of edges on communal steps between 29/31 Mosswood Crescent and Chippenham Road;
- an unspecified amount, which would be match funded from the Capital Fund would be allocated for a parking area to be created for between six and ten vehicles to relieve parking congestion on Colman Close;
- £13,777.11 had been allocated for an improved raised garden, an improved wall, the installation of a small fence and landscaping at the junction of Andover Road and Gainsford Crescent.

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following additional information was provided:

- although the steps leading from Caldbeck Walk to the side of 38 Pedmore Valley were very close to the steps opposite 45 Pedmore Valley, the works would be completed as separate projects as Caldbeck Walk belonged to Highways;
- Councillors were considering ornamental signs to be installed at Bestwood Park and Gainsford Crescent, to be funded from Councillor budgets. It was felt that it would be useful to co-ordinate installation with any proposed works in those areas to minimise inconvenience and disruption to local residents;
- two schemes for new door entry systems at Harkstead Road and Broadwood Road had not yet received quotes, and would be submitted to the next Area Committee;
- the Committee expressed a desire to see the ornamental fencing and gates at Harkstead Road re-used in another scheme.

**RESOLVED that the schemes detailed above to be funded from Nottingham City Homes Environmental Budget be approved.**

**27 ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**  
(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

Gursharan Singh, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report, showing allocations since the last Committee meeting.

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following additional information was provided:

- feedback had been received from colleagues that there was a delay from approval to receipt of funds, but new processes had been implemented which would speed up the process for amounts up to £1,500;
- the report showed all allocations, the report at the next meeting would show only new allocations since this meeting.

**RESOLVED that the actions agreed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services as detailed in appendix A and appendix B to the report be noted.**