

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BASFORD AND BESTWOOD AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on **29 MAY 2013** at Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham from 4.30 pm to 5.36 pm

Present

- Councillor Cat Arnold
- ✓ Councillor Brian Grocock (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Alex Norris
- ✓ Councillor Bill Ottewell
- ✓ Councillor David Smith
- ✓ Councillor Mick Wildgust (Chair)

Community Representatives

- ✓ Phil England) Whitemoor Neighbourhood Watch Association
-) Leen Valley Community Association
- ✓ Maria Hemphill - Nottingham City Homes Area 2 Panel Chair
- Leen Valley Tenants and Residents Association

✓ - indicates present at meeting

City Council colleagues, partners and others in attendance

Sheryl Fraser	- Tenants and Estate Manager)	
Lee Barrowcliffe) Housing Patch Manager)	Nottingham City Homes
))	
James Woolley) Neighbourhood Policing)	Nottinghamshire Police
) Inspector, Basford and Bestwood)	
Louise Graham	- Voluntary and Community Sector)	
	Grant Team)	
David Halstead	- Head of City Services)	Communities
Heidi May	- North Locality Area Manager)	
Gursharan Nijran) North Neighbourhood)	
Dale Griffin) Development Officers)	
Martin Parker	- Constitutional Services Officer	-	Resources

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Michael Wildgust as Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2013-14.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Brian Grocock Vice-Chair of the Committee.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rob Glass
G Hall
Melvin Nawrocki

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None. Councillor Brian Grocock declared a personal interest as an appointed Director of Bestwood Directions at the point in the meeting where it became known to him that a personal interest existed due to the discussion (minute 6, below). The discussion did not prevent him from speaking or voting on the item.

5 MINUTES

Subject to amending the second heading reference of Basford to Bestwood in minute 32 and all references from Chediston Vale to Chedlington Vale, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2013 as a correct record they were signed by the Chair.

6 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORTS – QUARTER 4

Dale Griffin and Gursharan Singh Nijran summarised performance results, progress and current issues for Basford and Bestwood Wards for the period January to March 2013, detailed in the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services. Heidi May, David Halstead and Sheryl Fraser contributed to the discussion and clarified individual matters as they arose. The main issues referred to were:-

- **Crime:** the continued trend in both wards was **down** in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12 (Overall/Anti-Social Behaviour: Bestwood -20.5%/32.93%, Basford -3.59%/-40.0%).

The meeting recognised the achievements of the Police and partners in continuing to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour during 2012/13. The ability to sustain the downward trend in 2013/14 in light of the current economic climate for central and local government to meet the 10% target will be particularly challenging for all partners;

- **Estate Cleanliness:** overall **above** (Bestwood) or slightly **below** (Basford) target of 86%. Improving standards remained a high priority;
- **Benefit Changes:** the meeting remained concerned at the possible effects of central government cumulative changes to the benefits system on local residents' income and their reduced ability manage all bills/payments without falling further into longer-term debt / arrears.

The possibility of residents slipping into arrears has already been recognised and support is being provided to a number of tenants to plan payments. NCH Welfare Team supports mutually agreed property exchanges. Take-up has almost tripled from 8 to 23 cases and this reflects a pro-active approach by local residents.

Consideration as to what extent, (if any) Nottingham City Homes Ltd (NHC) should vary its current policy to allow tenants to move and carry forward any rent arrears to their new property is a matter for that organisation to consider;

- **Health and Unemployment:** more events, including two 'Days of Action' will be used to address local health issues in the area. Unemployment remains a priority. City-wide and local activities to improve employment opportunities will continue to be promoted in Bestwood and the Neighbourhood Action Team will work with local support services to provide an appropriate level of support to local residents as a result of recent welfare changes. The possibility of assessing a link between residents who are in need of urgent assistance, changes to welfare arrangements and the need for urgent interventions by agencies will be explored.
- **Parking/Displaced Parking:** problems with parking continue to be experienced in the Top Valley area, where local residents have suggested that some verges/green area should be turned over to car parking. Complaints relating to displaced parking arising from the Workplace Parking Levy continue to be received and will be addressed by NCH Housing Patch Managers in their on-going discussions with colleagues. The NCH Board also intends to consider the issue;
- **Schools and Young People:** Basford and Heathfield Community Centres both offer regular youth centred sessions or a youth club and young people continue to attend sessions at the Highbury Community-based Fitness Gym.

Big Wood School held a successful 'Day of Action' on 25 April 2013. 150 young people from Year 7 took part in a number of community activities in the Bestwood Ward to help to foster a sense of community and inter-generational involvement. Young people took part in a Bestwood Ward walk and pupils at Heathfield School have been asked to help in a project to highlight continued problem of dog fouling and littering in the area. It is intended to expand the trial scheme to other schools in the area.

RESOLVED to note the report and additional information provided.

7 STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR: AREA BASED GRANT MONITORING

Louise Graham introduced the report of the Joint Interim Director, Quality and Commissioning/Head of Early Intervention and Market Development, which gave an update on the implementation the revised arrangements for delivery of support to the voluntary sector.

At its meeting on 27 March 2013, the Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee decided that Right Track Social Enterprise (Right Track) would be the Lead Organisation for this area. Right Track will be supported by team colleagues, who will also monitor performance against a range of output measures. The Lead Organisation will submit progress reports to this Committee on a six monthly basis and outline its priorities and proposals for the next six months. This will give the Area Committee both an opportunity to feedback its views directly to the organisation and to influence future priorities. Contracts with Right Track for delivery should be in place by 1 July 2013 and all existing Community Associations will be funded to current levels.

The Committee understands the underlying reasons for re-organising the City Council's investment strategy with voluntary sector organisations, but wanted to communicate local on-going uncertainties about the practical operation of the system. Lead Organisations need to understand that often, small things such as guaranteed attendance by staff and regular operation of community sessions organised by a Lead Organisation can make the difference between success or failure of a project on the ground. Councillors were also experiencing mixed results in how well they are involved in discussions by Right Track. If Councillors could attend Board/Administrative meetings to offer immediate feedback it could lead to better engagement in the process.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the proposed monitoring process for Area Based Grants, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the Lead Organisation reporting to the Area Committee on a 6 monthly basis;
- (3) to note the route for discussion and challenge with regard to the Area Based Grant monitoring is through the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Team.

8 ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY: WARD ALLOCATIONS

Heidi May, Gurshan Nijran and Dale Griffin provided a summary of projects and groups which have received assistance from the Area Committee during the 2012/13 Financial Year, as detailed in the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

RESOLVED to note the following list of organisations or projects supported by the Area Committee during the 2012/13 Financial Year:

<u>Ward/Activity</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
<u>Basford</u>	
St Aidens 37th Nottingham Guides	
– Art equipment	300
– On Your Marks Project	1,590
SALTAR	
- Picnic in the Park – Jubilee event	500
- Christmas event	500
Nottingham Muslim Directory	250
Nottingham Carnival – Troupe Development	600
Highbury Vale TRA – Summer Fun Day	500
Nottingham Groundwork – CRF bid preparation	2,000
Music Equipment for Basford	3,000
Start up grant for Bulwell Athletic FC	250
Christmas event at Basford CC	350
<u>Bestwood</u>	
Leen Valley Association – Jubilee event	1,407
Bestwood Community Centre – Jubilee Street Party	200
Bestwood Park Church – Information magazine	750
Bestwood Christmas Lights	13,000
Southglade Park MUGA – Have a Go Day	225
Bestwood Primary School Books	5,750

9 AREA CAPITAL FUND REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, which updated Councillors and local representatives on ‘in progress’, completed and proposed highways and footpath schemes already approved in Basford and Bestwood wards.

The Committee stressed the need for a scheme to offset parking problems being caused in the Beckhampton Road area by displaced parking from local schools, where existing drivers did not want to incur the Workplace Parking Charge.

A feasibility study needs to be carried out in the near future and should include options for work to improve the situation, but the Committee must be satisfied that any proposals can deliver real benefits for the area. The current capital allocation of £80,000 is an estimate only at this stage.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the latest position regarding capital/environmental schemes already approved, as detailed in appendices 1 and 2, including the remaining 2011-13 balances and the 2013-15 allocations, as follows:**

	<u>Remaining</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Basford	£157,754	£156,435
Bestwood	£181,462	£182,962

- (2) to approve the commissioning of a feasibility study for £1,500 to present options for traffic calming measures and Traffic Regulation Orders to reduce parking problems around schools in the Beckhampton Road area.**