

## NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

### BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST AREA COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of meeting held at Bulwell Riverside on **18 SEPTEMBER 2013** from 5.32 pm to 7.03pm.

✓ indicates present at meeting

- ✓ Councillor Jackie Morris (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Ginny Klein (Joint Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Nick McDonald (Joint Vice-Chair) (for minutes 23 to 29 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Eunice Campbell
- ✓ Councillor Alan Clark (for minutes 23 to 29 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor John Hartshorne

#### Community Representatives

- ✓ Reginald Knowles - Bradford Street Allotments
- ✓ Sheila Loades - Bulwell Hall Tenants' and Residents' Association
- ✓ John Hancock - CRESTA Tenants' and Residents' Association
- ✓ Doreen Carruthers - Forest Park Neighbourhood Watch
- ✓ Roz Yousouf - Nottingham Elders Forum
- ✓ David Norman - My Sight Nottinghamshire
- ✓ Gillian Slack - Ravensworth Road Methodist Church
- ✓ Paul Bakajsa - Rise Park Action Group
- ✓ John Millington - Rise Park Community Association
- ✓ Paul Jackson - Royal British Legion Bulwell Branch
- ✓ Sally Wilson - Snapewood Community Centre

#### City Council Colleagues, Partners, and Others in attendance

- Inspector Andrew Goodall - Nottinghamshire Police
  
- Dave Halstead - Head of City Services ) Communities
- Heidi May - North Locality Manager )
- Celia Knight ) Neighbourhood Development Officers )
- Suki Shergill ) )
- James Tilford - Parks Development Officer )
- Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Constitutional Services - Resources
  
- Denis Robinson - Bulwell Dispatch
- Eileen Stacey ) Observers
- John Hancock (senior) )

#### **18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

#### **19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

## 20 MINUTES

Subject to the following amendments to minute 11, Area Capital Fund 2011/13 and 2013/15 Programmes, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair:

- (i) Rise Park street nameplates to be listed under Bulwell Forest Ward and not Bulwell;
- (ii) To remove the projects listed for Spring Road, Piccadilly and Bestwood Road from the list as these schemes had already been approved;
- (iii) To amend the remaining balances for Bulwell Ward to £107,801 and Bulwell Forest Ward to £103,246.

## 21 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report informing the Committee that John Hancock junior has been appointed as a community representative to the Committee, representing CRESTA Tenants' and Residents' Association which operates within the Bulwell Ward.

**RESOLVED to note the appointment as a community representative, of John Hancock junior, representing CRESTA Tenants' and Residents' Association.**

## 22 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IN BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST

James Tilford, Parks Development Officer, presented the report which summarised the recent major investments made to the Area's parks, open spaces and playgrounds and potential future plans.

### Bulwell Ward

Site	Completed	Future Plans
Hempshill Lane	Play area refurbished 2009/10	£10,000 S106 funding allocated for future improvements.
Willow Hill Close	Play area refurbished 2010	
Bulwell Hall Park	New Play Area 2010/11, improvements to entrance and signage in 2011/12, New NHS funded outdoor Gym 2012, 3 additional items of play equipment 2013.	Creation of angling club and management plan for the ponds. Support a friends Group.
Bulwell Bogs	Memory Garden 2011/12, (Recently won 'Mamas and Papas' East Midlands award for best green space as voted for by customers.	Ongoing improvements to retain Green Flag Award. Support Friends Group
Moorbridge Pond & Springfield Corner	Designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2012.	Habitat improvements via the Wildlife in the City Project.

Commercial Road	Play Area refurbished 2012.	
Snape Wood & Ashton Park	Play area enhanced 2012	Support Friends Group
Hambling Court	Removal of play area and reinstatement of a grassed area	Wildlife habitat improvements, including tree planting.

### Bulwell Forest

Site	Completed	Future Plans
Hucknall Linear Walkway	Designated as Local Nature Reserve 2012.	Improvements including signage & rubbish bins (to be delivered in September 2013)
Bulwell Forest Recreation Ground	Old Football Pavilion demolished September 2012, New play area, outdoor gym, multi-use games area (MUGA) and Parkour area.	Entered for Green Flag award 2014, Install notice board, community bulb planting , add netball line markings to the MUGA, seek funding for grass football pitch & goals, support Friends Group.
Southglade Park	New play area 2009/10. New NHS funded NUGA and outdoor gym 2012.	Support Friends Group
Highbury Vale/ Latimer Close	New play area installed by housing developer.	
Right Track site		Support the proposed children's play area using £42,105 S106 funding.

The following comments, questions and responses were made at the meeting:

- (a) Once the travellers camp had moved from Hempshill Lane, an inspection has found that the bowling green building is not safe and, as there are no resources available for repairs and the demand for use is very low, the building has been condemned;
- (b) Bulwell Hall Golf Course
- (i) Construction of the course continues but the section along the Rolls-Royce section have been completed;
  - (ii) In response to citizens' concerns, about the types of materials being used in the landscaping, Mr Tilford assured the committee that the use of inert material including road scrapings and bitumen is authorised for use in landscaping the golf course and that all materials are recorded and are being monitored. Once completed and grassed, the mounds will look natural;
  - (iii) Councillors assured the Committee that there is constant monitoring of the materials being used for landscaping and inspectors from both 'Parks and Open Spaces' and 'Planning' every week;

- (iv) The planning permission for the course initially specified that the works had to be completed within 3 years of being granted, but due to delays caused by last years weather, this has now been extended;
- (v) The developers have been asked not to bring lorries through the park;
- (c) Following the spell of very hot weather when the oxygen level dropped in the ponds and many fish died, the fish stock in Bulwell Hall Ponds is to be assessed and there are plans for an anglers group;
- (d) Congratulations were offered by the committee for the children's play area at Bulwell Forest as it was busy throughout the summer, proving that it was a great success;
- (e) The British Legion had requested that Park Managers sow poppies in recognition of the centenary of the First World War. During the past 3 years, the City Council has established 18 wild flower meadows across the city and could investigate whether the mix of seed could include more poppies;
- (f) Enforcement Officers are dealing with the rubbish which continues to be dumped in the stream and washed into Bulwell Bogs. Any identifying information is passed to the Enforcement Team by the Cleansing Teams.

**RESOLVED to note the report and the future investment in the Area, including Section 106 funding.**

### **23 TRAVELRIGHT**

Andy Parkinson, Travelright Co-ordinator, delivered a presentation and informed the Committee of the scheme, making the following points:

- (a) The scheme is funded by central government and delivered as part of the Nottingham City Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme to support communities in Aspley, Basford, Bestwood, Bilborough, Bulwell, Bulwell Forest and Leen Valley wards;
- (b) The scheme promotes cheaper, quicker and easier walking, cycling and public transport choices and includes;
  - (i) Personal travel plans to help citizens save money and/or time on travel;
  - (ii) Travel support and Advice for jobseekers and the newly employed;
  - (iii) Fun bike rides;
  - (iv) Interesting local walks;
  - (v) Free cycle training for confidence on the roads;
  - (vi) Free loan bikes for beginners;
  - (vii) Dr Bike to get your old bike back in shape and on the road;
  - (viii) Bike ride and walk leader training;
  - (ix) Training and volunteering opportunities;
  - (x) Lots of free information, maps and events to take part in;
- (c) Recent benefits to the local area include:

- (i) during June, 41 people had attended walking groups starting from a variety of venues and including local history walks;
  - (ii) Bulwell Forest Action Group and Travelright provided a joint schedule of events;
  - (iii) While the City Council enables half price travel for job seekers, Travelright provides one months free travel for people who are starting a new job;
  - (iv) A weekly cycle centre is being held at Bulwell Riverside between 10am and 1pm on Saturdays which is open to all and provides free cycle training, and if necessary, the loan of a bike for a local bike ride;
  - (v) Help with travel planning has been accepted by 150 local people;
  - (vi) 295 people have benefited from the 'fix your bike for free' initiative during the past 6 months;
  - (vii) 876 people have enjoyed a go on one of the 'fun bikes' which provided a novelty cycling experience;
  - (viii) 129 people have joined in with the local bike rides during the past 6 months;
- (d) Future plans include:
- (i) Further investigation of how cycling benefits energy efficiency ;
  - (ii) Heightening the promotion of the 'be safe, be seen' campaign;
  - (iii) Attending community meetings to promote the service;
  - (iv) Planning further led bike rides and walks;
  - (v) Encouraging more volunteers to come forward to help spread the benefit of the programme;
- (e) Interested citizens can sign up to receive newsletters or find further information via:

Telephone: 0115 883 3732  
Email: [travelright@ridewise.org.uk](mailto:travelright@ridewise.org.uk)  
Website: [www.travelright.org.uk](http://www.travelright.org.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/travelrightnottingham](http://www.facebook.com/travelrightnottingham)  
Twitter: @travelright1

Comments and responses to the Committee's questions included:

- (f) Children at Snapewood Park really enjoyed riding the bikes that Travelright brought to an event. The Committee would welcome further engagement on the Snapewood Estate, especially regarding the 'be safe be seen' campaign, fixing bikes for free and the fun bikes;
- (g) There are a variety of places where cheap second hand/refurbished bikes can be bought including Framework Housing Association, Aladdin's Bikes on Ilkeston Road, the Cattle Market and several other shops;

- (h) Travelright has added entertainment and education value to the City Council and community focused events which they attended in the area;
- (i) Tandems and other different types of bikes are available at the Queens Drive Park and Ride site, specifically for people with disabilities such as sight impairment who otherwise may not be able to enjoy a bike ride without support;
- (j) Car drivers are often stigmatised but sometimes need to use their cars to get to places which cannot be easily accessed by public transport or cycling;
- (k) Travel right is trying to improve the options available to citizens. Cycling and walking are especially ideal for local journeys;
- (l) Other countries, such as France, already provide excellent cycle routes networks which are very well used;
- (m) There is to be an audit of cycle routes in Bulwell which will include connections and condition but at the moment there is very little money available to invest in the network;
- (n) The Committee agreed that there are a lot of people riding bikes irresponsibly and this is being partly addressed when Travelright goes into schools to promote travel safety such as the 'Bikeability' programme;
- (o) Some schools require pupils to have passed a cycle proficiency test before they are allowed to cycle to school, the committee agreed that this appeared to be a very good safety approach.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) to note the opportunities available to local citizens from Travelright;**
- (2) to formally thank Andy Parkinson for his presentation to the Committee.**

## **24 POLICE UPDATE**

Inspector Andrew Goodall delivered a brief update on the area Policing priorities which were identified following consideration of reported crime, issues raised through the on-line consultation system, the Local Action Groups and Tenant and Resident meetings. The revised priorities will focus neighbourhood policing for a three month period from the beginning of August to the end of October 2013. During this period, further consultation and monitoring will take place and revised priorities will be set for the next three month period.

Policing priorities remained largely similar to those of the previous period as they are considered long term issues which require a sustained period of policing to address:

Bulwell Ward - Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) mainly in the area of Merchant Street;  
Bulwell Forest Ward - ASB including drugs related crime in the Deptford Crescent and Highbury Vale areas.

The good weather had predictable impacted on crime across the City with a rise in the number of calls to the Police.

Comments from the Committee included:

- (a) As ASB continued to be an ongoing issue, the Committee requested that the procedure for reporting it could be explained at the next meeting, including who best to report it to and how such reports are dealt with by the Police and their partners;
- (b) The Neighbourhood Alert System continued to email crime related warning messages out to citizens who had registered for the service but unless there is a very high risk factor, the text message alert system is no longer used due to the cost incurred;
- (c) It was noted that not all criminal incidents were posted on the alert system, only alerts which would be of benefit to the community if forewarned of criminal activity;
- (d) Neighbourhood Alerts were issued on an area basis and not necessarily specific to Policing beats.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) to note the Policing Update and thank Inspector Goodall for his attendance;**
- (2) that the Police and City Council Community Safety Partners submit a presentation to the next meeting regarding reporting of ASB and the processes used by the Police and partners to address ASB.**

## **25 AREA CAPITAL FUND 2011/13 AND 2013/15 PROGRAMMES**

The Committee considered the Director of Neighbourhood Service's report, summarising the funds spent to date and the proposed funding of further schemes from the Area Capital Fund. The Committee previously discussed the Area Capital fund at the previous meeting (minute 11, dated 22 May 2013).

Neighbourhood Development Officer Celia Knight presented the report and questions were responded to as follows:

- (a) while it appeared to cost a lot of money to upgrade the lights at the zebra crossing, all 3 of the lights had to be totally replaced which meant that work to the wiring was also required but the new lights will improve safety as they will make more of an impact on motorists;
- (b) the bollards outside the Headstocks Pub obscured the view of on-coming traffic from the Gateway Island. However, this area was within the Basford Ward so Heidi May offered to pass the issue to the Area 2 Committee;
- (c) it would be more informative and generally more helpful if future reports provided more detail such as what and where the parking issues are

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) to approve funding for the following proposals:**

Ward	Project	£ Estimated Cost
<b><u>Bulwell Ward</u></b>		
<b>General</b>	<b>Address Parking Issues (inc. Crabtree Road)</b>	<b>2,815</b>
<b>Severns Street</b>	<b>Install 'no HGV' signs</b>	<b>932</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>Repaint road markings/ lines</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>Upgrade 3 zebra crossing lights (2 at the Bus Stations, 1 on Coventry Road)</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b><u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u></b>		
-	-	-

- (2) **having deducted the approved allocations, to note the following monies available:**

**Bulwell Ward - £134,054**

**Bulwell Forest Ward - £ 130,864;**

- (3) **to provide more details of schemes in future reports.**

## **26 BULWELL FOREST WEEK OF ACTION**

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report which listed the partners and organisations which had participated in the event by providing additional activities or contributing to other groups' events during the week of action which ran from 22 to 29 June 2013.

In addition to law enforcement activities regarding overweight vehicles, dog fouling, littering and applications for smartwater, citizens and partners litter picked several areas in need of a clean up, encouraged further community engagement with local groups and organisations by widely promoting clubs and services, donor sessions, recycling activities and information, and much more.

Following the success of the week, there has been further interest from other groups in participating in future such events and feedback from the community, organisations and partners has been such that a similar programme is proposed for 2014.

Members of the Committee were concerned that littering, dog fouling and fly tipping appeared to be acceptable by some people and that everyone, not just children, needed to be educated that it was not acceptable to act in such an irresponsible manner. Issuing more fines could be a deterrent as clearing rubbish cost the Council a lot of money which impacted on other services.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) **to note the success of the week of action and to record the congratulations of the Committee to everyone involved;**



- (2) to highlight the 'SEE IT, REPORT IT' telephone number of 0115 9152020 for citizens to report littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and any other cleansing issues or environmental crimes.

## 27 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, and Heidi May, North Locality Manager, introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which presented performance information on each of the following topics:

- Ward Priorities
- Community Engagement
- Finance
- Safer Theme - crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Neighbourhood Theme - cleansing and environmental issues
- Working Theme - unemployment rates
- Housing
- Community Protection
- Fire
- Health Theme - local health priorities

The following points are highlighted in the summary of issues:

### Bulwell Ward

- (a) Compared to the corresponding period last year, there were 46 more crimes reported this period;
- (b) Domestic Violence reports had increased by 4 and the ward is now ranked second out of 20 wards regarding the volume of domestic violence reports;
- (c) there were 136 calls to the Police regarding ASB which is an increase of 19.3% on the same period last year, making Bulwell the highest ranked ward in the city for reported ASB;
- (d) a total of 51 incidents of fly tipping were reported, 20 more than the year before;
- (e) a 'dragon's den event was considered successful with allocations made to both wards;

### Bulwell Forest Ward

- (f) At 79 reported crimes, there was one fewer crime than the same period last year, however, there were 23 more crimes compared to the period April to July last year;
- (g) Domestic violence reports dropped by one and the ward was ranked eighth in the City;
- (h) In July 2013 there were 57 ASB reports which is an increase of 111% on July 2012 and while this was within the City average, there were 13 more calls in the period April to July 2013 than in the same period last year;

- (i) At 13, there were 2 more incidents of fly tipping than last year;
- (j) As a result of exceptionally torrential rain during a storm on 23 July 2013 when 63.3 mm of rain fell in half an hour, there had been significant flooding in the ward of more than 30 homes. The City Council took action to provide help to the affected areas but citizens are encouraged to be prepared for future such downpours.

The Committee asked that community representatives and citizens make Celia Knight aware of exactly which properties were flooded as there is to be a multi-partner meeting including the City Council, the Environment Agency and the Fire and Rescue Service, to examine what happened on 23 July and to consider what can be done to prevent anything like this happening again. This was an exceptional event and properties which had never been known to flood were affected and may never be affected again.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) to ensure that the assessment and any flooding prevention plan was effective, community representatives and citizens inform Celia Knight (on 0115 8833729 of [celia.knight@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:celia.knight@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)) of exactly which properties were flooded in the downpour of 23 July 2013.

## **28 FINANCE AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, introduced the report which informed the Committee of the schemes approved by the Director of Neighbourhood Services using delegated authority.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) to note the following allocations made via delegated authority of the Director of Communities:

<b><u>Bulwell Ward</u> (Councillors Klein, Hartshorne and Morris)</b>	<b>£</b>
Youth Exchange French Lessons	90
Hucknall Lane Bollards	412
Spring Lane Filter	2,505
Domestic Abuse Awareness Training	375
Rufford Road Hanging Baskets (Councillor Klein only)	329
Community Engagement	500
Crabtree Farm School Award Ceremony	150
Crèche Facilities	558
Dart Board (Councillor Morris only)	50
Dragon's Den Bulwell	2,500
Printing	45
Bulb Planting Community Event	495
<b><u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u> (Councillors Campbell, Clark and McDonald)</b>	<b>£</b>
Trent Sound - Community Radio Equipment	750
Youth Exchange French Lessons	90
Fun on the Forest	604
Bulwell Forest Bowls Club	524

<b>Autumn Bulb Planting</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Planting at St Mary's Churchyard</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Southglade Park Live</b>	<b>1,500</b>

(2) to approve the financial reports as follows:

<b><u>Bulwell Ward</u></b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Balance Brought Forward 2012/13</b>	<b>39,236</b>
<b>Councillor Funding 2013/14</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Deprivation Funds</b>	<b>15,993</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>70,229</b>
<b>Allocated funds 2013/14</b>	<b>8,009</b>
<b>De-committed schemes</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Uncommitted funds after allocations</b>	<b>62,220</b>

<b><u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u></b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Balance Brought Forward 2012/13</b>	<b>25,847</b>
<b>Councillor Funding 2013/14</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Deprivation Funds</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>40,847</b>
<b>Allocated funds 2013/14</b>	<b>2,488</b>
<b>De-committed schemes</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Uncommitted funds after allocations</b>	<b>38,543</b>

**29 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to next meet at 5.30pm on 20 November 2013 at Bulwell Riverside.