

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

'YOUR CHOICE, YOUR VOICE' NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATION EVENTS

1 SUMMARY

This report summarises the outcomes of the 'Your Choice Your Voice' Consultation Events held in the Aspley and Bilborough Wards on the 23rd and 9th of November respectively.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the committee:-

- a) Note the outcomes of the two consultation events summarised in appendix 1 and 2;
- b) Approve the actions, to be taken by the Neighbourhood Management Team, as detailed under 'Next Steps'.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 'Your Choice Your Voice Consultation Events were jointly initiated by One Nottingham and the City Council's Strategic Partnership Team to engage with a wider group of people to identify neighbourhood priorities.
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Management Team promoted the events locally, encouraged participation from hard to reach sections of the community and used the events as an opportunity to glean views on the Local Community Plan.
- 3.3 Between both the Bilborough and Aspley events, approximately 100 people participated. The events were well attended with involvement from a diverse section of the community, including BME groups, older people, single mothers and people with disabilities.
- 3.4 The overall feedback from local residents through the completion of evaluation forms was positive as in general they felt the events were well organised and relevant in meeting their expectations. However, there were some people who felt the method in which the research was conducted did not allow a wider selection of views to be covered.
- 3.5 Appendices 1 and 2 provide details of the issues, comments and priorities raised by the residents at each event. It should be noted these are the initial evaluations for both events and a more comprehensive evaluation will be made available in February 2007 by the Strategic Partnerships Team and the findings will be published in the Arrow.

4 PROPOSALS

This report provides an opportunity for the Area Committee to become aware of local peoples views on the one Nottingham One Plan priority themes and other localised issues. The information generated from the events can be used to monitor performance of services in responding to the needs of local neighbourhoods.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The organisation costs for both events were met by the Strategic Partnership Team. Should this Committee want to hold similar consultation activity in the future, the costs can be met from the West Area incidental budget.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Your Choice Your Voice consultation events created an opportunity for all local residents to participate in the events, and make their views known on issues they felt were important to them in their neighbourhoods.
- 7.2 The information from these events will help develop an active citizenship engagement model for the Area. The Neighbourhood Management Team will work with key partners and continue to consult and engage with the local community. The events offer an opportunity to those sections of the community who normally do not participate in decision making.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

None

9 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 Your Choice Your Voice events were created and delivered for the purpose of consulting with local people on key areas including the One Nottingham One Plan priority themes, Neighbourhood Policing, Environmental Improvements as part of the Area Capital Fund allocations for the year 2007/08 and 2008/9 and local neighbourhood issues.
- 9.2 Feedback from local residents will help ensure that the resources and services being delivered in the area are in line with the views and recommendations of local people.

10 NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 The Neighbourhood Management Team will contact all individuals attending the events to feedback what actions will be taken on the issues they raised. The Neighbourhood Management Team will also provide information on how the Area Capital Allocation will be used in the Area and how the views of the attendees were taken into consideration.
- 10.2 The Neighbourhood Management Team will use this and other information to ensure its work plan is linked into the issues that really matter to local people.

11 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Both events across the West Area created an opportunity for One Nottingham and Nottingham City Council to consult local residents on a number of strategic priorities including the One Nottingham One Plan, Neighbourhood Policing, Local Community Plan and the Area Capital Fund.

12 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

Feedback from local residents on crime and disorder issues in their neighbourhoods will enable One Nottingham and Nottingham City Council to introduce measures and resources which are effective, efficient, economically viable and well targeted to the needs of local people. For example, the allocation of the Area Capital Fund will contribute towards the improvement of community safety by improving street lighting, fencing (where needed). The identification of hot spots within particular natural neighbourhoods will ensure that those responsible for addressing crime and disorder issues will be able to effectively target their resources/services.

13 VALUE FOR MONEY

13.1 Both events for the West Area were delivered within the key principles of Best Value.

13.2 The total cost for the delivery of both events was £278.10 this covered the cost for venue hire, food and refreshments, crèche, local partnership forum costs, raffle prizes and the hire of a P.A. system.

14 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

Your Choice Your Voice Consultation Events Initial Evaluation Sheets supplied by Strategic Partnerships Team.

15 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None.

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Your Choice Your Voice Consultation Events Initial Evaluation
BILBOROUGH

Date: Thursday 9th November 2006 at 1.00pm

Venue: West Area Offices c/o Keys to Success, Birchover Road, Bilborough

Numbers attending

Residents: 24 in attendance

Chair Person: Councillor Wood

Names of Councillors: Cllr. Wood, Cllr. Unczur

Local workers from: Neighbourhood Management Team, Strategic Partnerships Team, One Nottingham and presenters etc.

Extra Provisions Provided

Specific Feedback

Community Strategy

For the following outcomes, the community were asked to choose, from 4 options, which they felt was the most important under each of the One Nottingham One Plan priority themes. An 'Other' option was offered, any votes for these can be seen at the bottom of this section.

<p>NB – The total number of people participating in the remote voting was 23, with an opt-out deviation of around 3 participants per question.</p>

Choose Nottingham

Helping local people into jobs - 57%

Improving public transport – 22%

Other – 13%

Supporting local businesses – 0%

Respect for Nottingham

People taking responsibility and having respect for each other - 48%

A safer city of Nottingham – 26%

A cleaner environment – 22%

Other – 0%

Young Nottingham

Teaching Social Behaviour in Schools - 74%

Reducing teenage pregnancies - 13%

Increasing number of people achieving qualifications - 9%

Other – 0%

Active and Healthy Nottingham

Improving Services for older and vulnerable people - 65%

Reducing Heart Disease – 9%

Other – 9%

Reducing avoidable injuries to children and older people – 4%

Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods

Transforming the physical environment – 52%

Improving public services in your neighbourhood – 26%

Giving people a say in local decisions - 17%

Other – 0%

'Other' priorities

Those present were asked to record any other priorities they felt important. These were:

- More activities for young people
- Need for officers of the council to respond to requests for services/information
- Education – improvement of opportunities
- Litter – educating children, fining 'litterers' and 'dog foulers'

Priorities

Those present were asked to rank each of the six One Nottingham One Plan 2006/07 priorities as 'High', 'Medium' or 'Low' priorities within their neighbourhood with a 4th option if they were 'Unsure'

- Attacking drug-related crime – **91%** said **High** Priority
- Giving local people a say in Council decisions – **74%** said **High** Priority
- Promoting responsible behaviour – **83%** said **High** Priority
- Helping young people to do better, socially and academically – **57%** said **High** Priority
- Help people move off benefits and into work/training – **87%** said **High** Priority
- Help People to Live Longer (quitting smoking/more exercise etc.) – **65%** said **High** Priority

Local Policing Issues

Those present were asked to identify which, from a wide range of Community Safety Issues, affected their neighbourhood. They were then asked to identify four that they thought were most important to them.

Top 4 Issues in this Neighbourhood:

- 1) Speeding cars/boy racers/joy riders/motorbikes etc. – 15 votes**
- 2) Litter – 11 votes**
- 3) Dog Fouling – 10 votes**
- 4) Drinking alcohol in streets/binge drinking – 8 votes**

Area Capital Funding

People became involved in identifying issues on a map in the areas of the ward where they felt attention was needed. Feedback and analysis from this will be available from the City Development Highways team as soon as possible. The information gathered will feed into the decision making process for allocating the Council's Area Capital Funding in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Evaluation of Feedback

Number of evaluation forms completed: 16 forms

Breakdown of feedback from these;

16 people strongly agreed or agreed that the event was well organised.

14 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that the content was relevant and met expectations.
15 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that the presentations were clear and understandable.
16 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that there was a good balance between information giving and discussion and group work.

15 people said they had a better understanding of the community strategy
13 people said they had a better understanding of Neighbourhood Policing
13 people said they had a better understanding of Area Capital Funding items
13 people said they had a better understanding of Local Issues

Any other comments?

When asked where improvements could be made to the consultation process, the following points were made:

- Ranking priorities already in the community strategy is nonsensical. There was no explanation of how to improve the community strategy in future, or a timetable of how this will be done.
- To inform us on who decides on what is spent, when and how much in each area would have been beneficial.

The **location and overall environment** were considered ‘very good and appropriate’ and **refreshments** were, again, well received.

It was widely reported that the community were glad to have people from the council listen to their ideas, to find out about their Neighbourhood Policing strategy and to have a point of contact with the officers responsible for their area.

Quotes from evaluation forms

- ‘Very informative event’
- ‘More events, more literature and more local information next time’
- ‘Well done to all involved’
- ‘Excellent meeting – well worth attending’
- ‘Good balance between being spoken to and activities but the purpose of the activities was not clear (except Area Capital Investment one), more talk on this would set the context’
- ‘Good to find out about other groups and meetings in the area’
- ‘Many people here are trying to help to give us a better quality of life’
- ‘Useful to hear the different views on the same subject from the other people taking part’

Your Choice Your Voice Consultation Events Initial Evaluation
BILBOROUGH

Date: Thursday 23rd November 2006 at 7.00pm

Venue: Aspley Training & Community Centre, Aspley

Numbers attending

Residents: 30 in attendance

Chair Person: Councillor Chapman & Mark Hillary, Neighbourhood Manager

Local workers from: Neighbourhood Management Team, Strategic Partnerships Team, One Nottingham and presenters etc.

Names of Councillors: Cllr Chapman, Cllr Unczur

Extra Provisions Provided

Specific Feedback

Community Strategy

For the following outcomes, the community were asked to choose, from 4 options, which they felt was the most important under each of the One Nottingham One Plan priority themes. An 'Other' option was offered, any votes for these can be seen at the bottom of this section.

<p>NB – The total number of people participating in the remote voting was 26, with an opt-out deviation of around 3 participants per question.</p>

Choose Nottingham

Helping local people into jobs - 65%

Improving public transport – 12%

Supporting local businesses – 8%

Other – 8%

Respect for Nottingham

People taking responsibility and having respect for each other - 62%

A safer city of Nottingham – 27%

A cleaner environment – 0%

Other – 0%

Young Nottingham

Teaching Social Behaviour in Schools - 54%

Increasing number of people achieving qualifications - 23%

Reducing teenage pregnancies - 12%

Other – 0%

Active and Healthy Nottingham

Improving Services for older and vulnerable people - 39%
Reducing avoidable injuries to children and older people – 8%
Reducing Heart Disease – 4%
Other – 4%

Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods
Improving public services in your neighbourhood – 48%
Giving people a say in local decisions - 22%
Transforming the physical Environment – 13%
Other – 0%

'Other' priorities

Those present were asked to record any other priorities they felt important. These were:

Priorities

Those present were asked to rank each of the six One Nottingham One Plan 2006/07 priorities as 'High', 'Medium' or 'Low' priorities within their neighbourhood with a 4th option if they were 'Unsure'

- Attacking drug-related crime – 78% said **High** Priority
- Giving local people a say in Council decisions – 70% said **High** Priority
- Promoting responsible behaviour – 69% said **High** Priority
- Helping young people to do better, socially and academically – 81% said **High** Priority
- Help people move off benefits and into work/training – 65% said **High** Priority
- Help People to Live Longer (quitting smoking/more exercise etc.) – 46% said **High** Priority

Local Policing Issues

Those present were asked to identify which, from a wide range of Community Safety Issues, affected their neighbourhood. They were then asked to identify four that they thought were most important to them.

Top 4 Issues in this Neighbourhood:

- 1) Speeding Cars/Boy Racers/Joy Riders/Motorbikes – 14 votes**
- 2) Rowdy Behaviour/Intimidation – 11 votes**
- 3) Dog Fouling – 11 votes**
- 4) Drinking Alcohol In Streets/Binge Drinking – 10 votes**

It is worth noting that Litter and Drug Misuse/Dealing/Discarded Needles both received 9 votes each.

Area Capital Funding

People became involved in identifying issues on a map in the areas of the ward where they felt attention was needed. Feedback and analysis from this will be available from the City Development Highways team as soon as possible. The information gathered will feed into the decision making process for allocating the Council's Area Capital Funding in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Evaluation of Feedback

Number of evaluation forms completed: 22 forms

Breakdown of feedback from these;

20 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that the event was well organised.

19 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that the content was relevant and met expectations.

21 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that the presentations were clear and understandable.

21 people strongly agreed *or* agreed that there was a good balance between information giving and discussion and group work.

16 people said they had a better understanding of the community strategy

14 people said they had a better understanding of Neighbourhood Policing

14 people said they had a better understanding of Area Capital Funding items

15 people said they had a better understanding of Local Issues

Any other comments?

The location, overall environment and refreshments were largely considered as 'great'

When asked where improvements could be made to the consultation process, the following comments were noted:

- Create a website so that residents can send in concerns to Local Area Group/Police and get a response.

It was also noted that the community members were surprised that senior councillors were aware of the problem areas and streets in the neighbourhood

Quotes from evaluation forms

- 'I liked the ability to influence the setting of priorities'
- 'Useful to know these sorts of meetings exist'
- 'Glad we finally have a voice and are being noticed'
- 'Very informative, friendly event'
- 'Nice to be part of the wider community even though the area of Bells Lane Estate was not represented enough by residents and community centre staff'
- 'Good activities. Very professional, friendly atmosphere'
- 'Enjoyable evening all-round'

