

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **23 JULY 2008** at the

Council House from 5.30 pm to 7.15 pm

Councillor Wood	(Chair)	
Councillor James	(Vice-Chair)	(minutes 16 to 21 inclusive)
Councillor Chapman		
Councillor Cresswell		
Councillor Foster		(minutes 12 to 23 inclusive)
Councillor Long		
Councillor Unczur		
Councillor Watson		

indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

Mr C Thorpe	-	Area Panel Chair
Ms G Bainbridge	-	BelsAtra
Ms D Smith	-	Nottingham City Primary Care Trust
Ms C Edgeworth)	Nottingham City Homes Limited
Mr C Langstaff)	
Ms M Cumberbatch	-	Nottingham Energy Partnership
Mr J Hose	-	S.M.A.R.T
Mrs A Thorpe	-	Strelley Tenants' and Residents' Association

City Council Officers

Mr S Edwards)	Community and Culture
Mr A Mohammed)	
Ms J Eurge)	Environment and Regeneration
Mr A Houldsworth)	
Mr D Martin)	
Mr J Lee)	
Miss L Wilson	-	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

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor's Chapman and Watson and Jane Lewis (Crime and Drugs Partnership).

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

14 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 May 2008, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

15 TOP TEN HOUSING PRIORITIES FROM WEST AREA TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to enable Nottingham City Homes Limited (NCH) to take account in its service delivery of the top ten housing priorities of tenant's and residents' associations and community groups in the West Area without delay.

The Area Manager informed Mr Langstaff of the housing priorities as follows:-

- repairs;
- housing voids;
- greens and overhanging trees;
- drains full of rubbish;
- fencing and hedges;
- street cleansing;
- parking;
- anti-social behaviour;
- alleyways;
- dog fouling;

There was also an issue with the time it took for repairs to be carried out and private properties not being maintained. Tenants and residents had suggested that tenancy agreements should contain commitment to take action towards bad tenants.

Mr Langstaff was pleased that a list had been compiled and informed the Committee that the current repairs system was being reviewed. Prior to the housing inspection in November 2008 NCH would be carrying out a self-

ACTION

assessment of its strengths, weaknesses and gaps which was why the contribution from the Committee on its priorities was important.

Members made the following comments:-

- there were concerns regarding the service delivery of repairs, especially fencing. Tenants were being informed that fencing was being done on a cyclical basis which was unacceptable. Members had been told that there were criteria that needed to be met in order for fencing repairs to be completed sooner, but tenants were not being asked questions to ascertain whether they met the criteria;
- tenants had responsibility to maintain their house and garden but communal land was neglected by NCH. NCH needed to maintain the communal areas better in order to improve the general appearance of the estates.

RESOLVED that Mr Langstaff be thanked for his attendance.

16 NOTTINGHAM WARMZONE

Miranda Cumberbatch, Affordable Warmth Development Officer, Nottingham Energy Partnership, attended the meeting and took the Committee through the information contained in the slides, copies of which had been circulated.

Members made the following comments:-

- this initiative for the private sector was welcome as 54% of the properties in West Area were owner occupied;
- the main concerns for most residents were the huge increase in fuel prices and what they could do to reduce their bills, so it was important that information was accurate and gave clear advice;
- triple glazing was not widely used but, as it would tackle a huge amount of heat loss, should be stipulated for all new buildings;
- residents needed to be made aware of social tariffs that were available from energy providers in order for them to make an informed decision regarding their suppliers;
- it would be useful to receive the reports that were submitted to the funding body so that the Committee could monitor take-up of the various schemes throughout the area;
- it was important to inform elected members in the area when door step assessments were being undertaken so that, if residents raised concerns regarding the visit, members could reassure them that the service was legitimate.

RESOLVED that Ms Cumberbatch be thanked for her presentation and that regular reports on uptake be submitted to the Committee.

17 PROCUREMENT OF NEW GP PRACTICE AND GP LED HEALTH CENTRE

Further to minute 10 dated 14 May 2008, Dawn Smith, Assistant Director of Primary Care Commissioning, Nottingham City Primary Care Trust, attended the meeting to provide a verbal update on the procurement of a new GP Practice and GP led Health Centre.

Ms Smith informed members that responses from the Committee had been considered at the end of May and that Bilborough had been supported as an area for a new GP Practice. Further documentation would be circulated regarding the responses to the consultation but would not detail exact services to be provided. Invitations to tender would be sent to potential providers in August and these would be assessed in September/October, with a contract signed in November/December 2008. The responses from consultation had informed the tender documentation e.g. that the site needed to be somewhere with good transport links and easily accessible.

RESOLVED that Ms Smith be thanked for her update.

**18 STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORKS (SRF) –
PROGRESS UPDATE**

(Director of Regeneration, Planning and Transport Strategy)

Further to minute 56 dated 12 March 2008, Jenny Eurge, Regeneration Co-ordination Manager, introduced the report and informed members that the consultation process had been lengthy but was now coming to an end and a report would be submitted to the September 2008 meeting of this Committee which would detail timescales, costs, etc.

Members made the following comments:-

- it was crucial that plans were produced and were transparent to enable residents to be clear on what they could expect from the SRF;
- plans needed to be written in a style that was easy to understand and should include a list of projects taking place in the locality;
- residents would be more interested when they could see things beginning to happen. They wanted action, rather than promises. The work would make a material difference to the area and, therefore, it was key to engage tenants' and residents' associations in developing the plans;

ACTION

- residents would not be happy about building houses around parks which would result in reducing the size of the park and this needed to be reconsidered;
- there were distinct communities within areas; physical regeneration alone would not encourage them to integrate. Work needed to be carried out to increase educational attainment, reduce crime, etc, to bring communities together.

RESOLVED that the following be noted:-

- (1) the amended key milestones/programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) progress made to date on SRF North West Nottingham as detailed in section 3 of the report;**
- (3) the executive summary of the draft SRF as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.**

**19 SPENDING PROFILE 2008/09
(Acting Director of Local Communities)**

Members expressed disappointment at the £10,000 per councillor not being in addition to an overall area budget.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the following be noted:-**
 - (a) that each member had been allocated an individual ward budget of £10,000 which Area Committees were required to divide between and Area Allocation budget and individual Ward Support budgets;**
 - (b) that any unspent monies in individual Ward Support budgets at the end of the financial year would be reallocated to the Area Allocation budget, as recommended by the Executive Board;**
- (2) that the following be approved:-**
 - (a) that the 2008/09 Area Committee ward member budgets be divided as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report;**
 - (b) that the underspend and uncommitted balance from the 2007/08 budget be reallocated as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report;**

ACTION

- (c) **that decisions regarding funding from the West Area Incidental budget within the Area Allocation Funds be delegated to the Area Manager or, in his absence, the Director of Local Communities.**

20 ROSSLYN PARK HIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL – GRANT APPROVAL
(Acting Director of Local Communities)

Further to minute 5 dated 14 May 2008, members were requested to confirm which budget the £1,000 allocation to the school to help maintain the after school club would be taken from.

RESOLVED that £1,000 be allocated to Rosslyn Park High Primary School After School Club from the West Area Environmental, Economic and Social Wellbeing budget.

21 SMEDLEY CLOSE, ASPLEY – REQUEST FOR A GATING ORDER
(Director of Transport Services)

John Lee, Senior Rights of Way Officer, Traffic Management, introduced the report and requested that the Committee consider whether to authorise the making of a gating order to restrict public access along a footpath running between Smedley Close, Wendover Drive and Keeverne Close, Aspley to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Members made the following comments:-

- while members were not opposed to the request, only one gating order per year could be approved by the Committee, and it was unclear whether a gating order would solve the problems being experienced at Smedley Close;
- it would be important for an update report to be submitted to the Committee in twelve months time to establish the effectiveness of the gating order on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Members queried whether the gating order could be varied or revoked if it proved that, in all the circumstances, the restriction imposed by the order was no longer expedient for the purpose of reducing crime or anti-social behaviour. Members were reassured that there was a process under Section 129F of the Highways Act 1980 to either revoke or verify the restrictions of the order if the need arose.

RESOLVED

- (1) **that, as the Committee was satisfied that the statutory tests as set out in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of the report had been met, a full time gating order be authorised and implemented;**
- (2) **that the costs of the gating order be met from the Aspley ward uncommitted balance;**

ACTION

- (3) that a report on the effectiveness of the gating order, including information on any displacement issues, be submitted to this Committee for consideration in July 2009.

John Lee /
Asif Mohammed

22 PROPOSED LOCAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CYCLING NETWORK
(Director of Transport Services)

John Lee, Senior Rights of Way Officer, Traffic Management, introduced the report and requested that members identify potential improvements to the existing cycling network within their wards.

Members main concerns were enforcement in respect of cyclists using footpaths and motorists parking in cycle lanes and the lack of road safety education for cyclists. It was suggested that Mr Lee consult PEDALS for suggestions of improvements for the area.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

23 AREA CAPITAL RESOURCES
(Directors of Neighbourhood Regeneration and Housing)

Andy Houldsworth, Team Leader, Highways Construction and Maintenance, circulated a list of proposed schemes and requested that a meeting be arranged with members and tenants' and residents' association chairs to discuss the proposed schemes.

RESOLVED

(1) that the following be noted:-

- (a) the total spend of £2.060 million to 23 June 2008, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, at the locations in Appendix B;**
- (b) that 58 footpaths and 42 works to the public realm had been completed;**
- (c) the available funds of £698,000 for the remainder of the programme to the end of March 2009, as detailed in Appendix A to the report;**
- (d) the value of works previously approved for 2007/08 of £448,000, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, at the locations in Appendix C;**
- (e) that 3 footpaths and 15 public realm works were expected to be completed by 31 March 2009;**

ACTION

(f) that on 19 February 2008 Executive Board approved a further allocation of £5 million per year for 2009/10 and 2010/11 for area based capital investment in the public realm, from which West Area had been allocated £1.976 million over the two year period;

(2) that a meeting between ward members, area tenants' and residents' association chairs and Mr Houldsworth be arranged to discuss the proposed schemes as detailed in the document circulated at the meeting.

**Andy
Houldsworth /
Asif Mohammed**

24 LOCAL RESIDENTS PRIORITIES AND HEADLINE DEPRIVATION FIGURES

(Director of Customer Services)

Asif Mohammed, Area Manager, introduced the report and requested that members chose twelve of the nineteen performance indicators attached to the report from One Nottingham that they wished to focus on in the area.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that a meeting be arranged for ward members to discuss which twelve of the nineteen performance indicators would be focussed on in the area.

Asif Mohammed