

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **11 NOVEMBER 2009** at the

Council House from 5.30 pm to 6.55 pm

Councillor Wood	(Chair)
Councillor James	(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chapman	
Councillor Cresswell	
Councillor Foster	(minutes 27 to 35 inclusive)
Councillor Long	(minutes 27 to 35 inclusive)
Councillor Unczur	
Councillor Watson	

indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

Mr J Hose - S.M.A.R.T

City Council Officers

Mr K Beaumont)	Children's Services
Mr K Brown)	
Mr J Dymond)	
Mr A Miller)	Community and Culture
Mr A Mohammed)	
Mr A Houldsworth)	Environment and Regeneration
Mr M Lowe)	
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

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

29 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 September 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

30 LOCAL AUTHORITY NEW BUILD SOCIAL HOUSING

(Director of Housing and Regeneration)

Mark Lowe, Policy Development Officer (Affordable Housing), Housing Strategy, Environment and Regeneration, introduced the report and informed the Committee that recommendation 1 of the report should have said Camrose Close and not Conway Close.

Councillors made the following comments:

- new housing was welcome in the West Area and would help to alleviate the waiting list for housing in the area;
- properties needed to be visually pleasing and of a better aesthetical standard than current social housing;
- building to Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 was welcome as was the link with apprenticeships and the proposals for bungalows;
- Camrose Close would be the priority site for the area if only partial funding was received.

RESOLVED that the proposal to build new social housing, owned by the City Council and managed by Nottingham City Homes, at Camrose Close and Yatesbury Crescent in Bilborough be supported.

31 SPEND OF SECTION 106 FUNDING ON PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IMPROVEMENTS

(Director of Sport, Leisure and Parks)

Councillors discussed potential projects that they felt the Section 106 funding could support in the West Area such as children's play equipment on Firbeck Crescent or Hoylake Crescent parks or developing Robbins Wood so that it could be used as a public open space, and reached the decision that it would be best used to support work commencing on Broxtowe Park to help set up a tree nursery as this would be low maintenance and would also create jobs in the area. It was felt that the remainder of the Section 106 money still to be collected could be divided across the wards evenly to support more projects in the future.

RESOLVED that the allocation of £28,555.48 of Section 106 money

ACTION

towards improvements at Broxtowe Park be supported.

32 NEW PLAY AREAS ON BIRCHOVER RECREATION GROUND AND KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS - PROGRESS

(Director of Sport, Leisure and Parks)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

33 WEST AREA PLACE SURVEY RESULTS 2008

(Acting Director of Local Communities)

Councillors commented that it would have been useful to have the statistics of other core cities as a comparison and to give perspective to how West Area and Nottingham were performing.

RESOLVED

- (1) that performance statistics for other core cities be circulated to ward councillors to provide a comparison for the results detailed in the report;
- (2) that the key West Area findings of the Place Survey at Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (3) that the analysing of the Place Survey data by Council departments to inform their service planning processes for 2009/2010 be noted.

**Asif
Mohammed**

34 NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION TEAM UPDATE AND FUNDING REQUESTS

(Acting Director of Local Communities)

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Neighbourhood Action Team updates, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the following funding requests be approved:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aspley ward bulb planting scheme	Public realm	£1,000
Aspley's Got Talent	Councillor Chapman	£100
	Councillor James	£100
	Councillor Unczur	<u>£100</u>
		£300

35 BRITAIN IN BLOOM NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARDS – LOCAL SUCCESS

(Director of Sport, Leisure and Parks)

Councillors commented that the area had performed very well and that the change in culture was a great achievement and promoted pride in the area and helped to reduce crime.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the efforts of local people to improve their neighbourhoods be commended.**

36 YOUTH PROVISION IN THE WEST AREA

Ken Beaumont, Head of Targeted Services 14-19, and Kevin Brown, Central Locality Manager, Youth Services, Children’s Services, were in attendance to discuss youth provision in the West Area and provided the Committee with the following information:

- there had been a dramatic fall in youth crime in the City with figures almost halving, which brought Nottingham back to a level with similar cities;
- a third of the resources for youth provision were spent on Youth Services, which was well above the national average even with the recent workforce reduction strategy;
- much of the youth provision in West Area was not managed by Nottingham City Council but Youth Services were aware that there needed to be a Nottingham City Council led resource in the area;
- there were 3 Lead Youth Workers in the West Area, with 1 vacancy, and 16 Youth Support Workers but these were only contracted to work 6 hours per week and could work City-wide;
- the following sessions were run throughout the West Area:

Location	Number of sessions per week	Average attendance per session
Aspley Youth Centre	3	27
Bells Lane Community Centre	1	15
Manning School (new)	1	10
Bilborough Library (special needs)	1	10
Bilborough Community Centre	1	11
Vale Community Centre	1	16

ACTION

- a new session was starting at Birchover Road Community Centre from mid November and it was also hoped that sessions would be held at the new Samworth Academy and Hadden Park High;
- there was only one session held on a Friday and that was the Zone Youth Project. Weekend provision was an area that Youth Services wanted to see improved and work would be done on this in the West Area;
- Surestart on Strelley Road, the Samworth Academy and Birchover Road Community Centre would all provide sessions on sexual health and it was hoped that every centre throughout the area would have a minimum of two workers that were Ccard trained. Training for this was currently underway;
- the increased criminal checks should not deter volunteers from becoming involved as most wanted to do it long-term or eventually as paid employment;
- there were issues with the service and provision which needed to be addressed, but in order to do this there needed to be a clear action plan within clearly defined timescales. It was important that the good work of the service was highlighted as well as focussing on rectifying the problems;
- youth clubs were low on young people's priorities - it was what happened inside them that was important. The role of the Youth Service should be to facilitate and support provision and assertive engagement needed to be used to ensure that young people became involved.

Councillors made the following comments:

- the Youth Service did not appear to have changed significantly for many years and was still experiencing the same problems. To improve there needed to be a rationale for provision and how this was distributed and how it could be focussed on what young people wanted;
- 6 hour contracts were not viable as they meant people could be unreliable as they usually had other work commitments;
- the Youth Services needed to help plan provision, identify where there were gaps and help fill them while ensuring there was value for money;
- it was important to ensure that events were advertised properly, not just on websites, as this was not accessible to all, and that when events were advertised they actually took place.
- it was important the councillors were involved in deciding what

ACTION

provision should be in place in their wards as they had local knowledge.

RESOLVED that Mr Beaumont and Mr Brown be thanked for their attendance and the information they provided.