

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE (AREA 7)

MINUTES of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 17 September 2018 from 5.01 pm - 6.29 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Steve Battlemuch (Chair)
Councillor Cate Woodward (Vice Chair)
Councillor Sam Webster
Councillor Jim Armstrong

Absent

Councillor Sally Longford

Community Representatives (✓ indicates present)

✓	Wollaton Park Residents Association	Sylvia Taylor
✓	Lenton Abbey Residents Association (LARA)	Adam McGregor
✓	Friends of Wollaton Park	Rob Kirkwood
✓	North Wollaton Residents Association	Dr Chris Bignell
✓	Wollaton Churches Together	Rev. Stuart Bell
✓	Wollaton Historical and Conservation Society	Alan Hall
✓	Wollaton Park Community Association	Pauline Peck
✓	University of Nottingham Student Union	Jacob Collier

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Insp Robert Wilson	- Nottinghamshire Police
Sue Twyford	- Wollaton Festival Steering Group
Paul Howard	- Tenancy and Estate Manager, Nottingham City Homes
Lylse-Anne Renwick	- Neighbourhood Development Officer (WELA)
Parbinder Singh	- Neighbourhood Development Officer (WW)
Rob Bain	- Finance Director – Robin Hood Energy
Catherine Ziane-Pryor	- Governance Officer

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sally Longford – other council business
Inspector Gordon Fenwick

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Although not formally declaring an interest, Councillor Steve Battlemuch informed the committee that he was also the Chair of Robin Hood Energy and whilst the agenda item is only for information and no decision is required, he will relinquish the Chair to the Vice-Chair Councillor Cate Woodward for the duration of this item.

20 MINUTES

Confirmation - subject to amending minute 11a paragraph b (Group Spotlight, North Wollaton Residents Association) to read 'that whilst the group initially had 60 members, committee members have since dwindled to a few dedicated volunteers' the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2018 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising - further to the matters arising highlighted at the previous meeting, Alan Hall of the Wollaton Historical and Conservation Society requested an update on his proposal that a 'buildings of local interest list' is established. The Chair apologised for not responding sooner.

RESOLVED for the Chair to contact the Planning Department and request the criteria for, and implications of establishing a local interest list, and report the findings to the next committee meeting.

21 LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Rob Wilson provided a verbal update and highlighted the following points:

- (a) Both Wollaton West and Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey wards are the top two safest in the city;
- (b) the Chief Constable has announced that there are now 2000 police and warranted officers in the county. This position is welcomed, particularly following recent cuts to policing budgets. Recruitment continues but citizens should be assured that there is an increase in patrolling police officers and investigating officers;
- (c) in Wollaton West Ward, compared to the same period of 1 April to 17 September last year, two more burglaries have occurred this year bringing the total to 23;
- (d) there had been a small number of burglaries committed earlier in the year whereby the beading was removed from UPVC doors to enable door panels to be removed to gain entry. These offences are still under investigation but citizens are urged to ensure that their windows and doors are of good quality and appropriately secured, including locking doors whilst at home to prevent providing easy access for criminals;
- (e) an arrest has taken place of an individual who had been knocking on doors, particularly targeting the elderly and vulnerable, claiming that his car had broken down and that he needed bus fare to get home. This was wholly untrue and he has been charged with distraction thefts and fraud offences;
- (f) Wollaton West PCSOs have been focusing on tackling antisocial behaviour in the Calderdale area, the situation is now much improved;
- (g) it's not been possible to undertake speed checks within the area during the summer but the Police continue to focus on poor and dangerous driving and un-road worthy/dangerous vehicles;
- (h) in Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey wards, PCSO Helen Russell Taylor has now returned to work in the ward full time following time off and restricted duties due to a damaged knee;
- (i) Police are preparing for the return of students and will be engaging on and off-campus to help prevent student focused crime and student related ASB;
- (j) crime statistics for the area are provided within the 'Ward Report' item on the agenda. Whilst there is still room for improvement in tackling crime, Police are working hard to ensure the criminal behaviour is appropriately brought to justice. This includes ensuring

that young people understand the massive effects that crime can have on victims as a result of their activity;

- (k) from the statistics provided there appears to be an increase in violence but once the detail is investigated, these figures include physical verbal and online abuse.

Inspector Rob Wilson informed the committee that this would be his last committee meeting as he will soon be retiring. Inspector Riz Khan is an excellent officer and will be taking over the area. Contact details for inspector Riz will be shared with councillors and NDOs.

The Chair commented that the committee had always welcomed inspector Rob Wilson's contribution, his regular attendance and attention to detail, including reading the agenda before the meeting and identifying crossover issues. The committee and citizens of the area owe a deep debt of gratitude to Inspector Wilson for his dedication and public service.

Neighbourhood Development Officers also commented that inspector Rob Wilson had been an excellent officer to work with, ensuring that they and councillors were informed and aware of concerns and activity within the area and responding swiftly to issues raised.

RESOLVED to record the thanks of the committee to Inspector Rob Wilson for his update and attendance, and to wish him well in whatever he chooses to do next.

22 ROBIN HOOD ENERGY UPDATE

For the duration of this item Councillor Steve Battlemuch passed the Chairing of the meeting to Vice-Chair Councillor Cate Woodward to enable him, as Chair of Robin Hood Energy, to participate in the presentation.

Rob Bain, Finance Director for Robin Hood Energy (RHE), delivered a presentation on the development of RHE as a not-for-profit energy company which was established as a direct result of the City Council Plan objective to 'tackle fuel poverty', which is a significant issue within the City.

The report and presentation provides details on the establishment of RHE and the achievements to date, particularly when compared to other similar energy companies and the statistics by ward across the City of fuel poverty, with Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey ward ranking 9th and Wollaton West ward ranking 20th for fuel poverty out of 20 wards in the City.

The following points were highlighted and questions responded to:

- (a) Having been established for only 3 years, RHE now has over 115,000 customers (23,000 are in Nottingham City) and has made a surplus of £202,000, which will be reinvested in the company, including voluntarily signing up to the 'warm home discount' scheme ahead of the required timescale;
- (b) RHE is also operating as a white label company, which is where a service is produced by one company that other companies rebrand. As listed in the report, RHE currently delivers energy services to nine white label partners which are then able to deliver cheaper energy to their citizens, whilst making a small profit;
- (c) Fuel poverty is summarised as having required fuel costs above the average and if those costs are met, it would result in a residual income below the poverty line;

- (d) RHE voluntarily introduced a cap on pre-payment meter charges which the energy regulator, Ofgem, then applied across the industry;
- (e) By the nature of the company, energy prices are very competitive, citizens of the City are eligible for the lowest price fuel tariffs and it is estimated that City households can save an average of £87 per year by joining RHE;
- (f) RHE is consistently priced cheaper than all of the big six energy companies. Whilst some energy companies offer an initial low-priced transfer incentive to energy customers, this is often provided at a loss and prices rise significantly once the transfer period is finished. RHE is requesting that Ofgem regulate this practice, as it is misleading to customers, and where some companies operating this practice have then collapsed, it has resulted in additional costs to the energy industry and customers;
- (g) RHE has a focus on the environment and can now announce that it has a wholly green offering for fixed tariffs, with energy provided from wind or solar generation;
- (h) It is a misconception that the City Council has had to cut budgets and services as a result of lending start-up funds to RHE. RHE borrows money from Nottingham City Council at a higher rate than the City Council borrows that money, so in effect the City Council is gaining an income whilst providing RHE with an interest rate lower than would otherwise be available;
- (i) RHE does offer the installation of smart meters in customer's properties and aims that all customers will have a smart meter installed by the end of 2020. Some of the older model smart meters have received poor publicity recently as they revert to manual operation when customers change suppliers. However, this does not apply to the modern meters which RHE is installing;
- (j) The scheme is currently operating whereby if a customer recommends a friend who joins RHE, then that customer is entitled to a £20 reduction to their next RHE bill;
- (k) Guidance on reducing few bills is issued to customers;
- (l) RHE is based in Nottingham City and employees 170 local staff. Business is rapidly expanding so new premises are being sought but will remain within the City;
- (m) BFI Consulting recently valued the business at between £35-£70 million, but following detailed consideration figure of £30 million value has been identified;
- (n) Wards within the City with the highest level of prepayment meters include Bestwood, Sherwood, St Anne's, and Bilborough;
- (o) Wards within the City with the highest level of direct debit payment for their energy bills include Wollaton West, Mapperley, and Berridge;
- (p) RHE is working with social housing providers including Nottingham City Homes, and where void properties appear prepayment meters are removed and smart meters are installed;

- (q) the leaving rate of customers is approximately 5%. Whilst this is difficult to explain, it may partially be due to the loss making transfer offers provided by other energy companies. RHE is not involved in energy switch sites which can cost £50 per new customer gained. Instead the focus is on organic customer growth;
- (r) 57% of customers have a dual fuel account of both gas and electric;

Councillor Steve Battlemuch commented that he has been involved in the Robin Hood Energy Board since the company's establishment and is proud to be associated with the company, its ethos, practices and the benefits to citizens. The growth of the company during the past three years has been impressive and is very satisfying.

The energy market is huge and whilst the six main providers are massive, if RHE, as a not-for-profit company, can attract a fraction of their customers, it will be able to lower prices yet further.

All Councillors on the Committee welcomed RHE as a huge benefit to Nottingham's citizens and encouraged citizens to consider joining Robin Hood Energy to benefit from cheaper energy prices and the money saving opportunity available to them.

RESOLVED to record the Committee's thanks to Rob Bain for his attendance and presentation, and Councillor Steve Battlemuch for his contribution.

Following the conclusion of this item, Councillor Battlemuch resumed the Chair.

23 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

a APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Parbinder Singh, Neighbourhood Development Officer for Wollaton West Ward, presented the report which informs the Committee of the accepted nominations of Community Representatives by their community groups.

It is noted that some nomination forms are yet to be received and so some previous community representatives are not included in the list at this time.

RESOLVED to note the following appointments of Community Representatives for the 2018/19 municipal year and welcome new representatives Jacob Collier and Reverend Stuart Bell to the meeting:

Organisation	Name
Lenton Abbey Residents Association (LARA)	- Adam McGregor
Wollaton Park Residents Association	- Sylvia Taylor
North Wollaton Residents Association	- Dr Chris Bignall
Friends of Wollaton Park	- Rob Kirkwood
Wollaton Historical and Conservation Society	- Alan Hall
Wollaton Park Community Association	- Pauline Peck
University of Nottingham Students Union	- Jacob Collier
Wollaton Churches Together	- Rev. Stuart Bell

b **GROUP SPOTLIGHT**

Adam McGregor, Treasurer and former Chair of Lenton Abbey Resident's Association (LARA) and community representative appointed to the Committee, delivered a brief verbal presentation on the group.

Lenton Abbey Resident's Association is a small group which represents the residents of Lenton Abbey Estate, operating from the Shelia Roper Community Centre which, with the support of Nottingham City Homes, recently underwent a much needed refurbishment. As a result the Centre is now an attractive and even higher valued community focus. In addition to coffee mornings, Zumba classes, family and arts and crafts session, LARA holds events such as the Christmas Fair, Spring Fair and Summer Fair, for the community and to raise funds for the group. Whilst there is the common problem of attracting committee members, a small core of dedicated volunteers ensure that community events and activities are held and community engagement is good with positive feedback.

c **GROUP UPDATES**

Jacob Collier, elected representative of University of Nottingham Student's Union, informed the Committee that the new academic term starts on 24 September 2018 and assured members that the Student's Union will be spreading the message that students have got to respect residents and communities, from keeping noise down to ensuring that the different bin system is understood and used appropriately.

Sylvia Taylor, representing Wollaton Park Resident's Association, informed the meeting that the group's committee had been restructured and that there is a concerted effort to introduce a diversity of members;

Susan Twyford, representing the Wollaton Festival, informed the committee that the group would start working in October for next year's events.

In regard to a topic which is of interest to several local groups, the Chair informed the Committee that there is now a two stage project proposed for the repair and preservation of the walls of the Wollaton Hall Walled Garden. Stage 1 is to repair the walls and outer area so that the space is safe to be used again. The cost of this stage is estimated at £20,000 and whilst the City Council can provide £15,000 from Section 106 funding, the remainder will be sought from local ward councillor budget allocations, the Historical Society, the Civic Society and contributions from individuals and groups. Once the funding is secured, a schedule of work can be provided.

Stage 2 of the project will include a 10 year plan and may cost millions of pounds. It will need to result in the walled garden generating an income, becoming financially self-funding and sustainable, whilst remaining suitable for the Park and area. It is likely that an application for National Lottery Finding will be made but as the City has recently been successful in securing funding for several large projects, it has been suggested that an application made in a few years' time would be more likely to succeed. Suggestions for fundraising were welcomed and residents are encouraged to respond to the public consultation once it is released.

The Friends of Wollaton Park will be holding their AGM in October and will discuss fund raising for the walled garden repairs then, along with what could possibly be suitable to be sited in the area. If community buy-in is evident, then this will support funding bids.

24 NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES UPDATE AND APPROVALS

Paul Howard, Area Housing Manager for Nottingham City Homes (NCH), presented the report which updates the Committee on NCH activity in the area, provides performance information and seeks approval to spend funding.

A revised Appendix 3 was circulated at the meeting.

The following points were highlighted and responses given to the Committee’s questions:

- (a) A total of 1,547 responses were received to the ‘Star’ tenant survey with performance ratings high across all areas of NCH operation, and ratings for ‘tenant satisfaction and involvement’ showing the greatest improvement. Involvement opportunities include street/block champions, tenant academy, mediation service, and garden mentors. Survey responses showed an increase tenant satisfaction and involvement opportunities. In previous years, many of the issues raised in the survey had related to parking but there now appears to be a greater issue of rubbish. Overall the residents stated that there were ‘no problems’;
- (b) Appendix 1 to the report provides information on how tenants and leaseholders can become involved in community activity facilitated by NCH;
- (c) In preparation of the forthcoming ward boundary changes, NCH has started to re-organise and as of 24 September 2018, Sharon Walters and Maureen Birkin will be the Housing Patch Managers covering the area. Contact details for each will be provided to elected members and NDOs;
- (d) NCH has insulated a lot of its properties across the area as the solid wall construction of many properties has compounded fuel poverty in the area.

In regard to the property in Wollaton Park which was proposed to be used by Social Services as a supported home for 2-3 children/young vulnerable people, it had not been specifically purchased for this purpose and now that the proposal has been withdrawn, the property will revert to normal letting stock. It is noted that it was not appropriate to issue a public consultation on the proposal due to safeguarding children concerns.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the update and performance information in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report;**
- (2) to note the allocation of funds and that no funding has been de-committed:**

Ward	Actual Budget	Schemes Approved	Schemes Committed	Remaining Budget
Wollaton West	£18,359.46	£9,650.00	£2,677	£6,032.46
Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey	£64,842.49	£1,345.00	£7,390	£56,107.49

- (3) to approve the following Area Capital Programme funding as set out in the revised appendix 3 to the report:**

Address	Request	Cost
Capitol Court (WW)	fencing around drying area	£2,677.00
Wensor Avenue and Meriden Avenue (WELA)	security gate and single panel security fencing.	£1,243.00
12 Hathern Green (WELA)	security fencing to boundary	£895.00
12 Meriden Avenue (WELA)	security fencing to boundary	£1,185.00
18 Arden Close (WELA)	security gate to rear of properties	£1,390.00

25 AREA CAPITAL FUND - 2018/19 PROGRAMME

Lylse-Anne Renwick, Neighbourhood Development Officer, introduced the report on Area Capital Funding providing councillors with the latest spend proposals under the Area Capital Fund including highways and footways.

It is noted that neither ward requested any funding de-commitments and that no Local Transport Plan schemes are proposed for Wollaton West at this time.

RESOLVED

- (1) note the monies available to Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey and Wollaton West wards as outlined below:

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Ward

2018 - 2019 LTP allocation		£36,400
LTP carried forward from 2017 - 2018		£0
2018 - 2019 Public Realm allocation		£14,016
Public Realm carried forward from 2017 - 2018		£0
Total Available 2018 - 2019 ACF		£50,416
Less LTP schemes	-	£11,334
Less Public Realm schemes	-	£14,016
De-committed funds	+	£0
Remaining available balance		£25,066
LTP element remaining		£25,066
Public Realm element remaining		£0

Wollaton West Ward

2018 - 2019 LTP allocation		£31,900
LTP carried forward from 2017 - 2018		£1,303
2018 - 2019 Public Realm allocation		£12,224
Public Realm carried forward from 2017 - 2018		£14,716
Total Available 2018 - 2019 ACF		£60,143
Less LTP schemes	-	£0
Less Public Realm schemes	-	£6,700
De-committed funds	+	£0
Remaining available balance		£53,443
LTP element remaining		£33,203
Public Realm element remaining		£20,240

(2) to approve the Area Capital Programme Schemes set about below:

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey LTP

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Middleton Boulevard	road safety	£240	further contribution to bollard on Middleton Boulevard cycle path
Arden Close area	Parking	£10,000	contingency funding to cover possible additions to Neighbourhood Improvement Programme scheme

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey Public Realm Schemes

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Wollaton Park	park improvement	£4,016	contribution to provision of a new path linking Sutton Passeys play area to Lime Tree Avenue

Wollaton West Public Realm Schemes

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Wollaton Road	improvement and safety	£1,200	Cut back overgrown trees and shrubs to ensure improved visibility and safety for road users

26 WARD REPORTS

Parbinder Singh and Lyse-Anne Renwick, Neighbourhood Development Officers, presented the Ward reports which update the Committee on the current priorities and issues within the ward and how it is intended that they are addressed. Also included is a list of community activities and engagement opportunities and a summary of the performance statistics within each ward since the beginning of the financial year and compares the year-to-date information from last year.

RESOLVED to note the progress on Ward priorities and other supporting information including the issues being addressed by each Neighbourhood Action Team, and upcoming opportunities for citizens to engage and Ward Performance Data.

27 WARD COUNCILLOR BUDGET

Parbinder Singh and Lyse-Anne Renwick, Neighbourhood Development Officers, presented the Ward Council Budget report advising the Area Committee of the current Ward Councillor Budgets.

It is noted that funding for further schemes may have been approved in principal but that the formal process is yet to be completed.

RESOLVED

(1) to note that no new allocations have been made by Councillors for Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey and that the remaining funds are as follows:

Balance brought forward from 2017/18	£25,153.00
Allocation 2018/19	£10,000.00
Total available allocation	£35,153.00
Total de-committed	£ 0.00
Total allocated at 14/08/2018	£ 0.00
Total unallocated at 14/08/2018	£35,153.00

- (2) to note the following allocations by Wollaton West Councillors and the remaining funds:

Allocated Schemes:	Councillor(s)	Amount
Wollaton Youth Club	Cllr Battlemuch	£ 200.00
Torvill Drive Play area consultation funday	Cllrs Armstrong Cllr Battlemuch Cllr Woodward	£ 500.00
124th Nottingham Scouts	Cllr Battlemuch Cllr Woodward	£ 500.00
Songtime	Cllr Woodward	£ 696.00
Opening the Heart of Kingswood	Cllr Armstrong Cllr Battlemuch Cllr Woodward	£ 2,250.00

Balance brought forward 2017/18	£ 12,637.00
Allocation 2018/19	£ 15,000.00
Total available allocation	£ 27,637.00
Total de-committed	£ 0.00
Total allocated at 14/08/2018	£ 4,146.00
Total unallocated at 14/08/2018	£ 23,491.00

28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note that the next meeting is scheduled for 5pm on 10 December 2018 in the Council House.