

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BASFORD AND BESTWOOD AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House, Station Street, NG2 3NG, on 12 September 2018 from 4.30 pm - 5.50 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Brian Grocock
Councillor Cat Arnold
Councillor David Smith (Vice Chair)
Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Nick Raine (Chair)

Absent

Councillor Linda Woodings

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Sally Longford
Gail Scholes – Robin Hood Energy
Chris Easton – Bestwood Anglican and Methodist Churches
Gary Cawthorne – Bestwood Partnership
Inspector Busuttill – Nottinghamshire Police
Inspector Gordon Fenwick – Nottinghamshire Police
Darryl Paxford – Senior community protection Officer
John Hales – SALTAR
Dale Griffin – Neighbourhood Development Officer
Leigh Plant – Neighbourhood Development Officer
Angela Bolton – Neighbourhood Development Officer
Noel McMenamin - Governance Officer

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Linda Woodings – leave
Mike Savage
Rupinder Kooner

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2018 were agreed as a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

15 ISSUES FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Fly-tipping in Basford ward was raised as an ongoing issue for enforcement agencies to be made aware of.

16 POLICE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION UPDATE

Inspectors Christine Busuttill and Gordon Fenwick of Nottinghamshire Police, and Darryl Paxford, Senior Community Protection Officer, updated the committee on policing matters in the wards, including crime and arrest figures, local initiatives to address crime and anti-social behaviour and current Police/Community protection areas of focus.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- It was confirmed that there was an ongoing operation to address speeding on Vernon Road and Bagnall Road, and steps were being taken to address reports of drug-dealing on Vernon Park. Speeding on Beckhampton Road was raised as a concern;;
- The rise in burglary dwellings was a cause of concern, as was a rise in reported knife crime, which was being addressed as part of a city-wide co-ordinated multi-agency initiative;
- On-the-spot fines for fly-tipping were being actively used to deter the practice;
- There was a discussion about the threat of deliberately-set grass fires on a number of sites during the hot summer. The sites included Sandybanks, the Haywood site, Sunrise Hill and Eastglade. There was an issue about fire breaks not having been cut, and also that the sites had different ownership and management arrangements. Neighbour Development Officers undertook to investigate further how preventative action could be co-ordinated.

RESOLVED to note the update.

17 NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES - PERFORMANCE AND SPEND UPDATE

Daniel Pickard, Area housing Manager, introduced a report of the Chief Executive, Nottingham City Homes, updating the committee on major works, area regeneration and environmental issues, area performance, good news stories, as well as requesting approval for several schemes.

Mr Pickard highlighted the following:

- Overall tenant satisfaction with NCH remains high, with the organisation named UK Housing's Landlord of the Year;
- There was concern about the effects of the introduction of Universal Credit on rent uptake. Focus remained on tenancy sustainment and eviction action was taken only as a last resort;
- NCH has been closely involved with Operation Reacher.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the updates in the report, and presented to the meeting;**

- (2) **approve the following requests for funding to take down existing concrete and timber fence panels and replace with metal railings, as detailed in the report:**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost (£)</u>
2-14 Peary Close, Bestwood	6,630
1-17 Peary Close, Bestwood	15,300
206-212 Peary Close, Bestwood	15,810
7-36 Morrell Bank, Bestwood	49,470
Towyn Court (wall and railings)	67,000

18 AREA BASED GRANTS - UPDATE

Gary Cawthorne of the Bestwood Partnership provided an update on Area Based Grant in the Area, covering grant management, employment and training activity, children and young people initiatives and community centres/voluntary and community sector updates.

The following points were made during discussion:

- Overall, there has been significant activity across all the priorities. Bestwood Directions has now moved to the Bestwood Community Centre, which was more accessible for service users;
- The view was expressed that better targeted outreach for children and young people in Bestwood was needed;
- It was explained that while funding was secured until April 2019, future funding to ensure continuity of services beyond then was not guaranteed.

RESOLVED to note the update, and to thank Mr Cawthorne for his comprehensive report.

19 ROBIN HOOD ENERGY UPDATE

Gail Scholes, Chief Executive, Robin Hood Energy (RHE) and Councillor Sally Longford RHE Board member, delivered a presentation on the work of RHE, highlighting the following:

- (a) the company was established in 2014 and was the first publicly owned not for profit energy company in the UK. It was originally conceived to help tackle fuel poverty in Nottingham City;
- (b) RHE now serves over 115,000 customers across the UK taking in customers from an extended partnership of white label companies and other local authorities;
- (c) RHE has been much more successful than other 'start up' energy companies and has already achieved a profit within the first three years. Loans from the council to start the company are being repaid at commercial rates;
- (d) there are a wide range of tariffs available including green energy tariffs and a reduced tariff for city residents. Average savings for city residents are around

£153 compared to standard prepay tariffs;

- (e) customers' tariffs are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are the most suitable. Now that the company is achieving profit it has voluntarily joined the warm home discount scheme and fuel vouchers are regularly sent to food banks across the city to help the most vulnerable.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- (f) While RHE was competitively priced within the energy market, prospective customers needed to check the terms and conditions of their current contracts to make sure they were not liable to exit fees. However, for customers on a prepayment meters, a switch was straightforward;
- (g) It was also pointed out that many customers wrongly believed that they could not switch provider while in arrears. A Debt Assignment Protocol was in place within the industry, meaning that customers could switch to a cheaper tariff and use savings to pay off arrears.

RESOLVED to note the presentation and verbal update.

20 AREA CAPITAL FUND - 2018/19 PROGRAMME

Dale Griffin, Neighbourhood Development Officer, introduced the report, detailing spend for 2018/19 and requesting approval for expenditure from the Fund. A revised appendix for Bestwood ward was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) **note the monies available for 2018/19 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) **approve the following schemes from the 2018/19 available funds:**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Cost (£)</u>
Basford Public realm	Gabrielle Close play area Park improvement	10,000
Bestwood Public realm	Hillington Rise Litter bin	455

21 WARD COUNCILLOR BUDGET

The Committee noted the actions agreed by the Director of Community Protection as detailed at Appendices B and C of the report, and the allocations for 2018/19 for each councillor, without discussion.

22 WARD REPORTS

Dale Griffin, Neighbourhood Development Officer, introduced the report, which detailed the current priorities and issues facing both wards and providing details of forthcoming events.

During the brief discussion that followed, support was expressed for the development of a 'dinosaur' themed golf attraction on Stockhill Park, and assurances were given that NCVS were vetting those involved with the Heathfield Community Centre.

RESOLVED to note the report.

23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next Area Committee meeting is to take place on 5 December 2018.