

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ARBORETUM, DUNKIRK AND LENTON, RADFORD AND PARK AREA COMMITTEE

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham on
18 November 2015 from 5.31pm - 7.15pm**

Membership

Present

Councillor Anne Peach (Chair)
Councillor Merlita Bryan (Vice Chair)
Councillor Liaqat Ali
Councillor Azad Choudhry
Councillor Sarah Piper
Councillor Dave Trimble

Absent

Councillor Ilyas Aziz

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Peter Beynon	- Resident
Dave Brennan	- Chief Executive, Castle Cavendish
Ursula Dove	- Resident
James Dymond	- Parks Development Manager
Moby Farrands	- Partnerships Council
Dorothy Holmes	- Locality Manager
Paul Howard	- Tenancy and Estate Manager (Radford), NCH
Rosemary Jarrett	- Pleasant and St Paul's Residents Association
Catherine Mayhew	- City-Centre Co-ordinator
Nick Packham	- Resident
June Perry	- Friends of the Forest
James Rhodes	- Strategic Insight Manager
Chanel Richards	- Tenancy and Estate Manager
Deborah Wilson	- Neighbourhood Development Officer
Inspector Robert Wilson	- Nottinghamshire Police
Linda Wright	- Neighbourhood Development Officer
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Agohogobe
Zenn Athar
Maya Fletcher
Melanie Futer
Iffat Iqbal
Peter Milligan
Lucas Willen

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Dave Brennan declared an interest in item 27, Alfreton Road Retail Improvements Action Plan, as Castle Cavendish own some properties which fall into the study area.

24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 and they were signed by the Chair.

25 ARBORETUM CAFE

James Dymond, Parks Development Manager, presented the Director of Sport and Culture's report providing a progress update on the project to provide a café and other improvements at the Arboretum. James highlighted the following:

(a) the original proposal to construct a new café and community building on the site of the former pub is no longer feasible as the budget is no longer sufficient. Therefore the new proposal is to refurbish the existing Waverley Lodge to create a café, meeting room and community space. The disused area of the former pub will be re-landscaped and a new mess room for staff will be created in the Coach House;

(b) work will begin on-site in the new year.

The Committee, community representatives and members of the public were broadly positive about the proposals and felt that the location proposed for the café is ideal for attracting people to the park. Whilst recognising that the café needs to be a viable business, it should be affordable for everybody in the local community.

The following answers were given in response to questions from the Committee:

(c) the existing public toilets will still only be open for events, however it is hoped that the café toilets will also be available for public use on a daily basis;

(d) the insurance funding of £187,732 mentioned in the report was the insurance pay out from when the former pub burnt down;

(e) the operator of the café has not been finalised yet. This could be the Council or an external operator ;

RESOLVED to support the proposals for the restoration and improvements of the Arboretum

26 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY ENGAGEMENT

James Rhodes, Strategic Insight Manager presented his report, explaining that the Health and Wellbeing Board is in the process of developing its next Health and Wellbeing Strategy, seeking the views of the Committee and for members to promote the various events and activities amongst citizens in the area. James highlighted the following:

(a) the Health and Wellbeing Board is composed of members from the City Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and other health professionals and has a remit to

improve lifestyle and preventative health measures;

- (b) engagement has taken place within existing networks, at public events and at front-line workforce focus groups. There is also an online survey and a toolkit for groups to run their own sessions;
- (c) common themes that have been identified so far include social isolation and loneliness, the cost of living a healthy life, mental health and the disproportionate impact on Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities;
- (d) the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be developed in June next year. Consultation is still open until the end of November so views are welcome from all community groups and councillors. James handed out paper surveys to the Committee and signposted the online questionnaire. The Health and Wellbeing Board will then pinpoint priorities at a session in December before producing a draft strategy early next year;
- (e) the strategy will link with the strategy of the Clinical Commissioning Group and with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which are also currently being written;

The following responses were given in answer to questions from the Committee and community representatives:

- (f) responsibility for GP services comes more under the Clinical Commissioning Group strategy;
- (g) engagement with the student population will be through a focus group with Nottingham Trent University;
- (h) this public consultation will not form the sole basis of the strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Board will consider it along with empirical evidence and weigh up the two where there are discrepancies;
- (i) there has been engagement with diverse communities through the Indian community and other BME groups;

Members of the Committee and other people present made the following comments:

- (j) fuel poverty, air pollution, mental health problems related to alcohol, and stress and anxiety should be flagged as areas of concern;
- (k) personal responsibility is important and individuals should be educated and empowered to make healthy choices for themselves.

RESOLVED to note the report and promote the strategy engagement in the area

27 ALFRETON ROAD RETAIL IMPROVEMENTS ACTION PLAN

Catherine Mayhew, City Centre Co-ordinator, gave a presentation highlighting the following:

- (a) Alferton Road is a key arterial route into the city centre and is often the first impression for visitors from the west. It has been highlighted as a problem area in the media with high profile derelict sites, many vacant units, deteriorating property and unattractive public realm;
- (b) a review was carried out by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd in May 2015. The study area for the action plan is Alferton Road from Canning Circus to Forest Road West;
- (c) the area has many local and independent businesses, with a high proportion of restaurants and hot food takeaways, many of which are open only in the evening. There are residential units on upper floors, with a high proportion occupied by students, as well as some ground floor residential use where retail has been converted;
- (d) in addition to the two blocks of semi-derelict property – the Roger Smeeton site and Forest Mill site – the survey identified fourteen vacant properties. A further survey will be undertaken this month to identify any changes to this;
- (e) some problems for businesses in the area are that many properties are owned by non-institutional landlords who do not promote them through standard agent routes. There are many start-ups and independents due to cheap business rates that have no robust business plans. There is also no recognised traders group or association;
- (f) there is a high volume of vehicular traffic and car parking, which limits the opportunities for short visits to the local businesses as well leading to an unpleasant atmosphere. The area is also part of two conservation areas which can lead to more difficulties with implementing change;
- (g) the main objective of the action plan is to improve the trading environment for retail businesses on Alferton Road, therefore reducing vacancy and enabling growth of small and medium sized enterprises. This will be achieved through the following:

Action	Timescale (by)
Pursue a dialogue with owners of the 2 derelict sites and review the potential for bringing them back into use.	December 2015
Contact property owners to understand individual issues, encourage them to bring vacant properties back into use and sustain those who are already occupied.	March 2016
Engage with retail businesses to understand the individual barriers to growth and help them access appropriate business support	December 2015
Work with retail businesses (possibly through a steering group approach) to encourage them to proactively participate in improving the local area	December 2016
Work with retail businesses to create a 'sense of place' and to support the promotion of the offer for the local residents and for specialist/ destination markets e.g. world cuisine	March 2016

Review car parking in the area to understand the availability of car parking throughout the day time for shopping customers	March 2016
Introduce a premises improvement grant for retail businesses	December 2015
Ensure vacancy levels are reviewed on a regular basis alongside the city centre vacancy review	Twice yearly (May and November)
Investigate the potential for advertising vacant properties through Property Plus and other City Council networks	March 2016
Take account of the recommendations for Alfreton Road in the Radford Neighbourhood Plan 2010 in delivering this action plan	March 2016

The following comments were made by Committee members, community representatives and members of the public:

- (h) the area needs investment to improve its appearance. Improving the appearance of the two main derelict sites will make a huge difference to this;
- (i) many premises only operate at night-time and so appear empty during the day time, making the area appear neglected. The night-time economy of the area should be better promoted;
- (j) it would have a more positive impact if the area if the scheme could be extended to Hartley Road or Bobbersmill Bridge, especially as the section near Canning Circus has already seen improvements to the public realm;
- (k) simple fixes such as clearing the gutters of all the premises would make a noticeable difference to the appearance of the area. Perhaps a co-ordinated package of improvements available to all businesses should be introduced;
- (l) parking is a problem in the area for shoppers. The area has many destination shops that people drive to, but it can be difficult to find a parking space as many commuters park on the surrounding streets.

RESOLVED to thank Catherine for her presentation and to invite her back for an update in 6 months' time.

28 NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES UPDATE REPORT

Chanel Richards, Tenancy and Estate Manager, Nottingham City Homes (NCH) introduced the Chief Executive of NCH's report updating the Committee on NCH's performance on the following key themes:

- capital programme and major work;
- area regeneration and environmental issues;
- key issues from the Tenant and Leasehold Congress;
- Tenant and Residents Associations updates;
- area performance figures;
- good news and positive publicity.

In addition to the information contained in the report, Chanel reported that phase one of Palmer Court in Lenton is now fully open with all residents moved in.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the information in the report;**
- (2) note the allocation of funds for 2015/16**

29 AREA CAPITAL FUND - 2015/16 PROGRAMME

Deborah Wilson, Neighbourhood Development Officer, introduced the Strategic Director for Commercial and Operations' report seeking approval for schemes recently prioritised and detailing the latest spend under the Area Capital Fund, including highways, traffic and safety and public realm schemes.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the monies available to the Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton and Radford and Park wards:**

Arboretum	£88,767
Dunkirk and Lenton	£44,304
Radford and Park	£77,164

- (2) approve the following new schemes prioritised by Ward Councillors since the last Area Committee:**

Arboretum Public Realm schemes

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Forest Recreation Ground	Play equipment	£6,000	Contribution to replacement of cableway play equipment at the Forest

Dunkirk and Lenton LTP Schemes

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Willoughby Street	Area improvement	£12,108	Area improvement works to replace slabbed retaining bank on Willoughby Street

Dunkirk and Lenton Public Realm schemes

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Chain Lane Bridge	Bollards	£407	Replace existing concrete bollards with lockable fold down bollards to allow maintenance access

Radford and Park Public Realm Schemes

Location	Type	Estimate	Details
Alfreton Road/Clifford Street	Area improvement	£50,000	Contribution to area improvement works around Alfreton Road/Clifford Street

Radford and Park withdrawn schemes

Location	Type	Amount	Reason
Radford CCTV	CCTV	£59,142	Underspend on historical scheme
Radford ward	Dropped crossings	£2,349	Underspend on historical scheme

30 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORTS: QUARTER 2

Inspector Robert Wilson, Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Nottinghamshire Police updated the Committee on crime within the area, highlighting the following:

- (a) there was an incident on Saturday 14 November involving a stabbing in the Gregory Boulevard/Hartley Road area. This was a serious incident but is being thoroughly investigated;
- (b) in the Dunkirk and Lenton ward, the Dunkirk area has seen a reduction in crime with fewer burglaries and car crimes. The crime in the Lenton area is broadly similar to last year. There have been some incidents of theft at the Queens Medical Centre;
- (c) in the Arboretum ward there is a new Inspector, James Woolley. There has been a steady fall in crime on Alfreton Road. In the Radford East beat there have been good reductions in crime, with a fall in burglary and car crime. The Forest Recreation Ground beat has seen an increase in crime, including violent crime, car crime and burglary. The Hyson Green beat has seen an increase in theft from vehicles and street drinking, whilst burglary has remained the same;
- (d) in the Radford and Park ward, the Park beat has seen large reductions in vehicle crime and burglary. Crime levels in the Lenton Triangle are similar to last year, with work being done in conjunction with the university to try and make reductions. On the Radford West beat there has been an increase in crime, linked to the night-time economy;
- (e) there are plans for Canning Circus police station to close and for this team to move to Byron House after Summer next year. The policing service will be the same;
- (f) significant work has been done to reduce drug crime in Nottingham. This is still a problem but has reduced significantly.

Dorothy Holmes, Locality Manager introduced the Corporate Director of Commercial and Operations' report providing updates on key issues and themes which link to local priorities and strategic themes in the Nottingham Plan 2020, including:

- ward priorities;
- community engagement;
- finance;
- safer theme – crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB);
- neighbourhood theme – environmental issues;
- working theme – unemployment rates;
- housing;
- community protection;
- fire;
- health theme – local health priorities;

Dorothy highlighted that cleanliness was good all round, however there has been a slight increase in graffiti, and fly-tipping has increased in the Radford and Park ward.

RESOLVED to note the key information from the ward performance reports for Quarter 2