

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Bulwell Riverside Joint Service Centre, Main Street, Bulwell, NG6 8QJ on 14 June 2017 from 5.30pm - 7.19pm

Membership

Present

Councillor John Hartshorne (Chair)
Councillor Ginny Klein (Vice Chair)
Councillor Alan Clark (Vice Chair)

Absent

Councillor Jackie Morris
Councillor Nick McDonald
Councillor Eunice Campbell

Community Representatives (✓ indicates present)

✓ Colin Bones	Bulwell Churches Together
Joseph Zulu	Covenant Ministries
✓ John Hancock	Coventry Road Estate Tenant and Residents Association
✓ Doreen Carruthers	Forest Park Neighbourhood Watch
✓ Ros Yousouf	Friends of Bulwell Bogs
✓ Gillian Slack	Ravensworth Methodist Church
Paul Bakajsa	Rise Park Action Group
✓ Paul Jackson	Royal British Legion - Bulwell
✓ Rev. David Gray	St John's Church
Maria Shakespeare	The People's Choice
✓ Robin Goodwin	Top Valley Tenant and Resident Association

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Elira Mano) Tenancy & Estates Managers, Nottingham City Homes
Cath Stocks)
Inspector Christine Busuttil	- Nottinghamshire Police
Celia Knight) Neighbourhood Development Officer (Bulwell Forest)
Suki Shergill) Neighbourhood Development Officer (Bulwell)
Bernie Tulloch	- Nottingham on Call Assisted Technology
Julia Bramble) Family Support Managers, Early Years Help Service
Rachel Howard)
Catherine Ziane-Pryor	- Governance Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor John Hartshorne is appointed Chair for the 2017/18 municipal year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT VICE CHAIRS

Councillors Ginny Klein and Alan Clark are appointed joint Vice-Chairs.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Eunice Campbell) other City Council business
Councillor Jackie Morris)
Councillor Nick McDonald - personal
Joseph Zulu

Paul Bakajsa
John Hancock
Heidi May

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair welcomed report which sets out the role, criteria and powers of Community Representatives, and lists the nominations from Community Groups for the 2017/18 municipal year.

Councillor Alan Clark informed the Committee that David Norman, who had represented 'My Sight' Nottingham, has stood down from the Committee after many years as a valuable community representative.

RESOLVED

(1) to note the appointment of the following Community Representatives:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>
Cresta TRA	John Hancock	Bulwell
Friends of Bulwell Bogs	Ros Yousef	Bulwell
Ravensworth Road Church	Gillian Slack	Bulwell
St Johns Church	Rev David Grey	Bulwell
The Peoples' Choice TRA	Maria Shakespeare	Bulwell
Bulwell Churches Together	Colin Bones	Bulwell Forest
Forest Park NHW	Doreen Carruthers	Bulwell Forest
Rise Park Action Group	Paul Bakajsa	Bulwell Forest
Top Valley TRA	Robin Goodwin	Bulwell Forest
Covenant Ministries	Joseph Zulu	Bulwell & Bulwell Forest
Royal British legion	Paul Jackson	Bulwell & Bulwell Forest

(2) for a letter of appreciation to be sent to David Norman, thanking him for his time and contribution to the Committee during his time as a 'My Sight' representative.

7 LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Nottinghamshire Police Inspector Christine Busuttil verbally updated the Committee with crime statistics for the Area compared to the same period last year.

It is noted that the way in which crimes are recorded has changed with incidents being classed as a crime when reported and prior to confirmation that a crime has been committed. This recording method will provide what initially appear to be high crime figures when compared against the same period last year, but will eventually provide more comparative data.

The following points were highlighted for the Bulwell Forest Ward:

- (a) overall crime was up by 78 incidents;
- (b) burglary statistics are now considered together and include thefts from dwellings, out buildings (such as sheds). There were 23 more crimes than the same period last year which equates to a 100% rise. Burglary has been a particular problem in the ward with breaking and entering taking place on secured buildings. Citizens are asked to keep vigilant if they think they hear suspicious activity, to call the Police;
- (c) there has been a slight increase in criminal damage across the Area with no particular 'hot spots' identified;
- (d) the statistics for sexual offences continue to reflect the historical cases.

The following points were highlighted for the Bulwell Ward:

- (e) overall crime was up by 85 crimes (23.5%). This included a rise in 'violence without injury' and 'theft other';
- (f) criminal damage continues across the Area;
- (g) the main emerging criminal concern has been rogue traders duping their way into citizen's homes and performing distraction thefts.

Inspector Busuttil reminded the Committee to be vigilant about security during the summer and be cautious about leaving windows and doors open during the warm weather as this can attract opportunist burglars.

Community representatives expressed concern that local Police Counter services have been removed and citizens would need to travel across the City to Beeston to hand-in found property which would promote a 'finders-keepers' policy.

Inspector Busuttil acknowledged that Police counter services had been removed as a result of the savings required, but requested that if citizens contact their beat officers with who will be happy to collect found items.

Concern was expressed that citizens did not know where to go to collect found items.

It is noted that Trading Standards will be holding an anti-rogue traders information event at Bulwell Riverside on Thursday 6 July 2017 between 9.45am and 11.30am.

RESOLVED to record the thanks of the Committee to Inspector Busuttil for her attendance and update.

8 EARLY YEARS - YEAR REVIEW FOR EARLY HELP NORTH 1 TEAM

Julia Bramble and Rachel Howard, both Acting Family Support Managers for the 'Early Years Service', presented the report which informs the Committee of the Early Years services available in the Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Wards, how services are monitored, who accesses the services and how results are assessed. Current session details are listed within the report

which also included the 'Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services' (CAHMS) newsletter.

Questions from the Committee were answered as follows:

- (a) the Service does not routinely share information with schools except where additional family support, which may include social or developmental is needed, in which case the schools need to be aware to continue to provide that support;
- (b) all Head Teachers and Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCO) of local primary schools are invited to attend partner meetings. Where patterns of concerns have been identified by any partner organisation, such as specific developmental issues, this information is shared. To date, only representatives of Rufford Primary, Cantrell Primary, Crabtree Primary and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary Academy have attended these pre-school liaison meetings which are facilitated by the Special Educational Needs Officers and Portage. The aim is to jointly identify children who are not meeting their expected developmental stage so that they can be properly assessed and the appropriate support provided to enable them to progress in preparation for entering school or at school;
- (c) where Early Years workers identify circumstances where families and/or older children need further support, they are referred to the relevant services for assessment/support;
- (d) where sessions are not well attended, they are withdrawn and further consideration given how better meet the Area need. This may result in changing the venue or timings;
- (e) the Early Years Team liaise with 'Small Steps, Big Changes' to ensure that services aren't duplicated and to try and prevent gaps emerging in early years family support.

RESOLVED to note the report and record the Committee's thanks to Julia and Rachel for their attendance.

9 NOTTINGHAM ON CALL SERVICE

Bernie Tulloch, Assistive Technology Project Officer for 'Nottingham On Call' (Nottingham City Homes) delivered a presentation on the equipment and support provided by the Nottingham On Call scheme which is now available to all disabled/vulnerable or aged citizens in the City and in some surrounding areas.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) there are two types of assisted technology available:
 - i. telecare is connected to a call centre which can be contacted either by a telephone call or by triggering an alarm;
 - ii. stand-alone assistance which is not linked to any monitoring system but which supports independence where there may be a career in the property. This service is available to non-City vulnerable residents in some surrounding areas;
- (b) to qualify Assisted Technology citizens need to have a condition that increases their vulnerability (and that the particular technology would benefit);

- (c) to qualify for Telecare Assisted Technology citizens need to live in the Nottingham City boundary (for Telecare) or have a Nottingham City GP (for Telehealth);
- (c) a condition which is considered to increase vulnerability can include:
 - i. long-term health conditions
 - ii. dementia
 - iii. disabled children
 - iv. adults with learning disabilities
 - v. at risk of residential care admission
 - vi. at risk of hospital admission;
- (d) if eligible, the Tele-care equipment is available either free to low-income City residents or for a modest initial set-up charge of £19.95 for other City residents. There is a weekly charge for all telecare monitoring of £4.17 but this may be waived for people in specific circumstances;
- (e) the tele-care system provides an alarm or telephone contact to the Call Centre who can reassure users, provide advice on how most appropriately to deal minor medical queries but can also contact carers, relatives, and call the GP or an ambulance;
- (f) there are currently approximately 7,000 service users in the Nottingham City Area but the aspiration is to provide assistance to more than 11,000 citizens by 2019;
- (g) it is noted that for every £1 spent on equipment, there is a £3.51 saving on medical and/or social care whilst enabling vulnerable citizens to live independently in their own homes. Since this service has been available, amongst the user group there has been a 46% reduction in hospital admissions, 35% fewer ambulance call outs, 10% reduction in GP appointments;
- (h) a range of equipment is available and includes bogus caller button which can silently open a telephone line to the Call Centre so that doorstep conversations can be heard and the call Centre Staff can call out and give the impression of another person in the property. This is particularly helpful with rouge traders and distraction burglaries but can also be used for some domestic violence users;
- (i) a wide variety of equipment and devices are available including smoke and CO2 detectors, epilepsy sensors, temperature detectors, bed sensors which alert carers if bed bound people are out of bed (ie fall out of bed) and motion triggered floor lights which are particularly useful for landings and stairs;
- (j) to clarify if someone is eligible for the service and at what level, advice and application forms are available by calling the Nottingham ON Call team on 0115 746 9010, or by emailing ask@nottinghamoncall.org.uk. Further information is available on the website at www.nottinghamoncall.org.uk.

RESOLVED to note the interesting presentation and record the Committee's thanks to Bernie Tulloch for attending.

10 TENANCY SUSTAINMENT TEAM AND RENT ARREARS AS A RESULT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND BENEFIT CAPS

Elira Mano, Tenancy and Estate Manager, was accompanied by Cath Stocks, Housing Manager with knowledge of benefit issues, and delivered a presentation on how welfare reform will change the benefits system and the predicted challenges ahead for both tenants and Nottingham City Homes as a landlord.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the old benefits system enabled housing benefit to be paid directly to the landlord. Universal Credit (UC) will only pay the benefit to the claimant and it is the claimant's responsibility to manage their finances and pay their rent. However, when a claim is made, it will take approximately 6 weeks for the funds to be paid to the claimant, resulting in the tenant immediately owing rent arrears (currently 80% of citizens on UC have an average arrears of £648);
- (b) currently only single, fit for work non-homeowners in the City are receiving UC but it will start to be rolled out with a digital service during June 2018 with all claimants receiving UC by 2022: a predicted 13,500 citizens in Nottingham;
- (c) in addition to the way in which 'housing benefit' will be paid, as of the Autumn of 2016, significant benefit caps were introduced, as outlined in the presentation and as of April 2017, automatic help with housing costs was removed for the majority of claimants registered for the full digital UC service;
- (d) NCH is understandably concerned that with UC claimants facing reduced benefits, rent arrears will increase. However, as well as the existing 'make rent a payment priority' campaign, NCH's Tenancy Sustainability Team have several mechanisms and schemes in place to help tenants with the benefit transition;
- (e) all claims will have to be completed online with face to face support for applications will be removed. Support will initially be available for the more vulnerable tenants who initially need help with digital applications but the aim will be to help them to help themselves;
- (f) NCH have several employability strategies in place to help support and encourage tenants into paid work.

Questions from the Committee were responded to as follows:

- (g) where tenants are in and out of work they are more likely to have rent arrears due to the payment delay. Overall 25% of all tenants have rent arrears of some level but this is partly due to the 6 week delay in payments. The largest social group most at risk of rent arrears is males aged up to 25 years old;
- (h) when the benefit changes to UC, everyone will be subject to the 6 week delay in payment, not just new applicants;

- (i) where a claimant is not attempting to reduce rent arrears and is not engaging to resolve the arrears, an eviction is likely. The tenant will continue to owe the rent, even if they are evicted and NCH will legally pursue the funds until the debt is paid off;
- (j) Nottingham Credit Union has created a rent account for claimants where the claim is paid directly into a specific account and then forwarded to the landlord. This will remove the temptation (or necessity) of spending rent benefit on other things. Tenants are informed of this option;
- (k) with the caps on benefits meaning that citizens receive less money, NCH are aware that meeting the rent contribution above benefit payments will be a challenge for tenants and therefore NCH.

RESOLVED to note the presentation.

11 NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES PERFORMANCE AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATES AND PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES

Elira Mano, Nottingham City Homes Area Housing Manager, presented the report of the Chief Executive of Nottingham City Homes (NCH), which updates the Committee with a list of community activity in the area including NCH involvement with community groups, an overall performance report and requests approval for environmental schemes.

Councillors were pleased that the experiment of the works at Duchess and Norwich Gardens has been so successful that the model will be rolled out to other areas. Also welcomed were the 'Grand Designs' refurbishment projects at independent living schemes.

With regard to performance, Councillors requested that future reports provide a performance comparison with other areas.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note and the update and performance information in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (2) to note the allocation of funds for 2016/17, as follows:

Ward	Actual Budget (including carry over from 2015/16)	Remaining Budget
Bulwell	£198,096.18	£198,096.18
Bulwell Forest	£68,187.37	£68,187.37

- (3) to approve the following Area Capital Programme funding request:

Address	Request	Reason	Cost
Duchess Gardens Bulwell – Numbers 15,16, 29,30 &31	Carry our extensive external improvements to the bungalows including: private patios, perimeter fencing, individual ramps, new footpaths.	Current design isn't fit for purpose for the demographic residing there.	£71,559.72
Courtleet	Replace the timber	The current fencing	£74,238.00

Way Bulwell	fencing to 20 properties with high quality metal railings and installing a mowing strip.	needs upgrading as part of ongoing regeneration plans for this area.	
Chatham Court Independent Living Scheme	Construct and create 5 new bin stores that are fit for purpose and look smarter than the current ones.	The current bin stores are unsightly and unusable.	£9,850.65

12 ROAD SAFETY STUDY (BULWELL FOREST)

Councillor Alan Clark introduced the Bulwell Forest Ward Road Safety Study, which is included in the agenda in its entirety. The study was commissioned following ongoing requests and concerns expressed by citizens, partners and Councillors. The study provides recommendations and options for further feasibility studies.

All junctions where traffic and/or pedestrian incidents have occurred (and been formally reported) have been assessed and recommendations made. This now enables consideration of how to prioritise schemes.

At some incident spots, action may be taken to improve safety but at others, incidents have been the result of individual behaviour.

With the new school to be built at Top Valley, safety improvement works at Top Valley will take priority.

It is noted that further on in the agenda is a proposal for a study of the tram and train level crossing on St Albans Road/ Carey Road where there have been a total of 22 barrier breakdowns in the past year. These have impacted on citizens who are driving and walking and also Nottingham City Transport bus services, all of which are diverted at least a mile.

There have been relatively few accidents at the level crossing and the barrier failure is due to the barriers not being designed to manoeuvre every 6 minutes for tram traffic. Alternatives are to be considered but are unlikely to include a foot bridge which, to comply to current disability requirements, would need to be approximately half a mile long and so would not be practicable nor attractive for citizens to use.

Discussions to find a solution are taking place with Nottingham Express Transit (NET), Network Rail, NCT and the City Council.

Comments from the Committee included:

- (a) pollution from congestion ought to be considered as during peak times the traffic in Bulwell queues along Main Street between Jennison to Bulwell Riverside;
- (b) regarding the level crossing, suggestions included a road and pedestrian tunnel under the tram and train tracks, and a foot bridge;
- (c) a roundabout was suggested at the junction of Hucknall Road and Kersall Drive;

- (d) concerns that the double yellow lines and parking restrictions at the level crossing end of St Alban's Road were incorrectly placed and that by allowing parking on both sides of the road, this resulted in space for only one vehicle at a time to pass, which causes congestion and delays.

Councillor Alan Clark responded that reasonable parking provision was required for residents at the lower end of St Albans Road and that NCT has had the opportunity to raise this point as an issue but hasn't. With regard to the suggestion of Kersall Drive/Hucknall Road roundabout, the safety report recommendations from the Traffic and Safety Team should be referred to.

RESOLVED to note the Road Safety Study.

13 DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND FINANCE UPDATE

Neighbourhood Development Officer Suki Shergill presented the report which informs the Committee of the financial position of Ward Member Budgets and the actions agreed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services as a result of Ward Member funding requests.

It is noted that further schemes and events may have received Councillor support in principal but that the formal approval process is yet to be completed.

Although not listed or accounted for below, subject to delegated approval, Councillors Hartshorne and Klein intend to contribute £2,500 each from their Ward Councillor Budgets towards the Carey Road/ St Albans Road Safety feasibility Study.

RESOLVED to note:

- (1) **the following Bulwell Ward Councillor allocations by Councillors Hartshorne, Klein and Morris since last report**

Schemes: Bulwell Ward	Amount (total)
Mural Project	£2,000
Bulwell Academy Primary camp	£1,500
Extended toilet opening	£2,000
Light Switch on 2017	£4,000
Arts Festival	£3,000

- (2) **the following Bulwell Ward Councillor budget position:**

Balance Brought Forward 16/17	£4,898
Councillor funding 17/18	£15,000
Total funds 17/18	£19,898
De-committed schemes 17/18	0
Allocated 17/18	0
Uncommitted Funds after allocated schemes	£19,898

- (3) **the following Bulwell Forest Ward Councillor allocations by Councillors Clark, Campbell and McDonald since last report;**

Schemes: Bulwell Forest Ward	Amount (total)
Dr Bike and Fun Bikes for Fun on Bulwell Forest	£660
Brownies Residential Visit	£200
Archery Club Equipment	£200
Messy Church Craft Materials for events	£260
Rise Park Christmas Event	£500
Bulwell Forest Garden (Arts festival)	£700
Bulwell Academy	£400
Knights Close Mini Fun Day	£300

(4) the following Bulwell Forest Ward Councillor budget position:

Balance Brought Forward 16/17	£3,507
Councillor funding 17/18	£15,000
Total funds 17/18	£18,507
De-committed schemes 17/18	0
Allocated 17/18	£300
Uncommitted Funds after allocated schemes	£18,207

14 **AREA CAPITAL FUND**

Neighbourhood Development Officer Suki Shergill, introduced the Area Capital Report which proposes Area Capital and Public Realm (Local Transport Plan –LTP) funded schemes within each Ward.

A revised appendix for Bulwell Forest was circulated at the meeting and the Committee were informed that two Bulwell Ward Councillors have agreed to fund £2,500 each from their Ward Councillor Budgets as a contribution to the St Albans Road/ Carey Road level crossing feasibility study to identify improvements. Although the scheme is listed, the Bulwell Ward contribution is not reflected in the charts below.

RESOLVED

(1) **With regard to Bulwell Ward:**

(a) **to approve the following Schemes and note there no further schemes have been withdrawn :**

LTP Schemes

Location	Estimate	Details
Courtleet Way	£48,336	Resurfacing of footpath on Courtleet Way (main section) from Crabtree Road to T-junction

Public Realm Schemes

Location	Estimate	Details
Bulwell Ward CCTV	£4,830	Additional contribution to ward CCTV project
Courtleet Way	£6,700	Contribution to NCH area improvement scheme on Courtleet Way

Total Public Realm Schemes £11,530

(b) **to note the following financial position:**

2017 - 2018 LTP allocation		£85,600
LTP carried forward from 2016 - 2017		£9,881
2017 - 2018 Public Realm allocation		£51,300
Public Realm carried forward from 2016 - 2017		£0
Total Available 2017 - 2018 ACF		£146,781
Less LTP schemes	-	£48,336
Less Public Realm schemes	-	£11,530
De-committed funds	+	£0
Remaining available balance		£86,915
LTP element remaining		£47,145
Public Realm element remaining		£39,770

(2) with regard to Bulwell Forest Ward:

(a) to approve the following Schemes:

LTP Schemes

Location	Estimate	Details
Highbury Road	£9,081	Surface treatment of footpath on Highbury Road from Broomhill Road to Piccadilly
Church Lane	£165	White edging to steps leading from Church Lane to Northolme Avenue
Carey Road/ St Albans Road	£10,000	Contribution to a feasibility study to identify safe measures at the Carey Road/ St Albans Road level crossing

Total LTP £19,246

Public Realm Schemes

Location	Estimate	Details
Bulwell Forest tree improvement	£2,000	Programme of tree works at identified locations across the ward - lead service: Parks & Open Spaces
Southglade Park	£1,000	Scheme to cover locally identified improvements at Southglade Park - lead service: Neighbourhood Management

Total Public Realm £3,000

Schemes Withdrawn

Location	Amount	Details
Beauclerk Drive	£72	Fence and gate completion of previous stopping-up order overspend.

(b) to note the following financial position:

2017 - 2018 LTP allocation		£48,300
LTP carried forward from 2016 - 2017		£4,196
2017 - 2018 Public Realm allocation		£29,000
Public Realm carried forward from 2016 - 2017		£14,227
Total Available 2017 - 2018 ACF		£95,723
Less LTP schemes	-	£19,246
Less Public Realm schemes	-	£3,000
De-committed funds	+	£72
Remaining available balance		£83,549
LTP element remaining		£33,250
Public Realm element remaining		£40,299

15 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Suki Shergill, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report which outlines current ward priorities and issues within the wards and identifies the lead organisation or City Council Department for addressing those issues.

RESOLVED to note:

(i) the current ward priorities for Bulwell Ward as follows;

- (i) Safer Nottingham
anti-social behaviour and criminal damage**
- (ii) Neighbourhood Nottingham
dog fouling/fly tipping reduction
River Leen littering
Town Centre development**
- (iii) Families Nottingham
Big Steps Small Changes**
- (iv) Health Nottingham
Promote healthy lifestyles**
- (v) Working Nottingham
Market Trader's scheme maximising employment opportunities for local people**

(b) the current ward priorities for Bulwell Forest Ward as follows;

- (i) Safer Nottingham
Raising awareness for reporting incidents
Nuisance bikes**
- (ii) Neighbourhood Nottingham
increased engagement particularly the Deptford crescent area
management of vacant sites
development of parks and open spaces
dog fouling
tree planting**
- (iii) Health Nottingham
promotion of energy advice
provision of support to carers**
- (iv) Working Nottingham
increase access to awareness about training and employment opportunities.**

(c) the current ward issues as follows:

- (i) **Bulwell Ward**
town centre upgrade and development
implementing parking schemes
anti-social behaviour;
- (ii) **Bulwell Forest Ward**
Anti-social behaviour
Derelict sites
- (d) **the forthcoming community and partner events and engagement listed in Appendix 3 to the report.**

16 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

At the request of Councillors, My Sight Nottingham has been invited to attend a future meeting along with Keith Morgan, Senior City Council Transport Planner, to discuss the Area-wide problem of cyclists on pavements. This has been a long-standing issue with several reported incidents and near-misses, the main culprits are not children.

17 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Committee were informed of the following events:

Saturday 17 June 2017, 1-3pm
Bulwell's Great Get Together
Snapewood Community Centre

Saturday 8 July – 15 July 2017
Bulwell Art Festival – a week of events
Events schedule can be viewed online at www.bulwellartsfestival.com

27 July 2017 12 noon- 4pm
Southglade Park Live
More than 40 organisations taking part.
Southglade Park

9 September 2017
Fun on Bulwell Forest
Further details to be confirmed

2nd Friday of every month, 7pm start
Free film club (free membership required – turn up and register)
St John's Church, Snapewood

18 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED to approve that the Committee meet on the following Wednesdays at 5.30pm in Bulwell Riverside:

27 September 2017
22 November 2017
28 February 2018