

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **BERRIDGE AND SHERWOOD AREA COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held at LB31-32 - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 20 February 2014 from 18.00 - 19.11**

- ✓ Councillor Toby Neal (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Brian Parbutt (Vice Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Alex Ball
- ✓ Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim
- ✓ Councillor Carole-Ann Jones

(✓ indicates present at meeting)

#### **Community Representatives and citizens present:**

Moby Farrands	Forest Fields Improvement Association and Partnership Council
Bill Husband	Project manager – NG7 TEA
Robert Huskinson	Sherwood and Mapperley Park Neighbourhood Watch Association
Robin Stalvies	Carrington Residents' Association
Anita Wakefield	Sherwood Arts Week
Annie Yates	Police Inspector, Sherwood and Hyson Green

#### **Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:**

Angela Bolton	Neighbourhood Development Officer	Communities
John Marsh	Locality Manager	Communities
Sue Thorpe	Senior Officer, Traffic and Safety	Development
Paul Howard	Tenancy and Estate Manager	Nottingham City Homes
Lynn Standen	Tenancy and Estate Manager	Nottingham City Homes
Zena West	Constitutional Services Officer	Resources

#### **31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Urquhart  
David Bell (Edwards Lane Estate)

#### **32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **33 MINUTES**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

#### **34 SCHOOL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME**

Sue Thorpe, Senior Officer Traffic and Safety, gave a verbal presentation to the Committee on planned parking enforcement around schools in the local area, highlighting the following points:

- (a) The Parking Enforcement Team had received a high volume of calls about issues with inconsiderate parking around schools. Previously, the Team had talked to parents about their parking, but it has always been on a reactive basis.
- (b) Action will take place over 2 weeks, which will involve working with schools to implement a rolling enforcement programme. The main objective will be to keep parents from parking on zig-zags.

Following questions and comments from the Committee, additional information was provided:

- (c) Councillors and schools will be emailed the week before any specific action, and schools have been provided with traffic safety “toolkits” to help educate children and parents on road safety. Schools can advise parents of planned action in their newsletters, and parents can find out which schools are being targeted, but there will also be officers from the Civil Enforcement Response Team on motorbikes taking part in ad-hoc enforcement.
- (d) Whilst Councillors and citizens are more than welcome to flag up traffic nuisance hotspots with the Parking Enforcement Team, it was likely that these are already known.
- (e) Zig-zags are covered by traffic regulations, you are not allowed to stop on them at all (even to drop someone off) and the penalty is an instant ticket. Enforcement will also be aided by a camera-car. People dropping off on zig-zags will likely be ticketed, rather than moved on and given a warning, as resources are limited and it is a traffic offence. Lesser inconsiderate actions will be dealt with by talking with the parents.

**RESOLVED to thank Sue Thorpe for her update, and note the contents.**

### **35 LEAD ORGANISATION UPDATE - NG7**

Bill Husband, Project Manager of NG7 TEA, presented information on the progress of the Lead organisation in supporting grant funding in the area, highlighting the following points:

- (a) Initially, fairly rigid contracts were inherited. The grant funding process moved to softer outcome-driven contracts in November 2013, so there is now more flexibility to focus resources where they are needed.
- (b) NG7 TEA are responsible for maintaining 3 grant streams: Children and Young People, Employment and Skills, and Community Associations.
- (c) Young People’s activities are being provided by the Asian Women’s Project (indoor sports, table tennis, snooker, physical activities in gym, mixing music,

broadcasting, console games and IT) and by KK Sports (football, gym, boxing, basketball, largely targeting older teenage Asian males in identified hotspots). Activities are targeted and diversionary.

- (d) Budgets and outcomes have been inherited, and many providers are not interested in the low rates on offer. The old targets involved the number of hours young people were engaged for. Since November 2013, the new targets involve being part of the Young people's Forum, being involved in early intervention work, and measuring outcomes with evidence.
- (e) In the second quarter, the target was 63 hours, with the actual number of hours 54. The third quarter showed improvement, with a target of 63 hours and an actual number of 68 hours. There was improved joined-up working with the City Council Youth Team, and increased interaction between providers to avoid duplication of provision and to provide better targeting.
- (f) The activities for Children and Young People aren't just school-holiday focused. KK Sports has good attendance, and teenagers taking part are rewarded with other activities such as paintballing. Postcode analysis is taking place, in conjunction with the City Council Youth Team, to see who attends and which areas need more focus.
- (g) For Employment and Skills, NG7 TEA works directly with citizens referred by the Job Centre. They provide education in Digital Literacy, English, and 1-2-1 work. They are looking to expand into other areas, possibly including self-employment skills. In terms of Youth related Employment and Skills provision, they also provide information and assistance with volunteering, work experience and work trials, working closely with large local employers.
- (h) NG7 TEA have recently moved premises, and are now broadening their offer. They are well on target, with the number of unemployed residents helped into work and local people engaged in "Get Britain Working" employment support initiatives at 162 across quarters two and three, against an overall target of 102.
- (i) There are three community centres within the area, one of which hasn't signed the service agreement yet. NG7 TEA is currently working with the other two to set budgets. The Sherwood Centre is sustainable, and is showing best practice in budget management that needs to be shared with other centres. Sherwood is exceeding the formal targets, whilst Edwards Lane is struggling on some areas. They will receive more targeted support to help them become more viable.
- (j) Next year, there will be 400 homes in one of the most deprived areas of the City that will be covered by the new Basford Community Centre. Efforts will be made to bring them on board and work with them.
- (k) A needs analysis is being conducted, and NG7 TEA welcome any feedback and contributions. These can be provided by email ([bill@ng7tea.org.uk](mailto:bill@ng7tea.org.uk)) or by submitting a contact form through the website ([www.ng7tea.org.uk](http://www.ng7tea.org.uk)).

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following additional information was provided:

- (l) Whilst Sherwood was not covered in the update on Youth Provision, the majority of problem areas are in Berridge. Edwards Lane is on the border between the two areas, and Sherwood has historically been left out of Youth Provision. A detailed needs analysis will inform next year's activities, and the provision through the grant funding process is still relatively new. The Committee requested that updates to future meetings should include both wards.
- (m) Funding is also being received towards Employment and Skills from Central Government. A Digital Inclusion project is helping to connect people to the jobs market, and involves putting computers and laptops in community venues and work clubs, and providing staff to help. Funding is also being provided to support 18-24 year olds into training and permanent employment. NG7 TEA are involved with directing how this funding can best be spent. It is being split between Berridge and Sherwood.
- (n) The first year of funding for each strand was locked in and very proscriptive. Each Area is free to decide to split funding as they see fit from April 2014. This split will be based on a thorough needs assessment from the first year. Breakdowns of funding and outcomes by Ward were requested by the Committee for future updates.
- (o) NG7 TEA's move has helped to improve service visibility massively. Referrals are mainly from the Job Centre, who have been made aware of the change of premises. People from outside the Area also use the services on offer, as people are willing to travel for good employment advice.
- (p) The funding received by KK Sports is quite a large amount, and the Committee had concerns that it was being used for citywide services. KK Sports grant funding is used for local targeted services, and local youth benefit.
- (q) The sustainability of the Edwards Lane Community Association is of great concern. It is not in an ideal location, and is tucked away so that many local residents do not know it is there. It needs a sustained focus.
- (r) The Forest Fields Community Association will be re-opening in September 2014. There is currently no funding available for it from the community grant scheme, as it would have to be taken from another organisation. Nottingham City Council is hoping to bring in a self-financing consortium with minimal subsidy levels to run the Centre.
- (s) A verbal update will be brought to the next meeting, and another full update in 6 months time.

**RESOLVED to thank Bill Husband for his presentation, the contents of which were noted.**

**36 ENVIRONMENTAL SUBMISSIONS FROM NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES (NCH)**

Paul Howard, Tenancy and Estates Manager at Nottingham City Homes (NCH), provided information on environmental submissions from NCH:

- (a) Sums of £7,235.91 for Berridge and £96,605.23 for Sherwood have been set aside for housing environmental improvements for the year 2013/14.
- (b) The proposed schemes must fit at least one of the following criteria: Improvement of security for tenants and leaseholders (e.g. door entry, lighting, fencing, garage sites), Improvement of the environment for tenants and leaseholders (e.g. dealing with graffiti, reducing anti-social behaviour, parking issues, drying areas, resurfacing), Improvement of spaces for tenants and leaseholders (e.g. installation of community facilities or areas on land under NCH management).
- (c) Any suggestions for more environmental improvement schemes are gratefully received, and should be directed to Tenancy and Estate Managers Paul Howard ([paul.howard@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk](mailto:paul.howard@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk)) or Lynn Standen ([lynn.standen@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk](mailto:lynn.standen@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk)) at NCH.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (1) approve the improvement scheme on Collin Green in Sherwood, to replace existing benches with brand new seats and remove the conifer tree in centre of planter, at a cost of £3,132.74;**
- (2) Defer the two proposed Woodthorpe Court improvement schemes until the next meeting of the Area Committee, pending further discussion with Councillors at their next meeting with Neighbourhood Development Officers.**

**37 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORTS - QUARTER 3**

Inspector Annie Yates, Nottinghamshire Police, presented information on crime over the last quarter in the Berridge and Sherwood Area, highlighting the following points:

- (a) In Berridge, instances of dwelling burglary have decreased by 13, robbery by 3, and auto crime by 30. Instances of criminal damage have increased by 41, theft by 29, violence by 33, and all crime by 45. The sharp increase in criminal damage is mainly attributed to a one-night crime spree by one individual. Local residents have asked if the offender can be removed from living in the area, but it has transpired that he does not live in the area. The increases in thefts are mainly business premises on Sherwood Rise, and include a large amount of supermarket crimes.
- (b) The crime statistics are very healthy compared to this time last year, and there is an encouraging increase in citizens signing up to the Neighbourhood Alert scheme, a free service which the Police use to send out information about the local area to help protect against crime and anti-social behaviour

([www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk)). Inspector Annie Yates will bring figures on Neighbourhood Alert sign-ups to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

- (c) In Sherwood, instances of criminal damage have decreased by 16. Instances of dwelling burglary have increased by 26, robbery by 16, auto crime by 14, theft by 101, and violence by 98. It is not clear what has caused a sudden increase in shop thefts. A large proportion of the incidents of violence are domestic violence. Visits to licensed premises are planned, to try and tackle associated crime. The March 2014 Week of Action will focus on crime in the Sherwood and Carrington area.

John Marsh, Locality Manager at Nottingham City Council, provided some additional information on other performance indicators in the Area, highlighting the following points:

- (d) From December 2013 to January 2014, Cleansing index scores improved in Berridge (from 89 to 93) and stayed nearly the same in Sherwood (from 93 to 92). Graffiti stayed the same in Berridge and Sherwood (17 instances across both wards). Fly tipping increased in Berridge (from 60 to 67 instances) and in Sherwood (from 18 to 23 instances).
- (e) Across both wards, there will be more activity on sweeping and on re-aligning the bulky waste system. A December Week of Action took place in Berridge, and the lighting event was very successful. The main concern for Berridge remains fly-tipping.
- (f) There was a successful budget consultation event in Sherwood, and a successful lighting event. The Week of Action in Sherwood will be happening in March 2014. A twitter feed is also being launched for Sherwood during the Week of Action ([www.twitter.com/sherwoodnottm](http://www.twitter.com/sherwoodnottm)). The Sherwood facebook page is the most successful of all the Ward facebook pages ([www.facebook.com/mysherwood](http://www.facebook.com/mysherwood)).
- (g) Returning bins to properties after they have been emptied has previously been raised as an issue, but it has resource implications. The refuse service is taking on 45 apprentices, who may be used to find a solution to this ongoing issue.

Questions and comments were made by the Committee:

- (h) The up-to-date figures provided at meetings of the Committee are very useful, and the Committee requested that more up-to-date figures should either be included with the agendas, or if that was not possible, then they should be emailed round to Councillors in advance of the meeting.
- (i) Bins at Kneaton Close have not been collected for 5 weeks, which now constitutes a health and safety issue. There are several disabled residents in the area, and one couple with a young child with severe health issues, and the bins are getting in the way of deliveries of medical supplies. All solutions seem to be quashed through lack of resources. There used to be a "bin lay-by" area

for storage, but this space was boarded up. The residents are getting fed-up of calling to complain. John Marsh will take this issue up with the refuse service.

- (j) The Committee asked if, with the introduction of new landlord standards, action could be taken against landlords for fly-tipping. When contact details are found in amongst fly-tipped rubbish, action is taken against those concerned.
- (k) The Committee would like it to be noted that the increase in instances of fire in the Ward was not 29,000% as shown in the report. The increase is from 0 instances to 3 instances, and the software used to compile the report could not accurately show a percentage increase from 0. No individual figure is felt to be overly concerning, and they are generally positive, but everyone needs to remain vigilant and avoid complacency.
- (l) The Committee suggested that some people with English as a foreign language may not understand the bulky waste collection service, or that fly-tipping outside your home is not how bulky waste is disposed of. If some a symbol system could be introduced to advise those with poor language skills how to access this service, and a text request service, that would be very useful. Texting can be problematic, and a symbol for fly-tipping will be very difficult to convey, but John marsh will take these suggestions back to the call centre.

**RESOLVED to thank Annie Yates and John Marsh for their presentations, and note the information provided.**

**38 ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY - WARD ALLOCATIONS**

**RESOLVED to note the following actions taken under delegated authority:**

- (1) **£600.00 towards the Berridge “Week of Action”, agreed 30 November 2013;**
- (2) **£300.00 towards the Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum’s Shop Directory, agreed 12 November 2013;**
- (3) **£496.00 towards Transition Sherwood’s “Sharing Sherwood” event;**
- (4) **£3,600.00 to various recipients for activities relating to the Sherwood Festival, June 2014;**
- (5) **£1,000.00 towards publicity costs for Sherwood Art Week.**

**39 AREA CAPITAL FUND**

**RESOLVED to approve the Area Capital Fund programme of schemes and note the commitment of funds in Berridge and Sherwood Wards as follows:**

- (1) Installation of 4 signs to promote the Berridge Road shopping area, at an estimated cost of £650.00;**
- (2) Supply of 4 grit bins on Spondon Street, Jenner Street, Gamston Crescent and Elmswood gardens, at an estimated cost of £5,358.00.**