

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ARBORETUM, DUNKIRK AND LENTON, RADFORD AND PARK AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House on 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 from 5.35pm to 7.28 pm

- ✓ Councillor Liaqat Ali (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Mohammad Aslam
- Councillor Merlita Bryan
- ✓ Councillor Sarah Piper (minutes 13 to 21 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Dave Trimble (minutes 13 to 21 inclusive)
- Councillor Steph Williams

✓ indicates present at meeting

Others in attendance

Dave Brennan	-	Castle Cavendish	
Alderman David Poole	-	City of Nottingham Neighbourhood Watch Council	
Lesley Fyffe	-	Dunkirk and Old Lenton Community Association	
Paul Howard	-	Nottingham City Homes	
Peter Milligan	-	Lenton Centre	
Steve Rhodes)	Nottingham Local Access Forum	
Chris Thompson)		
Inspector Steve Cartwright)		
Inspector Robert Wilson)	Nottinghamshire Police	
Inspector Annie Yates)		
Moby Farrands	-	Partnership Council	
Melanie Futer	-	University of Nottingham	
David Cordell)	University of Nottingham Student Union	
Andy Winter)		
Rob Gabbitas	-	Neighbourhood Development Officer)
Martin Harris	-	Parks Technical Officer)
John Marsh	-	Central Locality Manager)
Nicola Smyth	-	General Manager, John Carroll Centre	
Linda Wright	-	Neighbourhood Development Officer)
James Rhodes	-	Policy and Performance Manager	-
			Crime and Drugs Partnership
Noel McMenamin	-	Constitutional Services Officer	-
			Resources

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Merlita Bryan (other Council business) and Steph Williams
Peter Beynon
Fiona Corbett
Ursula Dove
Maya Fletcher
Tim Preston
Luke Willen

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

15 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

16 CASTLE CAVENDISH – VISION AND APPROACH

Dave Brennan, Chief Executive, Castle Cavendish, presented the Committee with the following information in relation to the Castle Cavendish regeneration charity:

- (a) the charity's role is to improve the quality of life for local people through committing to long-term regeneration of Area 4, re-investing the proceeds from its property portfolio to improve services, community infrastructure and quality of life;
- (b) its Vision is 'to support communities as much as possible in determining their own futures, ensuring that the Area is a successful and pleasant place, where people live and work together, overcoming their challenges and realising their potential';
- (c) its Mission is 'Castle Cavendish will strive to respond to the local needs of the Area by investing in people and place' This is achieved by building on local people's ideas and initiative, communicating without jargon, being open and approachable, learning from mistakes and successes and keeping our promises;
- (d) the charity's Board of Trustees includes councillor Toby Neal, and its articles of association had been revised to ensure key expertise in governance, public sector grant provision, community development, fund management, contract development and related areas;
- (e) the Castle Cavendish business model is made up of Castle Cavendish Ltd, the charity's trading arm responsible for income generation from its property portfolio, and the Castle Cavendish Foundation, a charitable body. The property portfolio includes Castle Cavendish Works, Hartley Court Industrial Units and office accommodation on Alfreton Road and the Tennyson building. A further property, the Waverley building, is currently vacant and being considered for disposal;
- (f) Castle Cavendish Ltd has performed well in the difficult economic climate, averaging 90% occupancy rates across its properties, reducing rent arrears and bad debt and achieving a £100,000 profit for re-investing through the Castle Cavendish Foundation;
- (g) flagship grant funds include the Dolly Parton Imagination Library designed to boost literacy among children and the Walk on the Wild Side initiative to increase access to and understanding of the natural environment for children and young people. The charity also grant-funds a range of smaller groups within Area 4.

The Committee and others in attendance made the following comments during discussion:

- (h) a councillor observed that only 2 members of the Castle Cavendish Board of Trustees live in Area 4. In response, Mr Brennan agreed that it would be preferable to have more

Area 4 residents on the Board, but pointed out that it was more important that Board members had the necessary expertise and skills highlighted at minute 16(d) above. Plans to expand Board membership are at an early stage, and this could give an opportunity to increase local representation;

- (i) in response to a councillor's question, Mr Brennan explained that Castle Cavendish has given a commitment to support existing projects in 2013/14, but that from April 2014 the charity will look to reconfigure its grants programme to target specific needs among all children and young people in Area 4, in line with the City Council's strategic objectives;
- (j) the Committee welcomed and supported the proposed expansion of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative to cover all of Area 4.

RESOLVED to note the information presented.

17 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SUMMIT – RESPECT SURVEY

James Rhodes, Policy and Performance Manager, Crime and Drugs Partnership, gave a presentation on the outcome of the Partnership's Respect Survey, highlighting the following points:

- (a) the Respect survey involved face-to-face interviews with 2000 city residents from all city wards, focusing on citizen perceptions of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Raw data from the survey was 'weighted' to reflect 2011 census data on age, gender and ward population;
- (b) the biggest city-wide ASB issue identified was dog fouling, followed by rubbish and litter. In the City Centre, drunkenness and rowdiness in public places, street drinking and begging were the main issues identified;
- (c) the main ASB issues identified in Dunkirk and Lenton were fly-posting, drunkenness and rowdiness, vandalism and noise/house parties. ASB calls in Dunkirk and Lenton spiked in October and May/June, and the ward had the lowest sense of community levels of any city ward;
- (d) in the Arboretum, rubbish/litter, fly-tipping drunkenness and rowdiness and drug-taking were the key issues identified. The ward also reported the second-worst levels of sense of community in the city;
- (e) while general levels of ASB continued to fall, ASB perception among residents was greater than the reality on the ground, especially in Dunkirk and Lenton. Sense of community levels and satisfaction levels with the Police and Council response to ASB had also reduced.

The Committee raised the following issues in the discussion following the presentation:

- (e) the survey results appeared to show a trend that the perception of ASB was highest in wards with the most transient populations. While the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership, working with the City Council and other partners, had a good record of tackling and reducing actual crime, action was needed to tackle perception of crime and ASB within wards with the most transient populations;
- (f) the City Council did not have a pro-active service to tackle night-time noise issues in

Area 4. Residents became sensitised to noise levels from house parties and gave up keeping an incident diary, leading to a lack of recorded noise figures;

- (g) a Police representative confirmed that national crime recording standards meant that the burglary of a single student property with independent lockable rooms counted as a multiple robbery, inflating crime figures.

RESOLVED to request the Chief Executive of the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership and the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Regeneration and Community Safety to produce a strategy to tackle the perception of crime and anti-social behaviour within those wards with the most transient populations.

18 WARD PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 1

John Marsh, Central Locality Manager and Inspector Steve Cartwright, Nottinghamshire Police, introduced the report, highlighting the following points:

- (a) crime figures in the Park beat were down, and there was no increase for Dunkirk and Lenton. The Arboretum had suffered a recent spike in crime figures, and the reasons for this were unclear;
- (b) following a successful pilot in July 2013, Nottinghamshire Police planned to introduce a system of 'microbeating' to address crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). This involves targeting crime hotspots with a highly visible police presence, and carrying out preventative work in liaison with University, housing and offender management partners;
- (c) cleanliness levels in Area 4 are being maintained. However, there is an issue with fly-tipping fridges and freezers because a recent change in the law on their disposal made these less attractive to scrap metal dealers;
- (d) the Student Waste Action Plan for the end of the 2012-13 academic year was successful, while problems with hedge-cutting equipment and the 'Billy Goat' cleaning machine had been resolved.

During discussion, Inspector Cartwright confirmed that the experience elsewhere of the microbeating system was that it did not lead to displacement of crimes elsewhere. Also, intelligence-led, low-key policing of Goose Fair had helped the event become a much safer, family-friendly occasion.

RESOLVED to note the report.

19 REQUEST TO GATE A FOOTPATH AT HOLLAND STREET, RADFORD

John Lee, Senior Rights of Way Officer, introduced the report proposing the making of a full-time gating order to restrict public access along a footpath running between Holland Street and Hyson Street to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Steve Rhodes of the Nottingham Local Access Forum made the following points:

- (a) there was a current planning application for a residential housing development on the adjoining car park between 12 and 26 Holland Street. This could offer the opportunity to redesign and redevelop the footpath via a Section 106 agreement;

- (b) it would be inappropriate to implement a gating order until the car park development was completed, when the situation could be reviewed;
- (c) the negative impact of crime and ASB on the local community could be addressed through vigorous Police activity.

In response, Mr Lee and Linda Wright, Neighbourhood Development Officer, pointed out that there were ongoing community safety issues with the footpath as matters stood, both in the day and in the evening, all the statutory requirements for making the order had been met, although issues of potential displacement of the problems to other local areas were a concern of the Local Access Forum. Due to the delays in having to bring a further report to Area Committee addressing these specific concerns, Mr Lee offered to have further detailed discussion and consultation with the Local Access Forum before the gating order was progressed.

The Committee supported this approach without further discussion.

RESOLVED to authorise the making of a full-time gating order to restrict public access along a footpath running between Holland Street and Hyson Street to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, subject to further detailed consultation with the Nottingham Local Access Forum prior to the gating order being implemented.

20 PARKS PORTFOLIO IN AREA 4

Martin Harris, Parks Technical Officer, introduced the report, providing a breakdown of parks in Area 4 and highlighting condition, funding availability and current priorities, and making the following points:

- (a) there was significant Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) investment in parks and playgrounds in the 'old' Area 4 area (Arboretum, Berridge, Radford and Park) in 2003/4, and further improvements have taken place since then;
- (b) Dunkirk and Lenton did not benefit from the same level of NRF funding, although Lenton Recreation Ground and Spider Park had benefited from funding from several sources;
- (c) there was currently no Section 106 funding available in the Area

During discussion, Mr Harris agreed with the Committee that the Radford Recreation Ground needed a Friends Group to help maintain and develop the amenity.

RESOLVED to note the report.

21 AREA CAPITAL FUND 2013-15 PROGRAMME

Rob Gabbitas, Neighbourhood Development Officer, introduced the report which provided the latest allocation for the Local Transport Plan (LTP) element under the Area Capital fund for highways and footways.

Mr Gabbitas also tabled a paper asking the Committee to consider approving 2 schemes put forward by ward councillors following site visits and discussions with relevant services. These were for extending yellow lines to side roads, including St Paul's Avenue and Pleasant Row, and to providing parking restrictions at Court Street/Dalkeith Terrace.

RESOLVED to

(1) approve the following schemes:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Cost (£)</u>
Radford Road – to include St Paul’s Avenue and Pleasant Row	Lining	5,000
Court Street/Dalkeith Terrace	Parking restrictions	7,500
Canning Circus	Planters	6,800
	Total	19,300

(2) to approve the transfer of public realm funds of £14,475 from Radford ward to Berridge ward in exchange for Nottingham City Homes environmental funds for 2011/12 and 2012/13;

(3) to note the approval by delegated authority of the following schemes:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Cost (£)</u>
Johnson Road	Footpath resurfacing	9,387
Trafalgar Close/Beckenham Road	Lining	975
Forster Street	Feasibility Study	2,000
Radford	Traffic Restriction Order	5,000
	Total	17,362

22 ENVIRONMENTAL SUBMISSIONS FROM NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES (NCH)

The Committee noted the report of the Chief Executive of Nottingham City Homes (NCH), informing the Committee of the NCH contribution to a project to increase the safety of a car park in the Arboretum ward, without discussion.

RESOLVED to note the approval of funding through delegated authority in relation to an improvement scheme at Belper Road Car Park, Arboretum ward.