

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **AREA TWO COMMITTEE (BASFORD AND BESTWOOD WARDS)**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **26 JANUARY 2011** at

Ellis Guildford School, Bar Lane, Basford from 4.32 pm to 5.40 pm

#### **Present**

Councillor Lee	(Chair)
Councillor Grocock	(Vice-Chair)
Councillor Arnold	
Councillor Newton	
Councillor Smith	
Councillor Wildgust	

indicates present at meeting

#### **Community Representatives**

Mr G Hall	-	Old Basford Neighbourhood Watch Association
Mr P England	-	Whitemoor Neighbourhood Watch

#### **City Council Officers**

Ms C Elmhirst	)	
Ms J King	)	Communities
Mrs H May	)	
Mr M Bee	)	
Mr G Newton	)	Development
Mr N Harby	)	
Miss C M Jackson	-	Resources

#### **Others in attendance**

Mr C Holloway	-	Nottingham City Homes
Insp. R Wilson	)	Nottinghamshire Police
PC J Woolley	)	
Mr M Savage		

**Please note: except where otherwise indicated, all items discussed at the meeting were the subject of a report which had been circulated beforehand.**

**ACTION**

**26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Henry and Ms M Hemphill.

**27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

**28 MINUTES**

**(a) Confirmation**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 November 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

**(b) Matters arising**

In response to queries raised, the Area Manager agreed to:

- (i) pursue with the Highways Services Manager the completion of the seven cycle stands referred to in minute 24, paragraph 3, bullet point 4 'Area Capital Programme' and report progress to Councillor Newton; H May
- (ii) pursue with Mr Hemphill the re-siting of the floodlight columns inside the pitch boundary referred to in minute 25, 'Update on the Re-development of Ellis Guildford School' and report progress to Councillor Newton. H May

Councillor Newton said that it would be useful if details of follow-up actions agreed at Area Committee meetings could be explicit in the minutes and for the Area Manager to update the Area Committee on progress in advance of the following meeting.

**29 NEIGHBOURHOOD BLOOM 2011**  
(Director, Sport, Culture and Parks)

Mrs C Elmhirst, Nottingham in Bloom Manager, advised the Committee that the Spectacolour budget had been reduced for the year due to financial pressures. Whilst there would be no funding for green space improvements to the Area as in previous years, core floral displays for the area would still be provided.

In previous years, the available budget for displays in the neighbourhoods was £10,000 per Area and it was proposed to reduce this to £5,000 per Area for 2011-12. This would still provide 40 barrier baskets and 10 floor planters per Area but would reduce resources available to make improvements to areas of communal land and green space improvements.

For the last two years, the Britain in Bloom campaign had focussed on the City's neighbourhoods with 137 groups from Nottingham participating in the 'Its Your Neighbourhood' awards which included 16 groups from Area 2. It was planned

**ACTION**

to encourage more groups to participate this year. There was no entry fee and community groups could apply to the Committee for financial support.

During the discussion, a number of questions and comments were raised, as follows:

- a Councillor requested that planting up of troughs and floor planters take place in the Bestwood Ward at the same time as planting was taking place in other wards and that the plants used be of similar quality to those used in other wards;
- in response to a query about how plants were being sourced, the Nottingham in Bloom Manager advised that the Councils Nursery Manger was purchasing plants at the lowest possible prices and growing them on in order to be more cost efficient;
- there were opportunities for schools and community groups to plant up spare planters and utilise areas of green land;
- in response to a question as to why Councillors had not been invited to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award ceremony last year, the Nottingham in Bloom Manager advised that, due to restrictions on space and the need to minimise costs, invitations had had to be limited to two per community group. It was hoped that East Midlands in Bloom may contribute to the costs of the award ceremony for 2011. Councillors requested to be kept informed as to who in their wards were receiving awards.

C Elmhirst

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the level of displays to be provided from the Spectacolour budget be noted;**
- (2) that the Committee encourage and commit support for local neighbourhoods taking part in the Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards.**

**30 B682 VERNON ROAD/HIGHBURY ROAD, ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS**

Martin Bee, Principal Officer, Accident Investigation advised the Area Committee that there were 78 reported injury accidents on the B682 Vernon Road/Highbury Road between January 2004 and May 2010, of which 13 were serious and half involved pedestrians, motorcyclists and pedal cyclists. The accidents formed part of an ongoing lengthy investigation for the B682 between Gregory Boulevard and Bulwell High Road, of which two accident studies fell within the Basford Ward:

- study 1 - Valley Road to Basford Crossings (38 accidents). Half the accidents occurred at Basford Crossings;
- study 2 - Basford Crossings to Kersall Drive (40 accidents). Nearly half the accidents involved pedestrians, with 75% of these being children.

**ACTION**

Some progress had already been made as Area Capital funding had been made available in December 2010 to allow the following to be implemented in the current financial year:

- vehicle activated signs - two signs to be located near Highbury Avenue with the other opposite Burnaby Street;
- road marking improvements in the vicinity of Vernon Park Drive and Vernon Avenue. These consisted of right turn areas and also the provision of cycle logos in the cycle lane which extended a short distance back from Basford Crossings;
- zebra crossing LED halo units - at both the Catchems Corner and Nottingham Road/Vernon Road zebra crossings.

Various additional measures had been considered to improve road safety along the B682 between Valley Road and Kersall Drive:

- Laxton Drive area (estimated cost: £10,000 to £90,000). Suggested remedial measures included an upgrade of the existing crossing along with the provision of an elongated raised feature to reduce vehicular speeds at and either side of the facility. A feasibility study would be useful here;
- existing zebra crossing at Catchems Corner (estimated cost: £5,000 to £35,000). Suggested remedial measures included an upgrade of the existing zebra crossing with a raised feature and/or Westcotec Belisha beacons. Dense housing in the area limited the options;
- Basford Crossings (estimated cost: £10,000 to £160,000). This was a complex junction where many motorists flouted the rules and made illegal manoeuvres. Suggested remedial measures included friction surfacing to address shunt accidents, kerb realignments to deter illegal left turns from Vernon Road to David Lane and David Lane to Vernon Road, and improving egress for vehicles turning right into Southwark Street from the link road running between Vernon Road and Southwark Street to deter illegal turns at Basford Crossings. This could involve 'keep clear' or yellow box markings or a roundabout. Discussions were taking place with Network Rail and the Tram Consortium to establish if the level crossing barrier down times could be reduced;
- Vernon Road/Vernon Park Drive (estimated cost: £75,000). Suggested remedial action included the provision of a right turning area on Vernon Road into Vernon Park Drive using road markings;
- Vernon Road/Nottingham Road Roundabout (estimated cost: £5,000 to £35,000). Suggested remedial measures included the upgrade of the existing zebra crossing with a raised feature and/or Westcotec Belisha beacons;
- 20mph Speed Limits (estimated cost: £10,000). This could be considered

**ACTION**

along Vernon Road and Highbury Road, especially along the densely populated parts. The exact extent of the limits would need to be agreed and could be linked to the location of the vehicle activated signs. There may be a reluctance on the part of the Police to enforce the limits;

- vehicle activated signs (estimated cost: £20,000 for four signs). These could reinforce the 30 mph speed limit or a 20 mph limit;
- road Safety Education Team intervention (estimated cost: £5,000) - road safety education undertaken with schools and the local community.

Several issues were raised and points made in the discussion which followed:

- it was agreed that there was a need to prioritise sites due to the spending cuts;
- Councillor Newton expressed his concerns at the results of the two studies outlined above and the number of accidents which had occurred in the Area. It had been estimated that there were around 10,000 pedestrian movements on Vernon Road every day as the Area included schools, Vernon Park and tram stops. He considered that considerable investment was required in order to reduce the number of accidents. He therefore proposed the following:

‘that the Committee recognise that further improvements to Vernon Road and Basford Crossings were necessary to maximise pedestrian safety and therefore recommend that:

- (i) the area around Basford Crossings be considered as a major corporate strategic project. The project to include a major detailed traffic management study, requiring appropriate resources to identify best solutions and implement significant changes;
- (ii) serious consideration should be given to Basford Crossings within the next financial year as this was one of the most complicated junctions in the country.

**RESOLVED that the Committee recognised that further improvements to Vernon Road and Basford Crossings were necessary to maximise pedestrian safety and therefore recommended:**

- (1) that the area around Basford Crossings be considered as a major corporate strategic project. The project to include a major detailed traffic management study, requiring appropriate resources to identify best solutions and implement significant changes;** M Bee
- (2) that serious consideration should be given to Basford Crossings within the next financial year as this was one of the most complicated junctions in the country.** M Bee

**ACTION**

**31 NEXT MEETING**

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Area Committee, which was due to be held on 30 March 2011 was cancelled due to its proximity to the May elections.

**32 THANKS**

The Chair announced that he would not be seeking re-election as a Councillor and that consequently, this was his last Area Committee meeting. He thanked the Councillors, community representatives and officers who had been involved with the Committee during the period he had been in the Chair for their support and work in relation to the Committee.

On behalf of the Councillors and Officers, Councillor Newton thanked the Chair for his contribution to both Basford and Area 2 during the period he had been a Councillor and wished him well for the future.