

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

AREA 1 (BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST) COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **21 MARCH 2012** at

Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, from 5.34 pm to 6.34 pm

- ✓ Councillor Hartshorne - (Chair)
- Councillor Clark - (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Campbell
- ✓ Councillor Klein
- ✓ Councillor McDonald (from minute 58)
- ✓ Councillor Morris

✓ indicates present at meeting

Citizens and Community Representatives present

- Mr R Knowles - Radford Street Allotments
- Mr D Norman - Bulwell Forest Local Area Group
- Mrs S Loades - Bulwell Hall Tenant and Resident Association
- Mr P Bakajsa - Rise Park Action Group
- Ms D Carruthers - Forest Park Neighbourhood Watch
- Reverend E A Morris - St Philip's Church
- Ms G Slack - Ravensworth Road Methodist Church
- Mr J Millington - Rise Park Community Association
- Ms R Yousouf - Rufford Tenants' and Residents' Association

Others and City Council Colleagues in attendance

- Mr D Tattersall - City Services)
- Mrs H May) Neighbourhood) Communities
- Ms E Shaw) Management)
- Mr P Fountain - Tree Services Manager)

Inspector A Goodall - Nottinghamshire Police

Ms C Ziane-Pryor - Democratic Services - Resources

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

53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Campbell and Clark, Mrs E Stacey and Mr S Pepper.

Councillor McDonald had submitted apologies for absence but was able to attend the meeting from minute 58.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

55 MINUTES

(a) Matters arising

The Chair informed the Committee that since the library had moved into the Bulwell Riverside building, there had been a significant increase in loans, being up 91% on February last year and, excluding Central Library, producing the highest lending figures in the City. Adult fiction borrowing had increased by 55% and non-fiction by 97%. Borrowing of children's fiction had increased by 145% and non-fiction by 198%. These figures were particularly pleasing as, across the City, library lending had dropped by 3%.

It was noted that Barry O'Dowd of Bulwell Boxing Club was to carry the Olympic Torch and that an Olympic Beacon was to be sited at Bulwell Bogs.

(b) Confirmation

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 January 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

56 URBAN FORESTRY STRATEGY (UFS)

Mr Fountain, Tree Services Manager, presented the report which informed the Committee that a draft Urban Forestry Strategy was available for citizens to comment upon. Paper copies of the core strategy were available at the meeting and the complete strategy was available to view on line at:

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13308>

The Strategy included sections on;

- large tree species;
- maintenance of trees;
- risk management;
- responsible Neighbours Guide;
- factors to be considered with areas of development.

It was noted that the City produced a 'heat island effect' in that the City could be as much as 4°C warmer than the surrounding countryside. Trees were able to partially off-set this effect in addition to providing shade from the sun and shelter from the wind.

It was recognised that guidance was required with regard to long-term planting considerations to ensure that trees were planted appropriately for their potential height, spread and maintenance requirements.

The Committee's questions were responded to by the Tree Services Manager as follows:

- with regard to the trees bordering the Northern Cemetery and issues raised by neighbouring properties and Councillors on behalf of residents, Tree Services Team would not intentionally appear to be resistant or defensive but it was frustrating for them as well as Councillors and residents, that resources were not available to address all issues;
- once adopted, the final strategy would proactively help prevent many issues arising which were the subject of current complaints, such as trees being planted that were likely to overbear neighbouring properties, require a high level of maintenance or cause ground damage in their vicinity;
- the City Council had previously grown their own saplings but, as with other plants, it was now more economically effective to buy trees and plants from high volume producing nurseries.

The following comments were made:

- the current mature trees in Nottingham and the planting schemes around the City were a credit to the City's predecessors and both valued and appreciated by many of today's citizens;
- the strategy was welcomed but without adequate resources, it could not be fully effective;
- currently it was a concern that when asking Tree Services Team for advice or presenting complaints, the response, including references to legislation, could vary depending on who answered the telephone;
- it was of great concern that a complaint regarding on-going damage to property had been outstanding for nearly seven years without any conclusion in sight;
- some of the trees around the Bulwell Hall Estate were raising and breaking footpaths and pavements with their roots. This caused a lot of problems for wheel chair and mobility scooter users who could not safely use some paths.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the draft Urban Forest Strategy be noted and any further comments be submitted to ufs@nottinghamcity.gov.uk prior to the close of consultation on 20 April 2012;**
- (2) that the thanks of the Committee to Mr Fountain be recorded for his attendance.**

57 LAND AND PLANNING POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (LPPDP)- ADDITIONAL SITES

Further to minute 25 dated 21 September 2011, the report informed the Committee that an additional site within the Area had been identified for inclusion in the LPPDP. The Committee's views were requested on potential future use of the former Henry Melish School playing field.

Community representatives requested that prior to any development of this site, which was 'greenfield', the old High Pavement site would be developed.

The Committee were assured that consultation would be undertaken prior to any development.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

58 POLICING UPDATES

Further to minute 36 dated 23 November 2011, Inspector Goodall informed the Committee that the three month priority setting for February to April inclusive had been identified as follows:

Bulwell Ward - anti-social behaviour (ASB) and drug dealing around the New Market area and Cinderhill;

Bulwell Forest Ward - ASB around Highbury Road and Deptford Crescent.

Recent Police activity included successfully served warrants following uniformed and plain clothed officer work, diversionary activities and early intervention work.

At the beginning of April, consultation would begin to set the priorities for May to July 2012.

It was noted that PC's Lloyd Goucher and Katie Nolan were now working at the Domestic Violence Centre at Oxclose Police Station and had been replaced by PC Dan Bonser who had been specifically selected for Bulwell, was keen to start in his new role, and was predicted to be an asset to the area. Although some previous officers had been moved to other duties, many still had an affinity with the Bulwell area and trended to gravitate back.

The Chair congratulated Inspector Goodall on the recent release of the lowest crime statistics in the City but raised the question of whether such achievements could be maintained now that one officer was to replace two. Inspector Goodall responded that in any circumstance, following such an exceptional reduction in reported crime, it would be unrealistic to expect to achieve the same proportionate reduction in the following year but local officers would rise to this challenge.

Response times to reports were regularly monitored and although the exact details were not available at the meeting, there had been a slight increase in time but this information would be considered when reassessing the location of deployment points, and may result in some changes. The nearest available unit would respond to an incident, even if this was from the Hucknall division.

Policing at a local neighbourhood level would continue and the importance of early intervention was recognised.

Metal theft was an on-going issue which was now receiving the attention of the 'Metal Theft Reduction Team' which included additional patrols in the Bulwell, Oxclose Lane, Top Valley and Rise Park areas north of the City where the crime was prevalent. This was a difficult crime to tackle as the origins of metals were often difficult to identify and in instances of lead theft from roofs, people often were not aware of the theft until the roof leaked. As penalties were less harsh when compared to house breaking, metal theft was often considered an easier option by criminals.

RESOLVED that the Policing update be noted and that the thanks of the Committee be recorded to Inspector Goodall for his attendance and on-going work.

59 WARD PRIORITIES

Mrs May presented the item which listed the priorities for Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Wards which were to form the basis for future Ward Action Plans.

Community representatives expressed concern that the vacant and derelict buildings of the former Crown Motor showroom gave an unjustly poor impression of the area as traffic entered Bulwell. While there had been applications for development, the site was considered to be at flood risk and this had deterred investors. Mrs May offered to investigate the current situation and report this to the next meeting of the Committee.

It was suggested that Bulwell Forest Councillors take some responsibility for issues around Bulwell Town Centre, alongside Bulwell Councillors, as the Town Centre impacted on the whole area and a joint approach could produce better results.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor McDonald informed the Committee of his involvement with the Economic Development Team in submitting an application for Bulwell to receive funding and support for a Business Improvement Project (BIP) which could result in Bulwell, and hopefully other town centres in the City, becoming Business Improvement Districts(BID), something which Beeston and Hucknall were already well advanced in achieving.

If the application was to be successful, it would need a positive vote from local commercial businesses who would contribute a proportion of their business rates to help regenerate the Area. The final BID application was to be submitted by 30 March 2012. If the application progressed, a mutual of businesses, residents, City Council, Police and community groups would be formed to advance the project. As thousands of applications across the Country were being made, there was no guarantee that Bulwell would be successful, but without an application, access to additional funding would not be possible.

Some community representatives were concerned that while achieving BIP status would be of great benefit to the Town Centre, it should not be at the detriment of other local shopping areas such as Rise Park.

RESOLVED

(1) that the Ward Priorities be noted;

- (2) **that, at the next meeting, Mrs May update the Committee on the current situation regarding the former Crown Motor showroom.**

60 AREA CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND SECTION 106 FUNDING

Further to minute 46 dated 18 January 2012, Mrs May presented the report which requested that the Committee consider approving the allocation of £2,000 for an 'extinguishment order' for a footpath between the former Top Valley Community Centre and the former Top Valley Youth Centre at Knights Close, Top Valley.

Community Representative of the immediate area, and Ward Councillors were in agreement that this would be a sensible action as currently the site was very vulnerable and even though the owner had plans for the site which would be very beneficial to young people in the area, the site had been the subject of repeated vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The closure of the redundant footpath would enable security of the site to be improved.

RESOLVED

- (1) **that the report be noted;**
- (2) **that £2,000 be allocated to cover the costs of an extinguishment order for a footpath between the former Top Valley Community Centre and the former Top Valley Youth Centre at Knights Close, Top Valley, subject to all the statutory conditions being met.**

61 FINANCE UPDATE

Further to minute 37 dated 23 November 2011, the report informed the Committee of the up-to-date financial position of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) **the continuing Area Committee schemes, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;**
- (2) **that the continuing schemes funded through Councillor Ward Allocations, authorised by delegated approval and detailed in Appendix 1, be noted;**
- (3) **that the balances from completed and expired Area Committee schemes be aligned to the priorities identified in Appendix 2, and that schemes with a zero balance be closed;**
- (4) **that all unspent balances from Ward Councillor Allocations be used to form individual ward funding pots for Bulwell and Bulwell Forest wards.**