

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

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

Bulwell Riverside, Main Street Bulwell, Nottingham, from 5.32 pm to 7.15 pm

✓ indicates present at meeting

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|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Councillor Eunice Campbell | (Chair) |
| ✓ Councillor Alan Clark | (Joint Vice-Chair) |
| ✓ Councillor Ginny Klein | (Joint Vice-Chair) |
| ✓ Councillor John Hartshorne | |
| ✓ Councillor Nick McDonald | (from minute 31 inclusive onwards) |
| ✓ Councillor Jackie Morris | (from minute 31 inclusive onwards) |

Community Representatives

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|------------------------|--|
| ✓ Father Andy Nicolls | - Bulwell Churches Together |
| ✓ Ms Sheila Loades | - Bulwell Hall Tenants' and Residents' Association |
| ✓ Mr John Hancock | - CRESTA Tenants' and Residents' Association |
| ✓ Ms Doreen Carruthers | - Forest Park Neighbourhood Watch |
| ✓ Ms Roz Yousouf | - Nottingham Elders Forum |
| ✓ Mr David Norman | - Nott's Royal Society for the Blind |
| ✓ Ms Gillian Slack | - Ravensworth Road Methodist Church |
| ✓ Mr Paul Bakajsa | - Rise Park Action Group |
| ✓ Mr John Millington | - Rise Park Community Association |
| ✓ Mr Paul Jackson | - Royal British Legion Bulwell Branch |
| ✓ Ms Sally Wilson | - Snapewood Community Centre |

Guests, Partners, Observers and Others

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Mr Alan Bleasdale |) | Citizens |
| Mrs Eileen Stacey |) | |
| Mrs Nicky Jarvis | - | Nottingham City Homes |
| Inspector Andrew Goodall | - | Nottinghamshire Police |
| Mr Gary Smerden-White | - | Ridewise |

Nottingham City Council Colleagues

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| Mrs Heidi May |) | Neighbourhood Management |) | Communities |
| Ms Celia Knight |) | |) | |
| Mrs Emma Eckhardt |) | |) | |
| Mr David Halstead | - | City Services Head |) | |
| Mr Steve Pepper | - | Bulwell Riverside Manager |) | Resources |
| Ms Catherine Ziane-Pryor | - | Democratic Services |) | |

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

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clark, on other Council business, and from Councillor Morris for predicted lateness.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

30 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to the removal of Sally Wilson from the attendance list and the addition of Sheila Loades, the minutes of the Area 1, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Area Committee meeting held on 12 September 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

31 TRAVEL RIGHT

Gary Smerdon-White was in attendance to deliver a presentation, a copy of which was submitted to the on-line agenda following the meeting.

Travel Right, provided by the Ridewise Group and supported by Nottingham City Council, was a free service to help residents and businesses in the north of Nottingham to get around as quickly, cheaply and easily as possible while reducing environmental impact by preventing additional CO2 production.

The scheme offered the following:

- a simple free assessment service to help save money on transport costs;
- free cycle training and support, including the loan of a bicycle;
- free travel advice for across the north of the City;
- special discounts on cycling, walking and public transport;
- transport and information on maps;
- lots of fun events with giveaways.

Mr Smerdon-White highlighted the Neighbourhood Sustainable Transport Project which was to run for two and a half years until 2014/15, and aimed to involve local community volunteers to help promote locally focused sustainable transport advice and services to improve access to employment and learning services and healthier life styles.

In addition to the presentation, the following points were made:

- the scheme aimed to make citizens aware of what travel options were available to them with regard to routes, types of transport and free buses;
- 2,500 people had engaged with the scheme to date;
- there was a perception in some neighbourhoods that the distance from Bulwell to and/or across the City was too far to travel for work. The scheme challenged this and provided information on available routes;

- community cycle rides and community walks had proved popular so more had been scheduled;
- more volunteers were needed to help promote the scheme and its benefits both within their own communities and across the area by attending resident/community focused meetings and events.

Questions and comments from the Committee were responded to as follows:

- following many incidents, safety concerns had been raised regarding how quiet electric vehicles were and some manufacturers were now considering adding noise. This would be especially beneficial for citizens with sight impediments;
- audio and visual announcements on buses had proved popular so it was now proposed that similar facilities would be installed at some bus stops;
- Ridewise was proposing to approach the Police for help in developing a bicycle recycling scheme for citizens who could not afford to buy new bicycles. The suggestion from community representatives that the local scrap metal collectors should also be approached for assistance in obtaining bicycles or even just bicycle parts, was noted;
- the free cycle training continued to be popular, especially for people who had not ridden a bicycle for a long time or who had low or lost confidence for cycling on the road;
- the more people who were willing to walk, cycle or use public transport, the less congestion and pollution there would be;
- Ridewise was also operating in Beeston and Gedling and further schemes were proposed;
- it was noted that each area had different transport problems but that Bulwell Town Centre was particularly well served by public transport with the train, tram and bus station.

Some community representatives reminded the Committee that the cuts which Dr Beeching had made to the railway had been a very short sighted approach to transport planning and welcomed the 15 year forward plan/strategy for transport in the City.

RESOLVED

- (1) that an update report be requested for 6 months time on the progress of Travelwise;**
- (2) that the thanks of the Committee to Mr Smerdon-White for his presentation be recorded.**

32 NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Mrs Nicky Jarvis, Tenancy and Estate Manager presented the report, copies of which were placed around the table and submitted to the online agenda following the meeting.

Any scheme proposed by tenants, leaseholders, Housing Patch Managers, Councillors or Neighbourhood Development Officers had to fit into at least one of the following criteria:

- improvement of security of tenants and leaseholders (such as door entry, lighting, fencing, garage sites);
- improvement of the environment for tenants and leaseholders (such as dealing with graffiti, reducing anti-social behaviour, resolving parking issues, drying area resurfacing);
- improvement of spaces for tenants and leaseholders (such as installation of community facilities or areas on land under NCH management).

During consideration of the proposed projects, the Committee questioned the process by which estimated costs were identified and the quotations gathered.

It was noted that the proposal to rebuild a retaining wall to the rear of properties at Totley Close at a cost of £60,000.00 was necessary, as, further to the structural necessity of the project, the development of the land beyond, by Nottingham City Council, was to include a football pitch nearby and so there were safety implications to be considered.

The Committee also questioned the price and necessity of replacing the bench at Norwich Gardens, including whether the current bench could be repaired.

RESOLVED

(1) that the following schemes be approved:

Bulwell Ward	Details of proposal	Estimated costs £
Duchess Gardens	Three Passive Infra Red (PIR) lights to improve lighting of the communal paths.	1,148.42
Duchess Gardens	Removal of existing concrete bollards and replacement with dropdown bollards. (Nottingham City Council also to contribute £498.00)	498.00
Totley Close	Rebuild retaining wall to the rear of 106,108,110,112 Totley Close.	60,000.00
Newmarket Road	Remove gates and posts next to 27 Newmarket and 51 Newmarket Road	51.00
9 Mulberry Gardens	Fencing to be fitted to create a front garden to increase safety	1,123.84

Bulwell Forest Ward	Details of proposal	Estimated costs £
Oakham Close	Resurface Oakham Close garage block and parking area.	7,770.82
Holby Close	Removal of a section of the 4ft high wall and installation of a path to access the bus stop	7,880.65
Deptford Crescent	Fully tarmac to make an official parking area to the rear of a block of garages and adjacent to the bridge at the bottom of Deptford Crescent.	9,108.52

- (2) that the proposal to remove the broken bench at Norwich Gardens in Bulwell Ward, and replace it with a new metal bench, at an estimated cost of £1,216.77, be deferred pending;
- (a) the outcome of consultations with residents as to whether they specifically wanted a bench on that site;
 - (b) if a new bench was requested by residents, investigations into finding a cheaper alternative to that listed;
- (3) that the following schemes, for which estimated costs were not submitted, be approved in principle and only implemented if funds were available:

Thornbury Way	Resurfacing of communal parking area at the side of 51 Thornbury Way
Flaxton Way	Resurfacing of communal parking area outside 38 Flaxton Way
Flaxton Way	Resurfacing of parking bay area at the side of 2 Flaxton way

- (4) that the Tenancy and Estate Manager provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee, on the procedures applied in seeking quotations for work identified to be funded from the NCH Environmental Budget, to include:
- (i) how companies invited to quote/tender had been selected;
 - (ii) if there was specific consideration of inviting locally based/operating businesses to provide quotations/tenders;
 - (iii) how projects quotations may combined within the area, or across the City, to try and obtain lower quotations/tenders.

33 POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Andrew Goodall updated the Committee on the area priorities which were identified following consideration of reported crime, issues raised through the on-line consultation and community feedback. The revised priorities were to be the focus of neighbourhood policing from 1 November for a three month period, after which priorities were to be reviewed.

The policing priorities to be addressed were identified as follows:

Bulwell Ward - Anti-social behaviour (ASB) on and around Merchant Street had been raised as an issue by residents, with a particular focus on an unoccupied property. Between the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service and other partners, a lot of work had been done to address the issues.

Bulwell Forest Ward - Young people causing ASB in the Witney Close area had been reported by residents and was to be a focus for addressing through multi-agency working.

Shop lifting continued to be an issue, especially with prolific offenders so diversionary tactics were to be introduced. Another issue receiving attention was the ASB use of vehicles, including off road motorcycles.

Issues raised and responded to included:

- a person calling door to door collecting money on behalf of MacMillan Nurses, but employed by Home Fundraising Ltd, was door knocking after 8 pm in the evening. When it was pointed out that at that time of the evening, especially when dark, older residents may find this frightening, the collector was clearly not bothered and replied that 'McMillan Nurses was a good cause' and he had 'permission from the Police to collect door to door until 9 pm'. On request, the door knocker provided the company's details. Other citizens also reported charity door knockers calling after 8 pm. Inspector Goodall said that the formal 'cut off' point was 9 pm but he was not happy with the attitude of the door knocker and offered to look into the incident. Councillor McDonald also offered to follow up the incident by contacting the company, and potentially the Charity;
- Councillor Morris expressed concern that, while walking across the Market Place, she was knocked to the ground by a young person riding a bicycle whose response to the incident was that 'it would teach her to look where she was going', and then he rode off. Bicycles being ridden on pavements, in pedestrian areas, and particularly in the Market Place, was an increasingly more common occurrence, and therefore a greater safety risk, especially when the riders were not mindful of pedestrians. There appeared to be very little done to address this offence and it was suggested that substantial fines and proper enforcement be applied. Inspector Goodall responded that there were to be additional visible patrols in the town centre on the run up to Christmas and that cycling in pedestrian areas would be enforced by the officers;
- the office of Central Taxi's was right next to the bus station and in a very congested area but regardless of this, some taxi drivers waited or even parked, in some obstructive positions, to both traffic and pedestrians, near to the office. Inspector Goodall assured the Committee that he would advise Central Taxis of the concerns raised;

- issues remained with ASB at Rise Park. The Community Centre continued to be a target for vandalism, and parents continued to park dangerously on double yellow lines when dropping off and collecting children from the school, even though there was easily accessible parking available behind the shops. Community representatives were frustrated that, after continuing complaints, both issues were yet to be resolved and there had not been any enforcement of the parking restrictions. Councillors noted that both issues had been raised and identified as priorities at the Local Area Group (LAG) meetings and that officers had tried to resolve the issues, including liaising with the schools. A member of the Committee suggested that the best method of deterring the dangerous parking was to enforce fines;
- the Committee were alerted to the theft of the British Legion poppy appeal poppies from Ken Martin Leisure Centre and that members should alert their groups to be aware of people fraudulently collecting for the appeal door-to-door as the British Legion did not do this.

It was noted that the diversionary football sessions hosted by the Police in Bulwell, were very popular and always very well attended.

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Committee to Inspector Goodall for his attendance and update, be recorded.

34 AREA CAPITAL FUND - 2011/13 PROGRAMME

Emma Eckhardt and Celia Knight presented the report which informed the Committee of the projects proposed to be funded by the Area Capital Fund in Bulwell Ward, and listed those projects for which funding had already been approved.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Area Capital programme of schemes, as listed below, be approved;**

Bulwell Ward	Scheme	Estimated cost £
Bold Close/Duchess Gardens	Replace concrete bollards with drop-down bollards	498.00

Bulwell Forest Ward	Scheme	Estimated Cost £
Shellburne Close	Install bow top staggered barriers on footpath adjacent to 9 Shellburne Close	1,700.00
Highbury Road	Install a new gully near the junction with Bedford Grove and repair footpath	2,575.00
Witney Close	Footpath reconstruction	5,100.00
Ridgeway	Install a vehicle activated sign on Ridgeway	6,500.00

Bestwood Park Drive West	Replace existing directional sign at junction with Hucknall Road	450.00
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- (2) that the remaining monies available to Bulwell Ward of £31,551.00 and Bulwell Forest Ward of £14,564.00, be noted.

35 FINANCE AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The report detailed the amount of funding allocated to schemes by Councillors from their individual ward member budgets following the delegated authority approval of the Director of Neighbourhood Services.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the actions agreed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services, in respect of projects and schemes within the Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Wards, be noted;
- (2) that the finance report, identifying uncommitted Ward Member Budget balances for Bulwell Ward of £46,161.00 and Bulwell Forest Ward, of £31,969.00, be approved.

36 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORTS - QUARTER 2

Celia Knight presented the report which provided update summaries on the following topics:

- o ward priorities;
- o community engagement;
- o finance;
- o safer (including Police);
- o neighbourhood;
- o work/employment;
- o health.

It was noted that the priorities identified by the Local Area Group (LAG), fed into the Ward Priorities, and included priorities picked up from Tenant and Resident, Community and Neighbourhood Watch Groups, and Councillors.

The Committee were asked to comment on the report, both in terms of the content of information, and also with regard to the presentation of that information, including if anything was felt to be missing. If citizens wanted to suggest where and how any gaps could be filled, they could contact Neighbourhood Development Officers as follows:

for Bulwell Forest Ward - Celia Knight 0115 8833729
celia.knight@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, or,

for Bulwell Ward - Emma Eckhardt 0115 8833728
emma.eckhardt@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

There was an intention to engage with faith and community groups to find out what community focused services and projects they may be providing which may link in with the performance targets set within the report.

The Committee made the following suggestions:

- the presentation of the charts would be much improved if they were designed to be shown in black and white (as was policy) and not colour as some of the charts and general presentation did not translate well;
- percentages and actual numbers were requested to ensure that the whole picture was presented;
- more of the information needed to be put into context for the area;
- the Committee could consider a theme at each meeting as this would enable more detailed information to be presented and therefore more in-depth consideration;
- if a topic were to be selected for the next meeting, domestic violence was an on-going issue which was relevant to the area. It would be interesting to see if domestic violence was linked in with the number of children at local schools who had been allocated Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) and how many of those children had received Police intervention. It was noted that CAFs provided a multi-specialist co-ordinated approach to assist children identified as needing support, and were not only allocated to children in the vicinity of abuse, but also to children with disabilities and behavioural problems;
- there was very little information relating to citizens over the age of 50, this should be addressed;
- the type and detail of performance information provided needed to be consistent across the City.

It was noted that the reports could be viewed in colour online and that anyone could request from Constitutional Services an email alert on publication of the agenda. This would provide a link to the online internet page.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Ward performance reports for quarter 2 be noted;**
- (2) that, in relation to the 'Safer' theme, the priority of Domestic Violence be considered at the next meeting;**
- (2) that the Neighbourhood Management Team:**
 - (a) invite various speakers on domestic violence at the next meeting;**
 - (b) forward the comments of the Committee regarding presentation of the information, to the officers responsible for compiling the performance report.**