

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE (AREA 7)

MINUTES

of meeting held on **9 JULY 2009** at the

Council House from 6.15 pm to 7.56 pm

- ✓ Councillor Culley (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Benson (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Morley
- ✓ Councillor Oldham
- ✓ Councillor Sutton

Community Representatives

- Mr D Allen - North Wollaton Residents' Association
- Mrs P Peck - Wollaton Park Community Association
- Mr T Kerry - Friends of Wollaton Local Nature Reserve
- Mrs T Marshall - Wollaton Park Residents' Association
- ✓ Mr A Oliver - Wollaton Care Group
- ✓ Mr T Preston - Wollaton Village and Park Conservation Society
- Mrs S Roper - Lenton Abbey 15th Nottingham Scout Group
- Mrs E Ryley - Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Neighbourhood Watch Association
- Mr B Smith - Lenton Abbey Residents' Association
- ✓ Dr A J Swannell - Wollaton Vale Residents' Association

- indicates present at meeting

Also Present

- Mr I Tomlin - Station Commander - Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (Observer)

Officers In Attendance

- Mr T Coulson - Area Manager)
- Mr M Harris - Parks and Open Spaces)
- Ms D Simpson) Neighbourhood Action Officers)
- Mr N Walker))
- Ms C Oliver - Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership)
- Mr A Houldsworth - Project Manager, Highways)
- Maintenance) Environment and Regeneration
- Mr E Rennie - Planning Policy Division)
- Mr M J Parker - Committee Administrator - Resources

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

ACTION

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr Smith declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Area Capital Resources (minute 17) as a resident in one of the streets identified in the report, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to the deletion of Mrs N Briggs as a Community Representative for the Wollaton Park Community Association and to Mrs Marshall representing the Wollaton Park Residents' Association, the minutes of the last meeting of the Area Committee held on 14 May 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair and the minutes of the Area Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 June 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be noted.

**16 ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY AREA COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Community Representatives Pre-Meetings

Mrs Marshall requested that the previous practice of the Area Manager hosting a pre-meeting for Community Representatives before the start of Committee and Sub-Committee meetings be resumed and that the Area Manager write to Community Representatives seeking items for inclusion on agendas.

Mr Coulson was available for consultation in the room before the beginning of each meeting but wished to manage the process as informally as possible. The Terms of Reference for the Committee and Sub-Committee asked that Community Representatives notify him of items of interest 5-7 days before the meeting to provide an opportunity for initial research so as not to delay obtaining solutions to 'live' issues unnecessarily. Community Representatives should understand that they would always be entitled to raise issues of interest or concern at any point during meetings.

RESOLVED that the Area Manager be requested to write to all Community Representatives to confirm that, for future meetings, a Community Representatives Pre-Meeting would be held in the meeting room for 30 minutes, beginning 45 minutes before the start of the meeting.

Tim Coulson

ACTION**17 AREA CAPITAL RESOURCES**

(Director of Environment and Regeneration)

The report provided information on the funds available to each ward under the City Council's Capital Resources Programme 2009-11. The previous ring-fencing of at least 70% to be spent on footways had been removed,

and the available funds could be subject to bids from schemes for footways, carriageways, fencing, public parks and lighting. Although it was noted that the latter enjoyed a five-year Private Finance Initiative replacement scheme, from 2010. The current provision for 2009-11 was:-

	<u>Wollaton East/ Lenton Abbey</u> £000's	<u>Wollaton West</u> £000's
<u>2009-11</u>		
Current Allocation 2009-11	129	257
Local Transport Plan Contribution ⁽³⁾ :	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Funds 2009-11:	229	357
(LESS Over-Programming 2006-09	<u>23</u>	<u>0</u>)
Balance Available 2009-11	206	357
(Potential Commitments 2009-11	64 ⁽¹⁾	349 ⁽²⁾)

(1) Highways: Scalford Drive and Toston Drive

(2) Highways: Cransley Avenue, Ashchurch Drive, St Leonards Drive

(3) use restricted to works on adopted Highway such as parking, footways, carriageways and lighting

Arleston Drive was identified as a possible further location in addition to those possible works identified in the report and Mr Houldsworth agreed to report further on ownership and maintenance responsibilities for Charles Avenue (off Derby Road, adjacent to Raglan Court).

**Andy
Houldsworth**

RESOLVED

- (1) that the availability in part of the Capital Resources allocation for 2009-11 for matters other than footway or highway works, be noted;
- (2) that proposals for future works, associated estimated costings and residual amounts if works were approved, as detailed in the report, be noted;
- (3) that approval and prioritisation for works in individual wards be delegated to the Corporate Director for Environment and Regeneration after consulting relevant Ward Councillors.

**Andy
Houldsworth**

ACTION

18 PATHFINDER PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME

(Director of Sports, Leisure and Parks)

The report advised the Committee that, of the total allocation of Pathfinder Funding for park improvements up to March 2010, £30,000 with match funding from Community and Culture, had been spent on Lenton Abbey Park which was due for completion shortly.

Following completion of a recent public consultation exercise, it was now proposed to use the remaining £50,000 to improve facilities at Fernwood Drive/Rushford Drive. To achieve comprehensive improvements would require match funding from the Area Committee of £47,000.

Members and Community Representatives referred to the possibility of financing the cost of the matching contribution from a proportion of the Housing Capital Fund for the area, to undertaking further discussions regarding other possible venues for improvement in the area such as Seaford Avenue, Radford Bridge Road and Sutton Passeys Crescent and the need to examine the condition of current equipment on the latter in light of safety concerns expressed by Mrs Marshall.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the remaining £50,000 available to the Area Committee under the Pathfinder Playground Improvement Programme for 2009/10 be allocated to improve Fernwood Drive/Rushford Drive;**
- (2) that a comprehensive improvement solution for Fernwood Drive/Rushford Drive be supported and that further discussions be held to ascertain if the required match funding from the Area Committee of £47,000 could be met from the Committee's Housing Capital Fund allocation in the current or next financial year;**
- (3) that further consultation be undertaken with local residents and Councillors regarding a possible programme of improvements to play/park amenities at Seaford Avenue, Radford Bridge Road, Sutton Passeys Crescent and other sites in the area.**

**Eddie Curry
Tim Coulson
Steve Pepper**

Eddie Curry

19 USING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

(Joint Corporate Directors of Environment and Regeneration and Community and Culture)

The Committee was invited to comment on a range of possible measures which the City Council could propose to central government as being worthy of consideration for legislative changes to enhance local authority powers to improve community wellbeing under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. The deadline for submissions was 31 July 2009.

ACTION

The level of detail of proposals in the report reflected the complexity of some issues and/or the tendency of central government to draft proposals at it saw fit. The Committee offered the following observations on specific proposals:-

Licensing Private Landlords (2.7): the report did not clearly define what a 'shared house' was and the City Council should be seeking to develop joint proposals with other areas.

Off Licensing (2.10 and 2.11): the proposals were impractical in view of the amount of bureaucracy involved. For example, a minor may be found in possession of alcohol which could be traced to a retailer, but the retailer may have sold the alcohol to a legitimate purchaser. Banning the sale of certain drinks by certain retailers may be regarded as over-regulation and unfair restraint of trade, particularly on small businesses.

Bins Left on Streets (2.15): if the proposal for 'on-the-spot' fines were introduced, the City Council should ensure that it was aware of individual circumstances and ensure that adequate assistance was provided to the elderly and disabled.

Property Management (2.16): that problems associated with good order and nuisance lay as much with the attitude of landlords as with tenants.

RESOLVED that the Executive Board be informed that, whilst the Area Committee welcomed the opportunities afforded by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to submit proposals on sustainable improvements to economic, environmental and social wellbeing, in its view:-

**Councillor
Urquhart/
Christine
Oliver**

- (a) any proposals must be practical and have clear benefits for the local community;
- (b) the current consultation had been too hurried, with insufficient detail for meaningful discussion. For future years, the process should be begun sufficiently early to enable informed discussions to take place on suggestions which contained a greater level of detail.

20 NOTTINGHAM CITY CORE STRATEGY - ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION (Director of Planning and Transport Services)

The Area Committee had been invited to contribute its views on the Core Strategy element of the Local Development Framework, which would replace the current Nottingham Local Plan structure. For the first time, the City Council was attempting to align its work with those of adjoining authorities to improve consistency in the development of the Greater Nottingham conurbation.

ACTION

The Committee made the following observations:-

- the current deadline for responses to consultation on the Core Strategy of 31 July 2009 and the possibility of later submissions being taken into account were noted;
- the intention that Area Committees would be consulted throughout the development process was welcomed. However, for such processes to be meaningful, in general:-
 - reporting styles and use of clear language to avoid jargon should reflect the level of knowledge or understanding of the report's audience on the topic(s) being discussed and the content expanded accordingly;
 - where appropriate, detail should be included about proposals by adjacent local authorities which may impact on the area and on which Councillors and local residents may have views;

and, in relation to the current report:-

- the summary leaflets on elements within the Core Strategy were useful. However, copies should have been made available with the agenda and papers for the meeting to give the Committee more time to digest the detail of issues, which would make exchanges more positive;
- the omission of a timetable of the various consultation stages made it more difficult to place the current consultation within an overall context;
- the absence of sufficient information on topics mentioned in paragraphs 1.8 and 1.9 of the report meant that the Committee felt unable to contribute to the consultation in any meaningful way at this meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted but further consideration be deferred to the meeting of the Area Sub-Committee on 30 July 2009 to enable briefing material to be provided on issues of potential interest to the Committee.

**Grant
Butterworth**

**21 WOLLATON EAST AND LENTON ABBEY NEIGHBOURHOOD
ACTION TEAMS UPDATE
(Acting Director of Local Communities)**

The report outlined progress made by Ms Simpson and Mr Walker as Neighbourhood Action Officers on a number of issues of concern raised by residents in Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey.

ACTION

Particular reference was made to work being undertaken in Wollaton Hall Park grounds by probation service clients and the Youth Offending Team, the success of the recently held Lenton Abbey Fun Day and of the public planting initiative on Farndon Green, where local residents now wished to develop the initiative further to create a community space.

The Area Manager agreed to report further on whether the premises currently occupied by The Bluecoat School would continue to be used for educational purposes after it's closure.

Tim Coulson

RESOLVED that the position be noted and Ms Simpson and Mr Walker be thanked for their work.

22 USE OF DELEGATED POWERS
(Acting Director of Local Communities)

RESOLVED that the action of Councillors Oldham and Sutton in contributing a total of £1,879 in equal amounts from their individual Ward Member Budgets towards the cost of providing fencing to Plot 61 to the rear of 2 Manton Crescent to facilitate the development of an allotment, be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

<u>Meeting(s)</u> <u>(6.15 pm)</u>	<u>Date</u>
Area Sub-Committee	30 July 2009
Area Committee	10 September 2009