

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **30 JULY 2009** at the

Council House from 6.18 pm to pm

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

#### **Community Representatives**

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

- indicates present at meeting

#### **Also Present**

- Inspector G Bulmer ) Nottinghamshire Police
- Ms C Busuttil )
- Ms M Fletcher - Nottingham Action Group on Houses in Multiple Occupation

#### **Officers In Attendance**

- Mr T Coulson - Area Manager - Community and Culture
- Mr G Butterworth - Head of Planning Transport and Intelligence Strategy ) Environment and Regeneration
- Mr K Rose - Team Leader, Public Health )
- 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**

**10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Benson and Mr G Welton (UNIPOL, Nottingham).

**11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

**12 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that, subject to recording the attendance of Mr Verity, the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 June 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

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

Tim Coulson

**(a) Tree Pruning – Middleton Boulevard**

Mrs Marshall requested that pruning be undertaken on Middleton Boulevard, where the current state of trees had caused concern amongst local residents.

**(b) Status of Student Let Properties Under Planning Law**

Mr Coulson agreed to investigate and clarify to Councillors and Community Representatives latest government proposals regarding the status of student let properties on Wollaton Park Estate under planning law.

**(c) Pedestrian Crossing Woodhall Drive/Wollaton Road**

Mr Coulson agreed to undertake further discussions with the Highways Construction Division on this issue.

**(d) Wollaton Park – Proposed Closure of Facilities**

In response to Mrs Marshall, Councillor Culley confirmed:-

- that the closure of the Industrial Museum was still scheduled for the end of September 2009;
- that the current proposal to use the individual Ward Member Budgets of Councillors Benson, Culley and Morley to offset staff costs of approximately £66,000 to enable the facility to remain open on a more limited basis, was dependent on the viability of the facility;
- that viability could be affected by visitor figures, accurate estimates of

which were currently awaited;

**ACTION**

- that the possibility of levying a small charge for admission to the Museum, though undesirable, remained an option for consideration, particularly if it would assist retention of the facilities;
- that further research would be required into the methods by which other, similar facilities, such as the Pumping Station, were operated and the status of the operators as organisations which could attract grant funding from other sources.

The Area Committee remained of the view that the threatened facilities, as part of an establishment with acknowledged City-wide impact, deserved to be treated on a similar basis and receive assistance from the Council.

**RESOLVED that the position be noted.**

**14 AREA CRIME FIGURES APRIL 2008 - MARCH 2009**

(Acting Director of Local Communities)

Consideration was given to a revised report, copies of which had been circulated. Revised statistics for Lenton Abbey were provided. Inspector Bulmer and Ms Busuttill provided a commentary on the latest figures and trends and explained the categorisation of offences used in the statistical summaries.

**Wollaton West**

Overall, there had been some reduction in reported crimes between 2007/08 and 2008/09, with numbers remaining fairly static. Whilst there were no discernable patterns or hot spots, a number of satisfactory arrests had been made, with one offender being responsible for 18 offences.

Robberies from, or by, young people would be followed up by delivering messages through local schools and supplying alarms for garden sheds, from which offenders frequently stole tools to effect entry into residential properties, had been a worthwhile exercise.

Whilst vehicle crime had experienced reductions, peaks and troughs in offences could be expected due to the mobility of offenders. Radford Bridge Road continued to be an area of concern for incidence of criminal damage which was to be counteracted by the efforts of beat managers, particularly in Wollaton Park.

**Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey**

The incidence of burglaries had risen due to the release of offenders. However, closer monitoring of individuals by the Police should reduce the rate in future. The increase in levels of drug related crime was viewed positively and was due to higher detection rates.

**ACTION**

The following matters were identified in the ensuing discussion:-

**Neighbourhood Alert System:** Mr Coulson agreed to liaise with Police colleagues and Professor Peter Usherwood regarding the introduction of a neighbourhood alert system between the Police and local residents to share knowledge on suspicious incidents and possible crime in Wollaton.

**Tim Coulson**

**Measures to Secure Properties:** Inspector Busuttil outlined the advantages of improving property in fighting crime. It was understood that the Housing Capital funding would enable the installation of gates at the end of a number of alleyways as a further means of improving security. It was stressed that such gates were not the same as formal Gating Orders which had been discussed previously by the Committee.

**Norman Walker**

**Funding For Anti-Social Behaviour Trailer:** Inspector Busuttil outlined the possible benefits of partnership working, using mobile facilities to take prevention work into communities. One such unit – a mobile trailer, could be used to engage with young people locally to provide alternative activities, such as video/computer gaming for them, demonstrating alternatives to behaviour which may otherwise become anti-social. Although some commercial sponsorship had been obtained, the facility remained unfinished. The Committee noted the proposal and expressed interest in receiving a formal proposal for consideration.

**Tim Coulson**

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that Sergeant Bulmer and Inspector Busuttil be thanked for their attendance and comments;**
- (2) that Sergeant Bulmer be asked to discuss, separately with Councillor Culley, the issue of a neighbourhood alert system in Wollaton;**
- (3) that the Area Manager be requested to progress issues identified during the discussion and report further to the Area Committee or this Sub-Committee as necessary.**

**Sergeant Bulmer**

**Tim Coulson**

**15 FUNDING REQUEST HOME SMOKE DETECTORS**  
(Acting Director of Local Communities)

The report sought a financial contribution of up to £5,000 from Area Committee budgets towards the cost of purchasing and installing 500 smoke detectors in the homes of elderly and vulnerable people. The type of detector differed from previous equipment, in that it relied on mains electricity, rather than on batteries for its operation.

**ACTION**

**RESOLVED that determination of the item be deferred to enable the Area Manager to undertake further research into concerns regarding indemnity insurance for those people installing the equipment and to submit an expanded the next meeting of the Area Committee on 10 September 2009.**

**Tim Coulson**

**16 VOLUNTARY CODE FOR LETTING BOARDS**

(Acting Director of Local Communities)

The report outlined the introduction of a voluntary code of practice to control the size, placement and display of vacant property boards by landlords in those areas of the City with higher numbers of houses in multiple occupation. Using the experiences of other cities, it was hoped to improve the visual impact of such advertising within local communities. To date 92 of approximately 1,300 landlords had subscribed to the scheme.

Local residents could assist by participating as volunteer monitors, submitting details of landlord displays to the operators of the project. The results of the pilot project would be evaluated in due course, with the City Council having the option to pursue formal, rather than voluntary, means of control, if deemed necessary.

Whilst expressing support for the pilot project, the Sub-Committee commented that care should be taken to ensure that those landlords who favoured letting to families should not be disadvantaged by the proposals.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**17 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NOTTINGHAM CITY**

(Head of Planning Transport and Intelligence Strategy)

Further to minute 20 of the Area Committee dated 9 July 2009, consideration was given to a briefing note expanding on issues of the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework which were relevant to the Area Committee. The briefing note also gave a fuller indication of the consultation timetable leading up to the adoption of a revised Development Framework in December 2011.

Responding to initial comments made at the Committee meeting on 9 July:-

- **New Homes:** officers had estimated that, of the 20,000 new homes currently identified by central government as being required in Nottingham, 15,000 could be provided. Officers estimated that, given the availability of sites in the area the Committee's quota amounted to 140 new homes on sites such as Woodyard Lane, Lambourne Drive and the former fuel station on Trowell Road;

**ACTION**

- **Balanced Communities and Property Type:** the Sub-Committee felt that the availability of affordable family housing, the identification of adequate garden and green space/play provision, meant that issues of density of development would need to be addressed. Other, related concerns, included the need to take into account the possible impact of traffic on an area, both in the immediate vicinity of a development and within the wider area and the environmental impact of any proposals on matters such as drainage or flooding;
- **Large Urban Extensions:** the opportunity to comment on such proposals was valued. However, more explanatory information would need to be provided on, for example, proposals for development(s) in Broxtowe, before further comment could be made;

**RESOLVED**

- (1) **that the position be noted;**
- (2) **that the initial comments of the Sub-Committee outlined above, be included in the consultation on the wider aspects of the Core Strategy, it being noted that further representations would continue to be considered as far as practicable and reasonable;**
- (3) **that the outline timetable for further consultation be noted and the Area Manager be requested to continue discussions with colleagues to ensure that Councillors and Community representatives were appropriately informed about issues related to the Development Framework consultation.**

**Grant  
Butterworth**

**Tim Coulson**

**18 IMPROVEMENTS TO AREA COMMITTEE AND AREA  
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

(Acting Director of Local Communities)

The Area manager had identified the Community Room at Wollaton Library as being a venue within the community where it may be possible to hold the next meeting of the Area Committee on 10 September 2009. In order to do so, the start time of the meeting would need to be brought forward for the meeting to end by the time the Library closed to the public at 7.30 pm.

The Sub-Committee noted the suggestion, but wondered whether the venue may prove too small. Additional possible venues which could also be considered included St Leonard's Church Hall or St Mary's Church Hall, Wollaton Hall Drive, for which expenditure may be incurred, or the Community Centre, Harrow Road for which charges would not be incurred.

**RESOLVED that the Area Manager, after consulting the Chair of the Area Sub-Committee, be authorised to decide the venue and start time for the meeting, it being noted that the meeting should not begin before 5.00 pm.**

**Tim Coulson**

**ACTION**

**19 LOCAL AWARDS**

**RESOLVED** that the following recent awards, be noted:-

- (1) a Nottingham Civic Society Blossom Award for the planting scheme at Woodside Road, it being noted that the original proponent of the scheme had been the late, former Councillor Cowan;**
- (2) a Green Flag Award made to Lenton Abbey Park.**

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

<b><u>Meeting</u></b> <b><u>(Times to be notified)</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<b>Area Committee</b>	<b>10 September 2009</b>
<b>Area Sub-Committee</b>	<b>8 October 2009</b>