

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE (AREA 7)

MINUTES

of meeting held on **4 MARCH 2010** at the Council House

from 6.18 pm to 8.05 pm

- ✓ Councillor Culley (Chair) (6.18-6.21pm and 6.25-8.05 pm)
- ✓ 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 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

Officers In Attendance

- Mr T Coulson - Area Manager - Communities
- Mr A Houldsworth - Team Leader Highways
- Construction & Maintenance
- Ms C Ziane-Pryor - Committee Administrator) Resources
- Mr R Cox - Senior Estates Surveyor)
- Mr S Pepper - Area Housing Manager - Nottingham City Homes Ltd
- Ms S Watson - Senior Planning Officer - Development

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

ACTION

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sutton, Mr Oliver and Dr Swannell.

Mr Coulson reported that Councillor Sutton was recovering well following a mild heart attack and that he hoped to resume duties within the next few weeks.

ACTION

RESOLVED that a 'get well soon' card be sent to Councillor Sutton on behalf of the Area Committee.

Mr Coulson

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

46 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to the removal of the reference to a 'residential planning application' in Minute 41, the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 February 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair:

At this point the Chair left the meeting temporarily to attend to other Council business. The Committee agreed that in her absence the Chair be taken by Councillor Morley.

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

(a) Crown Island/Middleton Boulevard pavement

Paving slabs were out of alignment as a result of cars driving across the paved area and parking in front of the shops.

Mr Houldsworth informed the Committee that with such arrangements, it was usual for the Council to own and be responsible for the first two metres of pavement from the roadside and for the remainder of the pavement to the shop front, to be the responsibility of the shop owner. He offered to investigate the ownership issue for this specific area so that repairs could be requested.

At this point Councillor Culley returned to the meeting and resumed the role of Chair.

RESOLVED that the ownership of the pavement area in front of the shops at Crown Island/Middleton Boulevard be investigated and repairs be requested;

**Mr
Houldsworth**

(b) Community Representative vacancies

Following the sad loss of Mrs Roper as a representative of the Lenton Abbey Scout Group, Mr Coulson be requested to liaise with other possible representatives to identify a replacement member and also a community representative member for the Lenton Abbey Family and Friends Funday (LAFFDA) group.

RESOLVED that Mr Coulson liaise with LAFFDA to identify a community representative member to attend Area Committee meetings;

Mr Coulson

ACTION**(c) Closure of Derby Road**

Concern was expressed that resident groups had not been made aware of the intention to close Derby Road between May and October to undertake repairs. Community representatives felt that other roads were in more urgent need of repair but accepted that as an arterial route, it required regular maintenance. The predicted time scale for completing the work had raised alarm and it was hoped that work could be completed before October and without completely closing the road.

Mr Houldsworth responded that as an arterial route such maintenance work was the responsibility of the Highways Agency. Public notice had been given, including advertisements in the local newspapers, regarding the forthcoming work and he would keep the Committee informed of the plans to ease traffic flow in the area during the road closure. The cost of repairs would be met by the Agency from funds ring-fenced for repairs to arterial routes.

**Mr
Houldsworth**

(d) Empty shop premises on Bramcote Lane

Previously raised with Neighbourhood Management, the empty shop was in poor condition concerns were expressed that the building was subject to vermin infestation.

Mr Coulson reported a first visit by the Environmental Health Team. When contacted, the landlord who, having sub-let the premises, had expressed surprised that the new tenant had not maintained the premises in good condition. Environmental Health would undertake a further visit the site four weeks from their first visit and Mr Coulson would report to the Committee what action was to be taken, especially in regard to vermin.

Mr Coulson

(e) Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) in Wollaton

Having supported the Area Committee's decision to spend £13,000 to supply four CCTV poles and two cameras for use in the area, community representatives were concerned that the two cameras in question had been removed, possibly by the Police to other areas of the City, and appeared not to be benefiting the communities that paid for them.

The Chair informed the Committee that while it had bought the cameras, if the Police were of the opinion that they were of greater value at another nearby site within the 'beat area', they were authorised to move them without resort to the Committee, even to neighbourhoods outside the boundaries of the area.

However, the Chair noted residents' frustration and asked Mr Coulson to obtain further information from the Woodlands CCTV monitoring team and the Police as to the whereabouts of the 'missing' cameras and, if the cameras had been re-located to a neighbourhood in another area committee, investigate whether that area committee could be asked to pay for them.

Mr Coulson

ACTION

RESOLVED that clarification be sought from the Woodlands CCTV monitoring team and the Police as to the whereabouts of the ‘missing’ CCTV cameras purchased by the Committee.

Mr Coulson

(f) Allotments at Martin’s Pond

The previous history in relation to the site was recalled. Although no formal planning application had been submitted thus far, a screening option and environmental impact survey had been undertaken, possibly in preparation for a planning application, based on an earlier submission, to be made. The circumspection of the private Allotment Association in not allocating vacant plots to those on the waiting list could be seen as an attempt to provide further justification for the land to be developed.

RESOLVED that the Area Manager be requested to report the current planning and application status of the allotment site.

Mr Coulson

(g) Wollaton Hall Drive/Derby Road cycle way

The original start date of February 2010 had been delayed due to the need to consult further as a result of objections received.

48 PROPOSALS FOR AREA COMMITTEE WORKING

(Director of Communities)

Mr Coulson presented the report which outlined proposals to change Area Committee Working and assured the Committee that in recommendation 1 there was a typing error and ‘reform’ should read ‘re-form’.

There were plans to expand the activities of the Neighbourhood Management Team in the direction of a discussion forum to be accessed via the website which would enable a broader cross-section of the community to engage and comment on issues in the area.

Councillors and community representatives requested that the day and time of Committee meetings be altered and discussed the options in relation to the availability of community representatives who regularly attended the meetings, Councillors and the draft municipal diary.

There was a brief discussion regarding rumoured changes to the way in which Area Committees were to be structured and operated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that meetings and the activity of the Area Committee Sub-Committee be discontinued with immediate effect;**
- (2) that the following arrangements be applied to future Area Committee meetings with immediate effect:**

ACTION

Meeting arrangements

Meetings in the Spring and Summer (April – September) to be held at suitable venues in the community.

Meetings in the Autumn and Winter (October - March) to be held at the Council House / Loxley House

Committee Agenda Items

Items for information, noting and consultation: to be sent by the originator/author to members of the Committee with a brief explanatory note.

Items requiring a decision: to be placed on the next available Committee agenda.

All other items: to be placed on the pre-agenda meeting for Chairman's decision.

- (3) that meeting arrangement for the Area Committee be changed from Thursdays of Week 1 to Tuesdays of Week 2 (for the purposes of the Municipal Diary) beginning at 2.00 pm, the first meeting to be held on Tuesday 11 May 2010, and every other alternate month thereafter.**

**Mr Coulson
and Ms
Ziane-Pryor**

49 PUBLIC SECTOR DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY

(Director of Work Place Strategy and Property)

Following a report to Regeneration and Sustainability Select Committee, the Chair had requested further information regarding Wollaton and Lenton Abbey. Mr Cox was in attendance to present the report and made the following points:

- a large proportion of council housing had been sold under the right to buy scheme;
- there were relatively few development opportunities or vacant commercial property in the area, but there was potential movement in the region of University Park. School sites may become available under the Building Schools for the Future programme which may attract residential developments;
- a decision was yet to be reached regarding the future of the closed children's home on Radford Bridge Road, but if it were to be sold, it was likely that residential development would take place;
- the old workshops at Wollaton Park were vacant and had been for some time. It was rumoured that some Council staff may be based there for up to two years but this had not been confirmed and it was estimated that it would cost in the region of £200,000 to make the listed buildings suitable for use by anyone.

ACTION

Councillors expressed concern that while vacant, the Wollaton Hall site buildings continued to deteriorate and yet there was need for youth service provision in the area.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Director of Work Place Strategy and Property ensure that Councillors were kept informed of any development that could impact on the community and plans for the use of outbuildings and workshops at Wollaton Hall;**
- (2) that the thanks of the Committee be recorded to Mr Cox for his report and attendance.**

Mr Cox

50 GREATER NOTTINGHAM ALIGNED CORE STRATEGIES – OPTION FOR CONSULTATION

(Interim Corporate Director of Development)

Further to minute 20 dated 9 July 2009, Ms Watson presented the report which was accompanied by a summary document of the option for consultation.

Councillors' questions were responded to as follows:

- 'creating opportunities for linked trips' referred to ensuring that facilities were grouped together for ease of access and to reduce the need for multiple journeys. Consideration would be given to the impact on existing facilities of new developments;
- 'a hierarchical approach to ensure the delivery of sustainable transport networks' referred to ensuring that appropriate transport was available for different journeys;
- it was to be further investigated as to where within existing built up areas of Nottingham new homes could potentially be built. Although there were 23 potential sites within Area Seven, some may be small sites suitable only for individual dwellings;
- all potential residential sites were to be assessed under criteria for sustainability and availability;
- not all developments would include a mix of house and flat sizes, this would depend on the size of the development and the local need. There was a target that 15% of all housing should be social housing.
- it was noted that Nottingham City Homes had secured the funds and started to build new homes;

RESOLVED that the Interim Corporate Director of Development provide the Neighbourhood Manager with details of the 23 potential development sites within the Committee's area and submit an update report to the September meeting of the Area Committee.

**Interim
Corporate
Director of
Development**

ACTION**51 PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING SECTOR RESEARCH**

(Director of Communities)

RESOLVED that the report regarding the research to be undertaken of landlords of private rented properties be noted.

52 CHRISTMAS 2010

(Director of Communities)

The Committee discussed the proposed decorating schemes for Christmas 2010 in the Area, but without the estimated cost for each proposal, declined to commit funds where costs were not provided.

Community representatives commented that some of the proposed displays were too close together.

It was noted that the City Council Lighting Section required several months to prepare and co-ordinate the City's celebratory lighting displays and were currently required to focus on the forthcoming Private Finance Initiative regarding street lighting.

Councillors expressed concern at the estimated £20,000 initial outlay and £3,000 per year running cost for a lit structure on the Crown Island, Middleton Boulevard junction, similar to that placed at Canning Circus last Christmas. While the idea of having such a structure was welcomed by some community representatives, Councillors commented that expenditure could not be justified and a cheaper option or alternative funding should be sought.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Bramcote Lane Shopping Precinct proposed lighting and festive event, as detailed in the report with an estimated cost of £5,000, be approved for Christmas 2010;**
- (2) that, subject to approval of estimated costings by Councillors, the funding by the Area Committee of further festive lighting schemes for Christmas 2010 be undertaken by delegated authority and reported to a future meeting.**

53 FINANCIAL POSITION

(Director of Communities)

Mr Coulson presented the report, copies of which were placed around the table and submitted to the electronic agenda following the meeting.

With the amount of funds available, it was suggested that if a Christmas tree was to be placed on the Crown Island, as suggested in the previous item, if it were sited further back, the Committee could request that West Area share the cost. However, it was noted that if the proposed tree were to be re-positioned, new assessments would be required from all departments involved in providing, placing, lighting and maintaining the tree, including road safety officers who would be required to consider the safety aspect of a tree distracting motorists.

ACTION

The Chair informed the Committee that Mr Houldsworth was to update Councillors on the progress of Arleston Drive parking and CCTV issues as identified in the safety audit.

**Mr
Houldsworth**

RESOLVED

- (1) that the remaining £11,895 in the Area Allocation budget be noted;**
- (2) that the combined total of £47,666.24 in the Individual Ward Member Support Budgets be noted and any unspent monies at the end of the Municipal Year be reallocated to the relevant Area Committee Area Allocation Budget.**

54 RESIDENTS' PETITION - IMPROVED CROSSING AT THE RUSSELL DRIVE/ TROWELL ROAD JUNCTION

(Response of Interim Director of Development)

Further to minute 35 dated 11 February 2010, a letter was considered from Ms Dearing to Mr Searston in response to the petitioned request to improve a pedestrian crossing.

Councillors requested that, in light of the limited capacity of the road safety section, costings be sought for the installation of improved crossing facilities with the possibility that such a crossing may be funded by this Committee.

The Committee commented that a more visible crossing may be beneficial; especially one with a central refuge but it was noted that consideration of traffic movement and driver focus in the immediate area was also important.

Mr Houldsworth reported that a senior Road Safety Officer was to attend a Tenants' and Residents' Association meeting at Kingswood Methodist Church to discuss such issues.

RESOLVED that the cost and details of different types of crossing, suitable for the Russell Drive/Trowell Road junction crossing, be submitted to the next meeting, along with a brief feedback report on the issue, as discussed at the Tenants' and Residents' meeting.

**Mr
Houldsworth**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11 May 2010 At 2.00pm Venue: St Leonard's Community Centre, Bramcote Lane