CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE (AREA 7)

MINUTES

of meeting held on 8 NOVEMBER 2007 at the

Council House from 6.18 pm to 7.35 pm

✓ Councillor Cowan (Chair)
✓ Councillor Culley (Vice Chair)
✓ Councillor Benson
✓ Councillor Oldham
✓ Councillor Sutton

Community Representatives

✓ Mr D Allen - North Wollaton Residents Association
  Mrs S Hampton - Nottingham Bluecoat School (Wollaton Campus)
  Mr T Kerry - Friends of Wollaton Local Nature Reserve
  Mrs T Marshall - Wollaton Park Tenants' and Residents' Association
✓ Mr A Oliver - Wollaton Care Group
  Mr T Preston - Wollaton Village and Park Conservation Society
✓ Ms 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
  Mrs S A Squire - Wollaton Park Community Association
✓ Dr A J Swannell - Wollaton Vale Residents Association

- indicates present at meeting

Officers In Attendance

Mr T Coulson - Neighbourhood Area Manager
Ms J French - Open and Green Spaces Strategy Development Co-Ordinator
  Community and Culture
Mr D McWilliams - Head of Youth Service
Mr J Ward-Rice - Service Manager Youth Services
Mr S Pepper - Area Housing Manager - Nottingham City Homes Ltd
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.
30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Marshall, Mr Preston, Mrs Squires and Ms E Grant (Committee Lead Officer).

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Cowan declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Improving Customer Services at Nottingham City Homes (minute 34) as the leaseholder of a property, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

32 MINUTES

RESOLVED

(1) the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 August 2007, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair;

(2) that, subject to correcting the spelling of ‘Horton’ to ‘Hawton’ Crescent in the final two bullet points of minute 3, the minutes of the meeting of the Area Sub-Committee held on 11 October 2007, be noted.

33 FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 20 SEPTEMBER 2007 AND FUTURE USE OF COMMITTEE FUNDS

(Acting Director of Local Communities)

Further to minute 23 dated 2 August 2007 and to the current report, the following additional points were made:-

- it was now intended that an additional meeting of the Area Sub-Committee would be held at 6.15 pm on Thursday 13 December 2007, for the purpose of formulating guidelines and considering proposals to establish a central reserve, reduce the Area Committee’s unspent balances during the period up to 2011 and, at a future point, draw up suggestions for a draft budget for 2011/12;

- to enable the matter to proceed, separate discussions would be required to determine a method of allocating available funds between the Area Committee’s two wards;

- a basis for initial discussions might include agreement of an initial amount to be retained centrally, and division of any remaining amount equally over the remaining three year life of this Council plus the first year of the next, to arrive at totals of funds to be retained centrally and those which could be spent; the latter then being apportioned on a percentage basis (to be decided) between Wollaton West and Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey wards;

Area Committee Councillors
• additional proposals from Community Representatives towards the use of uncommitted balances were welcome and should be submitted to the Neighbourhood Manager by 12 noon on Thursday, 22 November 2007.

RESOLVED

(1) that recommendations by the Neighbourhood Manager for continuity of expenditure or the return of uncommitted balances on the following projects and budget areas, be noted:

(a) Continuity of funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Budget Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCTV Farndon Green</td>
<td>£12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTV Camera Redeployment</td>
<td>£6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Lighting Woodyard Walk</td>
<td>£6,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing Woodyard Lane</td>
<td>£12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Coffee Morning Wollaton Park Estate</td>
<td>£500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Consultations</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£38,850</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Return of Uncommitted Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Budget Area</th>
<th>Amount for return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth outreach work</td>
<td>£4,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Projects</td>
<td>£830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectacolour 2007</td>
<td>£3,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTV Planning Application Farndon Green</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham Action Group on HiMO’s</td>
<td>£500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£9,970</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) that, subject to the Neighbourhood Manager clarifying the level of actual expenditure to date on street lighting at Woodyard Walk, the aggregated uncommitted balances of £83,948 as at 30 September 2007, be noted;

(3) that the Area Sub-Committee be requested to consider proposals for the future use of Area Committee balances and, following the conclusion of discussions regarding the apportionment of available balances between wards, formulate guidelines and proposals to reduce the level of uncommitted balances, for consideration and approval by the Area Committee no later than its meeting scheduled for 6 March 2008.
34 IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICES AT NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES
(Area Housing Manager, Bilborough)

Mr Pepper confirmed that the management of services at Nottingham City Homes had now restructured from generic to specific teams and that reports on key elements of the service, such as voids, lettings and repairs which were currently prepared for and considered by Area housing Panels, could be submitted to the Area Committee if required.

RESOLVED

(1) that the changes in administrative arrangements at Nottingham City Homes Ltd be noted;

(2) that the Chief Executive, Nottingham City Homes Ltd be requested to submit a report to the Area Sub-Committee at six-monthly intervals on performance against targets in key areas such as voids, lettings, repairs, etc., in this Committee’s area measured against city-wide and other Area Committees’ performance;

(3) that the Area Housing Manager, Bilborough write separately to members of the Area Committee to clarify the detail of costs associated with reducing the numbers of empty properties and re-letting them.

35 ‘BREATHING SPACE’ – NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITY GREEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT PLANS
(Director of Sport, Leisure and Parks)

Further to minute 12 dated 7 June 2007, the Committee had been asked to prioritise those works contained in an appendix to the report, for subsequent consideration against other priority schemes by a City-wide Forum.

The Committee considered that, although there was merit in some individual proposals, such as that to provide free joint car parking facilities for users of Lenton Abbey Park, overall, it would have some difficulty in deciding on priorities for proposed schemes in its area until such time as the Executive Board had taken decisions during early 2008 on both the totality of funding for the initiative and amounts to be allocated to individual areas.

RESOLVED

(1) that progress made by officers in updating and consulting upon the ‘Breathing Spaces’ Action Plan and Neighbourhood Priority Green Space Improvement Plans, be noted;
(2) that the intention to consider the report and details of proposed projects at a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, be noted but that, due to the proposed costs and the limited availability of funding, the Area Committee was unlikely to contribute towards the costs of any approved projects.

36 EXTRACT FROM ‘SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT NOTTINGHAM CITY YOUTH SERVICE?’
(Children’s Services Publicity Document)

The following points were made during a discussion on the amount of generic youth work provided in Wollaton and Lenton Abbey, compared to that enjoyed in other areas:-

• if the figure of 2.5 hours delivered was correct, Members and Community Representatives considered it to be wholly inadequate to address anti-social behaviour and other issues affecting young people in the area;

• the levels of funding available for youth work would become less transparent from 2008 under ‘pooled’ budget arrangements as part of Local Area Agreements. However, this could be examined and Area Committees would have the opportunity to submit their views, as part of consultation processes associated with the recently commissioned Scrutiny Review of the Youth Service, which would begin work in early 2008;

• indications that 280 young people from the area accessed a range of youth-oriented activities other than the Buzz Project at St Barnabas, confirmed the need for a comprehensive assessment of the range of activities that were available in the area for young people to participate in;

• issues identified for inclusion in the assessment included the availability of suitably trained, qualified and motivated council officers to deliver sessions or otherwise interact with young people and the ability, or otherwise of the area to utilise fully any additional resources given the lack of suitable permanent accommodation (the differences between direct managed, voluntary managed and negotiated space, youth provision were referred to);

• Members suggested that, if availability of accommodation was considered an issue, the City Council could make approaches to third parties such as St Mary’s Church, Derby Road or Grangewood Methodist Church, to increase negotiated space provision.

RESOLVED that the position be noted and the Corporate Director of Children’s Services submit a report to the January 2008 meeting of the Committee providing further information on issues raised during the discussion.
37 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, BRAMCOTE LANE 2007
(Acting Director of Local Communities)

It was reported that the date for Councillor Culley to switch on the Christmas lights had yet to be finalised. Members commented that, in future, approaches should be made to nearby local businesses to make a financial contribution towards the costs of the lights and that the site should be visited subsequently to assess its cleanliness and appropriateness as a venue.

RESOLVED

(1) that, without precedent for future years, the action of the Corporate Director of Community and Culture, after consulting the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, in approving a budget allocation of up to £1,500 towards the costs of installing a Christmas tree, decorations and lights at the shops on Bramcote Lane, be noted;

(2) that Members be requested to undertake a site visit to assess its cleanliness and appropriateness as a venue;

(3) that, for future years, the Neighbourhood Manager be requested to approach local businesses to seek a financial contribution towards the costs such schemes;

(4) that the Neighbourhood Manager notify arrangements for the switching on ceremony to Members and Community Representatives.

38 ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY AREA COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The following matters were raised by Community Representatives:-

(a) Mr Smith – Lenton Abbey Residents’ Association

   (i) Graffiti Clearance and Charges

Mr Bailey (Head of Streetscene) had expressed surprise that local residents who reported incidences of graffiti and/or dumped rubbish were subsequently being charged for resolving a problem not of their making. Mr Coulson confirmed that the matter was being addressed.

Further to discussions at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 October (minute 9), the opportunity was also taken to discuss the results of an initial survey of those small areas of land within the Committee’s area which were derelict or poorly maintained.
Options for improving the situation included either making a financial contribution towards clearing and/or cleaning the site on a one off basis or liaising with departments and other organisations, such as Nottingham City Homes Ltd, to seek enforcement of their responsibilities and to utilise funds set aside within their budgets for this purpose.

(ii) **Drains and Gulleys in Lenton Abbey**

Infrequent maintenance had resulted in drains and gullies in the area being in a poor condition. Improving the situation would require lobbying to provide additional equipment. The Neighbourhood Manager was currently pursuing the issue with the Head of Streetscene.

(iii) **Street Cleaning arrangements**

The Neighbourhood Manager was currently pursuing the issue with the Head of Streetscene and would also discuss the issue of increased cleaning during those periods of heaviest leaf-fall.

The point was also made of the adverse effects on the tone of the estate of all such issues and of the difficulties of encouraging local residents to accept a measure of social responsibility for maintaining their environment, rather than expecting solutions from the City Council

(b) **Mrs Marshall – CCTV Farndon Green**

Some frustration had been expressed on the realisation that delays in implementing CCTV improvements across the City had meant that work in Farndon Green and at the Crown Island would not now begin until February 2008.

Members requested that a report be submitted to the January 2008 meeting of the Committee regarding measures which could be taken to prohibit parking on Sutton Passseys and Hawton Crescent between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to prevent roads in the area from being used as an informal park and ride facility.

(c) **Dr Swannell - State of Pavements Wollaton Vale**

Concerns had been raised that, as indicated by photographs circulated at the meeting, construction traffic in the area had damaged pavements sufficiently to necessitate their repair.

Before doing so, however, conditions attached to planning approvals should be reviewed for obligations on re-instatement and local residents’ views should be sought on whether they would be content to have existing slabs replaced by tarmac, which tended to be the preferred solution for spot repairs
Based on the pavements and highways programme survey undertaken in 2006, Wollaton Vale had been evaluated at 10% for priority works and had no entries on the list of reserve work. The Highways Division was unclear as to where the problem lay. It was understood that the pavements outside numbers 161 and 173 Wollaton Vale were particularly poor.

RESOLVED that the Neighbourhood Manager be requested:-

(1) to continue liaison with the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration regarding graffiti and rubbish removal, street cleaning arrangements and the possibility of pavement repairs on Wollaton Vale;

Tim Coulson/Chris Bailey/Andy Houldsworth

(2) to liaise further with the Chief Executive, Nottingham City Homes Ltd to submit a further report to the January 2008 meeting on measures to be taken by to fulfil its responsibilities in maintaining properties and small areas of land in its ownership

Tim Coulson/Steve Pepper

(3) to submit a report to the January 2008 meeting regarding the feasibility of prohibiting parking between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm on Sutton Passeys and Hawton Crescent to reduce parking problems.

Tim Coulson