

Nottingham City Council

Bestwood, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting held remotely and streamed to YouTube on 9 December 2020 from 6.02 pm - 7.19 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Audra Wynter (Chair)
Councillor Samuel Gardiner (Vice Chair)
Councillor Maria Joannou (Vice Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark
Councillor Jay Hayes
Councillor Jane Lakey
Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Ethan Radford

Absent

Community Representatives (✓ indicates in attendance)

✓	Chris Easton	Bestwood Park Church
	Reg Knowles	Bradford Street Allotments
	Rev. Andrew Fisher	Bulwell Churches Together
	Jackie Morris	Friends of Bulwell Bogs
	Ros Yousof	Hoewood Area Residents and Tenants (HART)
	Anne Chizwa	Nottingham Outlaws BMX Club
	Paul Bakajsa	Rise Park Action Group
	Paul Jackson	Royal British Legion - Bulwell
✓	Rev. David Gray	St John's Church
	David Lambert	The People's Church
	Robin Goodwin	Top Valley Community Association

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Sue Foster	- Manager and Senior Advisor at Bestwood Advice Centre
Rosie Atkin	- Connected Nottinghamshire
Donna Denning	- Bestwood Partnership
Celia Knight	- Neighbourhood Development Officer (Bulwell Forest)
Nicky Brake	- Nottingham City Homes Area Housing Manager
Sergeant Ollie Vale	- Nottinghamshire Police
Catherine Ziane-Pryor	- Governance Officer

14 Apologies for Absence

Andy Fisher
Robin Goodwin
Paul Jackson
Danny Paxford
Inspector Christine Busuttill (Sergeant Ollie Vale substituting)
Suki Shergill

15 Declarations of Interest

None.

16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair.

17 Policing and Community Protection Update

Nottinghamshire Police Sergeant Ollie Vale provided the following update for the past 2 weeks:

Bestwood

- a) violent crime and victim based crime has increased but not with any pattern or in any one area;
- b) burglary is down by 75% and there have been no vehicle offences;
- c) shoplifting had increased but this was due to 2 prolific shoplifters who are being dealt with by the Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- d) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has reduced significantly by 45%. This may have been a result of higher than expected reports of ASB at the end of last year in the Lytham Gardens and Hove Road areas which has now substantially reduced;
- e) there haven't been any reported incidents of hate crime within the last 2 weeks;
- f) there has been a sharp rise in criminal damage with the Cherry Orchard Mount area being targeted with arson but a couple of people have been identified as potentially responsible and will be dealt with;

Bulwell Forest

- g) overall there's been very little movement in reported crimes, but overall down by 2%;
- h) victim based and violent crime has reduced;
- i) burglary is down along with shoplifting and theft in general, possibly due to managing some disputes and continued good partnership working whereby an injunction was sought for an individual;
- j) there has been a reduction in ASB;
- k) there has been a slight rise in hate crime by one incident. This continues to be from the same sources with no specific individual target for race or religion;

Bulwell

- l) there has no movement in overall crime;
- m) only been a slight variance in victim based crimes but a drop in violent crime;
- n) shoplifting has slightly increased as is seasonal with Christmas coming. Shops are offered advice;
- o) a slight rise in criminal damage but without any identifying pattern;
- p) vehicle crime down;
- q) ASB and hate crime have reduced.

Operation Reacher

- r) Operation Reacher, which was initiated in Bestwood area and provided additional area focused staffing and resources, has now been rolled out across the whole of the City North Policing Area including Bulwell and Bulwell Forest since November, with the majority of activity in Bulwell and Bulwell Forest;
- s) there have been 24 arrests, 7 traffic prosecutions, 34 instances of stop and search, 10 arrest warrants issued, and £14,000 recovered from the proceeds of crime, and 12 drug seizures including heroin and crack cocaine. This work leaves the Neighbourhood Policing Team to focus on neighbourhood policing.

In the absence of Senior Community Protection Officer Daryl Paxford, the following update was read out:

- t) 79 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued across the wards for offences relating to fly tipping, littering and dog fouling;
- u) City-wide operations to tackle anti-social behaviour are being supported by a dedicated ASB Car, which provides extra resources later at night;
- v) Community Protection Officers have been assisting with covid-secure business checks and also ensuring businesses are compliant with their legal obligations throughout the pandemic. As well as this officers have been in high profile locations and transport hubs to provide reassurance, advice and help enforcement;
- w) a Community Protection Officer has recently been seconded to a Covid Response Team to support activity around compliance, welfare checks and other covid related matters;
- x) Margaret TRAFFORD, the School Crossing Officer for Rise Park has taken the decision to and retire. Margaret has served in all weathers with dedication and a passion for the safety of the children. We wish Margaret all the best for the future and will be recruiting for a replacement. We are currently working with the school to see if any local parent/grandparents/.guardians would be interested in the position.

18 Digital Inclusion - Connected Nottinghamshire

Rosie Atkin of Connected Nottinghamshire, informed the committee of the digital inclusion work being undertaken across the county to help and support citizens to improve their social and digital inclusion skills and ability. The following points were highlighted and questions from the committee responded to:

- a) this area of work was established as a result of research undertaken in 2018 and several support schemes have been launched to help promote digital communication across the whole community;
- b) the predominant focus for digital inclusion is to increase digital access and interaction with the health sector, but also within and between communities and partners;
- c) the gaps in digital inclusion were recognised prior to the pandemic, but lockdown has highlighted the vast range, and high levels of digital deprivation in relation to access to the internet, devices and also ability;
- d) initially schemes were taken into the community with face-to-face support at digital pop-up hubs at community venues and in job centres, as if a roadshow, but due to COVID-19, a different approach has been taken and support is now provided by telephone;
- e) in addition to community and citizen support, there is a Digital Champion Scheme which trains staff and community workers, such as receptionist at GP surgeries, to teach and assist citizens/patients with digital communication, such as for online booking of appointments and services, and accessing the NHS App to access health information, enabling them to then support other people;
- f) during the past two months approximately 77 citizens have contacted the service for support. This may appear a relatively low figure, but each engagement may take a substantial amount of time and the Digital Inclusion Team only consists of three people;

- g) the Digital Workforce Package is available for small businesses;
- h) the 'Tablet Lending Scheme' pilot is aimed at voluntary and community services and organisations to help encourage digital access and ensure members stay connected. The pilot scheme has been well received and is currently operating with one community group but there has been a lot interest shown from other groups;
- i) tackling the inequality in digital inclusion requires a partnership approach and can't be achieved in isolation so it is important that the Community and Voluntary Sector, partners and individuals promote the roll-out of the opportunities offered.

More information can be found on the Connected Nottinghamshire website:
<https://www.connectednottinghamshire.nhs.uk/> or by telephoning 0115 883 8873

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, commented that inequality of internet access within the City has recently been highlighted for school children during the first lockdown when they were required to work from home. It was found that some families were relying on just one device, often a mobile phone, for digital communication. As a result, the Education Department of Nottingham City Council worked to provide laptops to some particularly vulnerable families and although some Central Government funding was provided, the City Council used the pupil premium to support the digital inclusion agenda.

Resolved

- 1) to note the valuable work of Connected Nottinghamshire;**
- 2) to record the Committee's thanks to Rosie Atkin for her presentation.**

19 Bestwood Advice Centre

Sue Foster, Manager and Senior Advisor at Bestwood Advice Centre delivered a presentation which is circulated with the initial publication of the minutes, and highlighted the following points:

- a) Bestwood Advice Centre is based on Gainsford Crescents and has been operating since the 1980s, providing advice and support for citizens on issues such as debt and financial management, insolvency options, tribunals, utility debts, and welfare applications;
- b) the main source of funding for the Advice Centre is currently from the City Council, but with other short-term contributors including British Gas, Coalfields, lottery, a pilot scheme of support with Life After Debt, and Bestwood Partnership;
- c) the advice centres across the city work together as a consortium of Advice Nottingham to achieve funding, watch for trends and work to advise and support citizens, include working in partnership with multiple local organisations;
- d) although usually a face-to-face service, due to the COVID-19 restrictions adaptations had to be made to remote and online working. This was achieved quite rapidly, including providing further information via social media. Following lockdown only very limited access in person was offered for extreme circumstances;
- e) last year the service worked with a Nottingham University in providing a 4 week internship to a student. To make the most of this opportunity, Sophie worked with the service for 4 weeks researching the need for advice centres and the value they bring, not only to the individual but to the community as a whole. This project resulted in some excellent research and culminated in a presentation to local partners and agencies, which will also be used to support funding

applications. A copy of the report is available electronically on request. Sophie has remained working with the Advice Centre and is now on the Board as Treasurer;

- f) COVID-19 has resulted in a rise in demand from the centre with many people have not claimed benefits or accessed the service previously, now requesting support, often with multiple issues. The majority of support is provided over the phone and via WhatsApp photos or by post if people aren't connected;
- g) utility companies have proved very difficult to deal with, especially as they generally hadn't adapted their working practices due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and some almost verged on obstructive;
- h) it has been highlighted that more financial education is needed to prevent or address poor budgeting and poor financial choices. Talking to some citizens about changing their financial behaviour and choices has been difficult, particularly over the telephone (rather than in person) as some people find it easier to express their anger and frustration at a distance;
- i) during the past 9 months approximately 500 clients have been supported, which is similar to the number of people supported in the previous 12 months. Some client cases require a huge dedication of advisor time, sometimes in the region of 100 hours, particularly where there is digital exclusion;
- j) often when clients approach the Service they are already in debt, do not have capacity to save, and cannot afford to take on further debt even via a credit union loan, so it is rare that clients are referred to credit unions, although they may be included in the financial education work where citizens have the capacity to save;
- k) Issues that need highlighting include:
 - i. the extra £20 per week for people on WTC and UC benefits during the pandemic is only temporary, but as it occurred at the same time as the increase in benefits, many recipients haven't realised that this will stop/reduce in April 2021;
 - ii. Council Tax benefit was temporarily increased but will revert in April 2021, again, many recipients haven't realised this;
 - iii. debt reclamation charges from benefit payments were temporarily stopped but are now reintroduced at a much higher rate;
 - iv. digital exclusion, however a campaign has been launched to target the digitally excluded and hard to reach residents in Nottingham with the ability for the Service to contact them by phone or post;
- l) the pandemic has resulted in a lot of additional work and community and individual need, which is predicted to rise significantly, so funding has been secured for 2 part time advisors to support the work but further funding will be needed to enable the need to be met. All routes for further funding are being pursued although most current funding availability is either only COVID-19 related so time limited, or short-term and it's difficult to recruit to short-term posts. Engaging a part-time, results based payment fund raiser is being considered;
- m) People can contact the Bestwood Advice Centre as Follows :

Telephone	0115 962 6519
Text/Whatsapp	+44 (0)7875 746 843
Email	admin@bestwoodadvice.org.uk
Facebook/Messenger	www.facebook.com/bestwoodadvice.org.uk/

Web enquiry

www.bestwoodadvice.org.uk

Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the Bestwood Advice Centre's work, congratulated the Team on their achievements and were concerned at the inevitable rise in demand and reducing funding.

Donna Denning of Bestwood Partnership, added that the Advice Centre also provided support for citizens with white goods, which is key for some citizens to store and cook food. The Bestwood Partnership is currently looking at financial education schemes to help support budgeting and money management.

Rosie Atkin of Connected Nottingham offered to help support the digitally excluded work of the Service.

Resolved to:

- 1) **note the valuable support and advice provided to citizens by the Bestwood Advice Centre;**
- 2) **record the thanks of the Committee to Sue Forster for her attendance and presentation.**

20 Communities Unite

As Jerome Barracks was not in attendance, the item was withdrawn.

21 Good News Stories

The Committee were informed of the following good news reports and community updates;

- a) Reverend Andrew Fisher asked that the Committee be made aware that the Bestwood and Bulwell Foodbank has opened a once weekly session at St Mary's Church on Highbury Road, which will make it easier for people in the area. Referrals are through the usual routes;
- b) Chris Easton updated the Committee on the work taking place at the Bestwood Park Church, with Friday meal deliveries continuing and next week marking the delivery of the 6,000th meal since 27 March 2020. There is still a need with approximately 50 meals sent out on 17th November and 150 festive meals due to be delivered with the help of the community groups and partners, including the Fire and Rescue Service on Christmas Eve, along with 450 hampers. The national 'Love Thy Neighbour Scheme is active in the area;
- c) two local mothers had recognised that some families were struggling to buy Christmas presents for children and organised a Community Christmas Gift Scheme at the church with presents wrapped by care home residents of Hawthorne Lodge. Approximately 250 gifts have been donated and will be distributed prior to Christmas;
- d) there is also now a foodbank operating twice a week in the Crabtree area on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-3pm;
- e) Maria Shakespeare is still planning to cook and deliver Christmas meals to elderly residents in the community, as she does every year.

22 Nottingham City Homes Update

Nottingham City Homes Area Housing Managers Nicky Brake presented the report which provides an update on performance, activity and engagement, and in an updated Appendix 3, which has been circulated as a supplement to the agenda, requests scheme approvals.

Members of the Committee requested an update item to a future meeting regarding the housing developments in Bestwood and Bulwell, including the proposed timelines. It is noted that one scheme is private and the other is by the City Council, and not NCH, but an update can be considered as a stand-alone item for a future meeting.

Resolved to:

- 1) **note the community engagement activity and performance information;**
- 2) **approve the schemes identified in the revised Appendix 3 as follows:**

Address	Reason	Cost
St Albans, Austin Street and Colston Road flats	New External Bins as environment and health issues with internal chutes, under capacity and no ability to recycle	£74,436.20 Split £24,299 Cllr Environmental Budget, balance of £50,137.20 to come from NCH Estate Impact Budget
Lytham Gardens	Improvements required, schemes to be agreed	£50,000
Wendling Gardens	Parking Scheme Improvements required	£12,660 with match funding from NCH

- 3) **note the financial position:**

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Actual Budget</u>	<u>Schemes Approved</u>	<u>Schemes Committed</u>	<u>Schemes De Committed</u>	<u>Remaining Budget</u>
Bestwood	£119,544.16	£62,660	£62,660	£0	£56,884.16
Bulwell	£97,341.25	0	0	£0	£97,341.25
Bulwell Forest	£24,229.77	£24,229	£24,229	£0	£0.00

23 Bestwood, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Area Capital Report

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report which requests funding approvals in each ward, and provides an update to budgets.

Resolved :

- 1) **to approve the following LTP and Public Realm schemes within the Bestwood Ward, noting that no funding de-commitments are proposed:**

<u>Location (LTP schemes)</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Details</u>
Leybourne Drive	£90,396	resurfacing of the footpath on identified sections of Leybourne Drive
Henning Gardens	£15,098	surface treatment of footpath on Henning Gardens
Erewash Gardens	£3,517	surface treatment of footpath on Erewash Gardens (LTP contribution)

<u>Location (Public Realm)</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Details</u>
Erewash Gardens	£582	surface treatment of footpath on Erewash Gardens (PR contribution)
Crossfield Drive	£9,898	surface treatment of footpath on Crossfield Drive
Wendling Gardens	£12,660	installation of parking scheme on Wendling Gardens (match funded scheme with NCH)

2) to note the financial position of budgets held for the Bestwood Ward;

2020 - 2021 LTP allocation	£69,300
LTP carried forward from 2019 - 2020	£39,711
2020 - 2021 Public Realm allocation	£33,300
Public Realm carried forward from 2019 - 2020	£251
Total Available 2020 - 2021 ACF	£142,562
Less LTP schemes	- £109,011
Less Public Realm schemes	- £23,140
De-committed funds	+ £0
Remaining available balance	£10,411
LTP element remaining	£0
Public Realm element remaining	£10,411

3) to approve the following schemes in the Bulwell Ward, and note that no further LTP schemes or de-commitments are proposed at this time;

<u>Location (Public Realm)</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Details</u>
Snapewood nature reserve	£7,000	match funding to repair and restore fencing at Snapewood nature reserve to prevent ASB
Hempshill underpass	£8,000	match funding to provide lighting in the underpass near Hempshill School to improve safety
Hoefield Crescent	£10,000	match funding for provision of multi-sport activities and outdoor gym on Hoefield Crescent

4) to note the financial position of budgets held for the Bulwell Ward;

2020 - 2021 LTP allocation	£74,200
LTP carried forward from 2019 - 2020	£0
2020 - 2021 Public Realm allocation	£35,600
Public Realm carried forward from 2019 - 2020	£0
Total Available 2020 - 2021 ACF	£109,800
Less LTP schemes	- £48,356
Less Public Realm schemes	- £25,000
De-committed funds	+ £0
Remaining available balance	£36,444
LTP element remaining	£25,844
Public Realm element remaining	£10,600

5) to approve the following scheme within the Bulwell Forest Ward, and notes that no further LTP schemes or de-commitments are proposed at this time;

<u>Location (Public Realm)</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Details</u>
Bulwell Forest Golf Club car park	£4,932	contribution to repair works at Bulwell Forest Golf Club car park to improve public amenity parking

6) to note the financial position of budgets held for the Bulwell Forest Ward;

2020 - 2021 LTP allocation		£55,100
LTP carried forward from 2019 - 2020		£0
2020 - 2021 Public Realm allocation		£26,400
Public Realm carried forward from 2019 - 2020		£0
Total Available 2020 - 2021 ACF		£81,500
Less LTP schemes	-	£55,100
Less Public Realm schemes	-	£22,717
De-committed funds	+	£0
Remaining available balance		£3,683
LTP element remaining		£0
Public Realm element remaining		£3,683

24 Bestwood, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Area Partnership / Community Hub

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report which provides an overview of the establishment of the Area Partnerships and Community Hubs. Detailed local statistics, including the indices of deprivation, health, education, housing, crime, and age relevant issues are included within the report, including a survey of community organisations within the Area.

It is noted that much of the partnership working has evolved naturally to respond to the needs of the community during COVID-19. Scheduled work, including the establishment of sub-groups to consider and look to address identified local priorities has commenced with positive outcomes to date.

It is proposed that the Area Partnership will be promoted to 22,000 local properties via A5 leaflets which also provide with useful contact numbers. This has been funded by the Bestwood Partnership.

Resolved:

1) to adopt the four following priorities recommended by the newly formed area partnerships based on the need analysis of the Area;

- i. Food poverty;**
- ii. Employment;**
- iii. mental health/loneliness and isolation;**
- iv. welfare rights and benefits advice;**

2) to note the proposed way forward for agreeing a community hub model for the Bulwell, Bulwell Forest and Bestwood Wards.

25 Bestwood, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest Ward Members Budgets

Neighbourhood Development Officer Celia Knight presented the report which informs the Committee of funding allocations made by ward councillors and authorised by the Director of Community Protection.

Resolved to note the following

1) Bestwood Ward Budget Allocations since the last report and the remaining funds;

<u>Schemes: Bestwood Ward</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Reducing domestic violence	18/8/20	Hayes, Power, Wynter	£995

Balance Brought Forward 19/20	£3,554
Councillor funding 20/21	£10,000
Total funds 20/21	£13,554
De-committed schemes 20/21	0
Allocated 20/21 as of 23/10/20	£3,963
Uncommitted Funds after allocated schemes	£9,591

2) **Bulwell Ward Budget Allocations since the last report and the remaining funds:**

<u>Schemes: Bulwell Ward</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Crabtree Flats Bulbs	12/10/20	Joannou, Radford	£217
Area around Church Bulbs	12/10/20	Joannou, Radford & Lakey	£217
Bulwell Christmas Lights	23/10/20	Joannou, Radford & Lakey	£2,267
Bulwell Light switch on 2021	23/10/20	Joannou, Radford & Lakey	£4,000

Balance Brought Forward 19/20	£0
Councillor funding 20/21	£10,000
Total funds 20/21	£10,000
De-committed schemes 20/21	£24,908
Allocated 20/21 as of 23/10/20	£9152
Uncommitted Funds after allocated schemes	£25,756

3) **Bulwell Forest Ward Budget Allocations since last report and the remaining funds;**

<u>Schemes:</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bulwell Forest Garden Calendar	28/9/20	Barnard, Campbell-Clark, Gardiner	£270
Highbury Hospital Christmas Activities	20/10/20	Barnard, Campbell-Clark, Gardiner	£250

Balance Brought Forward 19/20	£692
Councillor funding 20/21	£10,000
Total funds 20/21	£10,692
De-committed schemes 20/21	£23
Allocated 20/21 as of 23/10/20	£1,574
Uncommitted Funds after allocated schemes	£9,141

26 Ward Reports

Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officer, presented the report which sets out actions against each of the ward priorities, including through the work of the Neighbourhood Action Teams (NAT), provides details of forthcoming events and activities, and the latest Crime Drugs Partnership (CDP) crime statistics.

Resolved to note the progress to address ward priorities and other supporting information, including the issues addressed by each NAT, and upcoming opportunities for citizens to engage, and the latest statistical updates by the CDP.

27 Suggestions for future agenda items

Members of the Committee requested:

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- a) an update item to a future meeting regarding the housing developments in Bestwood and Bulwell, including the proposed timelines;
- b) with the success of the Police's 'Operation Reacher', including retrieving proceeds from crime, it would be interesting to hear from the Police Crime Commissioner if such funds could be invested into the local communities, from where they came.

28 Date of next Meeting

Resolved to note that the next meeting is scheduled for 3 March 2021 at 6pm.