

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

AREA 8 COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on 23 MAY 2013 at Loxley House, Station Street, from 7.00pm to 9.35pm

- ✓ Councillor Michael Edwards
 - ✓ Councillor Nicola Heaton
 - ✓ Councillor Chris Gibson
 - ✓ Councillor Lee Jeffery
 - ✓ Councillor Ian Malcolm
 - ✓ Councillor Jeannie Packer
 - ✓ Councillor Tim Spencer
 - ✓ Councillor Roger Steel
- ✓ indicates present at meeting

Citizens, colleagues and others in Attendance

Tracy Osborne	-	Barton Lane Community Association
Paul Sladen	-	Bridge resident
Tony Marshall	-	Castle Marina resident
Jason Potter)	Clifton resident
Malcolm Varley)	
Di Clausen	-	East Meadows Tenants and Residents Association
Jonathon Hughes	-	Friends of Victoria Embankment
Mary Daly	-	Meadows Dance and Social Group
Jackie Dobson	-	Meadows Partnership Trust
Margaret Ballam	-	New Meadows Tenants and Residents Association
Abdul Ghaffar)	
Dorothy Holmes)	
Karla Kerr)	Nottingham City Council
Mark Leavesley)	
Parbinder Singh)	
Alasdair Baxter	-	Nottingham Pensioner's Action Group
Richard Gutteridge	-	26 th Nottingham Scout Group
Chief Inspector Antill)	Nottinghamshire Police
Inspector Waldram)	
Margaret Spencer	-	Old Meadows Tenants and Residents Association
Colin Mackie	-	Silverdale Community Association

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Michael Edwards as Chair and Councillor Ian Malcolm as Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2013/14.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

David Ablitt	-	Resident (objector to footpath diversion – minute 12 below)
Clare Ashton	-	Good Companions
Don Bulmer	-	Neighbourhood Management
Bashir Latif	-	Meadows Muslim Centre

Carol Moseley	-	The Monday Club
Robert Moseley	-	Clifton Community Association
Patricia Nicholson	-	New Beginnings
Andrew Rule	-	Wilford Community Group
William Stewart	-	Queens Walk Community Association
Dee Whitworth	-	Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Edwards, Gibson and Heaton declared an interest in agenda item 8 (minute 6 below), 'Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector: Area Based Grant Monitoring', as council-appointed members of Meadows Partnership Trust (Edwards and Heaton) and High Bank Community Centre (Gibson), which did not preclude them from speaking or voting on the item.

4 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meetings held on 13 February and 5 March 2013 as a correct record, subject to the following amendments, and they were signed by the Chair:

(1) 13 February 2013

- (a) change the meeting venue from 'Loxley House, Station Street' to 'Clifton Leisure Centre, Southchurch Drive';
- (b) in the attendance list:
 - (i) under 'Community Representatives and Citizens':
 - change the spelling of 'Mr K McKormack' to 'Mr K McCormick' then change Mr McCormick from 'Resident' to 'Clifton Village Residents' Association';
 - add 'Dr G Matthews - Resident'
 - (ii) under 'City Council Colleagues and Others in Attendance', add:

Mr B Henesey	-	Nottingham Post
Mrs L Kennedy)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Mr C Langtree)	
- (c) insert the following where appropriate:

'34a MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 November 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.'

- (d) in minute 36 – 'Connecting Wild Clifton: Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust':
 - (i) in paragraph 1, line 2, change as follows:

from '.. network from the east of Clifton Village to the west of Clifton Estate..' to '.. network from the west of Clifton Village to the east of Clifton Estate ..'

(ii) add to bullet point 2:

‘NWT agreed to provide a schedule of trees earmarked for felling and include explanations of the designated markings applied.’;

(ii) add the following bullet points:

- in response to a question from the Committee, Mr Langtree stated that the only work to be undertaken at Fairham Brook Nature Reserve was some additional pollarding of willow trees that had been previously pollarded;
- it was requested that all Clifton Estate residents were consulted on the NWT proposals, not just those in Clifton Village, as the proposals, if implemented, would affect all Clifton residents.

(iii) in bullet point 5 change ‘Clifton residents’ to ‘local residents’;

(iv) change the resolution to read:

RESOLVED that the Committee supports the proposals, subject to full consultation and agreement with English Heritage and local residents, before any further works proceed.

(2) 5 March 2013

Amend, in the appendix (page 4), the Area Grant Panel organisation ‘Kk Boxing’ to ‘KK Boxing’.

5 AREA 8 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED to appoint, as per the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, the following as Area 8 Community Representatives for the municipal year 2013/14:

Bridge (9)

Margaret Ballam	New Meadows Tenants & Residents Association
Di Clausen	East Meadows Tenants & Residents Association
Mary Daly	Meadows Dance & Social Group
Richard Gutteridge	26th Nottingham Scout Group
Jonathan Hughes	Friends of Victoria Embankment
Bashir Latif	Meadows Muslim Centre
Margaret Spencer	Old Meadows Tenants & Residents Association
William Stewart	Queens Walk Community Association
Dee Whitworth	Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens

Clifton North (5)

Colin Mackie	Silverdale Community Association
Carole Mosley	The Monday Club
Robert Mosley	Clifton Community Association
Roy Nettleship	Carters Educational Foundation
Andrew Rule	Wilford Community Group

Clifton South (5)

Clare Ashton	Good Companions
Julie Bugg	Highbank Community Association
Sarah Clarke	Churches together for Clifton
Patricia Nicholson	New Beginnings
Tracey Osbourne	Barton Lane Community Association

6 STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (SIVS): AREA BASED GRANT MONITORING

Further to minute 50 dated 5 March 2013, the Committee considered a report of the Joint Director of Quality and Commissioning / Head of Early Intervention and Market Development, summarising the progress on Phase One of SIVS and outlining the grant award and monitoring processes.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the proposed area based grants monitoring process, including the routes for discussion and challenge;**
- (2) to request the lead organisation to submit reports to the Committee meetings in September, listing application organisations, and February, detailing outcomes from successful applications.**

7 WARD PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 1 2013/14

Further to minutes 40,41 and 42 dated 13 February 2013, the Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, presented by the relevant Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO) for each individual ward, detailing performance against strategic themes in the Nottingham Plan 2020 and against local priorities. The main points were as follows:

- (1) Bridge – Abdul Ghaffar (NDO)**
 - (a) crime is down 16.9% on the previous year, although there was a 4.88% increase in March 2013 when compared to March 2012;**
 - (b) anti-social behaviour is down 27.9% on the previous year, with March 2013 down 58.21% (28 fewer reports) on March 2012;**
 - (c) the Cleanliness Index score of 78 is down on the previous year, but up against the neighbourhood target of 86;**
 - (d) reports of graffiti and fly tipping for March 2013 were 63 and 79, increases of 28 and 57 on March 2012 respectively;**
 - (e) unemployment is at 6.6%, up 2.7% on April, but down 11.7% over the last year, putting the ward 9th in the City;**
 - (f) there were no deliberate fires in the ward in February, and the year to date is down by 87%;**

(2) Clifton North – Parbinder Singh (NDO)

- (a) crime is down 14.11% on the previous year, with an 8.96% decrease in March 2013 when compared to March 2012;
- (b) anti-social behaviour is down 44.1% on the previous year, with March 2013 down 61.4% (35 fewer reports) on March 2012;
- (c) the Cleanliness Index score of 78 is down on the previous year, but up against the neighbourhood target of 86;
- (d) reports of graffiti and fly tipping for March 2013 were 12 and 2, an increase of 5 and decrease of 4 on March 2012 respectively;
- (e) unemployment is at 4.8%, up 1.9% on April, but down 3.6% over the last year, putting the ward 16th in the City;
- (f) there were 3 deliberate fires in the ward in February, and the year to date is down by 73.08%;

(3) Clifton South – Parbinder Singh (in the absence of Don Bulmer – NDO)

- (a) crime is down 1.42% on the previous year, with an 15.48% decrease in March 2013 when compared to March 2012;
- (b) anti-social behaviour is down 42.1% on the previous year, with March 2013 down 31.84% (10 fewer reports) on March 2012;
- (c) the Cleanliness Index score of 88 is up on the previous year, and up against the neighbourhood target of 86;
- (d) reports of graffiti and fly tipping for March 2013 were 2 and 5, decreases of 6 and 9 on March 2012 respectively;
- (e) unemployment is at 6.2%, up 2.1% on April, but down 4.4% over the last year, putting the ward 12th in the City;
- (f) there were 3 deliberate fires in the ward in February, and the year to date is down by 69.44%;

RESOLVED

(1) to note the report;

(2) to add the following to the appropriate Nottingham Plan Theme Ward Priorities:

- **Support Services for Older People – to include funding for Good Companions until such time as Adult Services mainstream funding is identified;**
- **to carry out improvements to, and install equipment on, parks, including those at Pieris Drive, Tintagenall Green, Stirling Grove and Ruddington Lane;**

- **inclusion of an aspiration to improve respite care and day care facilities in Clifton and Wilford.**

8 AREA CAPITAL FUND 2013-15

Further to minute 44 dated 13 February 2013, the Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, presented by Dorothy Holmes, South Locality Manager. The report updated the Committee on the latest position in respect of highway and footpath works undertaken using funding from the Area Capital Fund.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the approved schemes from the 2011-13 allocation (in appendix 2) and the funding available for schemes during 2013-15 (in appendix 1);**
- (2) to approve the Clifton North footpath scheme for Wichnor Close / Locksley Lane.**

9 DELEGATED AUTHORITY PROJECTS

Further to minute 45 dated 13 February 2013, the Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, presented by Dorothy Holmes, South Locality Manager, detailing decisions taken by ward Councillors under delegated authority.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

10 POLICE PROGRESS: UPDATE

Inspector Waldram reported the following:

- (i) In the year to date, crime in the Meadows and Clifton is down 11% (39 crimes) compared to same time last year;
- (ii) anti-social behaviour has decreased, burglary dwelling has slightly increased, criminal damage is down, robbery is down, there has been an increase in theft of motor vehicles (9 in total) and crime prevention advice has been given and leaflets circulated via Neighbourhood Alert;
- (iii) the priority in Clifton remains off-road motorbikes, with warrants executed and tenancy warning notices issued, and the Police continuing to work with local residents;
- (iv) in Bridge ward, Holgate Road remains a priority, with increased patrols and planned activity around Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and drugs. At the Bridgway Centre, as a result of Operation Facsimile (drugs), two people were arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply / proceeds of crime and around 80 wraps of a class A drug was recovered;
- (v) a plan around diversionary activities for young people has been developed in Clifton, working with partner agencies to develop summer activities, and local residents are being urged to report crime to assist with problem solving and crime reduction.

RESOLVED to note the latest position.

11 REQUEST FOR AUTHORISATION TO DIVERT FOOTPATH NUMBER 28, NOTTINGHAM MIDLAND STATION

Further to minute 58 dated 3 March 2010 (Bridge, Dunkirk and Lenton (Area 8) Committee), the Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Development, presented by John Lee, Senior Rights of Way Officer, asking the Committee to authorise diversion of part of the footpath over Nottingham Midland Station and, if opposed, to refer the order to the Secretary of State.

The Chair agreed to allow Mr Paul Sladen, a local resident, to read out the following statement in opposition to the order:

“My name is Paul Sladen, I was present at the public inquiry in 2011.

The report before us lists four options, only two of which have been investigated in suitable levels of detail. The original stopping-up proposal routeing around the outside of the station, and the route submitted today via the temporary ramp and 'hammerhead' service road.

The fifth route, the original proposal and the most ideal, safest, direct, and convenient one, the one that was raised at the public inquiry and discussed at every subsequent meeting, is omitted entirely.

The report states that the application received is nominally in the name of Network Rail, without noting that the design work has been done by contractors of the City Council. This confusion between the council's role as OMA, and also being facilitator and designer may explain the omission of the more ideal route.

This confusion can be seen elsewhere in the report: in s3.4 'Having considered the powers available to the Council to alter the alignment of the footpath the power under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 would appear to be the most appropriate.' suggests that it is the council making the application, whereas Section 2.1: 'the Council has received a request from Network Rail for an order to be made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980' suggests that the request has come from Network Rail.

Instead of the ideal route, the report asks to steer this committee into authorising a variant, one that effectively absolves the landowner of the cost and responsibility to restore footpath 28 on the definitive route after construction, or to provide dedicated replacement infrastructure.

The diversion we are asked to authorise instead uses an indirect estate road footway to reach Queens Road and a temporary poured concrete ramp built in 2012 to reach the platform level. The platform widening, likewise, is ancillary and is not explicit provision for a diversion, as it too will have been constructed regardless.

Owing to this committee's record of due-diligence from 2010, the report this time is more substantial. While it is thicker, it remains incomplete, with the omission of the most ideal and discussed route. Additionally, the maps we are asked to consult on contain distortions, inaccurate scales and self-inconsistency in the route alignments.

The report contains sections on legal implications and the meeting of statutory criteria. This is similar to the advice received that was presented to this committee three years ago. This resulted in an unnecessary public inquiry, several temporary prohibition orders, two periods of unlawful obstruction of the highway (11 May to 27 June 2012 and 26 December 2012 to 3 January 2013) and the deprivation from public use for much of that time.

Up until 74 hours ago, I had been anticipating an email invitation to the next consultation meeting. One which would review and hopefully decide on exact details for the scheme of diversion that would be promoted. My shock and surprise on Monday came from the sudden escalation straight to this committee, asking for authorisation for something that does not appear to have clear support, even among the existing objectors.

If you, as Councillors, wish to authorise this juncture as-is, you have the option of minuting that you have been made aware of discrepancies in the report. You may wish to describe any discomfort you have at being put in a similar situation again.

Alternatively, you may wish to defer the decision until your next meeting. This would match the precedent of your due-diligence in 2010 as, when that stopping-up order was presented for authorisation the first time, you requested more information in order to have a fuller overview, and considered this at a following meeting. Your initial discomfort over the merits of the stopping up order authorisation request were ultimately borne out: culminating in a large number of objections, the non-confirmation by the public inquiry and the substantial wait since.

I would concur with the conclusion of no financial impact for this committee's budget. The 2010 authorisation did have a cost for the council as a whole: the expenditure in resources from pursuing a public inquiry, which was ultimately lost. In hindsight, had the LAF and/or this committee stood by their minuted reservations, and not authorised the 2010 request, the Council would have been financially better off and the landowner would have been forced to integrate a workable solution into their plans earlier.

To recap: all of the consultees and prior objectors have been pushing for a safe and suitable diversion. What is presented, allegedly as the preferred option from a subset of only four, does not match my recollection of the reality of those many consultation meetings.

None of us here in this room can predict what will happen if this order is authorised to be advertised in its present state, though we can collectively learn what may happen from pressing ahead regardless from the last occasion. There are eleven prior objectors / consultees:

- David Ablitt
- William Alasdair Baxter (1)
- Neville Bartlett
- Philip Brooks
- Richard Glover
- Malcolm Goodall
- Simon Moore
- Diane E Moore (2)
- Robert Proctor
- Chris Thompson
- James White

(1) Previous objector to Bridge, Dunkirk and Lenton (Area 8) Committee in 2010

(2) Also as Chair of Nottingham LAF”

RESOLVED

(1) to authorise the Corporate Director for Development to:

- (a) make an order, pursuant to Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, to divert part of Footpath Number 28, Nottingham Midland Station;**

- (b) confirm the order if unopposed;
 - (c) refer the order to the Secretary of State, for confirmation, if opposed;
- (2) to request John Lee to discuss with Paul Sladen the final route of the footpath, in regard to section (E) on the map at appendix 2, prior to implementation of the footpath diversion order.

12 DATES / VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED to meet at 7.00pm on the following Wednesdays at venues to be notified at a later date:

2013

11 September

13 November

2014

12 February

14 May