

# **SOUTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

**ST PETERS CHURCH, STOKE PARK DRIVE, IP2 9YP**

**6.30 PM**

**Present:** Bridge Ward Councillors: P Smart and B Rudkin  
Gipping Ward Councillors: J Macartney and D Ellesmere  
Sprites Ward Councillors: R Fern, H Clarke and B Hall  
Stoke Park Ward Councillors: N Cenci, G Chisholm and R Hyde-Chambers

There were 29 members of the public in attendance.

**29. Apologies for absence**

29.1 Apologies were received from Councillors G Chisholm, J Powell and P Gardiner. Councillor H Armitage (SCC) also sent her apologies.

**30. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business**

**Resolved:**

**that the Order of Business be as printed on the agenda.**

**31. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fern declared an interest in Item 7. - Chairman's Update and Actions from the Previous Meeting, in his capacity as the Chair of Governors at Halifax Primary School.

**32. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2015**

**Resolved:**

**that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2015 be signed as a true record.**

**33. SWAC/15/08 Police Priorities & Statistics**

- 33.1 Sgt Askham reported that there had been a change to the way the crime statistics were recorded. If a victim of a crime reported an incident it was recorded whether the incident had been dealt with there and then, or not. The total crime levels recorded between 1 April 2015 and 6 September 2015 were 1,574 which had risen compared to the 3 year average of the same period of 1,336. The following additional statistics were given:
- Violence against the person had risen from 249 incidents over the previous 3 years to a figure of 450 reported incidents.
  - Robbery had reduced from 14 incidents to 12.
  - Criminal damage and arson was up by 5 to 223.
  - Burglary from a dwelling had increased from 50 to 64 incidents.
  - Anti-social behaviour (ASB) had reduced from the 3 year previous average of 991 to 641 incidents. The way ASB was recorded had not changed.
  - The detection rate was 24.3%
- 33.2 The two Police priorities for the South West area were:
1. To deal with anti-social behaviour and drug use within Alderman Park. *Operation Volcanic, a pro-active drugs operation took place during August, 77 needles had been found in the park and arrests had been made. Work continued with IBC using CCTV and this area would remain a priority for the South West Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).*
  2. To tackle a rise in burglary and theft from motor vehicles. *Most offences were down to vehicles being left insecure and he confirmed that master keys to unlock all cars were available over the internet. 2 arrests had been made although when searched no evidence of these keys had come to light. Officers would continue to work with Babergh SNT about these thefts from motor vehicles.*
- 33.3 In relation to a wave of commercial burglaries in the South West area, which included the convenience store 'Penalty 2' and the BP Petrol Station, 4 had been arrested, 2 charged and the cases had gone to the Crown Court. The owners had been given crime prevention advice and no further offences had been reported.
- 33.4 Sgt Askham had spoken to the security at Asda Car Park and no stone throwing incidents had been reported. The CCTV camera at this location covered the entrance only however, some cars were parking and leaving litter after 4.00pm on Sundays. Councillor N Cenci said that residents had reported incidents to both the Police and Asda and the Officer confirmed that all incidents should be reported as they occurred, to allow an immediate response to be made. A resident suggested that Asda install automatic bollards as a deterrent however, this would be a decision for Asda to make. Police had conducted door to door investigations in the area and no further complaints had been made.
- 33.5 Reports of drug paraphernalia in Bourne Park were also being investigated.

- 33.6 The report of speeding vehicles in Sheldrake Drive had been passed to the SpeedWatch Group.
- 33.7 Councillor N Cenci commended Councillor B Hall for arranging a recent public meeting at the Belstead Arms about concerns about the lack of community policing.
- 33.8 Discussion took place about the sentencing of an arsonist and it was confirmed that no further offences had been committed since.
- 33.9 Councillor Fern expressed concern that the Safer Neighbourhood Team were currently based at Landmark House. This was considered as being too far from the South West area should an immediate response to an incident be required. Permission had been granted for a base at Stow Lodge however, the Officer reported that until an estates review had been completed in October 2015, no decision would be made on where to site the Safer Neighbourhood Team. 2 more vehicles were available for the South West area and it was the only the reporting method which was different. Councillor Fern requested and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Temporary Chief Constable, on behalf of the South West Area Committee, to seek an early resolution to this problem.

**Resolved:**

**that the Policing Priorities and the statistics (also updated verbally), as detailed in Appendix 1 to report Ref No SWAC/15/08, be noted.**

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the crime statistics in the South West area of Ipswich.

**34. Ipswich Buses Presentation**

- 34.1 Mr Jeremy Cooper the Managing Director of Ipswich Buses gave a presentation to the Committee and explained that Ipswich Buses was an independent commercial company wholly owned by Ipswich Borough Council. Fares were not subsidised in any way and the money taken from fares, contracts and concessions covered the cost of the operation. Copies of the timetable in the South West area were available and it was also available on the internet at [www.ipswichbuses.co.uk](http://www.ipswichbuses.co.uk). An event on the Cornhill had promoted good fare options and offered reduced ride prices. Also offered generally were promotional weekly tickets, group tickets and smart cards (available from drivers).
- 34.2 Some buses in the fleet were being improved with the installation of leather seats, some availability of wi-fi and three new buses were due to be launched in October 2015. Real time information was now available at some bus stops, information was available on Facebook or twitter or to see when a bus would be arriving, travellers could use [www.nextbuses.mobi](http://www.nextbuses.mobi) by entering the postcode, available on the bus stop sign.

- 34.3 The Chair asked why the bus No 7 service had been changed to No 15a? Mr Cooper said that the numbering on some routes had been confusing and this simplified matters. As the two buses were running the same route but in different directions, some timetable changes had been made which allowed a more frequent service with the No 15 running clockwise on the same route as the No 15a running anti clockwise.
- 34.4 A resident asked why the No 16 no longer ran in the evenings or on Sundays and Bank Holidays? Mr Cooper replied that each bus must cover its operational costs and the No 16 was not proving to be busy enough in the day to allow it to be run in the evenings. The resident asked whether it was because the travellers were mostly elderly and therefore only concessionary fares were taken? Mr Cooper replied that it was known that most concessionary fare bus travellers used the buses during the day and not in the evenings. He was aware of this as an issue and was looking for the best opportunities to increase evening and Sunday services. Councillor Smart as Portfolio Holder for Transport said that a budget was available to support public transport and if it was considered that the No 16 bus service could break even then a subsidy could be given and this could now be considered.
- 34.5 A resident spoke about the recent confusion at the bus station stands when zones had been changed and Mr Cooper said that extra running time had been built into the schedules to allow for the changes in the timetable and notices had been put on the stands. Someone had been available at the bus station to advise where the buses would pick up passengers however, bus drivers were not able to stop where the stand already had a bus waiting.
- 34.6 In response to a question about moto cycles being able to share the bus lane in London Road, Mr Cooper confirmed that currently motorbikes were prohibited from bus lanes in Ipswich.
- 34.7 Councillor Hall asked whether there would be an opportunity for some routes to be combined? Mr Cooper said that it was possible that the routes No 12, No 14 and No 16 could be combined to improve the network and decrease the fuel usage.
- 34.8 A resident asked why drivers could not be in buses before they were due to leave to allow passengers to be loaded so that the bus would not leave late? Mr Cooper said that time should be allowed to load passengers and that he would pass this concern to drivers so that they were aware.
- 34.9 Mr Cooper confirmed that in respect of Ipswich Bus routes, no more changes to the current services were planned in the near future. The Chair thanked Mr Cooper for his presentation and for his attendance at the meeting.

### **35. Chairman's Update and actions from the previous meeting**

- 35.1 The Chair updated on the following: that a dog bin had been requested at Crowland Close and although this had been discussed with waste and

enforcement, this site was not considered to be appropriate. However, a review of all dog bins was due to be undertaken.

- 35.2 Benches had been requested in Bourne Park and ongoing discussions were taking place with the Parks Department about the cost and where they should be sited.
- 35.3 Resurfacing of the path in Bourne Park. The cost of improving the path surface to tarmac would be £50k and due to funding constraints the Committee were unable to progress this.
- 35.4 Walkabout at Hawthorn Drive – The land belonged to Highways (SCC), who had been contacted. When a reply had been received the Community Development Officer would arrange a site visit with ward Cllrs and a SCC contact.
- 35.5 The communal bins were skips provided, mainly in Bridge ward to deter fly tipping. The Housing Department and the Community Caretakers had confirmed that regular provision of communal skips had not solved the fly tipping problem as many households then hoarded unwanted items in their front gardens. The preferred approach was to put up notices warning about fly tipping, stating the enforcement number and warning about prosecution. The promotion of the bulky items collection (including means tested free removal) could be promoted through leaflets and signage which could be an item for a future Area Committee funding bid. Reports generally of this issue in Council Housing areas were positive.
- 35.6 Councillor Rudkin updated the Committee about extra free child care provision for 3 & 4 year olds. Having researched on the internet there was an existing lack of nursery provision in Bridge ward.
- 35.7 In respect of the proposed crossing on Hawthorn Drive, Councillor Rudkin had spoken to Councillors Gardiner and Armitage in their capacity as Suffolk County Councillors and more information would be brought to the next meeting about this location and a proposed crossing at Belstead Road.

### **36. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities**

- 36.1 Bridge ward - Councillor Rudkin had reported a complaint from residents about the bollards on the path at Maidenhall allotments and this was being actioned.
- 36.2 Tree and bush foliage had grown prolifically this summer and she had raised this issue with the IBC Housing Department about work requiring to be done on IBC Housing land. Councillor Smart, in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Parks and Open Spaces, reported that there was a backlog of work to be done but residents should continue to report the locations. The utility companies had a rolling programme to cut back foliage too.
- 36.3 Sprites ward - Councillor Hall had discussed with Claire Prosser SCC (re: staffing and governance) about setting up a group for young people at the

Library and confirmed that a funding bid may come forward to the November Area Committee meeting.

- 36.4 Councillor Fern reported that yellow lines had now been installed in roads adjacent to Suffolk One on an 18 month trial; residents would then be asked to comment on their success about whether this had resolved the problem or whether cars were just parking further away. Parking around other schools in the area and potholes in roads continued to be an issue. The Ellenbrook Green Group had met with the Police and a commitment had been agreed to install CCTV in an effort to address the anti-social behaviour occurring at the parade of shops.
- 36.5 Councillor Clarke reported that during a recent walk around the estate he noticed joyriders in Hawthorn Drive and the Police agreed to look into this.
- 36.6 Gipping ward – Councillor Macartney suggested that if any residents were interested in joining the Friends of Chantry Park, they should speak to either herself or Councillor Fern.
- 36.7 Stoke Park ward – Councillor Cenci reported overgrown vegetation on the path near Belstead Road between Downing Close and Sandringham Close. Also a lorry had been parking in Fountains Road and Balmoral Road and this had been reported. It was confirmed that this area had a 7½ ton weight limit.

### **37. Suffolk County Councillor Update**

- 37.1 This item had been discussed as part of the Chairman's Update and actions from the previous meeting by Councillor Rudkin.

### **38. Responses to Public Questions Received and Open Discussion on Local Issues**

- 38.1 The following question had been received from a resident:

'Could I please be given the staffing levels for the S.N.W. Police Team at its start and those staffing levels for 2015?'

*Sgt Askham responded that the staffing levels of the Safer Neighbourhood Team in April 2007 were 12 PC's and 7 PCSO's. Within the first 6 months, to October 2007 the PC's had been reduced to 9. As of now, there were the equivalent of 4 full time PC posts held by 6 members of staff and the number of PCSO's remained the same at 7. The remit from the situation in 2007 was considered to be different now, as the current response team focussed on prolific offenders and long term problem solving. There were no plans to change the current staffing levels and it was confirmed that the Officers who had been employed in the South West area had not left the organisation but had joined different teams.*

- 38.2 A resident asked whether, as had been reported at the Committee on 22 January 2015 held at Hillside Community Primary School, any response had been received from Suffolk County Council about the purchase of land at Suffolk One for car parking? Councillor Ellesmere said that no response had

been received from the property team in Suffolk County Council however, with the veterinary surgery nearing completion and when Aldi had been built the land would be marketed and a final offer would be made to Suffolk One to purchase the land.

- 38.3 A resident reported the bad condition of the footpath at Fountains Road to Glastonbury Close and Councillor Rudkin added this location to her list of footpaths to be reported. The resident also reported that the speed of traffic in Fountains Road was a concern as visibility was bad due to the cars double parking on the bends. Sgt Askham confirmed that the speed limit, in this built up area with lampposts, was 30mph and he would report this location to Community SpeedWatch who were local residents trained to monitor the roads where speeding had been reported. The SpeedWatch Team continued to look for volunteers to take part in this monitoring.
- 38.4 A resident asked about a proposed Emergency Power Generation project at Cliff Quay and Councillor Ellesmere reported that there may be a possible planning application in the future. Any concerns e.g. re: noise would be considered as part of any application.
- 38.5 A resident asked about building land near the Holiday Inn area and Councillor Ellesmere confirmed that, although this land was within the Babergh District Council area, Ipswich Borough Council would be a statutory consultee should any application be put forward.

#### **39. SWAC/15/09 Area Committee Budget Update**

- 39.1 The Chair asked that any ideas for funding bids from the South West Area Committee budget should be submitted to the Councillors or the Community Engagement Officer.

**Resolved:**

**that the South West Area financial statement, attached at Appendix 1 to report Ref No: SWAC/15/09, be noted.**

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to deliver the priorities in the action plan.

#### **40. Dates of Future Meeting 2015/16 - all to be held at 6.30pm:**

- **Thursday 5 November 2015 – St Francis Church, 192 Hawthorn Drive, IP2 0QQ**
- **Thursday 21 January 2016 – Orwell Room, Grafton House, 15 – 17 Russell Road, IP1 2DE**
- **Thursday 10 March 2016 – Venue to be confirmed**

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

**Chair**