

Newburn Ward Committee

19 May 2009

(6.45 - 8.05 pm)

Meeting held Blucher Methodist Chapel, Colliery Road, Blucher, Newcastle upon Tyne

Present:

Councillor: Lynch (Chair)

Councillors: Curthoys

IN ATTENDANCE

A Eastwood - Ward Co-ordinator
L Couch - Democratic Services
D Hepworth - Neighbourhood Response Manager
N Humphrey - Newcastle City Council
A Corder - Newcastle City Council
C Yeoh - Community Development Team
A Flanagan Wood - Arts Development Team
A Pearce Smith - Play Service
Approximately 10 local residents and representatives of local organisations

78 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced members and officers present.

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wright.

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Curthoys declared a general interest as a member of Development Control Committee indicating that he would not be able to participate in discussion on any item relating to planning applications.

81 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

82 CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

The Ward Co-ordinator made reference to the joint SNAPs meeting for the Lemington and Newburn Wards which was attended by Council officers, police and other relevant agencies. This was a monthly problem solving meeting which considered issues raised locally in relation to anti-social behaviour problems etc. Currently there were no major issues outstanding.

PC Hunter and Campbell were in attendance for this item and made reference to recent shed burglaries. They appealed for assistance from local residents to report any concerns or activities in their area of strangers hanging around or carrying garden furniture or tools etc. Reporting any such instances would enable the matter to be checked out by police.

There were no further questions and the police left the meeting at this point.

83 WEST ROAD TRANSIT CORRIDOR - CONSULTATION

Submitted: Report of the Director of Strategic Housing, Planning and Transportation (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

N Humphrey, Newcastle City Council, was in attendance. He made reference to the display of information relating to the proposals for the West Road corridor and a bid for funding to undertake the improvements. The aim was to improve bus reliability and reduce journey times in consultation with Nexus and seek the views of residents as part of the consultation process. Other transport issues would also feed into the process, not specifically relating to the West Road in particular.

Issues raised by local residents included the following:-

- 71 bus route – suggested alternative route to divert from Newburn/Walbottle via West Denton Way to provide a link to the new shopping facility. The point was noted and it was suggested that any points relating to services could also be submitted via the comment forms provided. Information would be passed to Nexus and Stagecoach regarding this suggestion.
- In relation to concerns relating to parked cars on the West Road, particularly in the area of the shopping centre, it was indicated that improvements were proposed although detailed further consultation would be required should the plan be approved. The involvement of the Council in parking enforcement

issues could also improve the current situation. The issue of cars for sale was also being followed up.

- In response to comments, the Nexus representative made reference to proposals for the former 49 route to be revised and a shuttle service introduced between Throckley, Newburn and Blucher.
- Link up buses – concerns were expressed regarding the service with buses being observed for long periods in car parks in the area. The lack of bus services to the Outer West Centre in view of the Morrisons store opening in August and the ageing population in the local area requiring access to bus services was also raised.

The Chair thanked officers for their presentation and highlighted the need for bus improvements as a priority in the area.

N Humphrey left the meeting at this point.

84 **BLUCHER VILLAGE CONSULTATION SUMMARY (LAND DISPOSAL)**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Andrew Corder, Newcastle City Council, was in attendance. Copies of a summary reporting outlining Blucher Village consultation outcomes was circulated at the meeting (copy attached to Official Minutes). A Corder introduced the item indicating that the outcome of the consultation would be reported to the City Council's Executive for decision. The two options available were outlined and he indicated that if disposal were the option finalised, it would be the end of the year before this was finalised. In response to a question, he indicated that the turnover of residents and number of voids was low and static indicating that a good stable community existed. There were no other questions and the Chair thanked A Corder for his report.

RESOLVED – That the report be received for information.

85 **CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS ON THEIR CITYLIFE MAGAZINE**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Communication and Marketing, Chief Executive's Office (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Ward Co-ordinator introduced the item and noted responses made to the questionnaire by residents.

86 **NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

Submitted: Report by the Head of Legal Services and Head of Democratic Services (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Chair introduced the item making reference to the consultation on the revised arrangements for Leader Executive option.

87 **NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPONSE MANAGER - ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

Submitted: Report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services (previously circulated) together with a report circulated at the meeting of the Neighbourhood Response Manager (copies attached to Official Minutes).

D Hepworth introduced the report, highlighting various points of interest.

He responded to comments and questions from residents:

- He confirmed that the overgrown hedgerows in Blucher were the responsibility of the Duke of Northumberland, although he would follow up on the matter.
- Residents of Walbottle Village expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness of the village and the good response times of the Neighbourhood Team.
- Highways works proposed during 2008/09 and 2009/10 were noted. Members indicated that any other suggestions could be considered and the list reviewed.
- Blucher Colliery Road – a resident raised concerns at the speed of traffic and the need for speed ramps on the road. The Chair stressed the difficulty of introducing such measures and the future introduction of 20mph zones in all residential areas. Enforcement of such restrictions was always an issue bearing in mind the majority of those offending were likely to be local residents. The Chair suggested that the issue could be revisited with highway officers and appropriate survey information gathered.
- Signage issues – the position regarding signs in Throckley and on Abbey Drive were noted.
- Tamworth Road footpath – the Neighbourhood Response Manager undertook to email the details of the revised costs to Members.
- Access to Hadrians Way/Newburn Bridge – it was noted that the works had not been completed.

The Chair requested the Neighbourhood Response Manager pass on the thanks to all members of staff involved in the Response Teams for their good work in the area.

88 **NEWBURN WARD COMMITTEE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Submitted: Report by the Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Ward Co-ordinator introduced the item making reference to the financial position for the 2008/09 financial year and the report which highlighted the funds available for 2009/10. He explained the allocations to be made for grant aid and administration and facilitation purposes from the overall budget of £27,430.00.

RESOLVED – To agreed that £10,000 be allocated to the grant aid budget and £3,500 of the Ward Support Fund be allocated for administration and facilitation purposes.

89 GRANT AID APPLICATIONS

The following applications were considered and the decisions made as indicated:-

(a) **Newburn Riverside Recreation Association (Newburn/Outer West Festival) - £1500**

A representative of the association was in attendance to explain the background to the application which was to support the community activities in the community marquee at the Festival.

It was noted that this was over the £1,000 limit normally applied to grant aid applications however, this was considered to be an exceptional case.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a contribution of £1,500 towards the Annual Newburn Festival community marquee activities.

(b) **Newburn Judo Club - £600**

A representative of the club was in attendance to explain the background to the application which was to support the costs of an additional coach.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a contribution of £600 towards the funding of a judo coach.

(c) **Throckley Bowling Club - £1400**

A representative of the organisation was in attendance to explain the background to the application.

RESOLVED – That a contribution of £1,000 be made towards the renewal of the footpath around the bowling green and that a further application be made in regard to transport costs.

90 WARD SUPPORT FUND APPLICATIONS

(a) **2009 Keep on Bouncing - Summer Provision - £2000**

Submitted: Report by the Play and Youth Service in connection with seeking a contribution supporting the 2009 Keep on Bouncing project.

A Pearce Smith introduced the item making reference to the expanded summer activities provision for the Lemington, Newburn, Denton and Westerhope Wards which were to be undertaken by the Play Service, Youth Service, Arts Development and Sports Development Services. She responded to questions and comments made regarding the programme and it was:-

RESOLVED – That a contribution of £2,000 be made towards the 2009 Keep on Bouncing summer play provision.

(b) **Refugee Week Awareness Raising - £500**

Submitted: Report by the Arts Development Team.

The report was introduced by Carol Yeoh, Community Development officer, who outlined the project which was to support refugee week awareness work with schools.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a contribution of £500 towards the costs of the project.

91 **MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN (NOT RAISED AT THE EARLIER CAROUSEL MEETING)**

No further items were raised.

92 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS LIST (NEWBURN) UPDATE**

The applications listed were noted.

93 **INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The following information items were received:-

(a) **Play and Youth Engagement Update Report**

In the absence of Graham Park, the report was introduced by Angie Pearce Smith, who highlighted a number of points of interest and responded to questions and comments.

RESOLVED – That the report be received for information.

(b) **Newburn Safe Newcastle Udecide 2009 - Evaluation Briefing Note**

The additional money brought into the Ward via this project was welcomed and the projects being supported were also welcomed.

(c) **Civic Centre Customer Service Centre - comment card results**

(d) **Elders Council - Parks and Recreational Areas - summary of findings**

94 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Ward Committee would be held on Tuesday 21 July 2009 at 6.45 pm at Throckley Community Hall. The informal meeting would start at 6.00 pm. The Chair highlighted that applications from community groups for grant aid would be welcomed for the new financial year.

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