

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday 15th December 2009

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Darke), Councillors Altaf-Khan, Baxter, Clarkson, Hazell, Lygo, McManners, Murray, Scanlan, Sinclair and Wilkinson.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Angela Cristofoli (Area Co-ordinator), Dave Walker (Area NEAT co-ordinator), Andrew Bradfield-Barnes and Shaun Gibson (City Works), Angela Fettiplace and Kevin Caldicott (City Development), Colin Gregory (Legal and Democratic Services).

County Councillors Brighouse and Smith.

Inspector Qureshi (Thames Valley Police), Roger O'Neill (Oxfordshire County Council).

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rundle and Sinclair and from Councillor Baxter for late arrival.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

87. OPEN SESSION

1. Lighting on Wood Farm sports field (Peter Bonney)

The Committee noted that further work on lighting options, costs and consultation were required.

2. Notice Board for Cheney Lane (Peter Bonney)

Area Co-ordinator to issue forms for an additional notice board on Cheney Lane.

3. 20 MPH zones (Peter Bonney)

The Committee noted that there were ongoing issues regarding enforcement which needed to be addressed at Neighbourhood Action Groups.

4. Croft Road recreation ground (Mick Haines)

The Committee noted that there was some local perception that this was a City Council matter. The Chair advised further that the issue was ongoing in conjunction with the County Council to provide a cycle track and agree suitable options for lighting.

5. London Road Subway (Mick Haines)

The Committee noted that there remained substantial support, by way of a petition, for maintaining the subway on London Road. A request was made for daily disinfection to control smells in the subway.

6. Dents Close (Mick Haines)

The Committee noted that Estates officers would need to advise further on ownership issues around land in Dents Close.

7. Oxford Brookes Bus (Mick Haines)

The Committee noted that Oxford Brookes University had indicated that they were talking to the bus company about additional buses on the Marston route.

8. Fence to play area between Palmer Road and Titup Hall Drive (Roger Jenkins)

Councillor McManners advised that measures were being investigated and that the Committee would be updated on progress at its next meeting.

88. THAMES VALLEY POLICE QUARTERLY REPORT

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager submitted a report on behalf of Thames Valley Police (previously circulated and now appended). Inspector Ned Qureshi, Thames Valley Police, attended the meeting and responded to questions in relation to local crime statistics, neighbourhood policing activities and other Police activities for the current quarter. Councillors and members of the public present spoke particularly about issues in relation to the enforcement of the 20 mile per hour speed limit. Inspector Qureshi said that the Police were currently monitoring the situation and gathering evidence for possible future enforcement action. Members agreed that incidents in relation to upholding the new speed limits should continue to be reported through the Neighbourhood Action Groups.

89. RESIDENTS RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATION

Alan Foulkes, Community Development Worker, Barton Community Association will attend the meeting to present the results of the Residents' Research Project.

Members said that they welcomed the report and asked that their thanks be relayed back to all of the researchers who had been involved in compiling the data. During the discussion, it was noted that:

- a request for a dog fouling bin outside Wood Farm School was received;
- a further report on the Barton West proposals would be taken at next meeting;
- a further updating the Committee on taking the development work identified in the reports on the research project would be brought to a future meeting;

- a budget update report to would be submitted to the next meeting.

90. TREE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT OF TREES WITHIN THE CITY

Kevin Caldicott, Tree Officer, City Development and Shaun Gibson, Arboricultural Officer, City Leisure, Oxford City Council were in attendance to respond to questions and comments regarding the Council's policies and responsibilities for tree management.

Both Mr. Caldicott and Mr. Gibson gave a full account of their responsibilities and confirmed that they were the first point of contact within the Council should members of the public wish to raise any matter relating to tree policy and management within the City.

91. VALENTIA ROAD (NO.1) TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2009

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to confirm the Tree Preservation Order.

92. OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES – OXFORD) (AMENDMENT NO. 8*) ORDER 20**

The Traffic Regulation Officer for The Oxfordshire County Council submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) seeking to approve the provision of additional disabled persons parking places.

Noting that there was no one from The County Council to present the report and having no observations to make, the Area Committee resolved to note the report.

93. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 – 2011-2030

The Local Transport Team at The Oxfordshire County Council had submitted a briefing note (previously circulated, now appended), the purpose of which was to inform the Committee of the progress that had been made on the development of the County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LPT3) and explained the opportunities available for involvement in developing the Plan.

Mr. Owen South, Senior Transport Planner, The Oxfordshire County Council, attended the meeting and gave a presentation.

Questions and comments on the detail of the scheme were raised:

The Chair raised the following issues - Congestion in relation to the major institutions in the area – congestion and associated problems such as parking related to Oxford

Brookes University and the hospitals as discussed at many previous meetings of the Area Committee. The effect of rush hour traffic on local roads. The need to deal with these issues as a priority. The urgent and on-going requirement for less cars, and greater use of public transport to deal with traffic and transport related issues. Traffic issues affecting the local area as a result of heavy traffic and its management in relation to the proximity of the ring road.

County Councillor Smith said that she was disappointed that the proposals to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide in the local environment had only been afforded a medium priority. Officers said that this was because carbon reduction was an issue to be dealt with by the relevant authorities, including the County and City Council over the immediate and longer term. She also requested that Risinghurst traffic lights should be high priority, ongoing issues with through traffic in Quarry remained, confirmed that there were traffic issues affecting the local area as a result of heavy traffic and its management in relation to the proximity of the ring road.

Councillor Wilkinson raised a comprehensive series of issues, making general observations and suggestions to reduce congestion, reduce casualties and the dangers associated with travel, improve accessibility to work and associated facilities and Improving local transport and access to local hospitals. Mr South said he would take the schedule of proposals back to the County Council as part of the consultation process.

Mr South said that Mathew Bates was also co-ordinating issues from the area committees for submission to the County Council.

Some of the associated issues raised such as cross ticketing on the buses would need to be dealt with in relation to policy development

Councillors and other speakers asked for officers to be as ambitious as they could in implementing scheduled and suggested improvements.

It was noted that the schedule of works as set out in the long list such as the need to deal with the expansion of the Thornhill Park and Ride to accommodate additional commuter parking with a medium to long term study in relation parking charges.

Resolved to thank Mr. South for attending and to confirm that the Committee's comments would be conveyed to The County Council as part of the consultation process.

94. CAR CENTRE AND SUBURBAN CAR PARKS – PROPOSED CHANGES TO TARIFFS

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to confirm the charges determined by the City Executive Board at it's meeting on 2nd December as set out in the report.

95. 6 AND 8 DYNAM PLACE – PLANNING APPLICATION - 09/02240/FUL

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to approve the application subject to the following conditions:

- 1 Development begun within time limit
- 2 Materials - matching
- 3 Amenity no additional windows side
- 4 Unilateral undertaking

96. MONTHLY PLANNING APPEALS PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Head of City Development submitted a note and tables (previously circulated, now appended), which detailed the latest planning appeals received and decided.

Resolved to note the report.

97. MINUTES

Resolved to approve the minutes (now appended) of the meeting held on 17th November 2009.

The meeting started at 6.10 pm and finished at 8.37 pm