

Ham and St Budeaux Area Committee

Wednesday 8 July 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans, in the Chair.
Councillor Gordon, Vice Chair.
Councillors Bowie, Mrs Bragg, Evans and Gordon.

Co-opted Representatives: Mrs M Storer and Mrs S White

Apologies for absence: Councillors Pattison and Wheeler and Mr M Clay

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.45 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Resolved that –

- (1) Councillor Evans be appointed as Chair for this meeting;
- (2) Councillor Gordon be appointed as Vice-chair for this meeting;
- (3) the appointment of chair and vice-chair for the remainder of the municipal year be deferred until the next meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the code of conduct, Councillor Gordon declared a personal interest in respect of minute number 13, Mayflower Community School, as he is a governor of North Prospect School and an Interim governor of Mayflower Community School.

3. CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

Members considered the appointment of non-voting co-opted representatives for the municipal year 2009/2010.

Resolved to continue the appointment of the three existing co-opted representatives, Margaret Storer, Sue White and Martin Clay for the municipal year 2009/2010.

4. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2009 be confirmed as an accurate record.

5. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

6. POLICING ISSUES

PCSO Lee Sheldon provided an update on crime in the North Prospect Area and informed the committee that –

- (i) there had been a decrease in anti-social behaviour in the hotspot area's over the last two to three months;
- (ii) there had been an upturn in racially related crime, action in relation to this upturn had been identified as a priority for the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and the neighbourhood police.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Manager reported that -

- (i) there had been extra resource deployed to the relevant areas to help combat the situation;
- (ii) prevention exercises in Honicknowle had resulted in a 50% reduction in similar anti-social activities.

7. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS

The Anti-Social Behaviour Manager gave a presentation to the committee on the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) process as well as other related processes. Members were informed that –

- (i) with regard to the Ham and St Budeaux Wards, work was ongoing to identify offenders and deal with them appropriately;
- (ii) there had been a recent breach of an ASBO which prevented a male from entering St Budeaux Square, he was sentenced to 8 months in custody for the breach;
- (iii) ASBO's were a civil order dealt with by magistrates courts, however breaching an order was a criminal offence;
- (iv) ASBO's could be used to address a range of issues and could be tailored to the behaviours of each person;
- (v) ASBO's were put in place to protect members of the public and specified what an individual must not do;
- (vi) the youngest age at which an ASBO could be applied was 10 years old, and ranged from a minimum of 2 years in length to indeterminate, which equated to the rest of an individual's life;
- (vii) the penalty for the breach of an ASBO were up to a maximum fine of £5000, a maximum sentence of 5 years or a combination of both;
- (viii) A four step process was followed when considering an ASBO these were -
 - single agency response (for example police or housing office);
 - joint agency response (for example and combination of 2 or more agencies);
 - a formal multi-agency meeting, where all relevant agencies would meet to discuss the required support and enforcement;
 - legal order (for example, an application to a magistrate court for an ASBO);

- (ix) there were various prohibition orders available which could be applied for, for example banning an individual from –
- a certain area of the city;
 - the entire city;
 - owning a phone that is not registered to them;
 - communicating with other named individuals;

Members of the public were urged to report instances of Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Committee were also informed that with regard to any Anti-Social behaviour associated with the Housing Stock Transfer, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team were under the contractual obligation of a service level agreement to deal with any issues and to provide resource in terms of people in the affected area.

8. **BARRIER ON WOLSELEY ROAD**

The Democratic Support officer advised the Committee that no response had been received to the invitation to attend this committee for this item.

Resolved that ward members meet with officers outside of this committee to take up the issue and report back to a future meeting.

9. **HOUSING COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report on the Housing Community Environmental Programme and noted that –

- (i) the 2009/10 allocation for the Ham ward was £13,937;
- (ii) the 2009/10 allocation for the St Budeaux ward was £6,339;
- (ii) it was essential that all funds were spent by 19 October 2009 when the programme would cease to exist and any unspent monies would be lost.

Councillor Evans advised members that part of last years allocation to Anthony Park was still under consideration but would be committed or reclaimed as soon as possible.

Resolved that -

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) Ward members bring any proposals for projects to the attention of the Contract and Disrepair.

10. **LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FUND**

The Committee received a report on the Local Environment Fund for the financial year 2009/2010 and noted that -

- (i) each member had an allocation of approximately £1,754; which equated to £10,524 for the Committee;
- (ii) Members could spend their allocation individually or jointly;

Resolved that members gain agreement for any proposals from the chair of this Committee before submitting them on the appropriate form to the Principal Highways and Fleet Manager for authorisation.

11. **HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER UPDATE**

The Committee received a report on the Housing Stock Transfer.

Members were aware that a story would be published in the local newspaper, the 'Plymouth Herald' on the Saturday after the Committee meeting.

Resolved that the report be noted.

12. **MAYFLOWER COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

The Committee received a report on the new Mayflower Community School.

Councillor Gordon informed the Committee that the Headteacher would be Marianne Bartlett.

Resolved that the report be noted.

13. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE IN HAM WARD**

The Committee received a report in relation to Highway maintenance in the Ham ward.

The Committee felt that the report only gave information as to how road maintenance issues were identified but no detail of how these issues would be rectified. They expressed their disappointment that an officer was not in attendance.

Resolved to request a further report on Highway Maintenance which details -

- the results of the Inspection undertaken in the Ham & St Budeaux wards;
- details of what action would be taken as a result of the inspection;
- the time period over which any action on road maintenance issues would be taken.

14. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee considered questions by members of the public and responded on the following matters –

- (i) with regard to the safety fence in St Budeaux Square, this had already been the topic of much discussion between the member of the public and Councillor Bowie who would continue to look into the matter and would raise it during the meeting referred to under minute number 8.
- (ii) with regard to the proposed incinerator at Weston Mill Lake, Councillor Evans advised that he had been assured that there had been no such proposal made by the council, however, it was possible that a proposal may be put forward by 'Babcock Marine' in the future, the matter would continue to be monitored;
- (iii) with regard to regeneration in the St Budeaux Area, Councillor Evans advised that there were still various area action plans which would be written and subject to consultation;
- (iv) with regard to possibility of a reduction in council tax for those residents in the immediate vicinity of the submarines at the dockyard, Councillor Evans advised the Council could give consideration to reductions in various circumstances.

Resolved that with regard to (iii) and (iv) above, a written response be provided in accordance with the constitution.

15. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Resolved that –

- (1) The following items be added to a future agenda -
 - road maintenance in the Ham & St Budeaux Ward;
 - crash barrier on Wolseley Road;
- (2) any further requests items for agenda items be sent to the Democratic Support Officer before the next meeting.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee would take place at 6pm on 16 September 2009 at St Budeaux Library.