

Budshead, Honicknowle and Southway Area Committee

Wednesday 1 July 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor Monahan, in the Chair.
Councillor Browne, Vice Chair.
Councillors Lowry, Purnell, Roberts, Smith and Thompson.

Co-opted Representatives: Mr A Dyer, Mr P Ebsworth, Miss D Edwards, Mr T Kirk and Mrs V Small.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Berrow and Drean

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.10 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 Councillor Monahan be appointed as Chair and Councillor Browne be appointed as Vice-Chair of Budshead, Honicknowle and Southway Area Committee for this municipal year.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members or co-opted representatives in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

3. CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

Resolved that the co-opted representatives for this municipal year be confirmed as follows –

Mr D Barratt (Honicknowle Commnet)
Mr A Dyer (resident of Budshead ward)
Mr P Ebsworth (Whitleigh Forum)
Miss D Edwards (Kinnfylde Flats Residents' Ass.)
Mr T Kirk (DEBRA)
Ms V Small (Budshead Trust).

4. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

6. TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE NORTH OF THE CITY

The Director for Development and Regeneration submitted a report outlining ongoing activities to manage congestion in the north of the city.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(This item was moved up the agenda to facilitate good management of the meeting.)

7. **A386 TAVISTOCK ROAD - CROWNHILL AREA PROPOSED BUS LANE (SOUTHBOUND)**

The Assistant Director of Development – Plymouth Transport and Highways submitted a report summarising the results of the statutory consultation on A386 Tavistock Road relating to proposals to extend the existing bus lane southbound between its junction with Charlton Road and Crownhill Flyover, plus an advisory cycle lane.

In answer to questions raised by Members of the Committee and the general public, the Assistant Director of Development – Plymouth Transport and Highways' representative advised that –

- the bus lane was part of the overall strategy to improve punctuality of buses;
- there were a lot of proposals for development in the north of the city which would increase congestion;
- there was a need to increase the use of buses because congestion would grow in the future and punctuality was one of the issues;
- no road space was being taken from cars as there would still be two lanes and the road would be widened between Charlton Road and before Crownhill Road;
- the northbound bus lane was not in the capital programme at this time;
- Council policy allowed the use of bus lanes by taxis and motor bikes;
- the A386 was a major road and the Council had a duty to keep traffic flowing.

Resolved that –

- (1) pending the availability of funds, the Cabinet Member for Transport be recommended to approve the proposals to widen Tavistock Road and provide a new bus lane;
- (2) the Cabinet Member for Transport be recommended to seek a traffic order for the implementation of double yellow lines (prohibition of parking) in Tavistock Road southbound within the limits of the proposed bus lane;
- (3) the Cabinet Member for Transport be recommended to seek a traffic order for the implementation of double yellow lines (prohibition of parking) in Charlton Road (both sides) between Grosvenor Road junction and Tavistock Road.

(This item was moved up the agenda to facilitate good management of the meeting.)

8. **A PLAN FOR CONTINUATION OF YOUTH PROVISION IN ERNESETTLE**

The Director for Services for Children and Young People submitted a report outlining a plan for continuation of youth provision in Ernesettle if the Bushead Trust was to disband.

The Senior Youth Officer advised that –

- the Council's youth service was keen to develop better links with this Area Committee and to keep it informed;
- the youth service had supported the Budshead Trust over the last couple of years.

The Area Committee's co-opted representative from the Budshead Trust advised that –

- the Budshead Trust would not be disbanding, only closing the youth side of their work;
- the Trust had some funding but not for funding outworker wages;
- there was no youth worker provision in this area.

The Chair, also the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, advised that –

- more money was being spent on the youth service than ever before and it was improving, but no more could be provided within the budget that was available and he recognised there was a long way to go.

In response to questions, the meeting was informed that –

- a radical restructure had taken place and there were now six localities within the city, with high quality provision in place, but there were no resources available to meet the capital investment required to meet the cost of workers at the Budshead Trust;
- Ernesettle was not the only area that had no direct youth workers or funding for projects;
- if the Budshead Trust ceased its youth work, the Council would continue with the alcohol project although it was not costed or funded as yet;
- there were 8.2 FTE youth workers across this challenging locality;
- the Senior Youth Worker would check the situation at Whiteleigh where there was partnership work with other agencies;
- the suggestion that a compromise might be reached whereby a worker(s) could be redeployed to support the work at Budshead Trust was a constructive one and the Senior Youth Worker was prepared to have discussions about this, and any other options that might be available, although he did not wish to raise false hopes on the matter.

Resolved that further discussions take place between the Budshead Trust and officers from the Council's Youth Service, with a report provided back to the Committee.

(This item was moved up the agenda to facilitate good management of the meeting.)

9. **POLICING ISSUES**

A police representative from the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary attended the meeting. He reported that the police had concerns regarding the old community centre in Honicknowle as it was attracting a lot of anti social behaviour. Committee Members advised that as Members had asked for it to be demolished, they were surprised to hear that this had not happened and requested the police representative to provide a police log of problems to Members. The police representative, a Police Community Support Officer from the Honicknowle ward, was unable to answer questions regarding other areas of the Area Committee.

Resolved that a message be provided to the relevant Inspector that the committee requests police reports on all the three wards at future meetings.

10. **CONSULTATION AND PLANNING APPLICATION: POTENTIAL GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES**

The Director for Development and Regeneration submitted a briefing report on the consultation and planning processes relating to potential gypsy and traveller sites.

In response to questions from members of the public, Members advised that all four proposals for sites in Ernesettle Lane had been ruled out.

Resolved that the report be noted.

11. **DEDICATION OF SOUTHWAY FOOTPATH NO. 1**

The Director for Development and Regeneration submitted a report outlining a proposal to dedicate a walking route in the Southway ward to the late Councillor Dennis Camp (elected Member of the City Council 1990-2006).

Resolved that officers be authorised to dedicate the path to the memory of the late Councillor Dennis Camp.

12. **HOUSING COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND**

The Director for Community Services submitted a report –

- on the work carried out in the year 2008-2009 within this Area Committee via the Housing Community Environmental Fund;
- setting out how the budget had been divided for the year 2009-2010;
- listing proposals for expenditure from the budget for the year 2009-2010.

Resolved that –

- (1) an item be placed on the next agenda regarding the future of the fund from October when the budget was transferred;
- (2) CCTV cameras for Kinnaird Crescent be costed.

13. **LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FUND**

The Director for Development and Regeneration submitted a briefing report regarding the allocation of the fund for 2009-10, which must be spent or allocated by the end of the financial year, requesting –

- confirmation of projects for consideration, to include a full outline of the project and its costs and identification of any joint funding;
- that agreement be gained and sign off of the works arranged with the Chair of the Committee and then the appropriate form submitted to the Principal Highways and Fleet Manager to authorise spend

Resolved that the report be noted.

14. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

In accordance with the constitution, the Committee considered requests from individual Committee Members for future items.

Resolved that the following items be considered at the next meeting –

- (a) installation of temporary speed signs in Taunton Avenue;
- (b) the future of the Housing Community Environmental Programme once Housing Services was transferred from the Council, predicted to be in October 2009 (see minute 12 above).

15. **QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee considered questions from members of the public on the following matters –

- (i) confirmation that there was a shortage of playing fields in the north of the city now, not just in 2015;
- (ii) regarding Widewell playing fields –
 - response to question raised at the last meeting in respect of action to be taken to return Widewell playing fields to Council ownership for use by the general public (see minute 59 (ii) 08/09);
 - the date when the Council was first made aware that the playing fields were surplus;
 - any progress regarding public access to the Widewell playing fields;
- (iii) any developments regarding minute 56 (08/09) and the need for changing facilities at Lakeside Athletic Ground;

- (iv) safety concerns regarding the entrance and exit of Whiteleigh car park which had been resurfaced but badly marked out –
- there was a need for bollards to be placed at certain view points to prevent cars from parking;
 - the 'no entry' solid line should be taken to the end of the parking bay;
- (v) accessing public transport now that the concessionary bus service had ceased (Southway ward), the difficulties for some of physically accessing taxis and lack of information about the changes.

Members responded as follows –

- (a) regarding (i) above, it was confirmed that there was a shortage of playing fields in the north of the city currently;
- (b) regarding (ii) above –
- a written response had already been provided to the author of the question raised at the last meeting by the Head of Legal Services and copies of this were available at this meeting;
 - the Chair would follow up the date issue;
 - the Chair had written to the Chair and the Headteacher of the Widewell School Educational Trust requesting a meeting to progress the matter of public access to the playing fields and was still awaiting a reply;
- (c) regarding (iii) above, the Chair and the ward Members for Honicknowle ward agreed to look into this and consider how it might be taken forward;
- (d) regarding (iv) above, ward Members for Budshead would consider how to progress the matter;
- (e) regarding (v) above, Ward Members for Southway were looking into the matter.

Resolved that an open letter be sent from this Committee to the Headteacher of Widewell School Educational Trust expressing their concerns regarding the lack of progress or communication with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in respect of public access to the Widewell playing fields.

16. **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Resolved that date, time and venue of the next meeting, i.e. 6.30pm on Wednesday, 30 September 2009 at Windsor House, Tavistock Road, be noted.