

Budshead, Honicknowle and Southway Area Committee

Wednesday 10 March 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor Browne, Vice Chair in the Chair.
Councillor Roberts, Vice Chair for this meeting.
Councillors Berrow, Drean, Lowry, Smith and Thompson.

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors Monahan and Purnell and Mr P Ebsworth, Mr T Kirk and Mr R Sharman Co-opted Representatives.

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.55 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.

52. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Resolved that Councillor Roberts is appointed as Vice Chair for this particular meeting.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the code of conduct.

54. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2010 are confirmed as a correct record.

55. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

56. POLICING ISSUES

A representative from Devon and Cornwall Police provided the Committee with an update on policing issues in the area, including the following –

- (i) there had been a continued decrease in crime overall, with a reported 23 percent reduction on the year to date;
- (ii) work was currently being undertaken focusing on those matters that had been raised by the community;
- (iii) there had been a robbery in Taunton Avenue where a bag had been snatched; a person had subsequently been arrested for this crime;
- (iv) the dangerous dog hearing had been adjourned but would be heard later in March 2010;
- (v) a consultation event with the community had been held at the Southway shopping precinct;
- (vi) the officers involved in the road traffic accidents were now back at work and had been joined by an additional PCSO;

- (vii) three youths had damaged the newly painted wall at the Phoenix Centre in Honicknowle;
- (viii) there had been five drug warrants issued in Ernesettle;
- (ix) the Southway PACT meeting would be held on 24 March 2010 at 1pm; the decision to change the time of the meeting had been taken due to the low attendance experienced at the evening meetings.

In response to questions raised those present were advised that –

- (x) the police held a surgery in Tesco, Transit Way every two weeks;
- (xi) the dates of the PACT meetings in Ernesettle would be made available.

The officer was thanked for her attendance.

57. LOCALITY WORKING

The Assistant Director for Adult Social Care and the Neighbourhood Regeneration Manager were in attendance to update the Committee on the progress with locality working, following its approval by the City Council on 1 February 2010. Members were advised that -

- (i) the purpose of locality working was to improve public engagement and improve the way in which service providers worked together, particularly in respect of jointly commissioned services;
- (ii) six Locality Service Co-ordination Teams were being set up across the City comprising practitioners from the following key services –
 - Community Safety
 - Children and Young People
 - Health and Adult Social Care
 - Street Services
- (iii) in the interim period, Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings would be used as the principle forum in which residents would be able to make their views known about service provision. Information would also be shared via the Council's website, schools and libraries and, in regard to health and adult social care matters, opportunities were being explored to publicise material in pharmacies.

In response to questions raised by Members and members of the public, the following responses were provided –

- (a) Area Committees were not well attended across the City and were not cost effective; locality working was being introduced to encourage more public participation in local issues, to improve service delivery and the way in which the council worked with other service providers. If locality working proved to be less successful, the situation would be reviewed after 12 months of operation;
- (b) the existing Area Committee system would be replaced by neighbourhood level community engagement;
- (c) one of the benefits of locality working was that services included within the locality service co-ordination teams would be able to share resources;

- (d) residents would still be able to contact their ward councillors with any concerns;
- (e) all six localities would have its own team which would be led by a senior locality team manager, who could be appointed from the council, the police or the health service;
- (f) members of the public had been consulted on this proposal with presentations at Area Committee meetings, council meetings open to members of the public, PACT meetings, ward councillors and via the council's website;
- (g) there were 43 neighbourhoods within the City and members of the public would be entitled to attend any of the PACT events whether it was in their local area or not;
- (h) either PACT meetings, panels, surgeries or street surveys would be held, dependent on what worked best in a particular area; this forum would allow the involvement of local people.

The officers were thanked for their attendance.

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

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

- (i) consideration of the use of Chaucer Primary School, which was being closed, as a community centre;
- (ii) the damage being caused to vehicles with the poor state of the roads, not just in the Whitleigh area but City-wide;
- (iii) any progress with the provision of a community facility as part of the housing scheme for Whitleigh.

Members responded as follows –

- (iv) with regard to (i) above, Councillor Lowry advised that the school had been severely damaged by local youths stoning the windows and breaking the lights and radiators; the parts of the building that were not occupied would be demolished and made secure, however, other parts of the building could be used to provide a community facility;

Councillor Lowry agreed to liaise with the Head of Capital and Assets, regarding his response on the provision of a community facility on the site of Chaucer Primary School;

- (v) with regard to (ii) above, the Chair advised that he was currently waiting for a response from Amey regarding the maintenance of the roads;
- (vi) with regard to (iii) above, Councillor Drean advised that this matter was being investigated.

Councillor Thompson reported that the planting of the trees at the back of Taunton Avenue had been completed.

Councillor Lowry requested approval for works to be undertaken and charged to the Honicknowle Local Environment Fund allocation, as follows –

- work to reduce and thin the oak tree situated outside of 82 Ringmore Way, West Park;
- plant up the planters outside of the Honicknowle shops.

Resolved that –

- (1) when disposing of the Chaucer Primary School site, serious consideration is given in the sale of agreement to the provision of some form of community facility;
- (2) the work to reduce and thin the crown of the oak tree situated at 82 Ringmore Way, West Park is approved at a cost of £600 to be funded from the Honicknowle Local Environment Fund allocation;
- (3) the work to plant up the planters outside of the Honicknowle shops is approved at a cost of £550 to be funded from the Honicknowle Local Environment Fund allocation.

59. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.