

CENTRAL LUTON AREA BOARD

15th March 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM

3.1

PRESENT: Councillors Riaz (Chair), M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Gurbuz, Hopkins, T. Khan, Malcolm, Dr. R. Saleem and Rathore,

01. APOLOGIES (REF: 1)

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Franks.

02. MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 22nd October 2015 be taken as read, approved as correct records and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

03. FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 5)

Feedback on key issues discussed at each ward was provided as follows:

Barnfield Ward:

- Bushmead Community Centre Consultation.

Biscot Ward:

- Lack of response to issues previously raised.
- Biscot Road: Congestion, speeding and parking issues.
- Adult Entertainment Licence on Crawley Road.

High Town Ward:

- Fly tipping
- Parking

Saints Ward:

- Parking Issues – Barnfield Road

Resolved: That feedback on the issues mentioned above be noted and passed to the relevant departments for action.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 6)

A member of the public took the opportunity to thank Luton Central Area Board for funding allocated by the Board for the Limbury Baptist Church (Community Café Project). The Café had proven a great success with on average 60 to 100 residents attending and had become a community hub.

A Member of the public raised concern at the amount of Fly Tipping in Luton, in particular the number of mattresses. He commented that the majority of dumped mattresses were from rented accommodation and belonged to the previous tenants. He added that it was unfair for tenants to foot the bill for removal.

Councillor Hopkins replied that the Council ran an internal group that looked at fly tipping. She added that it should be down to the landlord to remove the previous tenants property, but that was not always the case. She went on to say that she would feed back the matter to the relevant officer with the suggestion that more enforcement take place on landlords as mattresses were classed as commercial waste.

Resolved: That the above questions and comments be noted.

05. PETITION – PARKING – RONDINI AVENUE (REF: 6.1)

The Service Director, Engineering and Street Services reported on the receipt of a petition containing 28 signatures regarding parking issues in Rondini Avenue.

Resolved: (i) That the receipt of the petition be noted.

(ii) That a consultation with residents had been programmed for early 2017 be noted.

(iii) That the Service Director, Engineering & Street Services be instructed to advise the petitioners.

06. PETITION - PARKING – CRAWLEY ROAD (REF: 6.2)

The Service Director, Engineering and Street Services reported on the receipt of a petition containing 31 signatures regarding parking issues in Crawley Road.

Resolved: (i) That the receipt of the petition be noted.

(ii) That a consultation with residents had been programmed for early 2017 be noted.

(iii) That the Service Director, Engineering & Street Services be instructed to advise the petitioners.

07. OPERATION METEOR – NUISANCE MOTORCYCLES – BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE (REF: 7)

Sgt. Bates from the Bedfordshire Police gave a presentation in regards to Operation Meteor which was designed to combat Nuisance Motorcycles. Members were advised that there were several challenges with regards to nuisance motor bikes in Luton and South Bedfordshire. Several meetings had been held and the had Police promised to up their game and to take workable measures to address the issues.

Sgt. Bates explained the key areas of Operation Meteor which were the Bedfordshire's Police response to reports of nuisance motorbikes in the south of the Country.

She further addressed and highlighted key areas of work to address some key challenges as follows:

- Creation of dedicated email inbox with a dedicated officer response quite comprehensive intelligence picture to enable arrest of offenders
- Some of the main issues were highlighted as, individuals riding dangerously, on roads and pavements, individuals involved in criminal activity, road traffic offences, public view around the police perceived lack of response to this issue and public dissatisfaction, and property damage, etc.

She went on to say that in terms of reported issues, in the last 3 months (November – January) of 2016, there had been 188 calls in relation to off road nuisance bikes, Hotspots key areas have been highlighted. A number of phone calls had been received including St Thomas Road Luton, was 27 calls, Tithe Farm Road Houghton Regis, 22 calls, Court Drive Dunstable, 21 calls, Ridgway Road Luton, 19 Calls. There had also been 800 calls about nuisance bikes last August, which made shown that month to be a peak time of seasonal trends in relation to these calls. With August being the middle of the summer calls tended to increase in all areas due to the warmer weather and prolonged lighter evenings.

In terms of progress of work, the Police had improved in terms of quick response to all emails received and where applicable have taken evidential statements. A more jointed up approach is being adopted and the Police is working very close to all Councils to address the issues of nuisance.

In terms of continuity with progress of work, close work was continuing to take place with partners and the counties. The Police were continuing to collate evidence of criminal activity, contact and response to emails was continuing to take place and the Police also continues to use intelligence gathered from Op Meteor to prosecute offenders. There were also regular days of action targeting identified hotspot areas, at the peak times, as well as responding where possible to calls from members of the public.

She explained that some of the phones calls received were linked to some individuals that had been identified as having the biggest impact in terms of call volume and anti-social behaviour. These individuals were also known for some other criminal offences. Where circumstances and evidence allows, the Police would be looking to seize and destroy bikes found that belong to these key offenders. She stated that this issue was widespread, and therefore resources needed to be tactically placed to enable the greatest possibility of catching individuals and securing evidence.

She added that in terms of achievement the Police were engaging with the community widely including partners and using CCTV to capture evidence which enables arrest for offences going through the criminal justice. An alternative outcome for offenders on the periphery of offending and using the media positively.

She concluded that there was some good news in terms of achievement since the launch of Op Meteor since 2016 and highlighted achievement as below:

- Arrest of key offender for Robbery and one in the Dunstable area has been arrested for a number of Burglary offences
- Three days of activity devoted to Op Meteor
- Development of intelligence around other key offenders with a view to taking action against them
- The Police has seized 3 mini motor bikes and 7 motorbikes from an address in Dunstable and one from Stopsley areas but have seized several from an address in Luton.

She further advised of the next steps are follows:

- The Police will continue to build intelligence pictures around the key individuals, looking to make arrests and seizures where possible.
- Activity around Op Meteor will continue
- The Police will continue to deploy resources in strategic locations as per the information from the analyst
- The Police will continue to monitor the dedicated email address and respond to all emails.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

08. LUTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING FROUP – UPDATE (REF: 8)

Dr. Nina Pearson, Luton Clinical Commissioning Group gave an update on activities undertaken by the Luton CCG highlighting the following key points:

- The new mental health service provider, East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) started on 1st April 2015 and working hard to improve services and quality;
- Access to psychological therapies now available on self-referral basis;
- Cambridgeshire Communities services (CCS) were awarded a 2 year contract to continue to deliver community health services. Future options would be considered after April 2017;
- Virgin Care was awarded the contract for intermediate Care, formerly also provided by CCS ;
- Consultation on the re-provision of 4 GP Practices' contracts was about to start between now and Christmas, exact launch date not yet decided;
- Public views sought on the provision of urgent care;
- The CCG was working with partners on the 'Better Together' programme to integrate services around patients' needs. A multi-disciplinary team was responsible to deliver the programme;
- The CCG was in excess of £20m in deficit, a challenge to manage. Part of the reason for the deficit is the historic underfunding of Luton. Progress achieved to reduce the deficit, with target set for creating a surplus by 2017/18;
- The CCG was dealing with the overspend, e.g. attempting to reduce attendance to A&E and avoidable referrals to hospital, which was responsible for a significant cost.

Resolved: That the Report (Ref: 8) be noted.

09. LUTON RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Service Manager, Transportation & Regulation Dove gave a presentation regards to the Luton's Right of Way Improvement Plan and explained the current position and the reasons for reviewing and updating the Plan.

He stated that the first plan was adopted in mid-2008 following extensive research and consultation and runs until 2015/16. The main focus of the plan was to improve connectivity. He went on to highlight 5 main key areas of the action plan contained in the consultation as follows:

- A better signed, maintained & accessible network for the community
- Improved promotion of Rights of Way and Access Routes
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Promoting Confidence, Safety and Security
- Updating the Definite Map, Influencing Planning and Growth

Members of the public were advised that they could get involved in the consultation online via the consultation portal which had been set up for this purpose. There are also paper copies which can be completed and sent to the Council. The consultation closes on the 18th March 2016.

Resolved: That the presentation on the Luton's Right of Way improvement plan be noted.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE – 'YOU SAID WE'RE DOING' (REF: 9)

The Community Development Manager commended the 'You Said, We're Doing' – Newsletter (Ref: 8), showing current priorities and projects in the area to the Board.

Resolved: (i) That the 'You Said, We're Doing' – Newsletter (Ref: 9) be noted by the Board.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING (REF: 11)

Resolved: That the Area Support officer be delegated the responsibility to determine appropriate items for the Board work programme, after consultation with the Chair.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (REF: 12)

Resolved: That the date of next meeting of the Board would be confirmed.

(Notes: The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.)