

SOUTH LUTON AREA BOARD

10th November 2016 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors O'Callaghan (Chair), Agbley, Ashraf, Farooq, Hussain, D. Taylor and Timoney

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Castleman and Rafiq.

15. MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the South Luton Area Board held on the 27th July 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16. FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 4)

Resolved: That the following issues be passed to the relevant Council departments to follow up:

Dallow Ward: Councillor Farooq

- Fly Tipping and rubbish in the area
- Parking issues

Farley Ward: Councillor Timoney

- Parking issues
- Fly Tipping and bins being left out after collection day

South Ward: Councillor O'Callaghan

- Rubbish in the area
- Recycling collection and street cleaning
- Parking issues

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 5)

In response to a question the LTFC two planning applications (Power Court and Newlands Park) under the 2020 consultation, 11,000 responses were

received. All signatures need to be logged on the system which takes time. The outcome will be reported back to a future meeting.

In response to a supplementary question the 2020 application will be subject to traffic plans that will include the movement of people in the area (particular around Park Street) and be looked at by the planners before the final submission for Committee approval.

In response to a question on the 7p per minute phone charge by the Council on 0845 numbers. The Chair agreed to investigate and report the outcome back to a future meeting.

In response to a question on the bus services London Luton Airport, these will continue to operate as normal.

In response to a question on the £225m debenture loan to the Airport which had been set aside in the capital programme. The council continues to receive dividends from the Airport which is spent on the town and due to increase with the increase passenger throughput.

In response to a supplementary question protection against the loan repayment will be written into the contract with clauses to safeguard the council to ensure the loan is repaid.

In response to a question on the disbanding of area board meetings. This will be discussed in more detail at agenda item 8.

Resolved: (i) That the above issues be noted.

17. PETITION – RESIDENTS PARKING – ST SAVIOURS CRESCENT (REF: 6.1)

The Traffic Safety and Regulation Manager presented the report (Ref 6.1) on a petition received and signed by 44 residents from 30 properties in St Saviours Crescent.

She advised consultation was undertaken with residents in the Meryrick Avenue area which includes St Saviours Crescent on the following options:

- a) Extend the resident only parking scheme in the Russell Street area
- b) Introduce a restriction that prevents parking on one side of the street from 10a, to 11am and on the other side from 2pm to 3pm.
- c) No change

The consultation closed on 31st October 2016 and responses were being analysed and reported back to the Service Director and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport for a decision as to way forward.

In response to a public question there were no specific numbers to report in respect of objections received and were in the statutory period for objections and will depend on the portfolio holder to make the final decision.

Resolved: (i) That the Board notes the report (Ref 6.1).

(ii) That the Board notes the consultation with residents of St Saviours Crescent.

(iii) That the Service Director, Public Realm be instructed to advise the petitioners of the outcome.

18. PETITION – REVIEW OF BUSES USING DUNSTABLE ROAD, BURY PARK (REF: 6.2)

The Traffic Safety and Regulation Manager gave a powerpoint presentation (Ref 6.2) on the review of buses using Dunstable Road, Bury Park. The petition had been signed by 406 residents and visitors to Dunstable Road, Bury Park. A report had been submitted to the Executive as part of the consultation process for Dunstable Road, Bury Park highways amendment scheme who requested a full investigation and report back. Comments received at the Board meeting will be incorporated in the report back to the Executive.

The petition raised concerns regarding the width of the carriageway, buses mounting pavements and driving close to the footpath and the location of the bus stops.

More than 500 buses stop in Dunstable Road during the weekday and that figure is slightly reduced at weekends for buses stopping along Dunstable Road. Dunstable Rd is popular bus route for buses going to Dunstable, Sundon Park and beyond in both directions.

There are 5 bus stops along Dunstable Road serving the area bounded by Hatters Way, Leagrave Road and Waller Avenue.

Bus services were deregulated in 1985 which means the accredited operators can determine where they operate services as long as they give 56 days notice to the Traffic Commissioner of their intention to commence, cease or alter a bus route.

Information taken from the council's database found there had been 7 injury accidents involving buses or coaches in Dunstable Rd, Bury Park in the last 5 years. One was fatal and the others resulted in slight injuries. The bus/coach drivers were not deemed at fault for any of the accidents.

The Dunstable Road carriage way is 7.2m wide with a general traffic lane in both directions for the majority of shopping areas. The lanes are 3m wide which meet normal standard widths for urban areas.

Buses are around 2.5m wide including their wing mirrors and therefore there is enough room for buses to stay within the running lane however, poor or inconsiderate parking may mean that on coming vehicles make the bus drivers drive close to the kerb.

Modern road design does not recommend the use of bus stop laybys. Inconsiderate and illegal parking prevents buses reaching the kerb and results in passenger having difficulty boarding and alighting. This is especially a problem for the elderly, less mobile and people with pushchairs.

Modern traffic flow also prevents buses getting out into the running lane in a timely manner making it more difficult for them to keep to time along the bus route. Punctuality along bus routes is monitored by the Traffic Commissioner and can penalise Bus Operators if punctuality is unacceptable.

Comments from the meeting will be included in the report back to the Executive meeting on 6th March 2017.

In response to a question on the council's jurisdiction to prevent bus operators from using Dunstable Road, Bury Park area as a bus route or to request the current bus stops be moved. The council has no jurisdiction to prevent this and doing so would have an impact on a lot of people who use the services in that area to get to other parts of Luton and beyond.

Resolved: (i) That the Board notes receipt of the petition.

(ii) That any comments be noted.

(iii) That the Service Director, Public Realm be instructed to advise the petitioners of the outcome.

19. LUTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (LCCG) – UPDATE (REF: 7)

Paul Lindars, Assistant Director of Luton CCG gave the following updates:

- Review of the APMS practice contracts – the contracts for the Moakes Medical Centre, Whipperley Medical Centre and Sundon Park Health Centre expire on 31st January 2017. A decision was taken not to recommission services to the Farley Hill Centre. In the meantime there will be a short term provider in place at the Whipperley Medical Centre.
- The CCG is pressing ahead with the new build for that area which will accommodate around 10k patients and be fit for purpose.
- All CCGs and other services are being encouraged to work together for the STP (Sustainable Transformation Plan) which is due to be published later this month.
- The budget still remains challenging and there is a need to create a £3m surplus across the whole of the public sector when commissioning services.

In response to a question on the continuation of the walk-in centre, which will become an Urgent Care Centre (UCC) with a triage service attached where the public will be assessed over the phone before an appointment is made.

An elected member commented on the walk-in centres success and altering the way it is run and asking people to make appointments will only push people to the hospitals A & E department.

Paul Lindars replied that at the moment people have a choice and the new system is geared up to direct people to the right area of treatment.

Members of the public were requested to:

- Ensure they were up to date with Flu vaccinations
- ensure they have sufficient medication over the Christmas period; and;
- be aware of pharmacies opening times during the Christmas period.

Resolved: That the report (Ref 7) be noted.

That thanks to the representatives from Luton CCG be recorded.

20. ENGAGING WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE FUTURE (REF: 8)

Marek Lubelski, Community Development Manager gave a powerpoint presentation.

He advised a working group of elected members and officers were looking at the current format for engaging with the public and whether area boards were the best form of engagement. Elected members want to work together with local residents and partners; making better use of resources, involve a wider range of people which can mean using other forms of communication such as social media (facebook, twitter, street life etc.) as opportunities to building safer, stronger and more cohesive communities.

During the summer a consultation took place with over 200 responses where people asked about different ways of engaging with their councillors. Many wanted councillors to be more visible, and go into schools and colleges and to promote how democracy works. An analysis of responses received found the large majority wanted to connect/talk to their councillor via email, followed by face to face door to door and thirdly through social media. A small number of people wanted to connect via the phone, visit local groups/organisation and local events.

When asked how councillors can help with influencing decisions that affect neighbourhoods (24) people want councillors to ask them for their views; 17 people wanted to be kept informed of key issues. When asked how can councillors engage with even more residents 19 people wanted more meetings and events, 14 wanted councillors to go out in the community and meet local people an groups.

Officers are currently working with elected members to develop a framework for future community engagement and a number of options are being considered:

- a member led ward meetings;

- ward forums: setting local priorities
- YSYW participatory budgeting programme and decision days
- Annual borough conversation and event
- Online information, communication and social media

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

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (REF 9)

Resolved: That the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th March 2017 at the Salvation Army, Vicarage Street, Luton, LU1 3HZ.
Ward Forums: 6pm Area Board 7.15pm

(Note: Meeting ended 8.30pm)