

CENTRAL LUTON AREA BOARD

12th June 2014 at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Saleem (Chair), Councillor M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Hopkins, Malcolm, Mead, Rathore, Riaz and Whittaker.

10. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

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

11. MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on the 20th March and 20th May 2014 be taken as read, approved as correct records and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

12. MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECT UPDATE

The Major Projects Manager gave an update on the Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme and the M1 Junction 10a Improvement Scheme.

Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme:

- A new section of road had been built completing the inner ring road between Hucklesby Way, Hitchin Road, Crescent Road and Crawley Road.
- Hitchin Road would be re-opened week commencing 16th June 2014.
- Crawley Road would be closed for a four week period to complete the road bridge over the railway line.
- All Works to the inner ring road would be completed in July 2014.

Bute Street & Guildford Street Pedestrian Improvement Works

- The key aim of the works was to push traffic away from the Town Centre to allow pedestrian improvements which would include an improved route to and from High Town.
- The pedestrian area would include the closure of Guildford Street and part closure of Bute Street.

M1 Junction 10A

- Works would be completed in summer 2015.
- Works included a new bridge to enable a quicker route from the M1 to the airport.
- During peak periods, two lanes would be open during construction.

Luton Gateway Rail & Bus Station

- The Council had been lobbying the Government for a new station with improved DDA Access.
- Funding had been awarded to the sum of £8.5 million.
- It was estimated that works would cost over £10 million.
- Discussions would take place between Network Rail, the Department of Transport and the new rail operator.
- To enable the ground works for the planned Transport Information Centre it would be necessary to close the route between the station and Bute Street for approximately 2 – 3 weeks.

Resolved: That the Major Transport Project update be noted.

(Note: The above item was considered by the Committee in pursuance of Sections 100B(4) and 100E(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair having considered that the item should be dealt with as a matter of urgency as it was in the public interest to notify them of current/imminent projects)

13. WARDOWN PARK SUSPENSION BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT

The Parks & Cemeteries Manager informed Central Luton Area Board that at its meeting on Monday 9th June, the Executive had agreed to fund the refurbishment of the Wardown Park Suspension Bridge with £308K from the £4m savings underspend from 2013/14.

Two options had been designed and submitted to English Heritage for approval:

Option 1 - Refurbishment

- Replace timber decking and stringers.
- Minor repairs to deck steel.
- Remove existing paint and repaint all metalwork. Colour to match original 1908 construction (white).
- Repair cracks to concrete towers with similar concrete finish to existing structure.
- Replace hanger plate to lower end hangers.
- Replace lower bolt at hanger/cable connection.
- Replace corroded deck bracing members.
- Replace weak or corroded transverse members.
- Replace saddles.
- New bolted splice joints.

Option 2 – Deck Replacement & Remedial Works

- Repair cracks to concrete towers with similar concrete finish to existing.
- Retain cables and hangers tensioned against deck and repaint.

- Replace deck with Modern steel deck spanning between towers. Differences from original will be: Rivet heads not to be replicated. Top and bottom chord members of increased size.
- Install new concrete plinth to support ends of deck.
- Repairs to approach ramps.
- Repair saddles.

The preferred option by English heritage was Option 1. He added that the project would be put out to tender and the selected contractor would start works early 2015.

Resolved: That the Report be noted.

(Note: The above item was considered by the Committee in pursuance of Sections 100B(4) and 100E(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair having considered that the item should be dealt with as a matter of urgency as it was in the public interest to notify them of current situation regarding the Wardown Park Suspension Bridge)

14. FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 4)

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

Barnfield Ward:

- Issues around poor maintenance on Waterbourne Road.
- Cleaning of drains, gullies and removal of weeds in St. Michaels Crescent required.

Biscot Ward:

- Parking problems, anti-social behaviour, congestion and drugs in Biscot Road by the Co-op.
- Noise and disturbance at night from customers of the Biscot Mill Pub.

High Town Ward:

- Police updated residents on persistent issues in the area.
- Parking on pavements in the area known as the Halves.
- High Town Festival 5th July 2014

Saints Ward:

- No issues to report.

Resolved: That feedback on the top key issues from the Ward Forums be noted.

15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 5)

Resolved: questions from the public this time.

16. HEALTHWATCH LUTON GP REVIEW (REF: 8)

The Healthwatch Luton Project Officer and Dr. Nina Pearson presented the report (Ref: 8), on the GP Review – Report and Recommendations, which was jointly prepared with Luton Clinical Commissioning Group.

Setting the context, he explained Healthwatch's independent status as an organisation championing the causes of patients in health and social care, with power to review services and make recommendations for change.

He added the review of GP services in Luton was conducted with unannounced visits to all 39 GP Practices in Luton, complemented by a survey of around 1000 patients. Some key findings/ issues were as follows:

- 50% of patients could not get a GP appointment when they needed to;
- 40% said they were unable to get through to their surgeries on the phone;
- Only 9% of Practices had disabled access;
- On the positive side, 90% of patients were happy with their care;
- 80% would recommend their GP to their family and friends;
- 70% rated their GPs as very good or excellent;
- 680 recommendations made, half of which GPs had committed to implement and the remainder being subject of on-going negotiations with them;
- Data for North Luton were provided in the report (Ref: 7);
- Many issues requiring funding could not be addressed in Luton, as NHS England responsible for commissioning GP services, not Luton CCG;
- NHS England had been requested to invest in Luton to enable the Healthwatch recommendations to be implemented;

The Project Officer re-emphasised the 8 recommendations in the report to the Board, requesting support to put pressure on NHS England to invest in Luton.

He proceeded to respond to questions, providing further information as follows:

- 800 out of the 1000 patients surveyed were from outside the GP Practices, with others from events;
- The full report could be found on Healthwatch Luton website;
- GP using 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers had been requested to cease and use local numbers. Many had already agreed to do so;
- 1:1 sessions being held with GP Practices regarding the 50% of the recommendations not accepted from the outset. A further update report would be produced when done;
- Some GP Practices were very willing to respond, some were not so professional;
- The issue of patients failing to keep appointments was considered, but as not all GP Practices kept data, was not included as part of report;

- Text messaging used to remind patients of appointments appeared to be an effective measure to reduce the rate of failure to show for appointments;
- Healthwatch Luton was trying to get NHS England to fund automatic doors at GP Practices to improve disabled access;
- 28 of GP Practices did not have a separate room at Reception where patients could discuss their private and confidential issues with staff;
- Patients did not have to respond to questions on private and confidential issues put by receptionists.

Councillors and members of the public were informed that a report for each GP had been created and included a response from the surgery along with their timescales for implementing the recommendations issued by Healthwatch Luton, which could be viewed online at www.healthwatchluton.co.uk/gp-report.

The Chair thanked the project Officer for the report and moved that the Board and members of the public present should fully support the Healthwatch recommendations as requested, which was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: (i) That the Healthwatch Luton GP Review – Report and Recommendations (Ref: 8) be noted and its recommendations to the Board fully supported;

(ii) That the Board's thanks to Kay Kokabi, the Healthwatch Luton Project Officer be recorded.

17. 'YOU SAID, WE'RE DOING' - NEWSLETTER: CENTRAL LUTON AREA (REF: 9)

The Neighbourhood Governance Manager presented his report (Ref: 9), providing an overview of priorities for the area.

Members attention was drawn to the following areas:

- Introduction of body worn cameras by Bedfordshire Police.
- The successful recruitment of two Neighbourhood Support Officers.
- Project to help reduce social isolation.
- Clear-up operations conducted by the High Town Team.
- Introduction of the Luton Speakers Club by the Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD)

Resolved: That the report of the Neighbourhood Governance Project Manager (Ref: 9) providing an overview of priorities for the area be noted.

18. AREA REPORT (REF: 10)

The Area Board Support Officer presented his report (Ref: 10), updating the Board on budgetary issues since its last meeting, for noting, recommendations and decisions on further actions, as required.

The Area Board Support Officer reported on three applications for funding which had been received:

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
BI 523	<p><u>Girls Rookie Lifeguards</u> Rookie Lifeguards learn what it is to be a lifeguard. We are taught how to recognise someone in distress in the pool and know what action to take.</p> <p>Our group is mostly girls 12-19. We would like to deliver rookie lifeguard training. This training would improve our physical and mental well-being, allow us to take part in a physical activity that is acceptable by our culture as it will be taught by a female tutor in an all female environment.</p> <p>We will also learn basic life saving skills in and out of the water and this is also recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh Award.</p> <p>We will deliver the project at Denbigh High School. We hope that at the end of 40 weeks 50% of us will get gold level 3 and at least 70% silver level 2 and the rest of us bronze. Our main cost is swimming pool hire and tutor. The session is once a week for an hour. It will run for 30 weeks</p>	£3,145	<p>£1,500</p> <p>AGREED</p>
BI 524	<p><u>Luton Community Netball Club</u> Luton Community Netball Club provides a forum by which women and girls of all ages can experience fitness and develop social skills in a safe, fun team-spirited environment. Due to its success, the club would like to expand into other community areas, providing people with access to our beneficial service.</p> <p>The money is needed to provide a safe facility to accommodate one training session to be held at Denbigh High School. This involves being able to pay for indoor hall hire as well as outdoor courts. Money is also needed to pay for a club member to be trained to a Level 2 Coaching standard in order to provide consistent quality training. A laptop is also required to maintain an accurate database as well as a website to enable efficient community access to our club.</p>	£1,258	<p>£1,258</p> <p>AGREED</p>
BI 525	<p><u>Lutonian Cricket Club</u> We are looking to obtain a Cricket square mower . The ideal mower would be a Dennis G560 or Dennis G580 mower. They are a slightly larger mower than a pitch mower & are designed to cut at a slightly higher cut than when cutting the pitch.</p> <p>This mower would allow us to permanently have our own equipment & not to rely on borrowing from Luton Borough Council Parks Dept.</p>	£6,645	<p>£6,645</p> <p>AGREED £2,000 AWARD- ED BY CENTRAL LUTON AREA</p>

	<p>We could then do the work when have volunteers available. The increased availability would then improve the playing surface which would then give our players the chance to improve their skills.</p> <p>Alternatively we have a second project on the go. We are looking for a pitch cover that covers 3 strips .</p> <p>As previously stated we play our games at Lower Wardown sports ground at the junction of Stockingstone Road & New Bedford Road. We are gradually building up our own equipment & this mower plus pitch cover would be part of that long term project.</p> <p>We are looking to expand our fixtures from the current midweek colts matches & Sunday Beds League games . We have applied for the Herts League to be included in their Saturday fixtures for 2015.</p>		<p>BOARD (to be match funded from alternative sources)</p>
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Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 10) be noted.

(ii) That the Area Report of the Area Board Support Officer (Ref: 10) updating the Board on budgetary issues be noted;

(iii) That application under BI 523 be agreed as set out above

(iv) That application BI 524 be agreed, as set out above.

(v) That the application BI 525 be agreed, as set out above

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (REF: 12)

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Board be held 7.45 p.m. on 23rd October 2014, following the Ward Forums to be held at 6.30 p.m. Venue to be confirmed.

(Notes: The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.)