

## **SOUTH LUTON AREA COMMITTEE**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 8.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ashraf, M. Hussain and Raquib.

### **10 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chair (Councillor Farooq), Councillor Ashraf was elected Chair for this meeting only.

### **11 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 9)**

A member of the public enquired about the status of the proposed swimming pool.

The Chair advised that the Council were in the process of appointing a dedicated officer to resolve the issue and suggested an update report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** That an update report on the status of the proposed swimming pool be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **13 EAST LUTON CORRIDOR SCHEME - UPDATE (REF: 11)**

Mr. Alan Jones, Public Liaison Officer, Birse Civils Ltd. updated the Committee with regard to the work on the East Luton Corridor as follows:

- the latest situation at Eaton Green roundabout - We recommenced work in this area at end of January and we have now completed laying of all kerbs within the roundabout. The area of the roundabout is much larger than the original as many of you will no doubt have noticed. During the past few weeks we have had to break out a large part of the road surface to accommodate the increased area of the roundabout. We are currently working on installing drainage within the roundabout and gullies. We are also filling the roundabout with backfill material and compacting to give it some structural stability. An unusual feature of the roundabout is that it will have a hard standing area within the centre for the temporary parking of emergency vehicles. They will access the parking area via drop kerbs and will park on grasscrete blocks which are hollow blocks designed to permit grass to grow through the holes and therefore remain unobtrusive and hidden from view. The parking area will be in the form of a tee shaped area allowing for several vehicles to park.

- Although our labour force has not been working every single day in this area, on the days they were not there it was generally to complete sections of kerbing on other locations as they became available.
- The overall area of the outer part of the roundabout will be much smaller than the original. This is actually in order to enhance the traffic flow by having specific lanes, and controlling traffic in a more disciplined manner. The entry and exit lanes will in fact be wider and lengthened to allow greater stacking room on the approach than the original roundabout and therefore provide greater capacity. The old roundabout was very open and which promoted very poor lane discipline by drivers leading to accidents or near misses. Under the new scheme it should prevent vehicles cutting across each other and when a vehicle enters the roundabout and wishes to take the first exit it should be able to do so without having to wait for a gap in the traffic.
- In order to complete the work it will be necessary to have four weekend closures of the roundabout with diversions in place. These will commence at midnight on the Friday and be over at 3am on the Monday. We do not yet have the definite weekend dates, but they will most likely be at the end of April and during May.
- We will of course have a lot of publicity to advise local residents and motorists. The routes for the diversion are with Luton BC and Bedfordshire Police Highways dept awaiting their approval.
- Once all the roadworks at the roundabout are completed we would then need approximately two weeks to carry out work to the verges. We anticipate the work should be completed by early June.
- Until then I'm afraid there will be a continued presence of traffic cones in the area, which I am aware are a source of concern to many people. Whilst the work is in progress the entry and exit lanes are reduced to one lane only to ensure safety of the work force and road users. These works are all being carried with the positive intention of improving conditions and by their very nature can be disruptive until the work is complete.
- I hope that when the roundabout is complete people will be able to appreciate the positive advantages it will bring.
- On the weekend of 29 Feb - 3 March we had a major closure of the A1081 Airport Way East bound to allow resurfacing to take place. In spite of a lengthy diversion we believe delays for motorists were minimal and we have not received any complaints. Whilst the road was closed we took advantage of the time and completed all the white lining on this section together with stud installation and a survey and repair to all cracks in section of the original carriageway.
- We have also completed many sections of road surfacing to other areas of the project including the bus ramp areas. We believe this closure was very successful.
- Since Christmas we have made good progress on the project considering the time of year. We are well under way with the soil nailing to the 70% slope adjacent to the A1081 Airport Way, and we have also completed netting works to the runway ahead of programme.
- We believe that on balance the traffic management for the entire project has gone extremely well and traffic has kept moving especially with the

many weekend closures and diversions that have taken place. In many ways the project has progressed very well considering the technical challenges that have faced us.

- Luton Borough Council regularly updates their website page with details of forthcoming diversions and road closures.
- Freephone helpline 0800-032 9760

**Resolved:** That the report (Ref: 11) be noted.

#### 14 AREA REPORT (REF: 12)

The Area Committee Support Officer updated the Committee on issues that were raised following the last meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and informed them of the latest position in regard to the area projects budget.

He presented four area project applications as detailed below:

Project No	Project	Cost of Project	Amount Requested	Amount Agreed
285	<b>Nubian Jak Community Trust Ltd</b> A local project to stimulate interest in the London 2012 Games amongst 14–20 age groups.	£7,500	£5000	£400.00 <b>Agreed</b>
FA286	<b>The Next Generation Scheme</b> Farley Summer Programme – 6 week summer holidays – provision for young people aged 8-16 years at Farley Junior School.  This application was agreed in the absence the applicant. The Committee requested the applicant's attendance at its next meeting to give further information on the proposed project.	£2,500	£2,5000	£2,500 <b>Agreed</b>
SO287	<b>Park Town Community Centre</b> Holiday club throughout summer period for children 5-12 years.	Ongoing	£1,000	£1,000 <b>Agreed</b>
SO 288	<b>Park town Tenants &amp; Residents</b> Family Fun Day at Manor Road Recreation Ground on 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2008.	£500	£5000	£500.00 <b>Agreed</b>

The Area Committee Support Officer advised that the Pilot operated at the last meeting had now been adopted by all the Area Committees. The adopted process would be:

<u>Ward Forums</u>	
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<u>from 6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.</u>  Ward Councillors Police Officers and PCSO's (6.30 - 6.50 p.m. only) Community Safety Officer Council Officers e.g. Street Services, Highways, Youth Service, Community Development	Topics specific to only 1 Ward would be reported to the relevant Ward Forum.  Only if an issue required a formal decision (e.g. referral to another committee of the Council) would it be fedback to the Area Committee under their agenda item 'Resolutions from Ward Forums.
<u>Area Committee at 8.00 p.m.</u>  As Agenda	1 Police Officer in attendance for public question time item.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report (Ref: 12) be noted.

(ii) That the applications to the Area Project Scheme be decided as indicated above.

(iii) That the Next Generation Scheme applicant be requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee to give further information on the proposed project.

## 15 LUTON YOUTH SERVICE – BULLET POINT UPDATE (REF: 13)

The Youth Programmes Development Manager submitted a youth service bullet point update (Ref: 13), which apprised of activities that had taken place since the last meeting of the Committee. He congratulated the young people achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

The Youth Programmes Development Manager advised that:

- Starlight Youth club had won an award of money
- Local radio station – young people accreditation
- First Aid Courses for young people
- Body and Soul production – dance studio attended by young people
- 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 – Diverse script

**Resolved:** That the report (Ref: 13) be noted.

## 16 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – BULLET POINT UPDATE (REF: 14)

The Unit Development Manager circulated a Community Development bullet point update, which apprised of activities that had taken place since the last meeting of the Committee:

**Farley Community Centre:**

- Staff continue to work on improving the Centre Programme and have now included local Police Surgeries. The first one to start on Tuesday 11th March 11.00am – 12 Noon, and continue on a monthly basis. (Please telephone the Centre for details of further surgeries, as times may vary.)
- Staff are also supporting one of their younger members in her training to qualify as a dance teacher, although she has some of her qualifications she now has to have practical experience towards others, and is providing dance sessions on a weekly basis for the 10 years plus age group, this is proving to be a successful and enjoyable session for the young people.
- Another new group to Farley is Advanced Housing; this group provide support and social interaction for adults with learning disabilities.
- The Centre is also planning a holiday in June for the local over 50's in Farley; the Centre Staff will run this. These holidays provide much needed support, encouragement and Security to the older users in our Community, a lot of who are now less able bodied and more vulnerable.

**Park Town Community Centre:**

- Staff at Park Town ran a Holiday Scheme during the February Half – term with the help of Volunteers and the local PCSO's. This proved hugely successful with an average of 45 children aged 5 – 12years every day. This club provided a range of activities from cooking to creative arts, and although this is open to all children of this age range, the majority that attended was from the Park Town area and proved to be a much-needed provision.
- The Centre programme continues to thrive and improve, the staff has been approached by some new groups, and are in discussions with them at the moment.
- The Community Information day that was reported to the last meeting, regarding the proposal of a Children's Centre to Park Town was held on Monday 28th January and was a successful and informative day. The feedback from the local Community was very positive. Discussions are continuing on this project.
- Both Farley and Park Town Community Centre are planning an Open Day in April. This is to enable Members of the Public to come in and see for themselves what the Centre provides in the way of activities, as well as this they will also be able to access other agencies and Partners, who we hope will be here on the day, such as: Age Concern, Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice, various benefits agencies, as well as LBC departments, i.e. Recycling unit, Libraries, Children and Young People, Youth Service, Area Committee

information. This will be advertised around the areas nearer the time.

**Resolved:** That the report (Ref: 14) be noted.

**17 AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 15)**

- Feedback – Councillors non-attendance
- Swimming Pool – Progress update

**(Note: The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.)**