

**West Luton Area Committee**  
**15<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 8.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Shaw (Chair); Councillors Akbar, Bailey, Mead, Roden, Simmons, Stewart and Strange.

**1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

**2 MINUTES (REF: 3.1)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 9)**

A member of the public requested that the plans of the new Challney Girls High School be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

A member of the public enquired if Officers had been made aware about Waluluds Bank monument being overgrown and used as a fly tipping site.

It was agreed that Officers would be contacted.

**Resolved:** That the questions and comments raised by members of the public be noted.

**4 STREET SEEN (REF: 11)**

The Street Seen Project Co-ordinator updated the Committee on the work of Street Seen, which was now in its fourth year. The scheme relied on voluntary 'street champions' to report areas of concern to either a Freephone number or a dedicated email address and that the service was completely confidential. The Street Seen Project Co-ordinator advised the Committee that leaflets were available explaining the scheme.

The scheme was being extended into schools to recruit 'junior champions'. This was partly to promote increased responsibility among young people for an area and also because young people had a different viewpoint to adults. They noticed things that adults often missed.

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

## **5 YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE – BULLET POINT UPDATE (REF: 12)**

The Senior Area Youth Worker and members of the Halyard Youth Service submitted an update on the current youth service activities and developments in Challney, Leagrave and Lewsey Wards.

The young people informed the Committee that since the Halyard High School is no longer in existence and has been replaced with Barnfield West Academy, the youth club has now changed its name to “The Future Generation Youth Centre”.

A member of the public enquired about the various times and activities of the youth club, the Senior Area Youth Worker agreed to give the gentleman details of the activities.

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

(ii) That the young people be thanked for attending the meeting and outlining the various activities undertaken by The Future Generation Youth Centre.

## **6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – BULLET POINT UPDATE (REF: 13)**

The Unit Development Manager introduced himself to the Committee and submitted an update on the current Community Development service activities and developments being undertaken in the Challney, Leagrave and Lewsey Wards.

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

## **7 LUTON & DUNSTABLE BUSWAY & TOWN CENTRE RE-DEVELOPMENT (REF: 14)**

The Consultant, Traffic Engineering Team, gave a presentation on the various projects proposed for the town.

The Consultant explained that £80 million funding had been secured from the Government for the Luton Dunstable Busway (LDB) and tenders for the project should be sent out in the next few months.

Members of the public welcomed the new busway and remarked that buses should operate early in the morning and late in the evening to accommodate and encourage workers to use the busway.

The Consultant informed the public that negotiations would be undertaken with the bus companies, but it was hoped that the buses would operate on a 24 hour basis.

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to look at the plans for the new Bus Interchange.

The Consultant explained that the proposed new Bus Interchange was subject to a current planning application and that the relevant plans could be viewed on-line.

The Consultant informed the Committee that a new multi storey car park was to be constructed consisting of 734 spaces with provision for 20 blue badge spaces and 7 parent and child spaces on Station Road. It was anticipated that the car park would be completed by the end of 2009 or beginning of 2010. The car park was being built to replace the station car parking on either side of Station Road allowing the re-development of the front of the station. The Committee were informed that the bridge would need to be closed temporarily to enable this work to be undertaken. The consultant advised that there had been a small number of objections to the proposed demolition of the footbridge between the Station and Bute Street. The objections would delay progress on the new route but hopefully should not stop it, though a public inquiry will be required. There was overall support from members of the public for the proposed work around the station and for the demolition of the footbridge.

**Resolved:** (i) That the progress on the Luton Dunstable Busway, and the Town Centre Projects be noted.

(ii) That the Area Committee were pleased with the proposed works being proposed to regenerate the town.

## **8 LUTON AQUATICS CENTRE – PROJECT UPDATE (REF: 15)**

The Project Manager Swimming Pools was unable to attend the Committee as he was attending a meeting in his role on Building Schools for the Future project. In his absence Councillor Simmons explained that in early 2008 the Aquatics Centre Project Board had identified a need to revisit the previous feasibility work on the replacement of Wardown Swimming and Leisure Centre. The purpose of the feasibility study was to establish whether a 50M Olympic pool was viable. It made sense to consider the project of a new swimming pool at the same time as the BSF project was being undertaken.

The feasibility study recommended that the Luton Aquatics Centre was a viable proposition for Luton with the Luton Regional Sport site being considered for the development. Active Luton would operate the centre ensuring standards were met and that the centre provided value for money.

She further explained that funding would be provided from Prudential borrowing and paid back from the airport dividend.

A member of the public commented that the name Luton Aquatics Centre resembled an aquarium for fish, the name Luton Aqua Centre seemed more appropriate.

A member of the public enquired if the road layout around the area would be reviewed.

A member of the public asked what the old Electrolux site would be used for now that the swimming pool was to be located in Stopsley.

Councillor Simmons replied that the road layout around the area for the new pool would be examined. The old Electrolux site was being used as a training ground for Luton Town Football. It was hoped that in the future a football academy would be developed on the old Electrolux site.

**Resolved:** That the report (Ref: 15) be noted.

## **9 AREA COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK (REF: 16)**

The Committee was given an update on the activities of the Luton Adult Community Learning Service across Luton as a whole and in the locality of the West Luton Area Committee. Officers also provided feedback on the consultation exercise that had been undertaken as part of the service's planning for future delivery with members of the public who had attended an Area Committee over the previous three years. The comments raised by members of the public included:-

- Council needed to market and advertise their classes more.
- Prospectus delivered to local addresses so that people have something to refer to.
- Facilities provided were not always up to the required standard. One resident remarked that a Patch Working class was held in a science laboratory with learners sitting on stools.

The Service Manager Adult Education informed the Committee that adult education classes were advertised in the Luton and Dunstable Express and Lutonline. The Service Manager Adult Education would ensure that the residents views and comments would be considered by the Department.

**Resolved:** that the developments in the Luton Adult Community Service and its responses to the consultation (Ref: 16) be noted.

## **10 NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE (REF: 17)**

The Community Centre and Neighbourhood Manager reported that recent Government legislation required Councils to strengthen the role of local Councillors and encouraging greater community involvement.

West Luton had been chosen as a pilot area of finding better ways of making public services more accountable for local people and giving local

residents greater opportunities on the decision making process. The pilot project aims to increase opportunities for local people to get involved with Ward Forums and Area Community Planning in their locality.

The Council needs to work with its partners such as the Police, PCT, Fire Service and other public bodies together with the Voluntary and Community and Private Sectors.

A member of the public enquired if that meant that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Sustainable Strategy encouraged departments in the Council consulted with people.

The Community Centre and Neighbourhood Manager replied that the Council would be consulting with the public more so that they were more involved with the decision making process. The LAA was reviewed each year. The Officer agreed to submit a presentation at the next meeting of Committee.

**Resolved:** That the report (Ref: 17) be noted.

(ii) That the Community Centre and Neighbourhood Manager submit a presentation to the next meeting of the Committee.

## 11 AREA REPORT (REF: 17)

The Area Committee Support Officer updated the Committee on issues that were raised following the last meeting and informed the Committee of the latest position in regard to the area projects budget and stated the Committee had £231.00 left in this financial year.

The Committee considered the following applications

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Decision
ALL 328	<b><u>Les Grenouilles De Luton</u></b> The groups will aim at transmitting French language, culture and traditions to all native French speakers of the Luton area, developing relationships and friendships, as well as creating a sense of belonging to a unique community for our children.	£3,200	£231.00 the remainder of the budget for this year.
ALL 329	<b><u>Luton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme</u></b> To develop Neighbourhood Watch Schemes within Luton, to ensure that communities are created which make people safer within their own homes and streets. To also promote partnership working between the Police, Council and the Public.	£7,340	Defer until the next meeting of the Committee as there was no budget available.

The Committee were pleased to note that Luton had signed up to become a new Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Area. This would enable work to be undertaken to develop and build on the already successful ward forum and area committee process. This work would be further enhanced with meetings that would engage local communities, to focus specifically on issues of crime and related matters that impact on their quality of life. A meeting relating to the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Area would be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 at the Chaul End Community Centre at 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm. Residents would receive letters in the post.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report (Ref: 18) be noted.

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

## **12 AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 18)**

**Resolved:** That the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

- The Plan for the new Challney Girls High School
- Update on the proposed works to the M1 motorway
- Plans for the new Bus Interchange
- Presentation on the new Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- Luton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Project No ALL 329.

**(Note: The meeting ended at 9.15p.m.)**