

NORTH LUTON AREA COMMITTEE

31st May 2007 at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Garrett (Chair); Councillors Bullock, Campbell, Hinkley, Pedersen, Simons, Titmuss and Worlding.

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors R.J. Davis and Foord.

27 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th March 2007 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

28 URGENT ITEMS

The Area Committee Support Officer invited the Committee to consider two applications under the Area Project Scheme.

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

(ii) That the following applications under the Area Project Scheme be approved in the sums indicated:

Project No	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Agreed
	AKEBA - Akeba is an informal group, which works with the African & Caribbean Communities in Luton to raise awareness on cultural and community issues vital for their growth and success in the immediate and long-term future. Akeba delivers both social / networking forums as well as educational & supportive workshops and seminars in local areas. These initiatives are not just for the target communities but also for all interested members of any community who wishes to increase their awareness of cultural diversity & issues and their engagement with the African & Caribbean Community. In recognition of the 2007 Bi-centenary of the Abolition Of The Slave Trade, Akeba will be using this theme as the main focus for their activities this year.	£1,200	£1,200

	Marsh Farm Amateur Boxing Club – To purchase boxing equipment to help establish the club.	£5,000	£3,000
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(Note: The above item was considered by the Committee in pursuance of Sections 1004B(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 in order to enable the Committee to make a decision on the request for funding without delay.

29 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE (REF: 6.1)

The North Luton Community Safety Coordinator submitted an update on the current activities and developments in the Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury, Northwell and Sundon Park wards.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 6.1) be noted.

30 POLICE QUESTIONS (REF: 6.2)

Police Officers and Police Community Safety Officers were present at the meeting to take questions from members of the public.

A member of the public raised concern at a recent incident involving a child being run over outside of Waulud Primary School.

Sergeant Cahill informed the Committee that the Police and the Council were holding operations around schools to address the issue of road safety and parking.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 7.2) be noted.

31 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 7)

A local resident commented on the increasing number of cold callers in Limbury, and enquired how the area could be made a 'No Cold Calling Zone'.

The Chair replied that this had also been raised in the Icknield Ward Forum, and suggested that a report on how to introduce no cold calling measures in wards be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 7.2) be noted.

(ii) That the Area Support Officer submit a report on 'No Cold Calling Zones' to the next meeting of the North Luton Area Committee.

32 REPLACEMENT OF SECURITY GUARD AT THE PURLEY CENTRE (REF: 8.1)

The Head of Local Democracy reported on the receipt of a 116 - signature petition from residents of Marsh Farm in regard to the Housing Departments decision to replace the on site security guard with estate-wide Neighbourhood Wardens.

A Member of the Council informed the Committee that at a recent meeting, it had been agreed that the on site security guard at the Purley Centre would remain in place until the Neighbourhood Wardens had been introduced.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 8.1) be noted.

33 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT SELINA CLOSE/MOIRA CLOSE (REF: 8.2)

The Head of Local Democracy reported on the receipt of a 54 - signature petition from residents of Selina Close, Moira Close and Sundon Park Road requesting action against anti-social behaviour in the area.

The Committee were informed that residents had the following concerns:

- Incidents of anti social behaviour from 15-40 youth were becoming more frequent.
- Incidents of under age drinking.
- Incidents of drug taking and possible drug taking.
- The safety of residents at risk due to broken and smashed bottles.

A Councillor informed the Committee that incidents had spread to Sycamore Close.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Police were aware of the situation and that if nothing had been resolved by the next meeting, a report would be submitted explaining why.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 8.2) be noted.

(ii) That the Police submit a report in regard to anti-social behaviour in Selina Close, Moira Close and Sundon Park Road if the issue had not been resolved by the next meeting of the North Luton Area Committee.

34 AMENDMENT TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD (REF: 8.3)

The Traffic Engineering Manager reported on the receipt of an 18 - signature petition from users of the Busy Bee Pre-School Nursery, Mount Pleasant Road requesting that sufficient on street parking be provided for parents to pick up children.

He advised that there were approximately 20 spaces allocated for on-street permit holders, of which 18 were held in Mount Pleasant Road. On observation, not all spaces were utilised during the daytime, and therefore it would appear that there was some spare capacity for short-term visitor parking.

It was therefore proposed that the restrictions relating to the two residents only parking bays opposite the church be amended to allow short-term visitors to park for up to 30 minutes.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 8.3) be noted.

(ii) That the North Luton Area Committee agree that the restrictions relating to the two residents only parking bays opposite the church be amended to allow short-term visitors to park for up to 30 minutes.

35 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (REF: 9)

The Business and Economy Officer gave the following presentation in respect of Neighbourhood Watch. The Committee were informed that the Neighbourhood Watch:-

- Are not just about reducing burglary figures, they are about creating communities who care.
- Brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving their lives.
- The activity of Watch Members can foster a new community spirit and a belief in the communities' ability to tackle problems.
- Members would feel secure, knowing their neighbours were keeping an eye on your property.

She added that:-

- A Neighbourhood Watch scheme is generally led by a volunteer street co-ordinator.
- Area support is given to street co-ordinators.
- The steering group meet regularly to plan which problems to target and what action to take.
- Schemes keep in close contact with local Police Community Support Officer's (PCSO's) and Beat Bobbies to share information and advice.

She informed the Committee that the Ringmaster system was:-

- Now available to Luton.
- A fast and effective method of disseminating information.
- A method to broadcast incidents, no matter how small: Report it to the Bedfordshire Police Call Handling centre on (01582) 401212 quoting the Unique Reference Number (URN) given for an incident.

She went on to say that the Luton Neighbourhood Watch website was in the process of being developed in partnership with the Police, and

would cover all aspects of community and neighbourhood policing. The site would include:-

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Crime Reduction
- Business Watch
- Ringmaster
- Other Community Issues

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 9) be noted.

36 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW (REF: 10)

The Traffic Engineering Manager reported in regard to the initial review of speed limits in Luton. He notified the Committee that in line with an announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport on 15th December 2005, Local Authorities needed to formally review the speed limits of all 'A' and 'B' roads in accordance with guidance that was published on 8th August 2006; Dft Circular 01/2006 – Setting Local Speed Limits. He added that any changes to speed limits would be implemented by 2011.

He went on to say that a review of all 'A' and 'B' classified roads in Luton had been carried out and also on any other roads, where the present speed limit was in excess of 30mph. The review consisted of an initial consultation with emergency services and others at a Traffic Liaison Meeting. He went on to say that an analysis of recorded personal injury accidents had also been undertaken.

The Traffic Engineering Manager urged local residents to complete the Speed Limit Review Consultation paper available at the meeting and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 10) be noted.

37 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – CATSBROOK ROAD (REF: 11)

Members of the public raised concern at speeding traffic on Catsbrook Road.

The Chair suggested that a temporary mobile speed sign be placed on Catsbrook Road to help reduce the speed of traffic on the road.

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

(ii) That the Traffic Engineering Manager be requested to install a temporary mobile speed sign in Catsbrook Road to help reduce the speed of traffic on the road.

38 GATING PROJECT - LIMBURY CAR PARK (REF: 12)

The Parks and Cemeteries Manager informed the Committee of the Gating Project at Limbury Car Park. He informed the Committee that at the previous meeting, the Committee had requested that a barrier be installed in the Limbury Car Park. He added that the car park already had a 'Height Restriction' barrier in place, however this did not prevent people congregating in the area. He went on to suggest that one method of restricting access to the car park would be to introduce a barrier separating half of the car park. Another solution would be to close the car park off entirely, but this would make the land difficult to access and maintain.

A Member of the Committee commented that the Council needed to know exactly what the problem was before a solution could be found and suggested that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

(ii) That the Parks and Cemeteries Manager submit a further report setting out the exact problem and possible solutions in respect of people congregating at Limbury Car Park to the next meeting of the North Luton Area Committee.

39 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (REF: 13)

The Building Schools for the Future Manager submitted a report in regard to Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

A local resident raised concern that BSF could have an adverse effect on community centres. He added that a large number of residents had not seen draft plans for their local schools.

The Director of Children and Learning replied that the Government would not provide funding for community provision under the BSF project. He added that there would be a road show for each proposed site detailing all proposals and plans.

The chair requested that regular updates on BSF be submitted to future meetings of the Committee on a rotational basis.

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

(ii) That the Building Schools for the Future Manager submit a regular update report on BSF to future meetings of the North Luton Area Committee on a rotational basis.

40 WARDOWN SWIMMING AND LEISURE CENTRE (REF: 14)

The Chief Executive of Active Luton submitted a briefing sheet updating the Committee in respect of the Wardown Swimming and Leisure Centre.

There had been a number of recent changes to the cleaning regime. These included cleaners operating at both mornings and evenings as opposed to night time shifts enabling closer management of the cleaning operatives. Also new deep cleaning programmes had been introduced recently, which had already made a marked improvement to the facility.

The changing rooms were in the process of being redecorated, and new cubicles had been fitted, which had made a vast improvement on the male changing room. In addition, there was also a new reception offering a vastly improved ambience, which made communication with customers far more effective.

The appearance of the main pool was unsightly due to sand leaking from the filters into the pool. Whilst this was quite harmless and posed no threat to health, it was unsightly and uncomfortable. Unfortunately, the cost of refurbishing the filters was approximately £25,000 per unit, which was cost prohibitive. As an interim measure, a pool vacuum had been purchased which would enable the pool floor to be maintained.

The Chair requested that the Chief Executive of Active Luton attend the next meeting of the Committee to answer questions of the public.

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

(ii) That the Chief Executive Active Luton be requested to attend the next meeting of the North Luton Area Committee.

41 LUTON YOUTH SERVICE DEVELOPMENT (REF: 15)

The North and Central Area Youth Manager updated the Committee on the current Youth Service activities and developments in the Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury, Northwell and Sundon Park wards.

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

42 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (REF: 16)

The representative from Community Development, Housing and Community Living presented a report on the latest developments within the Community Development service affecting Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury, Northwell and Sundon Park Wards.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 16) be noted.

43 AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 17)

Resolved: (i) That the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee:

- No Cold Calling Zones
- Swimming Pool - Chief Executive Active Luton to attend in order to respond to public questions
- Litter around Shops in Riddy Lane

- Gating Project – Limbury Car Park

(Note : The meeting ended at 9.35pm).