

SOUTH LUTON AREA BOARD

11th NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.15 p.m.

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

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

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

23 MINUTES (REFS: 2)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the South Luton Area Board held on the 7th July 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24 FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 4.)

Feedback on key issues discussed at each Ward Forum were as follows:

Dallow Ward: Councillor Farooq

- Drug dealing
- Parking – Ferndale Road
- Fly tipping/Rubbish

Farley Ward: Councillor Hussain

- Access Path at Farley Fields
- Nuisance motorbikes on the estate
- Parking on pavements causing obstruction

South Ward: Councillor Castleman

- Parking
- Fly tipping
- Blocked drains in Strathmore Avenue

Resolved: That the above issues be passed to the relevant Council departments to follow up and reported back to the Ward Forums.

25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 5)

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Issue raised:	Response provided:
Was there a security issue in Park Street on Remembrance Sunday?	The Police were aware of an issue which arose from Bar 32 which has been dealt with.

Can an update on the proposals for an office block at Junction 10 be provided?	The site was purchased by Luton Town FC and there are no plans as yet to develop the land, which is not suitable for affordable housing but is better suited for business or retail use. The Kenilworth Road lease is due to end in 2018, and if the club has not found a new location by then a new lease would be issued.
Can residents permits be issued on match days only to Dallow Road residents and businesses who find it difficult parking on match days?	That problem should be resolved once the football club moves to a new location in the town, and residents permits cannot be issued for short periods only, and are issued for longer periods within an area.

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

26 PETITION – HASTING STREET, LUTON (REF: 6.1)

Christine Davy, Traffic Safety and Regulation Manager presented the report (Ref 6.1) which was a petition requesting the immediate address of the dangerous traffic issues in Hastings Street, Luton. The petition contained 129 signatures from residents throughout Luton and further afield for action to be taken to reduce the number of accidents occurring at the junction of Hasting Street and Dumfries Street (by R & R Autos) and the provision of stop signs at the junction of Dumfries Street and Hasting Street in both directions including speed reducing measures along both Hasting Street and Dumfries Street.

She advised Hasting & Dumfries Streets were within a 20mph zone and a speed survey was carried out in Hasting Street in May 2015 showed 85% of traffic travelling along both streets travelled at the limit or under. The council was prepared to enhance the 20mph signs and that work was expected to be carried out by Christmas.

The Accident injury data was checked along Hasting Street which found there were 3 injury accidents at the junction of the two streets between 1st January 2012 and 31 December 2014 and a further 2 incidents up to June 2015.

The council is aware of some damage only accidents and to lessen further occurrences road markings were refreshed and new hazard markings were laid through the junction.

The junction was also checked against the criteria for stop junctions and both exits from Dumfries Street and Hasting Street met the criteria. A letter was sent to the Secretary of State for Transport for approval to install more stop junctions and once approval is received work can start to complete the traffic regulation orders to install Stop Junctions.

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

(ii) That the following be noted:

- The additional 20mph speed limits signs soon to be erected
- The road markings at the junction of Hasting Street and Dumfries Street were remarked with an additional hazard marking through the junction
- That a letter to the Secretary of State for Transport had been sent for approval to mark Stop Junctions on Dumfries Street at the Junction of Hasting Street

(iii) That the Service Director Engineering and Street Services be instructed to advise the petitioners on the outcome.

27 PETITION – RE PARKING ISSUES IN NEWCOMBE ROAD (REF: 6.2)

Christine Davy, Traffic and Regulations Manager presented the report (Ref 6.2) which was a petition regarding parking issues in Newcombe Road. The petition contained 24 signatures which stated the difficulty in parking during the day due to commuters and shoppers using Newcombe Road to avoid parking fees in the town centre and forcing Newcombe Road residents to park on other roads which is a hindrance to residents with small children.

The petition requests the introduction of parking restrictions but the Council does not have the resources or finances to deal with the request immediately due to the current year's work programme and budget being fully committed. The request will be added to the request list and reviewed at the end of the each financial year and prioritised. Those scoring the highest would be included in the next years' work programme and subject to budget provision. A consultation exercise would be carried out in the surrounding area of controlled parking zones; Ferndale Road, Ashburnham Road and Hatters Way and if a clear majority of residents are in favour of a resident parking zone the Traffic Regulation Orders would be progressed.

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

(ii) That an item to investigate the introduction of a residents parking zone in Newcombe Road be placed on the request list for a future programme of works.

(iii) That the Service Director Engineering and Street Services be instructed to advise the petitioners of the outcome.

28 PETITION – RESIDENTS PARKING IN UNION STREET (REF: 6.3)

Christine Davy, Traffic and Regulation Manager presented the petition requesting residents parking in Union Street. The petition contained 29 signatures of which 26 were residents of Skyline Place which was currently a single yellow line restriction from 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday) with limited waiting parking bay for 4 cars in Union Street.

Consideration was given to increasing the amount of parking bays on a street traffic flow but there was very limited scope to increase the number of parking bays in Union Street. However, there is the possibility to increase the number from 4 to 14 in Union Street and a further 6 in Oxford Street.

This would mean any resident who owns a vehicle and lives within the designated area of a residents parking scheme would be entitled to a resident parking permit.

The following questions were raised by members of the public:

Question	Comment
Was parking considered by the Council when the flats in Union Street were developed?	National guidelines states the council does not have to provide any parking for properties close to the Town Centre. As a Planning authorities we would need to apply for extra parking permission and do not have the power to implement without it consent.
There are only 4 parking spaces for resident use for people who live in the flats and 3 houses which means anyone can park there.	We cannot make any more parking spaces available in Union Street and have to keep 10cm away from junctions. We can increase the parking up to 14 spaces but cannot do any more than that.
Can the council look at a residents parking zones in Holly Street?	We can have a look at that.

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

(ii) That an item to introduction further time limited parking bays in Union Street and Oxford Street be added to the request list for a future programme of works.

(iii) That the Service Director, Engineering and Street Services be instructed to advise the petitioners of the outcome.

29 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (REF: 7)

Christine Davey, Traffic and Regulation Manager gave a power point presentation on road traffic accidents which covered the following areas:

- What information is received
- Accident classification
- How accidents are monitored
- Accidents in Luton 2012-2014
- Cluster analysis
- Route analysis
- Accident analysis for engineering schemes
- Analysis of accidents

The following questions were asked:

Question	Answer
Does the council liaise with insurance databases?	The council does not have access to insurance data bases. The process followed by the council is a similar process to what other authorities do.
Can traffic lights be installed along Hasting Street?	Installing traffic lights is a costly process and cost in the region of £100k and do not reduce accidents

Resolved: That the Boards thanks to the Officer be recorded.

30 AFFINITY WATER SAVING PROGRAMME (REF: 8)

Adam Warner and Nigel Bevan from Affinity Water gave a joint power point presentation on the water saving programme soon to be implemented across Luton which would reduce water usage in the next 25 years.

The following points were made:

- The water saving programme is shortly to be implemented in the south east region;
- Affinity Water is the largest only water company employing around 1200 people and supplies to a population of 3.6 million people around 900 million litres of water a day through a network of 16,500km of water mains to around 8 communities;
- Customers to be encouraged to work with Affinity Water to reduce their water consumption and educated on how water savings can be achieved to become energy efficient;
- The water saving programme will be rolled out over the next 10 years to save 56 million litres of water per day;

- Smart meters are to be installed and automatically read from a moving vehicle with access to homes no longer required;
- Customers will be provided with information prior to the switch three month in advance and one month before meters are installed;
- Six months after installation customers will receive a cost comparison bill compared with the rateable value and a similar bill after twelve months;
- The first bill will be issued after twenty four months and throughout that period affinity water will provide advice on water savings devices to reduce bills and will help customers to understand their water usage and to take control of their bills;
- High usage customers will receive further advice on consumption reductions and be supported with identifying leakages in their properties;
- Information regarding the water saving programme is available on the website.

The following questions were asked:

Questions	Answers
Will existing water meters be replaced?	Those meters will be retained as they have a life span 15 year before being replaced with a smart meter.
Are you doing anything to target single people on low incomes?	Customers will have 2 years before the first bill is received. The company will work with customers to reduce their water usage through regular energy checks. There are some schemes available for low income families with a combined income of £16k who can be placed on a low tariff which is also applicable for households with 3 children under the age of 18
Are the water meters compulsory?	Yes, the company is trying to meet the increasing demand of a growing population and metering is a small part of that to reduce water consumption.

Resolved: That Boards thanks to Affinity Water be recorded.

31 FLYING START 2014-2024 LUTON'S PREGNANCY TO 5 YEARS STRATEGY (REF: 9)

Joe Biskupski, Flying Start Community Participation & Volunteering Manager gave a powerpoint presentation and the following points were made:

- Flying start is Luton's prevention and early help strategy, supporting babies and young children from pregnancy to five years old. Its primary focus is prevention to make a real difference to young children;
- The project aims to make a real difference to the life chances of young children to ensure some of the problems do not repeat themselves through generations
- Challenges faced in Luton include high levels of deprivation and child poverty, childhood obesity, poor childhood social and emotional development and low levels of exercise;
- Luton has the highest level of low birth weight babies in the UK outside of Tower Hamlets in east London
- Life expectancy varies and dependent on where people live in Luton for example; there is a 5.8 year difference in life expectancy between a boy born in Farley and a boy born in Bramingham and a 7.6 year difference between a girl born in Northwell and a girl born in Stopsley;
- It is recognised that whilst such problems may exist in Biscot, Dallow, Northwell, Farley and South Luton there are significant challenges across the whole of the town.
- Flying start is a partnership which brings together many major organisations working with babies and children in Luton including the Council, health services and pre-school learning alliance. The strategy was developed in partnership with parents, community representatives and local statutory services;
- It was originally built on the 'a better start' national lottery bid in 2014 which was unsuccessful but there was a willingness by partners to continue with the work that had taken place;
- The flying start strategy focuses on two key things:
 - Primary Prevention – making a difference before problems start developing
 - Integrated Service Delivery – partners working together to deliver a core offer of evidence and science based interventions and running a number of projects in Luton to achieve that.
- Through evidence based support flying start aims to improve outcomes in three key areas:
 - Communication & Language
 - Social and emotional
 - Nutrition and diet

Resolved: (i) That the Board thanks to the Officer be recorded.

(ii) That the report (Ref 9) be noted.

32. NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE – ‘YOU SAID WE’RE DOING’ (REF: 10)

Marek Lubelski, Neighbourhood Governance Project Manager presented the report (Ref 10) and gave the following highlights were made:

- The Cohen’s Yard project was held in July in Dallow. The event was set up following the recent ‘drug action day’ to address local community priority issues in the Dallow neighbourhood. The project was led by the Medina Mosque and the All Saints Church, in partnership with the council, grassroots programme, building blocks, the children’s centre and beech hill Methodist church.
- The really wild club delivers a wide range of activities through an ongoing programme based at Surrey Street Primary School. Programmes run to date were:
 - The growing and environmental club – held a family action day where 58 parents, children and siblings attended focus sessions on building mini beast homes in the woodlands, planting flowers, growing and tasting fruits and vegetables
 - EYFS Wild Woodland Day was enjoyed by 65 children who learnt about the outdoors which included a camping event.
- Members of Farley Junior Club took part in a nature walk to Winsdon Hill which was led by the environmental charity, Groundwork.

Resolved: That the Boards thanks to the Officer be recorded.

33. LUTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (LCCG) (REF: 11)

Dr Razzaq, from Luton CCG gave the following update:

- East London NHS Foundation Trust is the new mental health services provider for adults and children;
- A public consultation is to be undertaken by NHS England and the CCG on the future of four GP practices in Luton in the Autumn. The practices contracts are coming to an end and there are a number of options which could improve the quality of GP services which will be set out in the consultation;
- The CCG is implementing elements of the urgent care strategy which will include improve and simplify access to urgent medical help. The CCG will be seeking views on elements of the current services in terms of what’s worked well and what could be improved;
- The CCG is continuing to work within its tight remit to manage the £20m financial deficit to address the shortfall caused by a number of factors. If the current financial plans are achieve the financial surplus will end in 2018/19.

Resolved: That the Boards thanks to Dr Razzaq be recorded.

34. CLEARING OF BLOCKED DRAINS (REF 12)

Resolved: That the item be deferred to the next meeting and the officer be requested to attend the meeting to give an update and to answer questions.

35. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING (REF: 13)

None noted.

36. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING (REF: 14)

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the South Area Board will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at Central Baptist Church, in Park Street.

(Note: The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.)