

NORTH LUTON AREA BOARD**13TH OCTOBER 2016 at 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillor Garrett (Chair), Councillors Campbell, R.J. Davis, Green, Lewis, Pedersen, Petts, Rowlands, Worlding and Young.

27. MINUTES (REFS; 2.1, 2.2 AND 2.3)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 20th June, 3rd August and 30th August 2016, be taken as read approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

28. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT (REF; 3)

The Chair announced that Reference 10 (Thames Water Flood Alleviation Scheme at Icknield Way) would be moved up on the Agenda as Officers from Thames Water needed to leave early to attend to other commitment.

Resolved: That Reference 10 (Thames Water Flood Alleviation Scheme at Icknield Way) be taken first on the Agenda.

29. FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 4)

Feedback on top three key issues discussed at each ward were received by the Board as follows:

Icknield Ward – Councillor Petts

- Car parking in warden hill gardens, ongoing problem.
- Speeding in Rigley lane – require action to address this issue. A 20mph speed limit would resolve the issue.
- Rigley Lane – Require measures to warn drivers of pedestrians

Northwell Ward – Councillor Davis

- General parking – ongoing issue with no immediate solution
- Traffic issues in the area – ongoing issue
- Overgrown trees and hedges – ongoing issue

Limbury Ward – Jennifer Rowlands

- Flooding - Alsworth
- Grass cutting – Spoke to Parks about how this can be managed
- Fly tipping

Sundon Park Ward – Fiona Green

- Parking consultation around the shops was launched this week and concludes on 18th October 2016. The consultation will cover key areas in Sundon Park and the vicinity of the shops.
- Nuisance motor cycle – still ongoing and will bring up next time when the police would be in attendance.
- Travellers around Leagrave Park – This is an ongoing problem.

Bramingham Ward – Councillor Gilbert

- Speeding
- Vegetation – around Barnfield College
- Bicycle sign on pavements as well as black bags on pavements

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

30. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 5)

The Community Development Manager responding to a question about the Council's new branding explained that this was for the benefit of the town and not just the Council.

Councillor Davis commenting on the availability of disabled parking spaces stated that blue badge holders should have access to parking at all times without difficulties.

Resolved: That the issues expressed by members of the public and response to those issues be noted.

31. PETITIONS (REFS: 6.1 – 6.5)

6.1 126 – 180 LIMBURY ROAD, LUTON

Christine Davy, Traffic Safety & Regulations Manager, delivered the report regarding a petition regarding resident's parking in the crescent part of Limbury Road, from 126 to 180, Limbury Road.

She explained that the petition was signed by 23 residents. One resident also wanted a 1 hours parking restriction between 10:30 Monday to Friday to be included in any consultation relating to the affected addresses.

The Officer further explained that the Council received a number of requests regarding the introduction of parking restrictions; however, it does not have the human or financial resources to deal with every request that was received. The 2015/16 financial year's work programme and budget was already committed. She advised that a "Request List" was maintained by the Council and all request were added to that list to be revisited and prioritised for the following year's budget. A request for investigation into parking restrictions in this area had been placed on the request list for further investigation.

In response to a question, the Officer explained that yellow lines had been done around the junction to deter people from parking close to it and causing obstruction in the process.

With regards to Lorries parked on the stretch of the green, she advised that objections can be forwarded to Highways Maintenance and or on line using: [traffic.gov.uk](https://www.traffic.gov.uk).

Responding to question around "Request List" she advised that a lot was considered including, disability cost, number of people objecting, etc. At present there were up to 250 people on the "Request List".

Resolved: (i) That the Report of the Service Director Public Realm Ref: 6.1, advising the petitioners of future actions be noted.

(ii) That the receipt of the petition be noted.

(iii) That it be noted by the North Luton Area Board that the item regarding the petition to investigate parking restrictions in area of 126-180 Limbury Road had been included on the "Request List" for a future programme of works;

6.2 SAWTRY CLOSE, LUTON

Christine Davy, Traffic Safety & Regulations Manager, delivered the report regarding a petition relating to speed and inconsiderate parking in Sawtry Close by people attending functions at the Meads Primary School.

The Traffic Safety & Regulations Manager explained that the petition had been signed by 16 residents relating to the reasons stated below:

- Increase in the number of functions being held at the Meads Primary school resulting in heavy traffic on Sawtry Road,
- Blocked Driveways and when the drivers were spoken to, they become aggressive and abusive
- Concerns about speeding on Sawtry Road

The Officer further explained that the School Headmaster had been contacted but he had denied many of the allegations. Local residents stated that they had photographic evidence showing and confirming the allegations.

Members of the Board were further advised that a 20mph speed limit was being proposed as part of the "Area Traffic Studies programme" for Limbury, but local residents had stated that a 20mph would not resolve the issues expressed.

Resolved: (i) That the Report of the Service Director Public Realm Ref: 6.2, advising the petitioners of future actions be noted.

(ii) That the receipt of the petition be noted.

(iii) That it be noted by the Board that the request to investigate a residents parking scheme for Sawtry Close had been added to the "Request List" for a future work programme of works.

6.3 GOOSEBERRY HILL, LUTON

The Traffic Safety and Regulations Manager advised that this had now been resolved.

Resolved: That Report Ref: 6.3 regarding the Gooseberry Hill petition and the outcome reported, be noted.

6.4 REPTON CLOSE, LUTON - MINI ROUNDABOUT UPDATE

Christine Davy, the Traffic Safety and Regulations Manager delivered the update report as previously requested by the Board.

The Officer explained that the Portfolio holder for Infrastructure and Transport agreed with Officer Recommendation not to progress a mini roundabout at the junction of Repton Close for the following reasons:

- The junction does not meet the guidelines for safe operation
- The capacity of Brammingham Road would be reduced

In response to questions about the decision and outcome of the petition, the Officer explained that Repton Close was a cul-de-sac and does not have many cars coming out of it. The Council had a duty to ensure that the accurate flow of traffic under the traffic management plan. The Chair advised that anyone not satisfied with the outcome of the petition can send a letter to the Portfolio holder, responsible for this decision and outcome.

Resolved: That the decision of the Portfolio holder for Infrastructure and Transport not to progress and create a mini roundabout at the junction of Repton Close for the reasons stated above be noted.

6.5 CORONATION MEADOW, LUTON

Christine Davy, the Traffic Safety and Regulations Manager reported on the petition regarding coronation meadow and actions as requested by the Board at the last meeting on 3rd March 2016. She requested that the Board should now consider closing the petition as complete.

She explained that following a site meeting between the Parks & Cemeteries manager Barry Timms and Cllrs Lewis and Rowland, the actions agreed at the previous meeting had been completed.

Members were advised of the actions as below;

- That the main area of grass be returned to be regular mowing this season.
- That the coronation meadow shall be restricted to area adjacent to the river.
- That the coronation meadow sign should be moved to a new position on the corner of area 2.

The Officer explained that the Council had not taken away any roll meadows this year, so this would be done next year. She further explained that issues around the green space had been addressed. Regarding the grass cutting services, there used to be 17 grass cutters, unfortunately, this number had been reduced drastically to 6 grass cutters.

The Chair of the Board emphasised the need to roll and smoothen the grass to how it was previously and as previously by the Board. Responding, the Officer stated that work on the grass and harrowing would be carried out where necessary.

Members of the Board were further advised:

- Due to a prolonged wet/warm periods this year had increased and sustained the vigour in the grass for a longer period of time and consequently had increased significantly.
- The time taken to complete grass cuts from the estimated 3 week cutting cycle to between 6-7 weeks resulting in the length of grass being significantly longer throughout the boroughs parks and open spaces this year.
- Regular cutting of the grass in conjunction with the high level of grass growth had enabled the sward to recover significantly thereby reducing the requirement for extensive cultural works.
- Arrangements for the area to be harrowed would take place during the winter months when conditions will be more favourable.
- The area of coronation meadow adjacent to the river that had remained long through the summer had now received its annual cut and clear and funding was now in place for this to be repeated annually each September
- The Plan for next year was to continue to maintain the two separate areas as this year in that the main area would continue to be cut between 6-8 times with the area adjacent to the river receiving one annual hay cut in September

Resolved: (i) That the recommendation to close the investigation with regards to the petition on coronation meadow on riverside way be noted.

(ii) That the Parks and Cemeteries Manager be instructed to maintain this area by regular mowing for the foreseeable future and to continue to monitor progress.

32. LUTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES (FROM SEPTEMBER 2016) (REF: 7)

Dr Sarwar Uzma and Caroline Capell from Luton Clinical Commissioning Group delivered a progress update of activities by the Clinical Commissioning Group, Luton, (LCCG).

The following key areas of achievement and progress were highlighted as follows:

Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) GP Contracts

- The North Luton Area was directly affected by the APMS contracts
- The APMS contracts for 3 medical centres namely; Moakes Medical Centre, Whipperley Medical Centre and Sundon Park Health Centre would come to

an end on 31st January 2017, whilst the Town Centre GP practice and Walk in Centre contract expires on 31st March 2017.

- Following a review of the centres, the LCCG and the NHS England were now seeking new health providers to bid to run Moakes or Whipperley Medical Centres at the expiration of their contracts in January.
- The Sundon Park Health Centre will continue to operate and will be supported by other GP Practices in the area
- The Walk In Centre service (currently provided as part of the Town Centre contract) will be remodelled as an Urgent Primary Care Centre (UPCC). The 111 service would be available for use to allow patients gain access to same day urgent medical care at the UPCC following assessment using the 111 service.
- All patients in Luton would receive clear communications about how to access the new improved primary care services. This information would be provided on a variety of platforms available on the LCCG website, practice and stakeholder websites, and community events, etc.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan - Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes

- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) health and care communities have come together to formulate a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), as part of a national drive to improve health and well-being, care quality, and affordability across the NHS.
- The BLMK STP would be led by Pauline Philip, chief executive of Luton and Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and national lead for urgent and emergency care.
- The BLMK STP was one of 44 health and care 'footprints' in England, bringing organisations together to develop plans to support the delivery of the NHS Five Year Forward View. A draft plan had been submitted on 30 June 2016 to explore ideas and possibilities for transformation to support improved health and well-being, service quality and affordability.
- The first draft of the STP had been completed and the second draft would be submitted towards the end of October

Finance and Sustainability plans

- 21 million pounds deficit reported for Luton and this was very challenging
- Luton is 4 million behind where it should be

AGM – Held on 6th September 2016

- The Annual Report for 2015/16 had been published on line and achieved a lot as proposed

Commenting on the APMS progress update, Councillor Davis, stated that local residents were outraged by the decision to close the Moakes Medical Health Centre, which served one of the most deprived areas in Luton. Residents felt that Luton CCG had completely ignored their access to health facilities and their health and wellbeing in general. The Health Centre most rated by the public had been

shot down. He asked whether there was an assurance that the Sundon Park Medical Centre could accommodate residents who would have been displaced as a result of the review and what other facilities available to meet their needs.

In response, Dr. Sarwar acknowledged the difficulties and challenges affecting local people as a result of the closures. She stated that with regards to the Moakes Medical Centre, there would still be health provision in the same area to enable local people have access to health services. She stated that this was a decision made by NHS England and not that of the CCG. Local residents were being encouraged to take the Medical Contract to ensure a robust process.

Members of the Board asked that the disappointment expressed by Members of the Board in relation to the closures of the Moakes Medical Centre be recorded.

The Chair however, commended the 111 service which he said was very effective.

Resolved: (i) That the updates by Dr. Uzma Sarwar and Caroline Capell from the Luton Clinical Commissioning Group, (LCCG) be noted by the Board;

(ii) That the displeasures and disappoint expressed by Members of the Board in relation to the closure of the Moakes Medical Centre be recorded.

33 NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (REF: 8)

The Parking Operations Manager, Tony Stefano submitted the report Ref: 8, regarding new neighbourhood enforcement officers. He advised of the proposals and the official launch of the scheme. He said the new team of 6 would be working 6 days a week and would focus on a range of neighbourhood issues and priorities in Luton. He explained that a much wider piece of work around Regulatory Services was in progress.

He further advised on some of the planned activities and priorities of the team as follows:

- The New Enforcement Team would work closely with Bedfordshire Police
- Dealing with a range of issues including fly tipping issues and engage more with local residents in Luton
- Members of the Team would undertake training and would become "Accredited Community and Safety officers to be equipped with the skills to deal with front line issues
- New visible vehicles approved by the Police, would be available for use by the new Team

Resolved: That the update regarding the work of the new Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers in all areas of Luton be noted.

34 ENGAGING WITH LUTON COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE FUTURE (REF: 9)

Sandra Hayes, the Community Development Manager delivered a power point presentation regarding new proposals on how local residents would engage with Luton Council Members in future.

She explained that the proposed changes would offer local people better opportunity to engage with councillors and to reach out through various methods of engagement. The new process would encourage the involvement of Luton residents in shaping local decisions and matters that affected local people. She stated that at the heart of the Council's Investment Framework was the interaction and links with the local community.

She advised that Officers and Councillors would continue to keep the conversation going by reaching out to local people through better means of engaging facilitated by councillors through various methods of communication. She further advised that the survey undertaken revealed that local people wanted to engage and connect more with their local councillors through various methods including;

- Online Information, Communication using emails and Social Media, etc.
- Ward Forums: Setting Local Priorities
- YSYW Participatory Budgeting Programme and Decision Days
- Annual Borough "Conversation" and Event

Advising of the benefits of the proposed new style of engagement, she stated:

- Wider representation of local people to ensure a more robust involvement in matters and decisions affecting them
- More 1-2-1 meetings with councillors
- Officers working closely with councillors to define the framework of engagement but the process would continue to be led by elected members
- One big meeting across Luton
- More participation and involvement in "Decision days" and Participatory Budgeting Programme would continue to take place`
- More robust communication using on line to reach out to more people and to councillors

A member of the public commented that the Area Board meetings and the Ward Forums were useful for direct contact with elected members and partners and helps to resolve issues.

Resolved: That the report on the proposals for new ways of engaging with council members in future be noted.

35. THAMES WATER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME AT ICKNIELD WAY (REF: 10)

The Service Director Planning and Transportation, reported on progress on actions as requested by Members at the last meeting of the Board on 30th August 2016. He explained that a number of actions were agreed and provided feedback on the agreed

actions to address some of the concerns expressed by residents at that meeting as follows;

Feedback from the Council

- Permitted development rights – As discussed at the last meeting, this may apply to change of planning legislation and the piece of land in question would be retained as open space with the Council taking the lead.
- Thames Water would submit papers to the Council for inspection.
- With regards to managing flood event in the town, the Council would take a more strategic flood event to manage the floods in Luton.
- With regards to the issue of pest control, the Council would continue to take the lead, but managed by Thames Water.

Feedback from Thames Water

- Extensive CCTV carried out – None in the area
- Confirmation that the design was appropriate that there was 1 in 100 floods protection in the Icknield way area.
- Satisfied that the design in place would address and prevent the floods at the backyard of residents home should this happen again.
- Already met with Councillors and residents on Monday gone to agree a way forward
- Action in place to address the issue of rat's infestation in the affected properties.
- Thames Water would run a report to the Council to confirm that the agreed actions had all been taken and issues addressed accordingly.

Responding to a question about Travellers, the Representative from Thames Water explained that the damaged to fences at the back of resident's homes as a result of the floods would be replaced by Thames Water.

Resolved: That the progress updates from the Council and Thames Water in response to the floods event at Icknield Way be noted by the Board.

36. ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING (REF: 11)

A Member asked why the Police were not present at this meeting. In response he was informed that it was not possible for the Police to attend every meeting due to restructure and lack of resources and budget cuts.

The Area Committee Coordinator explained that it would not be possible to confirm items for the next meeting due to the new proposals and new ways of engagement as reported to this meeting.

(Note: (i) Councillor Campbell declared non prejudicial interest as a Member of the Development Control Committee of the Council;

(ii) The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)