

## **NORTH LUTON AREA COMMITTEE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillors Foord , Hinkley and Simons.

### **9 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**Resolved:** In the absence of the Chair (Councillor Garrett), Councillor Foord be elected as Chair for this meeting only.

### **10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Campbell, R. J. Davis, Garrett, Pedersen, Titmuss and Worliding.

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

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

### **11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 8)**

A member of the public enquired why the proposed CCTV camera in Sundon Park had not been mentioned in the minutes of the previous meeting.

A member of the public asked where the proposed aircraft flight paths would be routed. The Head of Local Democracy responded that this was currently subject to public consultation, which was due to end at the end of March or beginning of April. The Civil Aviation Authority would take the decision on the flight paths after that.

A member of the public commented that two lampposts had been knocked over and were lying on the green by the Bramingham public house. The Street Lighting Engineer responded that he would arrange for this to be investigated as a priority.

A member of the public commented on the general condition of the roads in Luton and particularly the number of potholes. In some places the road surface was worn down to the concrete base. In Wauluds Bank Drive some potholes had been marked in the past for repair but, because of the time since they were marked, traffic had worn away the spray marking. The Engineering Services Manager responded that the Council had set response times for repairing potholes. The Council was spending just under £1m a year on road maintenance.

A member of the public asked what progress has been made on providing a new swimming pool. He was informed that there was no new information to report to this meeting. A Member asked that the agenda for the

next meeting should include a progress report on provision a new swimming pool.

A member of the public commented that he was disappointed that only three Councillors were in attendance at this meeting.

**Resolved:** That the information given and issues raised during the Public Question Time (Ref: 8) be noted.

## 12 AREA REPORT (REF: 10)

The Area Committee Support Officer reported that, after successful trials in East and West Luton Area Committees, the Area Committee Board had resolved at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008 to use the new format for all ward forums and area committees. This meeting was the first of the North Luton Area Committee to use this new format.

The Committee considered three applications under the Area Project Scheme:

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
DA266	<p><b><u>Mary Seacole Housing Association</u></b> Service users and staff team building exercise. The team building exercise will last for a day in October at Whipsnade Zoo and will comprise of a number of activities. The objectives of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to take a total of 90 vulnerable, socially excluded, young people and staff out of the hostel environment</li> <li>• trip to the Zoo accompanied by staff members who they trust</li> <li>• provision of a round robin of events with a semi-competitive structure</li> <li>• individual prizes and awards throughout the day</li> </ul>	£6,815.00	£5,000.00
SO 269	<p><b><u>Starlight Youth Club 'Past to Present' Project</u></b> The project will seek to bring together different aspects of the black culture as it relates to black history from slavery to the modern day place in society. We will be using a process of drama, dance and storytelling in a showcase. The project will also allow young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to learn about a group that help to contribute to British society.</p>	£2,500.00	£2,000.00
All 285	<p><b><u>Nubian Jak Community Trust Limited</u></b> "ON TRACK 4 GOLD – Olympic Role Models for Luton". A local project to stimulate interest in the London 2012 Games amongst the 14 to 20 age</p>	£7,500.00	£1,000.00

	<p>groups. The project will take the form of 3 linked events:</p> <p>(1) day-long exhibition with performances in St George's Square;</p> <p>(2) "Nubian Jak Sporting Quiz", an evening event in the lecture theatre at the Hat Factory which requires preparation using local library resources and the "On Track 4 Gold" website and</p> <p>(3) an education project requiring Year 10 students to research and write about the local sporting history.</p> <p>The exhibition component already exists and took part in the recent visit of Lord Coe to the Hat Factory where the company is a tenant. It features life-sized cut outs of former UK Olympic gold medal champions in track and field from 1948 to 2004.</p>		
--	--	--	--

The Area Committee Support Officer reported that South Luton Area Committee had already agreed a contribution of £500 to Mary Seacole Housing Association and £400 to Starlight Youth Club and that South Luton Area Committee had recommended that the other Area Committees match this funding. A member of the public asked if Mary Seacole Housing Association received funding from elsewhere. He was informed that they had several different funding sources. A Member commented that it was not clear from the application what would be the benefit to Luton's residents. A member of the public asked if any other Area Committee, apart from South Luton, had agreed to provide funding. The Area Committee Support Officer advised that North Luton was the first area committee to meet since the South Luton decision.

A Member commented that the Starlight Youth Club was located in the town centre and questioned how many young people from North Luton attended the youth club. The Youth Work Manager reported that young people from across Luton attended.

Saundra Glenn from Nubian Jak Community Trust Limited addressed the Committee. She reported that Nubian Jak was a not for profit organisation that was limited by guarantee. It had existed since 1995 and became a Trust in 2004. It had started in London but was now based in the Hat Factory in Luton. They had already provisionally booked exhibition space at the Hat Factory and hoped to stage the event in St George's Square at the end of April or early-May,

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

(ii) That application DA266 from the Mary Seacole Housing Association for £5,000 from the Area Project Scheme be refused.

(iii) That application SO269 from Starlight Youth Club for £2,000 from the Area Project Scheme be deferred to next meeting to allow attendance

figures at Starlight Youth Club from North Luton residents to be presented to the Committee.

(iv) That Nubian Jak Community Trust limited be granted £400 from the Area Project Scheme and a recommendation be made to the other Area Committees that they match this funding.

### **13 UPDATE ON BMX TRACK PROGRESS (REF: 11)**

Because the relevant officer was ill, it was not possible to present a full report to the meeting.

A Member reported that the BMX track was almost complete and enquired when it would open. The Youth Work Manager, in attendance, informed her that the 3<sup>rd</sup> May was the provisional date for the official opening although the track may be in use before that date.

A Member asked if the Youth Work Manager had details of the launch. She was informed that a working party of interested groups was currently developing details.

The Youth Work Manager advised that a visual and verbal presentation would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee with contribution from the young people originating the request for the BMX track.

**Resolved:** That a full report on the BMX Track be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **14 THINK LUTON, THINK SUCCESS – THE NEW LUTON (REF: 12)**

The Business and Economy Service Manager gave a presentation (attached at Appendix 1/08 to these minutes), which gave an overview of the following initiatives in Luton:

- Town Centre Development Framework
- Town Centre Transportation
- Luton Dunstable Busway
- St. George's Square
- The Mall Arndale
- Luton Gateway Railway & Bus Station
- Power Court
- Napier Park
- Butterfield – Technology Village
- Innovation Centre & Business Base
- Butterfield – Park Centre
- East Luton Corridor
- London Luton Airport
- Marsh Farm – Master Planning
- MK & SM Sub-Regional Strategy L/D/HR Spatial Strategy
- Future Schemes

- Luton Northern Bypass
  - Luton Eastern Bypass
  - Dunstable Bypass
- Building Schools for the Future
- University of Bedfordshire Master Plan
- Other Initiatives
  - Luton Safe
  - No Cold Calling
- And an overview of the indicative infrastructure over the next 25 years.

A member of the public commented that the presentation did not mention the High Town area and asked if there were any plans for this area. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him that a plan was being produced.

A member of the public commented that the new housing in the growth area would put pressure on Luton's schools. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him new schools would have to be provided as part of the growth area plans.

A member of the public asked what plans there were for a replacement bus station in the centre of Luton. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed her that proposals were being worked on.

A member of the public asked if the Luton and Dunstable hospital would have to capacity to meet the health needs of the additional population. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him that hospital and other health services would be considered as part of the infrastructure planning for the growth area.

A member of the public commented that the extra housing around Luton would put pressure on the cremation and burial service at The Vale. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him that there were currently no plans for expanding facilities at The Vale.

A member of the public asked if there was an allotments strategy for the growth area. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him that this would be part of the overall land use strategy. The member of the public asked if there were plans for refurbishing existing allotments. The Business and Economy Service Manager responded that he would have to enquire about this and provide a response to the next meeting.

A member of the public commented that if the various projects went over-budget, this could affect Luton council taxpayers.

A member of the public commented that the plans for the Luton North Bypass should it running through Warden Hill and Galley Hill. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him that the exact route was not yet decided. The member of the public commented that a major traffic congestion point in Luton town centre was around Hucklesby Way. The Business and

Economy Service Manager informed him that a working party was currently looking at congestion hot-spots.

A member of the public enquired about the proportion of social housing in the growth area. The Area Committee Support Officer informed him that legally a minimum of 30% was required.

A Member commented that Guildford Street and Bute Street contained some interesting buildings. In the past, Luton had lost much of its architectural history. The Business and Economy Service Manager informed him that each planning application would be decided on its merits.

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

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

The Youth Work Manager presented the report on the youth service.

A member of the public enquired how the activities of the youth service were publicised. The Youth Work Manager informed him that a leaflet was about to go to print. Copies of this leaflet would be available at the next meeting of this Committee.

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

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

The Community Development update (Ref: 14) was circulated at the meeting.

A member of the public commented that he was grateful that the vacancy for a part-time officer at Sundon Park Community Centre had been filled and thanked the relevant Portfolio Holder for their efforts. The Council was recruiting four additional staff for the Community Development service and he hoped it would be possible to make the current part-time post full-time. He commented that at a previous meeting, a diagram had been circulated that showed the allocation of officers to community centres; he commented that this showed Sundon Park Community Centre to be understaffed relative to other community centres. He asked if there had been any change since the diagram had been produced. He was informed that there had been no change.

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

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

A member of the public commented that the new format of area committee meetings was an improvement but thought that they were still too slow-paced. He thought that it was unnecessary for officers to read printed reports verbatim. For bullet point reports, there should just be questions and not a presentation.

**Resolved:** That the following reports be provided to the next meeting of the North Luton Area Committee:

- Progress on providing a new swimming pool
- Update report on the BMX track

**(Note : The meeting ended at 9.30 pm).**