

AREA BOARD – EAST LUTON

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2012
AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor J. Davies(Chair); Councillors Chapman, Cato, R. Davies, Dolling, Franks, Moles, Rivers and Zia.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Hanif.

31. MINUTES (REF: 2)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Area Board held on 5th May 2012 be subject to the following amendments:

Page 2.1/1 Feedback from Ward Forums (Ref 4) – Delete the third bullet point under Crawley Ward.

Page 2.1/2 third paragraph from the bottom delete “*on approved sites earmarked for housing development*” and replace with “to facilitate a development that has planning permission.”

be taken as read and agreed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

32. FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 4)

The nominated ward representatives provided the following key issues relevant to their ward area:

CRAWLEY – COUNCILLOR FRANKS

- i) **Crawley Green Road/Abbotswood Road junction.** Parking in Abbotswood Road near the junction makes the road effectively only one car wide at the junction. Engineers to assess whether this is dangerous and report back to the next forum.
- ii) **Push button crossing in Crawley Green Road by Somerset Avenue.** Red phase is much longer than other crossings, could it be adjusted?

ROUND GREEN– COUNCILLOR RIVERS

- i) Traffic problems in Ashcroft Road (item on the agenda)
- ii) Proposals to develop the area of land in Turners Road South which previously was used as a burial ground.

- iii) More detailed proposals for the development of land around Abbotswood Road

STOPSLEY – COUNCILLOR J. DAVIES

- i) Police presence at Ward Forum meetings
- ii) Thanked Council for providing seating outside Bank
- iii) Some ongoing issues of toilets

WIGMORE – COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN

- i) Traffic provision with regards to the expansion of the Airport. Would like to know who is responsible for maintaining the roads (If so, what is going to happen to the roads) and what are the future plans.

Resolved: That feedback on the above key issues from ward forums meetings be noted and passed to the relevant departments for action.

33. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 5)

A member of the public enquired whether the agenda could include councillors Ward areas.

In response, the Chair agreed future agendas would include Ward areas.

A member of the public commented on an 'empty homes' TV programme which stated government money would be made available for such projects and whether the council had received any of the money.

In response the Corporate Director for Housing and Community Living replied the money set aside by the government for tackling empty homes was unlikely to make a significant difference to Luton. The Council were doing everything to tackle empty homes in the town by using more CPOs (compulsory purchase orders) and the main difficulty was finding owners of empty properties, which was not always straight forward.

Resolved: That the comments and issues raised at (Ref 5) be noted.

34 PETITIONS (REF:6)

OVERGROWN CONIFERS AT 47 LEYGREEN CLOSE (REF: 6.1)

The Highways Routine Maintenance Manager reported on the petition received regarding the cutting back conifer hedge at 47 Leygreen Close, in which 41 signatures had been gathered from Leygreen residents who preferred to have restricted use of the footway, rather than the option of an unsightly hedge cut back to the property boundaries.

The Officer further advised Mr Doherty (47 Leygreen resident) had been cooperative and had undertaken some trimming work, but the trees still encroached on to the 2 metre wide footpath by up to 1 metre, which makes it difficult to use the

footway safely particularly when some people were parking partly on the footway as well.

A resident of Leygreen Close commented that the hedge provided extra security for residents and was trimmed twice a year.

In response the Officer replied the hedge was an obstruction which could no longer be tolerated and the overgrown hedge obstructs utility apparatus maintenance. There is a street lighting column in the Close which is also prevented from shining fully due to the overgrown hedge.

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

(ii) That the East Luton Area Board agrees with the recommendation in the report (Ref 6.1) for the:

“The Highway Maintenance team to continue to seek a solution with the resident although there has to be a significant reduction in the obstruction to avoid the need for enforcement action.”

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN ASHCROFT ROAD (REF: 6.2)

The Highways Technician reported on a petition which requested the Council to take positive action to prevent speeding in Ashcroft Road between Yeovil Road and Turners Road. The Officer reported a detailed seven days a week investigation had been carried out which found 80% of cars travelling along Ashcroft Road did less than 30 miles per hour. He further advised Ashcroft Road was a Primary Emergency Response Route and traffic calming in the form of road humps were not installed on such routes due to standing objections from Emergency Services.

A Member enquired when the survey had been carried out.

In response the Officer replied the survey was conducted post receipt of the petition which was in September and conducted over a period of 7 days.

The Member further enquired about the number of vehicles that were tracked over that period and commented whether the Police enforced 20 mph speed limit areas, which was there responsibility, and whether cameras would be an option.

In response the Officer replied strict criteria's were needed before cameras could be installed.

A member of the public enquired why the Council could not install chicane's in Ashcroft Road.

In response the Officer replied these were not popular with the public in terms of parking and would be uncomfortable installing these along Ashcroft Road.

The Officer further advised that a study conducted two years ago on Ashcroft Road found residents agreed with the current measures which were in place. The

Officer agreed to speak to the Police with regards to enforcing the 20mph speed limit in that area.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref 6.2) be noted.

(ii) That Officers within Engineering and Highways Section speak with the Police to encourage enforcing the 20mph speed limit in Ashcroft Road.

(iii) That Officers within Engineering and Highways be asked to look at the possibility of installing chicane's between Turners Road North, Marshall Road, Croft Road and Yeovil Road.

35. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT –UPDATE (Ref: 7.1)

The Community Development Officer reported on the community development activities in the East area during August and October 2012.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 7.1) be noted.

36. PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICE - UPDATE (Ref: 7.3)

The Prevention and Early Intervention Youth Officer reported on the following:

- **Helping Hands** – An oral presentation was given by the young people who advised the project had allowed them to develop skills in areas such as: team building, community cohesion and worked with vulnerable young people across Luton.
- Some of the young people had met with Mission Direct to discuss the trip to Sierra Leone in 2014.

A Member enquired about support for young carers.

In response the Officer replied that the Greenhouse mentoring programme was used and some of the carers attended the Putteridge Youth Club and both fit in to the target priorities for young people. She further advised Andy Calvert was now seconded to the TOKKO project until its completion.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 7.3) be noted.

37. AREA REPORT (Ref: 7.2)

The Area Committee Support Officer reported on the following:

- The neighbourhood governance partnership programme would be rolled out in the East area from 1st April 2013.
- The gating schemes were the most in preventing anti social behaviour.

The Committee were asked to consider the following applications:

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
CR 468	<u>Rayham Way Community Centre</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50+ Annual Christmas Party To be held on Sunday 16th December 2012 from 1pm to 6pm. There will be entertainment, dancing and food, a popular event enjoyed by all those who attend. <u>Premier Sports – 4 months course</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will kick start an 'After School Club'. The emphasis will be on sport and fitness geared towards young people 	£670.00 £1,000	£300.00 (APPROVED) £500 (APPROVED)
CR 469	<u>Gate to the rear of 2 Hart Lane – Entrance via Abbotswood Road</u> To supply and fit padlock and weld to gate. Supply 24 keys.	£89.50	£89.50 (APPROVED)

Wandon Close (Ref: SP 473)

The Area Committee Support Officer reported on the ongoing issue with regards to open space that encompassed the area of Wandon Close, Selsey Drive, Field End Close and Hayling Drive which had been misused by persons using off road motor cycles. Officers within the Engineers, Parks and Area Board looked at various options of implementing measures to restrict easy access to the open space by riders on motor bikes and were mindful of the Council's duty and responsibility under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The cost for a post, Hartlepool rail and kissing gate - £5,000 (approved in principal) which includes £500 for kissing gate and welding work to close the gap into Selsy Drive.

The Officer suggested the Selsy Drive scheme be piloted with a further evaluation latter to consider whether to proceed with the other projects if the scheme was deemed successful.

The Officer also informed the Board that other Area Boards had set aside £10,000 out of their budget for Participatory Budget projects.

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

(ii) That the Board approves the contribution of £10,000 towards Participatory Budgets projects which the public vote on and agree projects which should receive funding.

38. COMMUNITY DEBATE (REF: 8)

Peter Headland, the Consultation & Engagement Manager gave a brief summary on the findings from phase 1 of the Community Debate report (Ref: 8). He advised the Appendix gave a summary of the results. Phase 2 of the Community debate gave feedback to citizens and explained the savings the Council would have to make had increased significantly since Phase 1. The next would be to involve citizens in consultation on individual saving proposals. The Leader of the Council was in the process of preparing a prospectus which would be available from 21st November 2012.

A member of the public enquired how people would be informed of the results.

In response the Officer replied the results would be made available in Lutonline, on the council's website and the next stage of consultation was about to commence.

A member of the public enquired whether the questions were limited to specific areas and whether there was any opportunity for the public to express their views on other areas.

In response the Officer replied the public were asked about specific proposals but many general comments were received. The next round of consultation would also provide this opportunity.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 8) be noted.

39. ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING (REF: 9)

Resolved: That the following items to be included on the Board's work programme for the next meeting.

- Work of voluntary groups – to include publicity and awareness
- London Luton Airport – expansion progress update (presentation)

40. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (REF: 10)

The date of the next meeting of East Luton Area Board is Tuesday 19th March 2013. Venue to be confirmed.

(meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.)