

NORTH LUTON AREA BOARD

7th MARCH 2013 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Garrett (Chair), Councillors Burnett, Campbell, R. J. Davis, Foord, Hinkley, Knight, Lewis, Titmuss and Worthing

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Sergeant Ruth Connelly, co-opted representative from Bedfordshire Police.

2 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (REF: 3)

The Chair advised the meeting that Central Bedfordshire Council had been invited to send representatives to this meeting to discuss their proposed development north of Luton. However, shortly before the meeting, they had submitted apologies on the grounds that they had not received enough notice of the meeting. This was unacceptable as this was not the first time they had declined to attend; complaints would be made to Central Beds. He suggested that a special meeting should be held to discuss this specific topic.

Members of the public asked the following questions or made comments:

Question/Comment:	Response:
What is the current situation with the plans?	Phase 1 of public consultation had finished. When it came to the required public enquiry, Central Beds will need to demonstrate that they have consulted properly: this will not be able to do.
Did the completion of consultation mean that work would start shortly on the development?	Phase 1 was just the first phase; there would have to be further phases.
Luton Council were landlords of property in this area and should be concerned about what was happening.	

Resolved: That the Board supported Luton Council submitting a formal complaint, if necessary, about the lack of consultation from Central Bedfordshire Council on the proposals north of Luton.

4 FEEDBACK FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 4)

Feedback on key issues discussed at each ward was provided as follows:

Bramingham Ward

- Continued issues with delivery lorries for Sainsbury's parking in Quantock Rise.
- Ongoing problems with litter from Sainsbury's and the college.
- Speeding on Quantock Rise.

Icknield Ward

Largely issues raised at previous meetings.

- Van regularly parking close to the close to the corner of Sherborne Road.
- Cigarette ends dumped in the street by students at the Sixth Form College.

Limbury Ward

- Funding was now available to tackle flooding in Black Swan Lane; work was expected to start in November 2013.
- There had been a lack of support for the introduction of parking restrictions in Hurst Way.

Northwell Ward

- Concerns over poor communication with the police on ward issues.
- General problems with speeding and parking.
- Nuisance youths in the play areas until 2-3 a.m.

Sundon Park Ward

- Concerns over possible closure of the youth club and library.
- There had been some teething problems with the community centre moving to Lealands

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

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 5)

There were no items raised under this heading.

6 PETITION – PETITION ON SELLS 7th SCOUT GROUP (REF: 6.1)

The Head of Fixed Assets advised that:

- Both sides were close to agreeing a new lease.

- The current lease had been extended.
- Discussions about selling the site to the scouts were taking place.

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

7 PETITION – LANCASTER AVENUE CRICKET GROUND (REF: 6.2)

The Parks and Cemeteries Manager advised that a report commissioned from the Institute of Groundsmen had shown that the minimum distance from the playing area to houses in Lancaster Avenue met their guidelines.

Members of the public asked the following questions or made comments:

Question/Comment:	Response:
The bowling club was closer than the houses	The distance will be checked.
I've seen people have to duck on the tennis courts.	
Has the cricket club got insurance?	A part of the booking fee was for public liability insurance.

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

8 PETITION – MY BIKE SHOP, 253 BIRDSFOOT LANE (REF: 6.3)

The Head of Fixed Assets advised that he believed that a satisfactory conclusion was close.

The owner of My Bike Shop confirmed that he also believed a conclusion was close.

Resolved: That the petition and report (Ref: 6.3) be noted.

9 AREA REPORTS (REF: 7.1)

The Area Board Support Officer reported on two applications for funding which had been received:

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested/ Resolved
LI 475	<p><u>Limbury Bridges Project</u></p> <p>The aim of this project is to encourage the public's engagement in the natural heritage of the River Lee by creating a pedestrian art trail focussing on the five footbridges that provide crossings across the river as it meanders through Limbury. The footbridges are being refurbished by LBC Highways Division and the artwork will take the form of flat metallic panels reflecting wildlife through the seasons which will be fixed securely to two opposing panels of each of the five footbridges (i.e.a total of 10 panels).</p> <p>The designs for the artwork have already been completed and we are now seeking funding for their manufacture, installation and subsequent community engagement. The artworks have been designed by a group of year 10 'gifted and talented' art students from Icknield High School. They have worked on the designs in their own time as an extra-curricular activity, supervised by one of the schools art teachers. The students worked to a clear brief and with the support of Groundwork, LBC Parks, LBC Highways and Luton Culture.</p>	£14,000	£3,000/ £3,000
BR 476	<p><u>Great Bramingham Park – Pond Project</u></p> <p>We would like to establish a shallow pond with shrubs, lilies, fauna and access (viewing platform and bench). This will be for elderly people who are part of an adjoining housing association, for young people some from Bramingham Primary School (a special needs designated ,400 pupil school) which adjoins the park. Also the Keech Hospice adjoins the park and we are involved with them in the maintenance of the park and they welcome the opportunity to visit the park regularly with patients who wish to spend some time outside, but who cannot travel too far due to serious illness.</p> <p>Furthermore the pond will regenerate the wildlife of the surrounding area as the pond will be alongside two natural trails, one for monk-jack deer and one for birds who fly between ancient woodland in Little Bramingham Park and the SSSI at Warden and Galley Hills.</p> <p>We are trying to identify a number of funding sources to help with this project this includes Participatory Budgeting, London Luton Airport and this evening the North Luton Area Board. If these sources fail we would need to look further afield.</p>	£7,900	£3,500/ £3,500

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

(ii) That the applications for Area Projects as detailed above be Approved.

10 NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE – ‘YOUR SAY, YOUR WAY’ (REF: 7.2)

The Equality and Diversity Policy Manager advised that a total of £29,606 had been distributed in grants to various organisations. The organisations that had received funding had been the most popular in voting by residents. There had not been enough money to fund all applicants: seven groups had not received funding.

A group of young people from the Sundon Park Youth Zone gave a presentation in support of retaining the Youth Zone.

Members of the public asked the following questions or made the following comments on the Youth Zone:

Question/Comment:	Response:
Was the Zone open during the day?	No, as a result of the cuts.
Could parents volunteer to help?	This was not a simple as it was as the Youth Zone was now part of the school. Staff now work as part of the school.
Was the youth population fizzling out? There was no new housing in the area.	People come from other areas for the football. There was new housing in Jasmine Close. The Lealands catchment included Hockwell Ring and Toddington Road.
At a meeting last month I was told that there would be no cuts without consultation.	The current consultation, which was on closing up to two youth clubs, was still ongoing. The Council was looking to invest in the voluntary sector.
I am a parent of a special needs child and strongly supported what they provided for him. He couldn't cope in a normal youth club,	

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

11 UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON LUTON LINK IMPROVING LOCAL HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE ‘STRONGER VOICE, BETTER CARE’ (REF: 8)

No representative of Luton Link was present so this matter was not discussed.

12 COMMUNITY AWARDS FUND FOR LOCAL VOLUNTARY GROUPS (REF: 9)

A representative of Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation gave a presentation on the awards. She advised that this was a new fund and was administered by Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation on behalf of London Luton Airport Ltd (LLAL).

Grants of up to £7,500 were available but there was a requirement for matched funding. This could either be monetary or by volunteer work, which was counted as £12/hour.

There were four meetings a year to allocate grants.

The Foundation was always available to help with preparing applications.

A Member commented that it would be useful to receive a briefing note on this subject.

Resolved: (i) That the presentation be noted.

(ii) That the representative of Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation be thanked for attending and describing the work of the Foundation.

13 MARSH FARM FUTURES (REF: 10)

Mohammed Rafi, Marsh Farm Futures, advised that:

- a recent jobs fair had attracted more than 1,600 attendees and 50 organisations. The fair had been opened by Councillor Timoney and a senior manager from Jobcentre Plus.
- Marsh Farm Futures was working with organisations funded by 'Your Say, Your Way'.
- On 14th March there would be a welfare reforms drop-in session.

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

14 ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING (REF: 10)

- Presentation on the work of Health Watch.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (REF: 12)

To be advised.

(Note: The meeting ended at 9.35 pm)

