

**SUTTON COLDFIELD  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 1500 HOURS IN  
THE BEDFORD SUITE, SUTTON TOWN HALL, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Barrie, Andrew Hardie, Meirion Jenkins,  
David Pears, Robert Pocock, Alex Yip and Margaret Waddington.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mike Davis – Interim District Head  
Alison Doyle – Lead Officer - Falls and Fracture Prevention Programme  
Sergeant Tony Eustace – West Midlands Police  
Steve Hollingworth – Assistant Director, Sport, Events and Parks  
John Mole – Community Support and Development Officer  
Mark Rodgers – Housing Contract Manager  
Kyle Scott – Service Manager - Collaboration, Birmingham Public Health  
Martyn Smith – Operational Manager, Tyburn Road  
Victoria Williams – Committee Manager

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**CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

102 In the absence of Councillor Underwood, Councillor Barrie, Deputy Chair, chaired the meeting.

COUNCILLOR BARRIE IN THE CHAIR.

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

103 The Chairman advised, and the Committee noted, that members of the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

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**APOLOGIES**

104 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lyn Collin, Maureen Cornish, Ewan Mackey, Anne Underwood and Ken Wood for their inability to attend the meeting.

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**MINUTES**

105 The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2016, having previously been circulated to Members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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**CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

106 The Chairman advised the Committee on the following:-

1. Cleaner Streets Plans. He pointed out that Members should, by now, have received details.
  2. 3, 4 and 5 March 2017 National Spring Clean Day. He drew Members' attention to the event.
  3. Local Leadership Committee – Paper Presented by Councillor Lisa Trickett. There was no further information to report on this matter.
  4. Police and Crime Commissioner's Outstanding Citizen Awards 2017. He requested Members to inform him of any nominations.
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The Committee agreed to vary the agenda order.

**DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE - DEMENTIA**

The Chairman thanked officers for their help and assistance in connection with the conference regarding dementia held earlier today and pointed out that there were many ways to get involved and help people with dementia.

John Mole, Community Support and Development Officer, advised that over 40 agencies, including the Scouts and Carers UK, had been in attendance. Many issues had been covered including working in collaboration and raising awareness of dementia in Sutton Coldfield and it was hoped to hold a task and finish group in the near future.

Kyle Scott, Service Manager - Collaboration, Birmingham Public Health, stressed the importance of adopting a 'whole system' approach and involving many different organisations.

Councillor Hardie considered that the conference had been an exceedingly useful way of involving a lot of different groups in a debate which he had found of value and very interesting.

In response to a question by Councillor Pocock, John Mole undertook to provide Members with a list of all agencies that attended the conference.

The Chairman proposed, Councillor Hardie seconded and the Committee agreed to sign up to the government's dementia challenge. The Chairman undertook to provide further information about the challenge at a future meeting.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update be noted.

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**E-FRAILITY TOOL**

Alison Doyle, Lead Officer, Falls and Fracture Prevention Programme, gave a powerpoint presentation on frailty in Sutton Coldfield and tabled the following document:-

(See document No 1)

The presentation included an overview of frailty in Sutton Coldfield, life expectancy, an explanation of the Electronic Frailty Index (EFI), how older people tended to perceive their ability to live independently, identifying the level of frailty and encouraging people to be more active.

Alison Doyle responded to Members' questions and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. From April 2017 everyone aged 65+ should have an EFI score.
2. Loneliness and isolation were some of the issues that Wellbeing Co-ordinators, based in GP practices, were tackling. It was important to encourage people to become more connected within the community.
3. EFI was part of a whole system to try to support people in their own home rather than being admitted to hospital.
4. Officers had been liaising with many different organisations, including local churches and golf clubs, to try to gather as much information as possible. There were currently 16,000 households in Birmingham with persons over the age of 65 living alone.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the document be noted.

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**BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2016/17**

The following report of the Strategic Director – Place was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Mark Rodgers, Housing Contract Manager, introduced the report and, in response to a question by Councillor Pocock, advised that the budget allocation for 2017/18 was expected to be similar to that received for 2016/17.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the progress in connection with the projects previously initiated as detailed in appendix 1 be noted;
  - (ii) that approval be given to the projects outlined in appendix 2;
  - (iii) that the budget position statement provided at appendix 3 be noted.
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**FLY TIPPING - SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT**

Martyn Smith, Operational Manager, Tyburn Road, explained the work of the section and gave an overview of fly tipping nationally and locally.

He outlined the factors that drove fly tipping and why it happened pointing out that each year around 900,000 incidents were reported to local authorities. This year, Birmingham had received approximately 1,000 reported incidents per month. However, sometimes the same incident was reported many times.

There was no proper definition of fly tipping. However, in simple terms, it was depositing waste in a place that was not an environmental resource.

Private landowners were legally responsible for the removal of fly tipping from their land.

Investigating incidents of fly tipping was a lengthy process and in order to be successful in taking forward a prosecution the evidence had to prove beyond reasonable doubt that an offence had occurred. Witnesses, for fear of repercussions, were often unwilling to provide a statement which made it more difficult to prosecute.

Martyn Smith responded to Members' questions and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. For confidential reasons, he could not give details of specific cases that were under investigation.
2. The procedure for dealing with fly tipping varied depending on whether or not the incident had been witnessed and the amount of evidence available.
3. There were different types of fixed penalty notices that could be issued. However, in order to determine the appropriate course of action, each incident had to be investigated.
4. Under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, all businesses had a responsibility and duty of care to correctly dispose of trade waste. A code of practice, to try to simplify the rules etc, had been introduced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
5. The Council had a legal duty to collect household but not trade waste.

6. The Council was a direct prosecutor.
7. Anyone wishing to report an incident of fly tipping should call Waste Management on 0121 303 1112. Martyn Smith offered to provide Members with copies of a leaflet that gave contact details and explained what action could be taken.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update be noted.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

The Chairman was of the opinion that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency in view of the need to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officers to act:-

**Sutton Park – Car Parking Charges**

Steve Hollingworth, Assistant Director, Sport, Events and Parks, referred to a new board that had recently been set up to try to identify ways of maximising assets. He pointed out that budget savings were required and, at the same time, major investment was needed in parks.

There was currently a charge of £2 for car parking on Sundays from Easter to September in Sutton Park. It was proposed to extend the car parking charges to every day. An annual pass costing approximately £50 was also being considered. Payment would be either at the machines which would be installed at the entrances or by mobile phone.

Whilst it was important that the proposal should not have a negative impact on residents living in close proximity to the park, it was anticipated that the net income generated from car parking charges could be as much as £250,000 per year which would be used to improve infrastructure.

Initially funding would be borrowed to cover the set up costs and this would be recuperated through the car parking charges.

A report entitled 'introduction of car parking charges in major city parks' was due to be submitted to the next meeting of the Trusts and Charities Committee.

Members of the public would be consulted prior to implementation of the new charges.

The following were amongst the points made by Members:-

1. The proposal to extend the car parking charges would be unpopular.
2. It was important to ensure that any income generated from the charges be spent on improving the infrastructure of the park.

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3. In order to avoid the parking charge currently in force on Sundays, cars often parked on the roads near the park.
4. The pubs and restaurants based in the park should contribute towards its maintenance and upkeep, especially the roads and paths.
5. Public toilets should be provided in the park. Income could be generated by charging for their use.
6. Apart from charging for car parking, other sources of generating income should be investigated.
7. People should be encouraged to walk and cycle in the park as a way of improving fitness.
8. Extending car parking charges could discourage people from visiting the park.
9. It was suggested that, in order that the park would not be a burden on the Council, a trust could be set up.

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### **RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update be noted.

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Councillor Pocock left the meeting at this point.

The Committee returned to the original agenda order.

### **WEST MIDLANDS POLICE UPDATE**

Sergeant Tony Eustace, West Midlands Police, gave a brief update on crime statistics and ongoing police initiatives in the Sutton Coldfield District:-

1. Recorded crime had increased to 8%, the bulk of which was related to large retail stores such as Asda.
2. Mulberry Walk, the new shopping centre in Mere Green, was now open and had been included in the policing schedule.
3. There had been a reduction in crime related to the night time economy in Trinity Ward.
4. He gave an update on the implementation of the West Midlands Police 2020 programme and outlined the benefits for neighbourhood policing.
5. He briefly explained how the police were trying to control groups of youths on BMX bicycles including deterring them from congregating in the Gracechurch Centre. In response to a question he advised that the age of the youths varied from approximately 12 to 20 years old.

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6. There had also been a problem with 'boy racers' in the Minworth area. It was important to have infrastructure in place to try to tackle the situation and the police had been visiting schools to educate pupils about the dangers of racing.

At 1646 hours Councillor Jenkins left the meeting and Members were advised that the Committee was inquorate.

7. With regard to the recent incidents of the ram raiding of shops and banks that had occurred in the area, Tony Eustace advised that the installation of bollards and CCTV outside the premises would probably act as a deterrent but, unfortunately, there was no funding available at present to carry out the work. However, subject to there being a business case, he suggested that it might be possible to use a mobile 4G camera occasionally for surveillance.

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**RECOMMENDED:-**

That the verbal update be noted.

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**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE UPDATE**

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It was noted that a representative from West Midlands Fire Service was not in attendance at the meeting.

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**ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE - UPDATE**

Councillor Pears gave a verbal update on the Town Council and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. Progress regarding the establishment of a trust for the Town Hall.
2. The next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 21 February 2017.
3. Tackling dementia had been recognised as a key priority for the District. The Town Council had approved a grant of £10,000 to provide improved facilities for the dementia café at St James Community Centre, Mere Green.
4. Supporting vulnerable people, including the establishment of a working group, was a key priority. A draft social inclusion framework and good practice model was also being developed.
5. A disability strategy had been agreed and approval given for a number of grants from the community fund including: £10,000 to Compass Support for their work on Falcon Lodge; £860 to Our Place Community Hub for a mentoring scheme; and £500 to Carers United for developing a toolkit and training materials for unpaid carers.
6. Funding for the provision of defibrillators in each Ward had been approved.

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7. Youth engagement, including plans to hold a workshop at the end of March 2017 and the approval of grants for projects targeting young people, was also being addressed.
8. The Town Council would be registering to take part in the RHS Britain in Bloom campaign and Alan Gardner, a Chelsea Gold Medal winner, had pledged his support for Sutton Coldfield.
9. Approval had been given for funding to improve the road surfacing and access etc at the Rectory Road entrance to Rectory Park.
10. A number of summer events were proposed, including a concert by the CBSO in Sutton Park on Saturday, 1 July 2017.
11. Following meetings with the Deputy Leader, Sutton Coldfield Library would remain open until the end of August 2017. Negotiations would continue in an effort to find a long term solution to save the library.

114 **RECOMMENDED:-**

That the verbal update be noted.

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**APPOINTMENTS TO SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Members noted that the Committee was inquorate and it was, therefore:-

115 **RECOMMENDED:-**

That Councillor Dr Andrew Hardie be appointed to serve on the Sutton Park Advisory Committee in place of Councillor Anne Underwood for the remainder of the current municipal year 2016/17.

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**UPDATES FROM WARD CHAIRMEN AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

116 No updates were received.

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

117 The Chairman advised that Members would be informed in due course of the date of the next meeting of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

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**RECOMMENDED:-**

That, in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 1656 hours.

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CHAIRMAN