

**SUTTON COLDFIELD  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUTTON  
COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 1700 HOURS,  
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Anne Underwood in the Chair;

Councillors Lyn Collin; Maureen Cornish, Meirion Jenkins, Ewan Mackey, David Pears, Robert Pocock, Alex Yip and Margaret Waddington.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mike Davis – Interim District Head  
John Mole – Community Support and Development Officer  
Kyle Scott – Service Manager – Collaboration. Birmingham Public Health  
Chris Jordan – Place Directorate  
Lesley Parks – Library Manager  
Sarah Chinnock – Library Support Officer  
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager  
Jason Bunter – West Midlands Police

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

83 The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised that the meeting was webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site [www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

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**APOLOGIES**

84 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors David Barrie, Andrew Hardie, Ken Wood and a representative from West Midlands Fire Service for their inability to attend the meeting.

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**MINUTES**

- 85 The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2016, having previously been circulated to Members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- 86 In response to a question raised by Councillor Pocock, Mike Davis, District Head confirmed that the purchase of the freehold of the Red Rose Shopping Centre had now been successfully completed.

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**CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following poster advertising the Carers Rights Day Event was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

- 87 The Chairman stated that she and officers and had met with Assistant Leaders and advised that there was no further information to report concerning devolution and the future of District Committee's.

The Chairman advised the Committee of the Carer's Rights Day event to be held on Friday 25 November 2016 at the United Reformed Church, Brassington Avenue, B73 6AA from 1000 hours until 1400 hours and she asked that Members and members of the public attend to receive advice, support and information from a number of organisations.

Councillor Pears gave a brief update on the Sports Awards to be held on Friday 27 January 2017:

- All nomination forms must be returned by 12 December 2016
- Website: [info@suttoncoldfieldsportsawards.co.uk](mailto:info@suttoncoldfieldsportsawards.co.uk).

The Chairman urged Members of the Committee to participate in the Sports Awards presentation event and requested that they nominate those members of the public that have volunteered their time and energy in organising sport events throughout the District.

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**SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE 2016/17**

**1. Health and Wellbeing Committee – Update**

The Chairman advised that Councillor Hardie was not in attendance at the meeting.

Kyle Scott gave a verbal update on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Committee and advised that three major priorities had been identified – frailty in older adults and ageing well, obesity and thirdly dementia.

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Frailty in Older Adults and Ageing Well

Sutton Coldfield District was currently piloting the 'E Frailty tool' and Mr Scott advised that a presentation can be delivered to a future District Committee meeting if Members were interested. He explained that the E Frailty tool ensures that elderly people can access the services that they need based on a need only basis.

Obesity

The Obesity Delivery Group will be presenting a report to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Committee. Discussions will take place on how the Groups proposed strategy can be implemented in the Sutton Coldfield District.

Dementia

There is a need to ensure that Sutton Coldfield is a dementia friendly District. The District Committee had chosen dementia to be their Neighbourhood District Challenge for 2017. Dementia is not a normal practice of growing old. A healthy lifestyle cannot stop the onset of dementia. Sutton Coldfield is the second highest District Citywide for the prevalence of dementia. However, hospital admissions for dementia patients were fairly low which demonstrated that many are being cared for and are successfully managed in the community. Death rates from the causes of dementia are also very low in the Sutton Coldfield District. However, Sutton Coldfield is ranked the highest Citywide in terms of expenditure in relation to dementia. In becoming a dementia friendly District resilience can only become stronger and thereby expenditure can be reduced.

**2. Neighbourhood/District Challenge Update**

John Mole advised that the aim was to ensure that Sutton Coldfield was a dementia friendly District. Citywide, Sutton Coldfield was the second highest District for patients suffering with dementia.

- There will be 1 million people with dementia in the UK by 2025. This number is expected to rise to exceed 2 million by 2050.
- 2/3 of people with dementia are women.
- The proportion of people with dementia doubled for every five year age group.
- One in 6 people aged 80 and over have dementia.
- 60,000 deaths a year are directly attributable to dementia.
- The financial cost of dementia to the UK is £26 billion per annum.
- 2/3 of people with dementia live in the community.
- Dementia is the leading cause of death among women in the UK with 13.27% of deaths per year attributed directly to the condition.

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/StrategiesPlansPolicies/Dementiastrategy.pdf>.

<http://birminghampublichealth.co.uk/intelligence/district-ward-health-profiles/sutton-coldfield>

The challenge / Key Questions:

- Who are the key partners working in the District?
- What are the gaps in provision?
- How can we improve the engagement processes with residents and families with dementia?
- What processes can we set up to improve the knowledge and understanding of dementia within our local communities?

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- How do we get agencies that may come into contact with dementia patients trained to understand the issues and symptoms of dementia?
- How do we create dementia friendly environments and safe surroundings for those at risk?
- What can be done to reduce the risk factors of developing dementia?

Potential for Next Steps:

- Town Council support
- Town Centre Partnership
- Local Groups and Statutory Agencies
- Analysis of resources
- Options Appraisal of resources and gaps
- Dementia Conference.

Steps to becoming Dementia Friendly:

- **Case for change**  
People with dementia and their carers said they often felt discouraged and unsupported by their community and excluded because of their condition. This, they said, made it difficult to live independently with choice and control over their life.
- **Background**  
The development of dementia friendly communities is a key element of the programme of work put in place with the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia early in 2012. It focuses on developing communities where people will be aware of and understand more about dementia, and how they can help to support people in their community. People with dementia and their carers will be encouraged to seek help and support, they will feel included and valued, be more independent, and have more choice and control.
- **Best Practice**  
Solihull MBC has signed up to the Dementia Action Alliance as well as a number of organisations across Birmingham and Solihull. These include Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, Touchwood Shopping Centre and Centro. In Hampshire and Sheffield people with dementia and their carers could easily identify which supermarkets they would go to for consistency of layout, signs, staff attitude and available help, even though getting there might involve a longer bus journey.
- **Key Actions**
  1. Development of community capacity building/small grant programmes.
  2. Publicise 'Dementia Friends', 'Dementia Champions' and 'Dementia-Friendly Communities'.
  3. To work with local groups, organisations and agencies to develop dementia alliances to will improve the lives of people with dementia.
  4. Include early identification of dementia as a priority for health and social care services.
- **Next steps**
  - What are the questions that we are trying to answer?
  - What outcomes do we want to achieve?
  - What are our timescales?
  - Who else needs to be involved?

**3. Dementia and Isolation in the Elderly**

Dementia was a national and regional concern. Organisations and agencies need to work together in a coherent way in order to alleviate the concern.

Officers responded appropriately to comments made by Members and welcomed comments in support of the work required in moving forward.

The Chairman stated that in relation to the Neighbourhood District Challenge a dementia conference will be held in the near future.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the presentation and verbal explanation be noted.

(Links to the video and supporting documentation is available for public inspection on the CMIS website).

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**LOCAL INNOVATION FUND - UPDATE**

John Mole advised that in September the Cabinet Committee had signed a report allowing local innovation expenditure to be utilised throughout District Committees. Approval had been granted to ensure that if funding was not spent then could then be carried forward to next year's budget. However, he advised that expenditure should be spent sooner rather than later. The funding was not a community chest type of funding and he advised that he would be attending local Ward Committee's in the near future to advise residents on how to present their case to achieve a successful bid for funding. The Local Innovation Fund was Elected Member led and he urged District Members to liaise with their community.

He responded appropriately to comments made and it was -

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update on the Local Innovation Fund be noted.

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**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE UPDATE**

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Jason Bunter, Constituency Inspector for Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands Police gave a brief update on crime statistics and trends in the Sutton Coldfield District and current ongoing Police initiatives:-

- Recorded increase in crime in the District of 164 offences since April to current date. An increase of 6.6%.
- Increase mainly to do with theft in shops and stores, particularly around Sutton Newhall and Vesey Wards. No increase in crime statistics in the Trinity Ward compared to last year's statistics. Four Oaks Ward had experienced an 11% reduction in recorded crime. Slight reduction in store crime in the Sutton Coldfield Town City Centre with a significant 22%

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reduction in violent street crime. CCTV and the Purple Flag initiative have assisted in the reduction of crime.

- Main concern is burglary in the District across three of the four Wards. Trinity Ward has experienced a significant increase in recorded crime.
- Good news - 12% reduction in violent street crime and 4% reduction in robbery across the District.
- Police initiatives – Road Safety week. 39 roads in the District in total have been targeted including 6 schools where parking is a major problem. If the Road Safety Week Campaign is a success will repeat the initiative again in the future on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Aim to recruit more residents to undertake participation in the Community Speed Watch.
- Operation Hercules – WM Police response to boy racers on the A38. A lot of Police activity has taken place on this road and surrounding areas to catch offenders following the Section 222 injunction across Birmingham. The injunction bans street car cruising across the whole of the Birmingham area. Due to this there has been a significant reduction in the number of boy racer ‘gatherings’ across Birmingham.
- Christmas Campaign – extra Police patrols visible on 7 key dates throughout the month of December. Officers to patrol Sutton Town Centre, Mere Green, Boldmere and Wylde Green High Streets.
- West Midlands 2020 – ongoing re-organisation change programme within the West Midlands Police Force. Birmingham North has now amalgamated with the Birmingham East Local Police Unit and has been renamed to the ‘Birmingham East Neighbourhood Policing Unit’. Response teams will continue to work from the Sutton Coldfield Police Station. Additional manpower resources will be made available to the current Police team in Sutton Coldfield in the form of additional Police Sergeants for each Ward in the District.
- Neighbourhood Tasking – working with elected Members and members of the public to make them successful and effective. Looking at joining Tasking meetings/Ward meetings with Police meetings to make them more viable.
- West Midlands Now – a social media messaging tool used by the Police to speak and interact with members of the public on the streets. Reliant upon participation from members of the public to be a success.  
Website: [www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk).

In response to questions raised by members he advised that the community can assist in controlling crime statistics by becoming more aware and take further action in securing their home with additional lighting, locks and secure doors and windows.

Members welcomed the verbal report and were satisfied with the ongoing Police operations that were taking place.

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE GROUP**

Councillor Mackey advised that the purchase of the freehold of the Red Rose Shopping Centre had been completed and that the building had been purchased by Birmingham City Council. The Economic Development and Enterprise Group had recently met and unanimously agreed that positive ways forward should be

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implemented – royal heritage of Sutton Coldfield, the park and open space, historic buildings and sites. Need to encourage people to come to Sutton Coldfield Town Centre to buy goods. Good transportation network links in Sutton Coldfield via road, public transport and rail.

All future progress will be reported to the District Committee in due course.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update on the Economic Development and Enterprise Group be noted.

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**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE UPDATE**

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

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**CLOSURE OF SUTTON COLDFIELD LIBRARY AND THE FUTURE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LIBRARIES I WALMLEY, WYLDE GREEN, BOLDMERE AND MERE GREEN AND THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HALLS/BUILDINGS**

The following Cabinet report from the Acting Strategic Director of Place was submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

Chris Jordan, Place Directorate introduced the report and highlighted the following salient points:

- The Library consultation process will end on 27 January 2017.
- 4 main public meetings have been held and several information sessions held at local libraries across the City. Aim to collate as much feedback and comments from members of the public on the consultation process.
- Websites: [communitylibraries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:communitylibraries@birmingham.gov.uk)  
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk>
- Due to financial constraints Sutton Coldfield and Aston libraries have been proposed for closure.

Members unanimously opposed the proposal to close Sutton Coldfield library.

It was suggested that members of the public visit the Town Centre and do things in one go - they do their shopping and visit the library at the same time. In closing the library it would inconvenience those members of the public. It was also questioned where the reference material currently held at Sutton Coldfield Library would be relocated. It was felt that the City Council had a statutory obligation and responsibility to provide a library service to the citizens of Sutton Coldfield. Members also stated that the City Council owned the Red Rose Centre where the library is held and if the library closed it would result in a vacant building. This would be detrimental to the building, the Town Centre and the citizens of Sutton Coldfield.

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The Chairman stated that all the work undertaken to refurbish the Red Rose building was wasted as the building had not been marketed properly. She suggested that the City Council could have provided office space for City Council workers. The Chairman further stated that the proposed closure would increase isolation in the elderly as the library was often considered a meeting place for many groups who would not meet any other person on a day to day basis. Sutton Coldfield had the largest elderly population across the City. Many social events take place in the library. The library could work more efficiently if it was staffed and marketed in the correct manner.

In response to the future of community buildings Chris Jordan advised that there were no future budget proposals for community centres across the City. Falcon Lodge community centre has been retained on a lease basis on the proviso that the centre must be utilised for community use only. Active dialogue in relation to community centres was currently ongoing and he felt that as he was not the leading officer on future proposals he was unable to provide any further information to Members.

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**RESOLVED:-**

- i. It was unanimously agreed by all elected Members of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee to oppose the proposed suggestion to close Sutton Coldfield library;
- ii. It was a statutory requirement to provide a reference library. All reference library material must be kept in the public domain.

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**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT –  
QUARTER 1 2016/2017**

The following report of the Place Directorate Performance and Support Services Team was submitted:-

(See Document No. 3)

Councillor Pears stated that he would send an email to the Housing Officer to give an update and explanation on the following issues:

1. Right to Buy Scheme
2. Gas Contract Scheme
3. Appointments made by customers via the call centre that are not honoured by contractors.

It was:-

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the Place Directorate Performance Report be noted and the response given to Councillor Pears from the Housing Officer be distributed to all Members of the District Committee in due course.



**HOUSING LIAISON BOARD - UPDATE**

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It was noted that no Members from the HLB were in attendance at the meeting.

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**ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE - UPDATE**

Councillor Pears gave a verbal presentation on the achievements of the Town Council to date and made the following particular points:

The Town Council has over the past 3/6 months –

- Established the office of the Town Council and put in place the key infrastructure to run the Council including:-
  - Developed the logo and branding for the Town Council
  - Established the IT and communications platform, website and communications and social media policies
  - Established the financial management systems and banking facilities
  - Adopted the core governance for the Town Council including code of conduct, standing orders, financial regulations and a scheme of delegations.

Town Councillors have completed a training programme over four evenings and three weekends.

The Town Council has a core of staff of three, a deputy clerk, a full time administrative assistant and a part time financial administrator.

Difficulties over the interim Town Clerk arrangements and a part Mayor's diary secretary have been successfully overcome and arrangements are in place for the appointment of permanent staff.

Seven Town Council meetings have taken place and the Committee structure is in place for three Committees, each Committee having met monthly since August:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee
- Planning and Highways Committee.

The Town Council has benefitted from good, fair and balanced media coverage in the Royal Sutton Coldfield Observer.

Town Council passed resolutions to make representation to:

- The Secretary of State for DCLG opposing adoption of the Birmingham Development Plan 2013 to build 6,000 new homes on Green Belt commutations
- The Boundary Commission in support of the representation of the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell for the constituency to be renamed Royal Sutton Coldfield.

The Town Council also resolved to adopt Royal in the title of the Town Council.

The Town Council now has representation on the BID and on the (CSPAN) Constituency Sports and Physical Network.

In terms of specific areas of work:-

**Town Hall**

A member working group has been established to lead on the Town Hall. This group has met with Jacqui Kennedy, BCC and SCART to discuss the proposed Town Hall Trust and a letter has been written to the Leader of BCC requesting a dowry to address the capital funding issues.

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**Library**

Council passed a motion to establish a working group to take a leading role in liaising with BCC for a better offer in terms of the proposals for the library service in Royal Sutton Coldfield, with the aim of securing a modernised service, which could also involve a Civic Hub bringing together other services such as tourist information and museum service linked to the historic library/reference collection.

**Budget and Strategy**

The Finance and General Purposes Committee have approved a budget for the current year and next financial year which will be recommended to full Council in December.

Council approved a Six Pillar Plan which sets out a strategy for delivering a range of projects under the following headings:

- Clean and Green
- Proud to be Sutton
- Healthier and Happier
- A brighter future
- Summer in Sutton.

Projects include a range of highway and road safety improvements, improvements to parks and open spaces, leisure and cultural activities together with projects aimed at improving the Town Centre and economic regeneration.

Discussions have commenced with BCC Planning on exploring the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan(s) for Royal Sutton Coldfield as well as revising/updating the Supplementary Development Plan for Royal Sutton Coldfield.

The Amenities Committee will be recommending to full Council in December that discussions commence with BCC on the possible transfer of the War Memorials and Vesey Gardens from BCC to the Town Council.

The Town Council has identified Champions for Autism, Dementia, Disability and Youth.

A successful autism event was delivered as well as an open evening at Clifton Road Youth Centre.

Town Council has agreed a Community Awards project to be held in the Spring of 2017.

Council has approved a £100,000 Community Grant and the first round of applications was considered at the 15 November Amenities Committee meeting. Partnership work has commenced with Compass Support, the organisation commissioned by BCC to run Falcon Lodge Youth Centre.

Discussions have taken place with the BID on joint working arrangements.

The Mayors Challenge has been successfully launched and the Mayor has been supported to attend a number of events throughout the Parish.

The sensitive issue of Members allowances has been dealt with.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal update report from Councillor Pears be noted.

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

The Chairman noted that no co-opted Members were in attendance at the meeting.

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**Four Oaks Ward**

Councillor Jenkins advised of the following:-

- Commercial development in Mere Green Ward is progressing well. The Marks & Spencer retail store will open shortly prior to Christmas. The new development is an excellent scheme and will add a huge value to both Mere Green and Four Oaks Wards.

**New Hall Ward**

Councillor Yip advised of the following:-

- Concern about the Community Centre situation and looking at joining the Walmley and Wylde Green community centres together to form a community trust.
- The increase in criminal activity in the Ward is a concern and will be looking into how to improve the situation.
- Traffic junction improvements on Wylde Green Road – keen for work to be undertaken on the junction for safety improvements.

**Trinity Ward**

Councillor Pears advised of the following:-

- Library an issue
- St Joseph's School new build is progressing. Maney Hill School has been given approval for a 2<sup>nd</sup> form entry.
- Overcome with parking issues. Problems with residents parking permits.

**Vesey Ward**

Councillor Collin advised of the following:-

- Boldmere Education Centre issue is ongoing and awaiting decisions. Several proposals put forward.
- School parking issues – approaching all schools to sign up to a partnership agreement to alleviate parking problems.
- 24 November 2016 – Boldmere Christmas Lights switch on.

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the verbal updates be noted.

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

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No items of Other Urgent Business were submitted.

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 100      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**

Chairman to move:-

- 101      "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 1900 hours.

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CHAIRMAN