

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SUTTON COLDFIELD
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUTTON
COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 1700 HOURS IN
COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Anne Underwood in the Chair;

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

CO-OPTED MEMBERS :- Lorna Steers – Housing Liaison Board
Eric Shipton – Housing Liaison Board
Supt Brandon Langley – West Midlands Police.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Gary Ladbrooke – District Head (Sutton Coldfield)
Paul Walls – Leisure Project and Client Manager
Jamie Bryant – Partnership Manager
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING

48 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

49 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor David Barrie and Kevin Eades, West Midlands Fire Service for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

50 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 November 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (i) Councillor Hardie made reference to the last paragraph on page 24 of the Minutes and stated that he had not received a response to the petition he had submitted regarding flat doors at Boldmere Close.

Gary Ladbrooke, District Head stated that he would investigate and request that officers send a written response to Councillor Hardie.

- (ii) Councillor Pocock made reference to Minute No. 39 and requested an update on the District Convention.

The Chairman replied that the District Convention had been postponed pending the formal establishment of the Town Council and then a joint Convention would take place as soon as is reasonably practicable.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- (i) The Chairman announced that the Sports Awards Ceremony held on 29 January 2016 was very well attended by sponsors and members of the public and the evening was a resounding success. She congratulated all officers involved in organising the event.

- (ii) The Chairman stated that it was excellent news that a planning application to demolish the existing club house building at Boldmere Municipal Golf course and to erect a replacement club house building in its place was due to be submitted to the Planning Committee for formal approval and implementation.

WYNDLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Paul Walls, Leisure Project and Client Manager and Jamie Bryant, Partnership Manager gave a verbal presentation and made the following particular points:

- The Circo Leisure contract commenced on 1 June 2015 for the operation of nine leisure centres across the City. The contract involved the design and build of four new leisure facilities at Erdington, Stechford, Northfield and Ladywood and substantial capital investment in the remaining five facilities including the refurbishment of Wyndley Leisure Centre. The service was delivered by Birmingham Community Leisure Trust which is a not for profit organisation and set up as a vehicle to efficiently manage the leisure operation. The Trust will be made up of eleven to fifteen trustees who will provide leadership and guidance to the management team which is led by Jamie Bryant.
- Jamie Bryant, Partnership Manager for Birmingham Community Leisure Trust stated that the Trust would provide new facilities and regenerate existing leisure centres including improved changing rooms, improved reception and welcome areas, a larger health and fitness suite and larger multi-purpose space to encompass clubs, programmes and classes on the site. Arrange and manage 126 different classes every week ranging from seniors to tiny tots. The intention is to grow the programme by working with and forming relationships with other groups and clubs in the

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community such as badminton and trampoline clubs in order to provide a wider range of activities and programmes for service users in Sutton Coldfield and the surrounding areas.

- Continuing to work with and provide the Be Active scheme programme, Sport England (funding sports across the United Kingdom), free learn to swim programmes for all ages, free ladies learn to swim programmes.
- Energy management – pool blankets in the swimming pool to reduce carbon and energy use.
- Providing better security measures to control access and egress to leisure centres, better child protection and increase customer satisfaction rates.

Officers gave the following responses to questions raised by Members (for ease of reference the answer will immediately follow the question/comment raised):-

- The Chairman asked if there were any plans to combine the two existing sites and expand the existing swimming pool area.
 - The proposal was investigated during the bid stage but was deemed cost prohibitive. Discounted on the basis of cost. Spending £1.8 million upgrading the two buildings and to combine the two would cost considerably more. The current pool was refurbished seven years ago.
- Do you have any future plans to expand the number of free swimming lessons and increase the number and availability of hours currently provided?
 - Wyndley swimming pool is one of the biggest pools in the UK. There is currently a national shortage of swimming teachers. Currently working with the Amateur Swimming Association Governing Body to resolve the shortage. Working hard to find pool space to keep a balanced programme in order to provide swimming lessons and also offer pool time for experienced swimmers. The shortage of swimming teachers is at a National and not local level and reasons could be related to pay, the number of hours worked and the fact that teachers are usually female and may have families of their own.
- Do you have any future plans to expand the number of opening hours at the leisure centre? Are there any plans to change the running track? What are Circo's aspirations for the future of the leisure centre?
 - Opening times – have a contractual obligation to maintain the current opening hours but will listen to customer's comments and, where possible will respond to customer demand. Looking at Bank Holiday and Christmas opening hours and will respond to customer demand where necessary. Have no intentions to reduce the hours of opening.
The running track – investment will become available in year five of the fifteen year contract. Working and meeting with the Athletics running club and Birmingham City Council to manage and discuss how best to spend that investment when it becomes available.
Future aspirations - the investment will make a significant difference to the leisure centre. Looking to expand programmes and classes to attract more customers and increase the number of leisure centre members. Keep Be Active and Passport to Leisure to ensure that all sections of the community can have use of the centre and the programmes on offer. Aim to grow patronage year on year and measure growth figures on a monthly basis. Circo will use its experience and knowledge to drive commercial revenues.

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- There is a high population of elderly residents in the Sutton Coldfield District and what is your marketing ploy to attract older customers to use the leisure centre?
 - Have a number of products that are specifically aimed at certain age groups such as the bowls club etc. Also provide entertainment such as music, ambience, type and age of instructor, and shape the programme to reflect the age of customer usage.
- Have Be Active hours been reduced? Will the investment provide televisions and technology investment for customers to use?
 - Contractually obliged to provide Be Active programmes. Listen to customers and believe in customer engagement via customer newsletters, email, Facebook followers. Offer free Be Active programmes at hours to suit the customer usage.
Television connections – will be provided as part of the refurbishment programme. All dated equipment will be replaced and enhanced.
- When will the work start and finish?
 - Due to start imminently and finished by 22 July 2016 in time for the official reopening of the leisure centre and the start of the school holidays. All Members of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee will be invited to attend the launch.
The Chairman suggested that the launch could be joined up with the Community Games weekend which is also programmed in July.
Officers replied that they would investigate and look into the possibility.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

Members noted the verbal presentation and the Chairman requested that a written briefing note be submitted to all Members of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee listing all programmes available to members of the public including statistical information on the number of participants per activity.

CORPORATE PARENTING

The Chairman advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the presenting officer was not in attendance at the meeting.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That Corporate Parenting be deferred to a future meeting of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee.

PURCHASE OF THE RED ROSE SHOPPING CENTRE, SUTTON COLDFIELD – FULL BUSINESS CASE

The following Cabinet report was submitted for information purposes only:-

(See Document No. 1)

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Gary Ladbrooke, District Head advised that the purchase of the freehold of the Red Rose Shopping Centre was by no means complete and that further work such as extensive surveys needed to be undertaken prior to the completion of any transaction. He stated that further information would become available within the next 3 – 6 months. If the transaction was successful Sutton Coldfield District would retain the community library and the multi-storey car park in Victoria Road.

Members welcomed the report and unanimously agreed that purchase of the freehold would create splendid opportunities for Sutton Coldfield residents and those in surrounding areas, opportunities such as employment, skill opportunities, the ability to retain a vibrant shopping centre and the opportunity to adopt potential partnerships to invest in the ongoing refurbishment and management of the site.

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RESOLVED:-

Members noted the Cabinet report and requested that the District Head update the District Committee on progress and proceedings on a regular and consistent basis.

COMMUNITY TRIGGER (ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR)

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The following Protocol for Community Trigger was noted:-

(See Document No. 2)

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE

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Gary Ladbrooke, District Head reiterated Members choice of themes for discussion as the District's Neighbourhood Challenge, they being health and wellbeing and dementia.

He advised that the first meeting with partners and interested parties was to be held on Wednesday 17 February 2016 where the terms of reference will be discussed and the Neighbourhood Challenge themes will also be discussed at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhood and Community Services to be held on Thursday 18 February 2016 where it will be announced what the chosen Neighbourhood Challenge themes will be discussed in the remaining nine Districts that make up the City Council.

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The District Head advised that the information he will provide was very brief as discussions were ongoing and he was not privy to those discussions.

He understood that the Deputy Leader was in possession of an options paper in draft form which will then go forward for discussion with the Leader of the Council and the Member of Parliament for Sutton Coldfield. He concluded by stating that Ifor Jones, Service Director Homes and Neighbourhoods was the lead officer in all negotiations and he felt confident that the Director will reach an amicable decision that would be satisfactory to all parties.

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58 The Chairman notified the Committee that the Steering Group had now been set up and on the 1 March 2016 a civic event, by invitation only, will take place in Birmingham's Council Chamber where the chains of office and the mace will be formally handed over.

The first interim Parish Council will take place on 1 March 2016 and the first interim Town Council meeting will take place on 8 March 2016. All business to be carried out and transacted will officially commence on 5 May 2016.

The Chairman concluded by stating that she had written to the Secretary of State requesting to use the title 'Royal Sutton Coldfield' but as yet she had not received a response.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

59 **RESOLVED:-**

That Members be notified of the date of the next meeting of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee in due course.

UPDATE FROM WARD CHAIRMEN AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

60 The following updates were given:-

Four Oaks Ward

Councillor Jenkins advised of the following:-

- Consideration of Ward boundaries – strong feeling amongst residents that Sutton Coldfield is being treated unfairly in particular in relation to the planned housing developments and take the view that Sutton Coldfield is not receiving its fair share. Strong feeling that should adopt eleven Councillors and not ten and introducing another Ward in Whitehouse Common.
- Pleased to see new car park extension at Four Oaks which always had free spaces on the top deck which suggested that the Four Oaks train station commuter problem had been resolved.
- In the process of re-establishing the Neighbourhood Forum in Four Oaks and have had a number of residents come forward expressing a strong interest in taking part. Hope to establish very soon.
- (Chairman) Pleased to see the steel works going up as part of the new construction at Mere Green.

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Trinity Ward

Councillor Waddington advised of the following:-

- Continue to have problems with the lack of refuse collection in the Trinity Ward. Councillors working hard to resolve problems.

New Hall Ward

Councillor Wood advised of the following:-

- Agree with sentiments previously expressed with regard to the Ward boundaries and feel that we definitely need an eleventh Councillor.
- Continue to get concerns about boy racers. Pleased to see press reports that the Police have completed a successful operation in Erdington. Need to see more Police operations taking place on the A38 where vehicles have been seen parking up on the hard shoulder getting ready to race. Hopefully the modifications to Minworth traffic island may alleviate these problems.
- Commenced with the building of one hundred units plus on Signal Hayes Road and will monitor the amount of construction traffic on site.

Vesey Ward

Councillor Collin advised of the following:-

- Echo concerns previously mentioned with regard to the Fleet and Waste collection service. Poor service provided and not fit for purpose. Will take forward for discussion to the next City Council meeting.
- Welcome planning application in relation to the Boldmere Golf Club new build.
- Continue to monitor the litter problem in Vesey Ward. Residents need to inform Councillors of known litter hot spots.
- Care home build on Maney Hill Road – have requested several updates on progress but had no response from the leading group.
- Boldmere Retailers Group – look forward to the activities organised by the group: 18 June 2016 is the Summer Street Festival and 17 November 2016 is the Christmas Festival.
- The next Sutton Vesey Ward Committee meeting will be held on 15 March 2016.

Housing Liaison Board

Eric Shipton, Housing Liaison Board Member stated that they had adopted the theme in the local HLB for a cleaner, greener Sutton in conjunction with Streetwise and work has now commenced. Hope that all current problems in relation to the waste collection service and wheelie bins etc will be resolved. Will take time but future progress will be made.

West Midlands Police

Supt Brandon Langley, West Midlands Police advised of the following:-

- West Midlands 2020 change programme which consists of approximately twenty projects. Update – the implications of this for the Birmingham North Local Policing Unit is that they are conducting a pilot programme, called the Mission Support pilot, seeking to test shared business processes and resourced deployments with the neighbouring Birmingham East LPU (Yardley, Acocks Green, Moseley). The pilot will run until 28 March 2016 and then an evaluation report will be submitted to the Police Executive Team investigating the feasibility of merging the two LPU's to form one unit in September 2016. Merging the two will result in a significantly larger Local Policing Unit than the current LPU in existence.

In response to questions raised he stated that there would be no reduction in the numbers of Police Officer presence in Sutton Town Centre during evening hours.

There were no further updates.

The Chairman thanked everyone and noted their information updates.

DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME 2016 - 2017

61 The District Head advised that the following issues will be included in the District work programme for a future meeting:-

- Terms of reference around Economic Developments and Employment Partnership and membership and Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Challenge.
 - Relationship between the Town Council and the District.
 - City Council budget 2016/17.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

62 No items of other urgent business were raised.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

63 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 1815 hours.

CHAIRMAN