

East Community Assembly

Meeting held 27 September 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Pat Midgley (Chair), Julie Dore, Terry Fox, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal, Martin Lawton, Mary Lea, Lynn Rooney and Jack Scott

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Armstrong, John Campbell and John Robson.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Lynn Rooney declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (East Community Assembly Budget Update), as a member of the Management Committee for the Stradbroke and District Community Association, but participated in this item.

3.2 Councillors Martin Lawton and Pat Midgley declared personal interests in agenda item 7 (East Community Assembly Budget Update), as members of the Manor Castle Development Trust, but participated in this item.

3.3 Councillor Terry Fox declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (East Community Assembly Budget Update), as a member of Manor Rights Advice Centre, but participated in this item.

4. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

4.1 The East Community Assembly extended its thanks to the Olympic Torchbearers from the area, John Birkhill and Ryan Wilkinson, who were both present at the meeting, for their outstanding charity work and inspirational stories.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted to the meeting.

5.2 **Public Questions**

Grass Cutting

5.3 Dawn Dale asked who owned the land between Castle Court and Manor Oaks

Gardens, as there were problems with the land not always been looked after, especially with regard to grass cutting. In response, it was clarified that Guinness Northern Counties Housing Association had the land on a long lease from when Castle Court was re-developed in 1991. The Community Assembly Manager was aware that this piece of land was an issue within the community, and she suggested that a meeting be arranged with Guinness Northern Counties about potential new uses of the land, as part of the Assembly's work around Wybourn.

RESOLVED: Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene, would take up this issue and report back to the next meeting of the Assembly.

Safeguarding Training for Voluntary Groups

- 5.4 Barbara Morris asked about Safeguarding training for voluntary groups which was available free of charge, as it seemed that no such resource currently existed. Naseem Howley added that she too had been unable to locate suitable training funds for 5-16 years. Members were extremely concerned by this, and requested a follow up on this topic.

RESOLVED: The Community Assembly Manager, in conjunction with the Chair, to investigate, and provide a full report back at the next meeting of the Assembly.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 6.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 21st June 2012 were approved as a correct record, and, arising therefrom, it was noted that;

(a) any more nominations for the 'ugly railings' project should be forwarded to the Community Assembly Manager for the Probation Service project;

(b) the Bernard Street railings had been damaged and were awaiting repair, and

(c) there would be a further update on the parking/ locked gates situation at Norfolk Park Student Village at the next meeting of the Assembly, as this situation was being re-assessed in November 2012, now that the students had returned for the new academic year.

7. EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY BUDGET UPDATE

Summary of Item

- 7.1 The Community Assembly Manager reported that the discretionary budget allocation for the East Community Assembly for 2012/13 was £336,958. It was noted that some allocations of funding from the East Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 had already been agreed at the Assembly meetings held on March 29th 2012 and 21st June 2012.

- 7.2 The report now submitted outlined proposals for allocating funding of £73,857 to additional named projects from the remaining funds for Ward-based projects, with

allocations of the remaining unallocated funding of £58,600 to be delegated to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair. Any funding allocations made between October and December 2012 would be reported at the Assembly meeting to be held in December 2012.

Decision Taken

7.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly;

(a) agrees to allocate East Community Assembly discretionary funding to the various 'New projects for decision Sept 2012', as set out in section 4 of the report now submitted;

(b) authorises the East Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to work up and agree the details of the proposed allocations and projects set out section 4 of the report now submitted;

(c) authorises the East Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to agree the allocation to projects that meet the Assembly's priorities of all unallocated funding as indicated in section 4 of the report now submitted, together with any funds unclaimed or returned by any of the projects referred to in the report now submitted, and requests the Manager to report back to the Assembly's December meeting with details of all allocations made under this delegation, and

(d) authorises the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in the report now submitted is made available, and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that s/he considers appropriate.

Reasons For The Decision

7.4 The purpose of the Discretionary Budget is to help fulfil the priorities of the East Community Assembly Plan. These priorities were identified through consultation with local residents, groups and partners during 2011. The East Assembly Community Plan priorities currently are:

- Tackling unemployment and increasing skills
- Tackling poverty
- Stronger communities
- Safer communities
- Improving the environment
- Transport and Highways
- Better health

Educational attainment is seen as the overarching priority that all projects and activity funded by the Assembly should be tackling in 2012/13. All the projects proposed for funding contribute to one or more of these priorities.

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 7.5 The priorities of the Assembly were agreed in September 2011. The Assembly Manager has regular discussions with partners and the community about ideas for possible projects. Those that meet the priorities of the Assembly are worked up into a project proposal. All of these current proposals are being recommended for funding. Other projects may be considered in the future if funds permit and they meet the priorities of the Assembly.

Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

- 7.6 Councillor Lynn Rooney declared a personal interest in this agenda item, as a member of the Management Committee for the Stradbroke and District Community Association, but participated in the item.
- 7.7 Councillors Martin Lawton and Pat Midgley declared personal interests in this agenda item, as members of the Manor Castle Development Trust, but participated in the item.
- 7.8 Councillor Terry Fox declared a personal interest in this agenda item, as a member of Manor Rights Advice Centre, but participated in the item.

8. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

Summary of Item

- 8.1 The Assembly received a report of the Head of Transport and Highways regarding East Community Assembly Local Highway Schemes. In the absence of the Major Schemes Manager, Andrew McKie, the Community Assembly Manager presented the report.
- 8.2 It was noted that the East Community Assembly had an overall budget of £110,799 available for 'local highway schemes' in 2012/13, as part of devolving decisions and priorities on local issues and improving the responsiveness of the Council to meeting local requests. The East Community Assembly had already agreed a list of schemes for implementation in 2011/12, and it was intended to continue and complete those schemes in the current financial year. The report now submitted contained an update on the actual progress of the limited number of schemes that were affordable within the current budgetary position.

Decision Taken

- 8.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly;
- (a) notes the current budgetary position regarding funding availability (£110,779);
- (b) notes the Duke Street briefing note contained within the report now submitted, and refers this issue to the Cabinet Highways Committee for its consideration and decision;

(c) notes the progress being made with the scheme on East Bank Road (Total £92,000);

(d) recognises the need for Ward nominations for small scheme improvements to a total cost of £5,000 per Ward;

(e) notes that as part of the Streets Ahead Contract, the Manor Estate, Base Green and Wybourn zones are programmed to be improved in 2013, and

(f) notes that the Woodthorpe 20 mph speed limit zone will be funded from strategic resources in 2013/2014.

Reasons For The Decision

- 8.4 The East Community Assembly supports and funds highways schemes at the locations of the highest number of child accidents. The Community Assembly and Transport and Highways teams, in discussion with Ward Members, have analysed the requests from local residents and undertaken some preliminary feasibility work on a provisional list of potential projects, which has enabled the identification of a list of schemes to be implemented in 2012/13.

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 8.5 The programme of local highway schemes can be updated and added to as the year progresses, reflecting new priorities identified by local people. The full list of requests for local highway schemes in the East Community Assembly area can be found in a new register, now available on the Council's website. This register will act as the central source of all requests for projects which will be assessed by Transport and Highways staff for feasibility and then provides the basis for selecting future schemes in partnership with the local community and reflecting the Assembly's Community Plan.

Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

- 8.6 None declared.

9. FUTURE MEETINGS

- 9.1 It was noted that future meetings of the East Community Assembly would be held as follows- 13th December 2012 - Victoria Centre, Stafford Road, S2 2SE, 6.30 pm, and 21st March 2013- Church of Christ, Station Road, Darnall, S9 4JU, 6.30 pm.

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