

MEETING: CABINET MEMBER - COMMUNITIES
DATE: Wednesday 31 March 2010
TIME: 11.00 am
VENUE: Town Hall, Southport (this meeting will be video conferenced to the Town Hall, Bootle)

Councillor

DECISION MAKER: Porter
SUBSTITUTE: Griffiths

SPOKESPERSONS: Booth Veidman

SUBSTITUTES: Weavers Friel

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Olaf Hansen Committee Clerk
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The Cabinet is responsible for making what are known as Key Decisions, which will be notified on the Forward Plan. Items marked with an * on the agenda involve Key Decisions

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution, is: -

- any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater
- any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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A G E N D A

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Subject/Author(s)</u> | <u>Wards Affected</u> | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence | | |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest Members and Officers are requested to give notice of any personal or prejudicial interest and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct. | | |
| 3. | Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February, 2010 | | (Pages 5 - 6) |
| 4. | Additional Pitch Provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Sefton Report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director | All Wards | (Pages 7 - 18) |
| 5. | Anti-Social Behaviour: Minimum Service Standards Report of the Head of Community Safety | All Wards | (Pages 19 - 34) |
| 6. | Sefton Communities Together Against Hate Crime - Hate Crime Week 2010 Report of the Sefton Equalities Partnership Director | All Wards | (Pages 35 - 42) |
| 7. | Encouraging Participation in Area Committees Joint Report of the Legal Director and the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes | All Wards | (Pages 43 - 46) |
| 8. | Minutes of Area Committee Meetings | | |
| A | St.Oswald and Netherton and Orrell held on 11 February, 2010 | | (Pages 47 - 52) |

- B** Formby held on 11 February, 2010 (Pages 53 - 64)
- C** Litherland and Ford held on 17 February, 2010 (Pages 65 - 72)
- D** Crosby held on 24 February, 2010 (Pages 73 - 84)

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH, 2010.

CABINET MEMBER - COMMUNITIES

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Porter

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Booth and Veidman

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

70. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2010, be confirmed as a correct record.

71. REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2009

The Cabinet Member considered the joint report of Chief Executive and the Acting Finance and Information Services Director that provided details of the quarterly forecast position, based on information as at 31 December 2009, in relation to the Communities' Portfolio 2009/10 revenue budget.

RESOLVED:

That the revenue budgets, which are subject to risk-based monitoring, be noted.

72. STRATEGY FOR OLDER CITIZENS IN SEFTON

The Cabinet Member considered the joint report of Strategic Director - Social Care and Well-being and the Sefton Equalities Partnership Director that outlined the draft Sefton Strategy for Older Citizens.

Attached as an annexe to the report was a copy of the draft Sefton Strategy for Older Citizens

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CABINET MEMBER - COMMUNITIES- WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED:

That the content of the draft Sefton Strategy for Older Citizens be endorsed.

73. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION STANDARDS PANEL - ANNUAL REPORT

Further to Minute No.19 of the meeting of Cabinet Member – Performance and Governance the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Sefton Equalities Partnership Director that outlined the activities of the Public Engagement and Consultation Team and Standards Panel between December 2008 and December 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the Public and Engagement and Consultation Standards Panel report be noted.

74. MINUTES OF AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Cabinet Member considered the Minutes of the below Area Committees:-

Linacre and Derby held on 11 January, 2010
Crosby held on 20 January, 2010
Sefton East Parishes held on 21 January, 2010
Southport held on 3 February, 2010

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the above Area Committees be noted; and
- (2) further to Minutes Nos.52 and 67 of the meetings held on 4 November 2009 and 27 January 2010 respectively, the Legal Director, in consultation with the Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods, be requested to draft a report on the options available to encourage greater public attendance and participation at Area Committee meetings, including options on the possible re-formatting and re-configuration of the meetings for the 24 March meeting of Cabinet Member - Communities.

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REPORT TO: Cabinet
Planning Committee
Cabinet Member Communities
Cabinet Member Regeneration

DATES: 15th April 2010 (Cabinet)
7th April 2010 (Planning Committee)
31st March 2010 (CM Communities)
17th March 2010 (CM Regeneration)

SUBJECT: Additional Pitch Provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Sefton

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Alan Lunt – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director
Andy Wallis – Planning and Economic Development Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Jim Ohren, Principal Manager, ☎ 934 3619
Ingrid Berry, Principal Planner ☎ 934 3551

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

This report explains the requirement on the local authority to secure additional pitch provision for gypsies and travellers; seeks approval to the methodology for site appraisal and selection; explains the process and likely timescale for site appraisal and submission of an application for gypsy and traveller site grant; and seeks delegated authority for the relevant Directors to make and submit an application for site grant should a suitable site (or sites) be identified, subject to subsequent endorsement by Cabinet.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

A decision is required in order to ensure that the relevant Directors have authority to submit an application for site grant in time for the deadline of 30th April 2010.

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RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Planning Committee and Cabinet Members note the report and recommend that Cabinet:

- 1) Note the report and the need to secure additional pitch provision (transit and permanent) for Gypsies and Travellers.
- 2) Approve the methodology for site appraisal and selection
- 3) Authorise the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director, in consultation with the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director, to make minor changes to the scoring framework if early consultations with key partners/stakeholders show that this is necessary.
- 4) Agree that a further report be submitted to a subsequent Cabinet meeting regarding potential sites.

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately, following the call in period after the Cabinet meeting on 15th April 2010.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None

Financial: Exact costs are unknown at this time. Purchase of new site(s) is likely to be covered by a 100% Government grant, although availability is not guaranteed. (Site running costs are not met by the Government grant, but are defrayed by rents and service charges).

| <u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u> | 2009/ 2010 £ | 2010/ 2011 £ | 2011/ 2012 £ | 2012/ 2013 £ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure | | | | |
| Funded by: | | | | |
| Sefton Capital Resources | | | | |
| Specific Capital Resources | | | | |
| <u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u> | | | | |
| Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure | | | | |
| Funded by: | | | | |
| Sefton funded Resources | | | | |
| Funded from External Resources | | | | |
| Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N | When? | | | |
| How will the service be funded post expiry? | | | | |

Legal: N/A

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

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FD 347 - The Acting Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and has no comments on this report.
Environmental Protection Director; Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director;
Planning and Economic Regeneration Director

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

| <u>Corporate Objective</u> | | <u>Positive Impact</u> | <u>Neutral Impact</u> | <u>Negative Impact</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Creating a Learning Community | | ✓ | |
| 2 | Creating Safe Communities | ✓ | | |
| 3 | Jobs and Prosperity | ✓ | | |
| 4 | Improving Health and Well-Being | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Environmental Sustainability | ✓ | | |
| 6 | Creating Inclusive Communities | ✓ | | |
| 7 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy | | ✓ | |
| 8 | Children and Young People | ✓ | | |

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Merseyside Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment – University of Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit - 2008
Partial Review of the RSS - Interim Draft Policy for Gypsies and Travellers – 4NW - 2009
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments Guidance – DCLG, Oct 2007
Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant Guidance, HCA 2010

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 local authorities are required to consider the various accommodation needs of the local population and to carry out periodic reviews in order to provide relevant and appropriate provision to meet these needs. Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004 introduced a specific duty for local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers within their localities. All authorities across the country are expected to respond to accommodation need where a need has been identified.
- 1.2 In relation to the future housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers, a report on this matter was considered by Sefton's Cabinet on 26th February 2009. This report summarised the findings of the Merseyside Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment together with the emerging requirements of the Partial Review of Regional Spatial Strategy. The report examined the likely implications for Sefton in relation to future additional permanent and transit pitch provision and meeting the housing and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. It also sought delegated authority for the relevant Directors to make representations on behalf of Sefton Council to the Regional Spatial Strategy Partial review consultations and subsequent Examination in Public
- 1.3 The regional dimension is intended to ensure that all local authorities contribute to resolving the current shortage of authorised site accommodation in a strategic manner, which helps redress current imbalances in the pattern of provision, and enhances the sustainability of the Gypsy and Traveller site network.
- 1.4 At the time of the Cabinet report in February 2009 the interim draft Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy was subject to a consultation period, running until early March 2009. It indicated a minimum additional permanent residential pitch requirement for Sefton for the period 2007 to 2016 of 30 pitches, (i.e. 30 over and above the existing 16 pitches provided at present = 46 pitches in total) plus 5 transit pitches and 5 pitches for Travelling Showpeople
- 1.5 In line with the delegated authority granted by Cabinet representations were made on behalf of Sefton Council to the interim draft Partial Review consultation to the effect that the additional requirements were unjustified. The final version of the draft North West Plan Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy was published in July 2009. In this version the figures for Sefton were revised downwards. Instead of 30 additional residential permanent pitches, it said 15 are required, plus 5 transit pitches, and there is no requirement to provide any Travelling Showpeople pitches. A statutory 12-week consultation period on the plan ended on 19th October 2009. The Examination in Public took place in early March and the Secretary of State's decision is expected later this year.
- 1.6 The revised figures vindicate Sefton Council's stance. They are much more acceptable, being very close to the figures arising from the Merseyside assessment commissioned by Sefton jointly with Knowsley, Wirral and Liverpool
- 1.7 The current position, therefore, is that Sefton should have a total of 31 permanent pitches and 5 transit pitches for the period to 2016, with a similar number required over the next 10 years. As of 2010 there are currently 16 permanent pitches in Sefton, (at Broad Lane, Formby). Therefore provision for an additional 15 permanent pitches and 5 transit pitches needs to be made by to ensure adequate provision is made for the period to 2016.
- 1.8 Sefton has an existing policy in its Unitary Development Plan (UDP) for Gypsy and Traveller pitches (policy MD4). This is criteria based, and doesn't identify sites, but could provide the basis for permitting pitches in the absence of identified sites. The Local Development Framework, which Sefton are currently bringing forward, offers an opportunity to allocate sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. This will provide greater certainty for bringing sites forward and will help to enable funding bids to be successful.
- 1.9 The main document in Sefton's Local Development Framework is the Core Strategy. Work is

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in progress on this document and it anticipated this will be adopted in 2012. This document is likely to provide the broad policy framework for the provision of housing to meet all needs, including gypsy and travellers. However, it will not allocate land for gypsy and traveller pitches. Therefore, following on from the Core Strategy a Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) will be produced. This will allocate land for uses such as housing and employment and include sites allocated for gypsy and traveller pitches.

- 1.10 Meanwhile, in advance of the adoption of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD the short term strategy for meeting the housing requirements of Gypsies and Travellers will be to identify suitable sites. As a starting point, it is proposed that we will examine sites over 0.5 hectares identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), as this is the minimum size of site that could meet our needs for a transit site. Ideally a site of about 2 hectares should be identified, but sites of this size are few and far between, so by setting the threshold higher we would be ruling out a number of sites which might be able to meet our needs in combination.
- 1.11 However, the SHLAA is a housing land study. Its purpose is to assess how much new housing land could potentially be available in Sefton over the next 15 years. Therefore it is proposed that these sites will be re-assessed using a bespoke scoring framework (albeit heavily informed by the scoring used in the SHLAA) as there will be different aspects, such as a suitable road access and different flood zone locational requirements, which need to be considered in relation to the identification of sites suitable for gypsies and traveller accommodation. This re-assessment will be used to identify a short-list of sites that will form the basis of consultation on the location of gypsy and traveller sites in Sefton.
- 1.12 Unlike the SHLAA, it is proposed that sites in the Green Belt be included if (and only if) no non-Green Belt sites are found to be suitable. This is because there is a potential that small, non-strategic Green Belt sites may be identified on the edge of the urban area and could be developed without a wider sub-regional Green Belt study having to have been completed.
- 1.13 The proposed site appraisal and selection criteria, in the form of a scoring framework, are attached at Appendix A. The scoring framework covers a range of issues that need to be considered when choosing a suitable gypsy and traveller site. The issues to be considered have been chosen as they have been identified in national policy guidance. These issues include obvious considerations such size and location, flood risk, accessibility and availability but also whether the land is likely to suitable and whether the location would promote – or hinder - social inclusion. In this latter respect it is important that the site or sites will prove to be safe and secure for gypsies and travellers, will not present a barrier to integration with the wider local community, and also be broadly acceptable to existing local residents. Clearly, sensitivity to these considerations is required in appraising potential sites. Officers are mindful of this and aware of the importance that consultation with all stakeholders will play in arriving at judgments.
- 1.14 The Government has made available, through an annual bidding round, 100% grant aid for providing additional pitches/new sites once they are identified. The closing date for submissions in the current round is 30th April 2010. At the time of writing this report detailed appraisal work using the scoring framework has not been completed. However, it is envisaged that it may be possible to identify a site (or sites) that will prove suitable to submit for site grant funding, either before 30th April 2010 or reasonably soon thereafter. Should this be the case consultation with ward councillors and the local gypsy and traveller community as a minimum will take place as part of the submission, and subsequent Cabinet endorsement will be sought. Any site proposal would, of course, be subject to consultation with local residents as a separate exercise to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy, and ultimately the submission of a planning application.

2.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 2.1 Sefton are required to identify appropriate sites for Gypsy and Travellers in accordance with the requirements of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy. This report seeks to ensure that potential sites are identified on the basis of an agreed methodology and to allow

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application to be made to cover the cost of provision of the site, prior to the bid deadline of April 30th 2010. However, this will not prevent the identified sites from being subsequently approved (or otherwise) by Cabinet for the intended purpose.

Scoring Framework / Methodology for the appraisal and selection of potential Gypsy and Traveller sites in Sefton

It is proposed that sites will be assessed using a bespoke scoring framework similar to that used in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The assessment will be used to identify a short-list of sites that will form the basis of consultation on the location of gypsy and traveller sites in Sefton.

The scoring framework will cover a range of issues that need to be considered when choosing a suitable gypsy and traveller site. The issues to be considered have been chosen as they have been identified in national policy guidance. For ease of reference the issues have been group into 6 broad types:

- Size and location;
- Suitability;
- Availability;
- Accessibility;
- Achievability; and
- Social inclusion

Below is the list of issues and a draft scoring system for the site assessment. Each issue has a maximum score of 10 with an overall maximum score of 270. At this stage, each of the issues has been given equal weighting. This can be changed if it is agreed that some issues are of more importance than others. Some of the criteria also have the potential to require the removal of the site from further consideration. This acknowledges that some issues are insurmountable.

Following the scoring framework is a site assessment pro forma which will be used to record all the scores.

Scoring Framework

1. Size and Location

a) Site size

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| The site is over 2 ha | 10 points |
| The site is between 1.5 to 2 ha | 7 points |
| The site is between 1 to 1.5 ha | 5 points |
| The site is between 0.5 to 1ha | 3 points |
| The site is smaller than 0.5 ha | Discard site from search |
| TOTAL | 10 PTS |

Notes:

Permanent sites - *The ideal situation would be for all of the 15 permanent pitches to be provided on one site. This will enable the G&T community to stay together. It would also be more cost effective in providing facilities and site management. The minimum ideal site size for 15 pitches and associated facilities is 1.5ha. It would also be cost effective and easier to*

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manage if the transit site was provided on the same site. Sites over 2ha therefore would score the maximum points, with lower scores for smaller sites.

b) Site access

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| The site is easily accessed directly from an existing main road | 10 points |
| The site is accessible from a suitable (non main) road through non-residential area | 7 points |
| The site is accessible from a suitable (non main) road through less than 100m of residential area | 0 points |
| The site is only accessible through narrow/unsuitable roads or through more than 100 m of residential area | Discard site from search |
| TOTAL | 10PTS |

c) Flood Risk

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| The whole site is in flood zone 1 | 10 points |
| The whole site is in flood zones 1 or 2 | 5 points |
| Between 0 and 20% of the site is in flood zones 3a or 3b | 0 points |
| Over 20% of the site is in flood zones 3a or 3b | Discard site from search |
| TOTAL | 10 PTS |

Notes: PPS25 sets out the types of development that can be permitted in each flood zone. Caravans, mobile homes and park homes for permanent residential use are classed as 'highly vulnerable' and therefore could be permitted in flood zone 1 and, if an exception test is passed, in flood zone 2. If over 80% of the site is in flood zone 3a or 3b then the site is removed from further consideration.

d) Location

| | |
|---|------------------|
| The site is within 2.5km of existing site in Formby <u>or</u> is in South Sefton | 10 points |
| The site is within 5km of existing site in Formby | 7 points |
| The site is within 7.5km of existing site in Formby | 4 points |
| The site is within 10km of existing site in Formby | 2 points |
| The site is not within 10km of existing site in Formby and is not in South Sefton | 0 points |
| TOTAL | 10 POINTS |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| The site is in an existing urban area | 10 |
| The site is on the edge of an existing urban area | 5 |
| The site is detached from an existing urban area | 0 |
| TOTAL | 10 POINTS |

Notes: There are two preferred locations for a new permanent site, either as close as possible to the existing site in Formby, or in South Sefton (classed as the built-up areas of Bootle/Crosby Netherton/Seaforth/Litherland).

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The ideal location for a G&T site is within existing built up areas. G&T sites shouldn't be pushed out away from other residents and should be fully integrated.

2. Suitability

| | Yes | Partially | No |
|--|---------------|-----------|----|
| Does the site suffer from any physical constraints or barriers (e.g. topography, shape)? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Is the site affected by un-neighbourly uses (heavy industry, power lines, motorways, etc)? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Is there a possibility that the site is heavily contaminated? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Would the site achieve visual and acoustic privacy? | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Does the site have any nature or heritage designations? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 50 PTS | | |

Notes: *There are a number of factors that make a site less suitable for development. The above factors are relevant to G&T sites but also to other housing developments. However, there may be some extra criteria or other factors that the G&T community think are relevant, which would only be ascertained as a result of an initial consultation with them.*

3. Availability

| | Yes | Partially | No |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Does the site currently have a suitable UDP designation? | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Is the site in active use? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Is the site subject to multiple or difficult land ownerships? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Is site in Council (or partner) ownership? | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Is the owner willing to sell? | 10 | 5 | Discard from search |
| Would the costs involved in purchasing the site be prohibitive? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 60 PTS | | |

Notes: *Regardless of how suitable a site is for development it also has to be available. It is considered likely that developers would resist their site being identified for a G&T site as this would reduce potential value.*

4. Achievability

| | Yes | Partially | No |
|--|---------------|-----------|----|
| Are there any known significant abnormal costs (including remediation, demolition, etc)? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Does the site need significant new infrastructure (including utilities)? | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 20 PTS | | |

Notes: *How easily a site can be brought forward for development is a major factor on whether a site can be developed.*

5. Accessibility

| | Yes | No |
|--|---------------|----|
| Is there a Primary school within 600m? | 10 | 0 |
| Is there a Local Centre within 800m? | 10 | 0 |
| Is there a Health Centre of GP within 1000m? | 10 | 0 |
| Is there an employment area within 5km? | 10 | 0 |
| Is there a railway station within 800m or a bus stop (frequent use) within 400m? | 10 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 50 PTS | |

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Notes: A site will be more sustainable the greater number of facilities and services are within easy reach. The distances used above are the same as used in the SHLAA. It is important that the site is close to a main access road due to potential high levels of traveller movement, particularly in the transit site.

6. Social Issues

| | Yes | Partially | No |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Is the site acceptable to the needs of the G&T community | 10 | 5 | Discard from search |
| Would the site enable residents to integrate with local neighbourhood? | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Would the site provide a safe and secure environment? | 10 | 5 | Discard from search |
| Would the site be broadly acceptable to existing local residents? | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 40 PTS | | |

Notes: It is important that G&T sites are integrated into the community and not marginalised. It is also important that the existing local population accept the new residents.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Site ID | |
| Site Address | |

Photo

Map

| | For Permanent Site | For Transit Site |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Size and Location Score (Max 50) | | |
| Suitability Score (Max 50) | | |
| Availability Score (Max 60) | | |
| Achievability Score (Max 20) | | |
| Accessibility Score (Max 50) | | |
| Social Issues Score (Max 40) | | |
| TOTAL (Max 270) | | |

Site Survey Comments

Conclusions

Site to be short listed for G&T site yes no

Is the site in the Green Belt? yes no. If yes, could the site be removed from the GB as a non-strategic release? yes no

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REPORT TO: Communities
Cabinet

DATE: 31st March 2010

SUBJECT: Anti-Social Behaviour: Minimum Service Standards

**WARDS
AFFECTED:** ALL

REPORT OF: Dave Fenney
Head of Community Safety

**CONTACT
OFFICER:** Ros Gatehouse
0151 288 6118

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

For members to agree the proposed anti-social behaviour minimum standards (attached annex 1) that have been developed in conjunction with Merseyside Police and the Sefton's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To allow the minimum standards to be publicised so the public understand the service standards of partners in addressing anti-social behaviour in Sefton

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is requested that Members consider the attached Anti-Social Behaviour minimum standards (attached annex 1) and that:

1. Members agree the service standards (attached annex 1.) so they can be developed into a customer facing material for victims, witnesses and the wider community.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: N/A

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: N/A

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IMPLICATIONS:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Budget/Policy Framework: | N/A There is no additional capital or revenue financial implications for Sefton as expenditure in relation to promoting the minimum standards has been allocated through Government Office North West. |
| Finance: | |
| Legal: | To ensure that Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership spend profile is compliant with Home Office Grant allocation terms and conditions |
| Risk Assessment: | Sefton MBC is compliant with the terms and conditions |
| Asset Management: | None |

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS |
|--------------------------------------|

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

| <u>Corporate Objective</u> | | <u>Positive Impact</u> | <u>Neutral Impact</u> | <u>Negative Impact</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Creating a Learning Community | | √ | |
| 2 | Creating Safe Communities | √ | | |
| 3 | Jobs and Prosperity | √ | | |
| 4 | Improving Health and Well-Being | √ | | |
| 5 | Environmental Sustainability | √ | | |
| 6 | Creating Inclusive Communities | √ | | |
| 7 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy | √ | | |
| 8 | Children and Young People | √ | | |

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

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| |
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1 Background

Tackling the debilitating impact associated with antisocial behaviour is one of the key strands identified in the 'Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice Green Paper'; and the 'pioneer area programme' introduced in Sefton through the Home Office in 2009.

In addition the new 'Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy (next steps in Neighbourhood Policing) published in March 2010 centres on ensuring that Community Safety Partnerships '*tackle not tolerate*' anti-social behaviour.

Tackling antisocial behaviour, addressing local crime priorities, demonstrating that criminals do face tough consequences as well as improving the support given to victims of crime, especially those victims of antisocial behaviour, are key issues that Community Safety Partnerships are expected to lead upon.

Improving public confidence in the services provided by criminal justice agencies remains at the heart of a more engaged and efficient criminal justice service.

Making sure that victims, witnesses and the public are aware of their entitlements, the standards of service they can expect to receive and how they will be treated and kept informed are all now known to be critical if Community Safety Partnerships are to increase and to improve victim, witness and public satisfaction.

Community Safety Partnerships have been set some challenges nationally, and perhaps more importantly locally to address the communities real concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour.

- Improving the consistency and support available to **victims of anti-social behaviour**, including feedback on case progression and outcomes of investigations.
- Ensuring that **antisocial behaviour victims** are aware of the support available and how to access it
- Promote and publicise the **services that are available to victims, witnesses** and the wider community so local people feel confident that services are 'on the side' of victims, witnesses and their families.
- **Communicating** the actions taken by Community Safety Partnerships to local communities that address their local concerns, including those actions taken to reduce the prevalence and perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

In relation to the last two points there is a clear expectation nationally that all Community Safety Partnerships should, by March 2010, set out their ASB minimum standards, making it clear how they will deliver these standards locally, working effectively as a partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour, support victims and witnesses and communicate the outcomes of their work in addressing anti-social behaviour to local residents.

To assist in this new funding has been granted to each local area to drive forward this agenda.

2. New Funding: Anti Social Behaviour: ‘Tackling not tolerating’.

In November 2009 it was announced that Sefton, as one of the 60 Pioneer Areas, was to benefit from a new package of measures specifically introduced to add value to the above programme and to further assist local partners tackle antisocial behaviour and to keep communities informed and safe.

In Sefton the measures announced will assist in the delivery of the Pioneer Programme and will see a **further investment of £40,000** made available this financial year from Communities and Local Government funded through S.31 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2003.

It has been stated in the guidance that the areas receiving the funding will be allowed to determine how best to spend the funding in line with locally identified priorities, and whilst funding through S31 of the LGA 2003 is not ‘ring fenced’ advice from Government Office is that, in line with the Ministerial letter, there are clear expectations as to how the funding should be used to address antisocial behaviour

Given the Home Secretary has set Community Safety Partnerships the challenge to set, agree and **publicise minimum standards of service** on how antisocial behaviour will be addressed by March 2010 there is a clear expectation from Government Office that this funding would and should support that work

In Sefton ‘**Communicating Confidence**’ is central to the work of the Community Safety Partnership and is an intrinsic part of the current partnership plan given the number of National Indicators based on perception rather than prevalence of anti-social behaviour.

Work within the partnership has confirmed that communication can make a real difference, echoing national studies that found that Communication, and especially that specifically designed around the needs of a local community, can

- Provide a better gateway to **access** services, what they can expect from those services as well as what services are available
- **Reassure** people that the Council and its partners understand local

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concerns and are working to address them. In a recent study people who were better informed were also more likely to be confident and satisfied with what local services were doing

- **Inform** local residents about what the Council and its partners have been doing to address their community safety priorities, the impact of their efforts and whether as a result they have made things better for local people so that as a 'partnership' we become more transparent and accountable.
- **Explain** how the Council and its partners work together to address local community safety priorities, how we support victims and witnesses, how we have brought offenders to justice, how we ensure offenders 'payback' to the community when on Community Orders.
- **Engage** with local residents to ensure that they are always at the heart of what we do so that we remain accountable and deliver services that make a difference to their daily lives.

Members will recall that the previous Cabinet Communities paper recommended that officers prepare a discussion paper for partners in the Community Safety Partnership to consider regarding the possible spend profile for the funding made available through the Pioneer programme and that this be presented to Cabinet Communities for final approval.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership met on the 4th February 2010 where, in relation to communicating the ASB minimum standards the following was agreed

ASB Service Standards (design, production and publicity)

The draft of the ASB service standards (see annex 1) has been developed and agreed by partners in the Police along with Sefton's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit who collectively take the operational lead in providing services and supporting victims of anti-social behaviour in Sefton.

To ensure that these standards are effectively communicated to residents requires the use of a media mix/ social marketing model that will ensure that residents, as well as victims, are aware of the services to which they are entitled.

To be effective and impactful the material needs to be 'market tested' with the end-user, so that it is 'personalised' and appropriate in its design.

If this report is approved by Members the final design of the material will be heavily influenced by service users, such as victims and witnesses who will be invited to comment on content, language, definitions and overall flow to make sure the final product is 'fit for purpose'.

If Members approve the ASB minimum standards (attached) it will allow officers to commence those discussions with service users so that the final

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product reflects what it is they would wish to see produced, using the attached as the starting template for those discussions.

The amount set aside for this is £20,000 that would cover the final stages of the production of the ASB minimum standards (working title at present)

Adopting this approach would mean that whilst the final 'customer version' of the ASB minimum standards would be ready for March the service standards for partners would be approved within the defined timeframe, thus allowing partners within the Community Safety Partnership to remain compliant with the expectations of Government Office.

Adopting this approach would also allow 'market testing' of the material with service users so as to maximise the effectiveness of the final 'community and customer facing version of the ASB standards.

Recommendation

It is requested that Members consider the attached Anti-Social Behaviour minimum standards (attached annex 1) and that:

1. Members agree the service standards (attached annex 1.) so they can be developed into a customer facing material for victims, witnesses and the wider community.

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Safer and Stronger Communities

Anti-social Behaviour Victims Charter

Purpose – Minimum Standards

In October 2009, the Home Secretary announced tougher local action against anti-social behaviour (ASB). The aim is to build on measures already in place, and to effectively and swiftly tackle the harmful impact of ASB, which can make life a misery for local residents.

The Home Secretary set out that it is expected all **Crime and Disorder Partnerships - such as Sefton's Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP)** - will deliver a minimum set of standards and tell communities how the Partnership plans to tackle ASB.

This **Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Victims Charter** has been produced by Sefton SSCP for Sefton residents. It outlines those minimum standards, telling you how we will tackle ASB within Sefton, and ensure that our communities are both safer and stronger. It provides information on the agencies which form part of Sefton SSCP, how ASB will be tackled and what support will be provided to you if you are a victim of ASB.

We will treat everyone with fairness, dignity and respect and approach cases with an open mind, taking into account personal circumstances.

Sefton Minimum Standards for Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

- 1. Make it easy to report ASB to the police;**
- 2. Listen to your concerns and treat you with respect and in confidence;**
- 3. Investigate every report of ASB and discuss all available options with you first;**
- 4. Keep you updated on the progress of your case;**
- 5. Aim to protect victims from future harm by offering advice and practical support;**
- 6. Support all victims and witnesses throughout the investigation;**
- 7. If you report more than one incident of ASB in two weeks, you will be referred to the Anti-social Behaviour Unit.**
- 8. The Partnership will aim to reduce ASB by tackling the causes, including managing offenders and problem families;**
- 9. We will keep the community informed about what we are doing to tackle ASB through monthly updates using newsletters, websites and media.**
- 10. We will encourage residents to share their views about ASB and encourage victims to tell us how they felt about the service they received to help us meet community needs.**

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What is the SSCP?

The SSCP is a statutory partnership of agencies including Sefton Council, Merseyside Police, NHS Sefton, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Merseyside Probation Trust, Sefton CVS, registered social landlords and many others. The agencies in the SSCP work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, to improve the quality of life for residents of Sefton.

What is Sefton's Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Unit?

The ASB Unit is a multi-agency team, consisting of Sefton Council ASB investigators, Police Officers, Police Community Support & Traffic Officers (PCS&TO's), and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. It has a dedicated specialist Victim Champion and a legal team. The ASB Unit works under one roof, providing a focussed approach to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and the fear of these issues.

What is ASB?

ASB is conduct which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator.

ASB takes many forms and includes rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, noisy behaviour, graffiti, damage, street drinking, threatening or abusive behaviour or intimidation. This is not an exhaustive list, however these are the most common forms of ASB.

How can I report ASB?

Contact **Merseyside Police** on **0151-709 6010**. Your call will be logged and you will be advised of what will happen next.

You can also call into your local **One Stop Shop**, in Bootle and Southport, to make a report in person, or call Sefton Plus on 0845 140 0845.

If you are a tenant, you can also contact your **local housing office** and report ASB to your registered social landlord.

In an emergency, always dial 999. An emergency can be:

- If the incident is happening now;
- If people are injured, being threatened or are in danger;
- The offender is still there or is nearby.

You can also report incidents anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

What can I expect the police to do?

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The police will risk assess your call and respond in 10 minutes to emergencies, within an hour to anyone assessed as vulnerable and within 24 hours to other non-emergency calls.

The Police will:

- Treat your report as anonymous if you wish;
- Ask you for information about victims, witnesses and offenders and why you believe you may have been targeted;
- Take appropriate action as soon as sufficient information/evidence has been gathered;
- Keep you informed of the outcome of the incident you have reported.

If you suffer a 'one off' incident your call will be logged and you will receive advice from a local Neighbourhood Police Officer or a member of Merseyside Police staff.

Your case will be risk assessed on the information you provide. If you are believed to be vulnerable due to your personal circumstances or the circumstances of the incident you will be referred to the ASB Unit immediately.

If you report repeat anti-social behaviour incidents (**more than one incident within two weeks**), your case will also be referred to the **ASB Unit**.

In addition, One Stop Shops or your registered social landlord can refer your case to the ASB Unit.

What can I expect from the ASB Unit?

Your case will be allocated to an ASB investigator who will contact you to discuss the issues and agree with you relevant actions to address your concerns.

The officer will seek to resolve your ASB issues as soon as possible and you will be regularly updated. You can say how often you wish to be contacted by your investigating officer and you will be provided with direct contact telephone numbers.

If you are a tenant of a housing association, with your consent the ASB Unit will liaise with your local housing officer and work in partnership with them to resolve your problem.

If you are a private tenant the ASB Unit will link in with your landlord, again if you consent, to resolve your problem.

How soon will I be contacted?

Your case will be assessed – through your answers to a series of questions - to identify its level of risk –high, medium or low risk.

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High risk – you will be contacted within **24 hours** of the referral.

Medium or low risk – you will be contacted by the ASB Unit within **five working days** of the referral.

The officer will agree with you how regularly you wish to be updated. You will also be provided with a direct contact number for the ASB investigator and the direct number to your local Neighbourhood Police office.

High risk cases

If your case is classed as '**high risk**', measures will be put in place to support you including a single point of contact for 'out of hours' support. Other measures could include CCTV, a panic attack alarm, daily visits and other additional services as necessary. **The ASB Unit will ensure that you agree with any of the measures offered prior to arranging this service.**

Information sharing

The information that you provide will be treated **confidentially**, however it may be necessary to pass your information onto other agencies in order to solve your ASB problem. If other agencies can assist, the information will only be shared with them with your permission.

If you agree that we should challenge the perpetrator and take certain actions, it may be necessary that the information that you provide is disclosed to the perpetrator, depending on the level of action taken. **Disclosure of information will only happen with your consent.**

Actions that can be taken

The action taken will be relevant to the case and will take into account your needs and possible vulnerability.

Actions include:

- Advising people (and their parents if they are under 18) that their behaviour is unacceptable via letter, or in more serious cases may involve an interview at a police station;
- Engaging young people in Acceptable Behaviour Contracts where they will agree to certain conditions in relation to their behaviour. In addition, we will seek to identify the cause of anti-social behaviour and look at the person's situation to aim to prevent further ASB;
- If the case is more serious and there is supporting evidence, legal proceedings may be pursued through application for an **Anti-social Behaviour Order** via the courts;
- Where a person under 18 is granted an Anti-social Behaviour Order we will seek to impose a **Parenting Order** to ensure that the parents take their responsibilities seriously. There are significant consequences in breaching these orders.

Neighbour disputes

The ASB Unit can offer a mediation service using the ASB Victims Champion who will seek to resolve your problem. Within a dispute both parties can feel like victims and this can seriously affect your quality of life. There are a number of measures which the Victims Champion can advise you of to resolve your dispute.

Vulnerable victims

It may be that your situation causes you to be vulnerable due to your health, age, disability or another reason. If you are considered to be vulnerable we will make sure that the ASB investigators and the Victims Champion put in place the necessary support to help you. If you feel you are vulnerable please tell your ASB investigator who will endeavour to provide you with the support you need.

Vulnerable young people

Not all anti-social behaviour is caused by young people, however some young people are at risk of negative influences that can lead to them engaging in ASB which can lead to committing crime.

We have a statutory responsibility to prevent young people's behaviour escalating into anti-social or criminal.

We will:

- Work with partners to address the issues that can cause a young person to behave anti-socially;
- Engage young people in positive activities to encourage better use of their spare time;
- Share information with other agencies where appropriate and necessary.

Sometimes there are serious issues within a young person's life driving their anti-social behaviour. Through Sefton Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership we will endeavour to establish what those risks are. This will include making regular assessments and implementing robust prevention plans to address the issues in all areas of their life, including their families. This may include targeted youth support and parenting support to ensure that the young person is steered onto the pathway of success to secure a more positive future.

Vulnerable families

There are some families that have significant problems in how they function. The children can be out of control and the family may cause significant disruption to their neighbours. In Sefton, we now have specially trained workers within the **Family Intervention Programme** to support and assist in managing families who are at risk of losing their tenancies, as a result of anti-social behaviour.

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We support families as part of getting to the root of an anti-social behaviour issue by assessing their needs. This is a process which involves various agencies to address issues in the lives of a young person or within families.

Attending court

If your case involves you attending court, you will receive support from the **ASB Victims Champion** prior to, during and after any court appearance. This will include regular updates, telling you what will happen in the court itself, what the court will expect from you, keeping you safe while at court and also travelling to and from court.

We will also work with Witness Services, who will provide additional support. Prior to attending court in any case there is an opportunity for you to visit the court with Witness Services, and be shown what a courtroom looks like, so that you are best prepared for the day of the court appearance.

What else will Sefton SSCP do to tackle ASB?

We will:

- Hold regular public meetings, at least monthly, to agree local priorities with your community;
- Publicise those priority issues and inform your community what has been done to tackle them;
- Give you details of local surgeries and other ways you can raise issues with us;
- Provide your community with monthly updates on local issues through newsletters and the SSCP website – www.respectsefton.co.uk. This can include what we have done to tackle ASB including arrests, convictions and details of ASBO's.

Your Right to Complain

While we will try to respond swiftly and appropriately to every complaint reported to us, if you are not happy with the service that you have received you can raise this through our complaints procedure.

Step 1

In the first instance speak to the ASB investigator who has been investigating your complaint and let them know why you are not happy with the service that you have received. The ASB investigator may be able to resolve your complaint there and then. If you are not happy after this ask to speak to a manager who will look into your complaint.

We call these informal complaints and we hope that most complaints can be resolved at this stage, however, if you are still not happy with the outcome

from the informal stage you can make a formal complaint. There are a number of ways to do this:

- Telephone Sefton Council on 0151-934 2088.
- By letter or completion of a form available from One Stop Shops (if you need assistance to complete the form, our One Stop Shop staff will be able to help you).
- Email us at customerservices@sefton.gov.uk
- In person by visiting any of our One Stop Shops located throughout the borough.
- You may wish to contact your local councillor to assist you in making a complaint.

Step 2

You will receive an acknowledgement of your complaint within three working days. This will give you details of the customer contact officer dealing with your complaint, including a telephone number should you wish to follow up your complaint with the department concerned.

The customer contact officer will investigate your complaint and respond to you within 14 days. If they cannot conclude the complaint within this time you will receive a letter telling you that the complaint will require further time to investigate.

Review by a senior officer

If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, you can ask the contact officer to refer your complaint to a senior officer of the department concerned, who will review your complaint.

Review by the Chief Executive

If you are not satisfied after receiving a response from a senior officer you can ask for your complaint to be reviewed by the Chief Executive. This is the final step in our complaints procedure. Your complaint will be reviewed for the final time and you will receive a full response.

The Local Government Ombudsman

The Local Government Ombudsman is an independent body who investigates complaints about councils. You can pick up a leaflet about the Local Government Ombudsman from any of our One Stop Shops. You can also phone 0151-489 6000 to request a leaflet to be sent out to you. You can contact the Local Government Ombudsman at: PO Box 4771, Coventry CV4 0EH. Telephone 0845 602 1983 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm. Alternatively, text 07624 804323 or email advice@lgo.org.uk.

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REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Communities

DATE: 31st March 2010

SUBJECT: Sefton Communities Together Against Hate Crime –
Hate Crime Week 2010

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Susan Holden, Equalities Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Sue Holden 0151 934 4722

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

The purpose of the report is to present the Cabinet Member with information relating to the events that took place during Hate Crime Week 2010, 8th – 12th February 2010

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To note the information relating to the events during Hate Crime Week 2010

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet Member for Communities is recommended to:-

- i) Note the information contained in the report.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following the expiry of the call-in period for this report

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are no alternative options.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: N/a

Financial:-

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

| <u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u> | 2006/ 2007 £ | 2007/ 2008 £ | 2008/ 2009 £ | 2009/ 2010 £ |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gross Increase in Capital expenditure | | | | |
| Funded by: | | | | |
| Sefton Capital Resources | | | | |
| Specific Capital Resources | | | | |
| <u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u> | | | | |
| Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure | | | | |
| Funded by: | | | | |
| Sefton funded Resources | | | | |
| Funded from External Resources | | | | |
| Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N | When? | | | |
| How will the service be funded post expiry? | | | | |

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Legal: Not applicable

Risk Assessment: Not applicable

Asset Management: Not applicable

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:

The events held during Hate Crime Week involve a wide range of partners and community members.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

| <u>Corporate Objective</u> | | <u>Positive Impact</u> | <u>Neutral Impact</u> | <u>Negative Impact</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Creating a Learning Community | ✓ | | |
| 2 | Creating Safe Communities | ✓ | | |
| 3 | Jobs and Prosperity | ✓ | | |
| 4 | Improving Health and Well-Being | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Environmental Sustainability | ✓ | | |
| 6 | Creating Inclusive Communities | ✓ | | |
| 7 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy | ✓ | | |
| 8 | Children and Young People | ✓ | | |

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Sefton Equalities Partnership organise an annual Hate Crime Week each year during which a number of events are held to raise awareness of hate crime and the reporting process. This year events took place during the period 8th – 12th February 2010 under the banner “Sefton Communities Together Against Hate Crime” and focussed on Challenging Extremism.
- 1.2 This year saw events taking place across the Borough which helped to take the Hate Crime awareness raising message into schools and colleges and neighbourhood community centres across Sefton.

2. Programme of Events

2.1 Hate Crime Conference – 9th February 2010

The conference was opened by Councillor Brenda Porter, Chair of Sefton Equalities Partnership & Cabinet member for Communities and the day was chaired by Barry Morgan Chair of Sefton’s Hate Crime Group.

The conference focussed in detail on two key equality strand areas where the under-reporting of Hate Crime is of paramount concern - namely Disability and Transphobic Hate Crime, both of which have been high-lighted under the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan as being areas requiring greater awareness raising.

The guest speakers, who shared their expertise and knowledge from both a National and regional perspective on these important issues, included:-

- Superintendent Paul Giannasi, Office for Criminal Justice Reform
- Dr Pam Thomas Breakout UK
- Martha Hand, National Trans Police Officers Association
- Jenny Anne Bishop ,Co-ordinator of Trans Forum
- Karen Hughes Arson Task Force Leader Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services

The speakers presented on how the positive steps that can be taken in breaking down barriers and raising awareness of how the philosophy of Hate Crime threatens everybody and not just the few.

The conference provided delegates with an opportunity to share experiences from across communities and to examine how by working in partnership the ethos of hatred which seeks to target particular groups within our communities can be challenged.

Workshops helped to identify ways of taking forward the message of how to raise awareness and understanding of Hate Crime and how to further support the lack of understanding around disability and transphobic hate crime.

The day ended with delegates pledging their determination to carry on through shared learning and partnership working to deepen understanding and support others to increase awareness on the truly damaging effects of Hate crime and how Sefton Stands Up To Hate Crime.

2.2 Hate Crime Week Events

a) Work in Schools

- Gee Walker, the mother of Anthony Walker delivered a message of peace to children from Thomas Gray , All Saints , Netherton Moss, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Oswald CE, Holy Spirit CE and Litherland Moss Primary Schools in Bootle in support of Social Inclusion.
- Sefton Equalities Partnership, Social landlord Riverside and Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre have worked together with Gee Walker to deliver peace talks to year 6 pupils as part of a continuing series of initiatives in these neighbourhoods linked to last year's launch of the Values Statement promoting community cohesion

b) Bedford and Queens Road Community Centre

Bedford Road Community Centre presented the Anthony Walker Foundation DVD "Colour Blind" which looks at the effects of racially motivated hate crime on families and communities and the Stigma Mental Health DVD looking at the negative effect of stigma associated with Mental Health. These films were shown to parent, carers and staff in the community centre and where very well received and one parent commented that:

"Mental health issues are all around us, I think more should be done to tackle racism and attitudes toward mental health in early years".

Queens Road Community Centre presented the Anthony Walker Foundation DVD, "Colour Blind" followed by a question and answer session to young people attending the after school club at the centre. The sessions received very positive feedback from the young people which included comments such as:-

"We are all the same on the inside"

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c) Young Advisors

The Young Advisors went into four schools across the borough, to give a presentation to pupils about hate crime and what it is. Pupils were shown pictures of victims in their hospital beds and the devastating effects that something as small as name calling could lead to people isolating themselves or even being beaten to death.

Many of the young people had heard of hate crime at football matches. They found the sessions very interesting but were unaware of Hate Crime in any great detail.

One pupil in one of the session's indicated that they had been on a bus when a gang boarded. There had been a couple of young people on the bus minding their own business and one of the gang went over and punched the boy in the face, and when they couple tried to get off the bus one of the gang pulled a knife out and threatened to knife the boy. The pupil called her mother and she then phoned the Police telling them where they got off the bus (the pupil was too scared to call them herself).

The rest of the young people remained silent and were holding back on saying things, and this indicated to the Young Advisors that more than anything it is still a sensitive issue in a lot of places. One young man did agree that people in his community still do not feel confident enough to talk about these issues as it is still a very delicate area for young people to feel safe talking about.

The following schools took part in the sessions:-

- Deyes High School, Maghull, Year 12 (20 pupils)
- South Sefton Sixth Form College, Year 12 (20-25 pupils)
- Range High School, Formby, Year 7 (15 pupils)
- KGV College

d) Hate Crime Football Tournament

A seven-a-side football tournament was held to help raise awareness of the issue of hate crime. Teams representing the partners in Sefton's Hate Crime Group took part in the event at Litherland Sports Park on Friday 12th February 2010. The teams included:-

- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Equalities Partnership
- Sefton Leisure Services Department
- One Vision Housing
- NHS Sefton
- Merseyside Police
- Sefton MBC Community Safety Department
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Sefton Young Offenders.

The partners were joined by players from the Everton Foundation, Liverpool Homeless FC and Mersey Marauders FC in the 12-team competition which also benefited a very good cause. £550 was raised for the Michael Causer Fund, set up in memory of an 18-year-old gay man who was killed in a homophobic attack in Huyton in 2008.

The winners of the event were the Everton Foundation who saw off the challenge of Sefton Leisure in the final.

The players representing the Goodison Park club's community programme received a trophy and medals from Councillor Porter.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Cabinet Member for Communities is recommended to:-

- i) Note the details of the events that took place during Hate Crime Week 2010.

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Agenda Item 7

REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER – COMMUNITIES

DATE: 31 March 2010

SUBJECT: Encouraging Participation in Area Committees

WARDS All

AFFECTED:

REPORT OF: Caroline Elwood, Legal Director
Steph Prewett, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and
Investment Programmes

CONTACT OFFICER: Steph Prewett Ext 3485

EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To outline proposed mechanisms for encouraging greater resident engagement in Area Committees

To request that the Committee agrees progress of work with Members and Area Committees to explore the best approaches for their areas

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To allow progress to be made in further developing Area Committees and making them relevant to local people

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- (i) Approve the proposed mechanisms
- (ii) Agree that further work can progress with Area Committees around their development in relation to the engagement of residents

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 1st April 2010

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

To continue with current approaches

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: No Implications.

Financial: There are no additional financial implications of this work

Legal: No implications

Risk Assessment:

Asset Management: No implications

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Consultation has been undertaken with Members around Area Committees within the context of Area Management and Governance and further is planned to explore the further development of Area Committees

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet and Council - Governance Review – Workstreams on the Sefton Borough Partnership and Area Management, 4 March 2010

Performance Cabinet - Governance Review – Workstreams on the Sefton Borough Partnership and Area Management, 17 February 2010

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

| <u>Corporate Objective</u> | | <u>Positive Impact</u> | <u>Neutral Impact</u> | <u>Negative Impact</u> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Creating a Learning Community | √ | | |
| 2 | Creating Safe Communities | √ | | |
| 3 | Jobs and Prosperity | √ | | |
| 4 | Improving Health and Well-Being | √ | | |
| 5 | Environmental Sustainability | √ | | |
| 6 | Creating Inclusive Communities | √ | | |
| 7 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy | √ | | |
| 8 | Children and Young People | √ | | |

1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Cabinet and Council agreed to a move towards area based governance structures at their meetings on 4 March 2010

1.2 The issue of resident engagement in Area Committees has been consistently raised in consultation with Members about developing potential models of area management.

1.3 Cabinet Member for Communities has picked up this issue and requested a response for how the Council can encourage greater resident engagement within our Area Committees

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

2.1 As part of the Governance Review Workstream for Area Management a key task is to look at the role and function of Area Committees, including its role in engaging with residents and promoting the role of residents in decision making.

2.2 Each Area Committee varies in its level of resident attendance and the level of participation of residents in Area Committee business.

2.3 All Area Committees have Advisory Group representatives who represent a resident perspective in relation to Area Committee business, however, it is widely accepted that Area Committees need to do be supported to promote positive resident engagement. It is widely felt that Area Committees are seen as somewhere residents can raise issues or complaints and work needs to be undertaken to change this view.

3.0 PROPOSED MECHANISMS FOR ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT

3.1 A series of stages is proposed for taking forward this piece of work in order to make it effective and deliver long standing benefits in terms of resident engagement

3.2 Stage one is a comprehensive review of Area Committees looking at how they are structured, how they operate and how they are currently promoted to residents. The background work to this has begun but needs to be progressed further with Members in individual Area Committees

3.3 Stage two is to explore the gaps in resident attendance at Area Committees and look at the various groups within the community that the Area Committee need to engage with more strongly. A model for doing this is already in progress with Young Advisors who are currently looking at how the Area Committee can better engage young people in its business.

3.4 Once completed these stages will inform a series of recommendations about how the Area Committees can develop to offer a better route for engagement of local people. Plus there will be a range of approaches devised for specific targeting of groups to promote their engagement

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3.5 All this work will be carried out in conjunction with Members to ensure it reflects the needs of their Area Committees and provides appropriate responses to their individual circumstances

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- Approve the proposed mechanisms
- Agree that further work can progress with Area Committees around their development in relation to the engagement of residents

THE "CALL-IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2010. MINUTE NOS. 63 TO 66 AND 68 TO 74 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE NETHERTON PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE, CHESTER AVENUE, NETHERTON
ON THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Brennan (in the Chair)
Councillors Bradshaw, M. Dowd, P. Dowd and
Maher.
Local Advisory Group Member Mrs. M. Elson.

Inspector S. Thompson and PCSO A. McIntyre -
Merseyside Police
1 member of the public.

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mahon.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

65. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Area Committee held on 29 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

In relation to Minute No. 57(2) (Overview of Youth Provision Across Sefton), Mr. R. Clappison of the Leisure Services Department had confirmed that the Orrell Mount Steering Group no longer existed, but that discussion had commenced with a view to the establishment of a Friends of Orrell Mount group.

66. OPEN FORUM

During the Open Forum, the following matter was raised:-

Local Advisory Group Member Mrs. M. Elson asked if further work to deal with dog fouling and litter on Copy Lane and Browns Lane, Netherton could be arranged under the provisions of the Community Payback Scheme.

Ms. Christine Kelly, Policy and Performance Officer, agreed to pursue this request.

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67. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Thompson reported on a number of issues including:

- co-operative efforts undertaken with One Vision Housing, the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and other agencies to address drug-dealing, thefts and burglaries at churches and schools in the Netherton area which were largely as a result of the activities of a particular family in the Westminster Avenue area
- Police initiatives to introduce a “Shopwatch” scheme and occasional mobile Police Station deployments in the Marian Square, Netherton shopping precinct
- work undertaken by Police Community Support Officers (PCSO’s) including security assessments of residential properties, informing neighbours in areas where burglaries have occurred, pointing out insecure doors to residents and organising talks and breakfast clubs in local schools
- security screws issued to motorists to combat thefts of vehicle number plates
- increased patrols in local parks and in the Marian Square shopping precinct
- action to deal with arson attacks on four vehicles and the illegal riding of quad bikes and scrambler bikes
- incidences of vehicle thefts where the thieves had obtained keys via burglaries.

Inspector Thompson agreed to arrange to investigate the use of a phone kiosk near the kidney-shaped traffic island at the junction of Southport Road/Moss Lane/Linacre Lane for drugs-related activity and to continue to liaise with Liverpool Police to address anti-social behaviour taking place on the playing fields to the rear of King Avenue, Bootle which are actually located within Liverpool’s boundary.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee’s appreciation of the work of the Police and P.C.S.O.’s be placed on record.

**68. ONE VISION HOUSING -
PROGRESS/PRIORITIES/OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING
WITH THE AREA COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a presentation on the above matter by Mr. Mike Coyne, Neighbourhood Manager of One Vision Housing (O.V.H.). Mr. Coyne referred to:-

- flats and garages which had already been demolished in Bowland Drive, Fulwood Way and Pendle Drive and work to demolish garages on Glovers Lane Mews and Parkway which had started on 8 February 2010
- total expenditure to date of £19,942,808 on the Decent Homes programme.

RESOLVED:-

That Mr. Coyne be thanked for his presentation.

69. BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director which advised that the balance of its budget available to allocate during 2009/10 was £35,201.16 and that no requests for allocation had been received since the last meeting. Ms. Christine Kelly, Policy and Performance Officer, indicated that a moratorium had been imposed on the provision of any further litter bins by Area Committees because of the cost of the maintenance implications.

RESOLVED:

That the balance of the Area Committee's budget of £35,201.16 available for allocation during 2009/10 be noted.

**70. PARK LANE, NETHERTON - PROPOSED TRAFFIC
REGULATION ORDER**

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order, the effect of which would ensure the free movement of traffic in the vicinity of a new pedestrian refuge, to be provided as part of an upgrade of the former Everton Football Club Youth Academy on Park Lane, Netherton.

All costs relating to the advertising and implementation of the Order would be met by the developer.

RESOLVED: That

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- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order as shown on the plans at Annex A and as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (2) the Planning and Economic Development Director be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Order.

71. PARK LANE WEST AND GORSEY LANE, NETHERTON - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGES

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director on the outcome of a review by the Cabinet Member - Technical Services of requested pedestrian crossing locations. The report indicated that the review had identified a number of sites where refuges could be funded within the 2009/10 Capital Programme, including one on Park Lane West, adjacent to Leonard Cheshire Drive, Netherton and one on Gorsey Lane, adjacent to St. Mark's Grove, Netherton.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) consultation with frontagers in the vicinity of the proposed refuges be carried out as soon as possible; and
- (2) subject to a positive outcome from the public consultation, the design and implementation of the pedestrian refuges on Park Lane West and Gorsey Lane be progressed, as soon as possible.

72. PROVISION OF ALLEYGATES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director on proposals to proceed with Gating Orders for the provision of alleygates which had been prepared following requests from Community Safety and Police representatives.

Ms. Christine Kelly, Policy and Performance Officer, advised that the scheme for Watts Lane, Bootle (plan numbered DC0507) had been withdrawn from those recommended in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Planning and Economic Development Director, in conjunction with the Legal Director, be authorised to process Gating Order applications pursuant to section 129a of the Highways Act 1980 by advertising the Council's intention to install gates, the effect of which would be to restrict access to the passageways at Clemmey Drive and Turner Avenue, Bootle, as highlighted in the report and shown on plans numbered DC0518 and DC0519; and

- (2) subject to there being no objections during the statutory advertising period, the Legal Director be authorised to confirm the respective Orders.

73. THORNTON TO SWITCH ISLAND LINK - PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND EXHIBITION

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services regarding progress in relation to the development of the proposed Thornton to Switch Island Link and the public consultation and exhibition planned for February 2010; indicating that the Thornton Switch Island Link Road Scheme was granted 'Programme Entry' into the Department for Transport's programme of major transport schemes, (i.e. schemes costing in excess of £5.0m) in September 2008; that the planning application for the scheme was proposed to be submitted at the beginning of April 2010; that Cabinet approved the proposal to hold a public exhibition of the proposals in advance of the submission of the application at St. Frideswyde's Church, Thornton and St. Benet's Parish Club, Netherton; that members of the project team had been made available to explain the scheme and answer questions; and that Members had been invited to attend the exhibition, which had also been publicised as widely as possible in the local area.

The report also indicated that in addition to the public exhibitions, it was proposed to offer individual discussions and consultations to the residents most affected by the scheme proposals (i.e. on Chapel Lane, Rothwells Lane and Holgate) and that individual discussions would also be offered to the local landowners and farmers who would be affected. Reports would be presented to all the relevant Area Committees and offers would be made to the Parish Councils for one of the project officers to attend their meetings and explain the scheme proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

74. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the agreed programme of meetings for this Area Committee, the next meeting be held on **Thursday, 18 March 2010 at the Bootle Day Centre, Linacre Lane, Bootle commencing at 6.30 p.m.**

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2010. MINUTE NOS. 63 and 65 to 71 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

FORMBY AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT THE FORMBY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PARK ROAD, FORMBY ON THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Ibbs (in the Chair)
Councillors Cuthbertson, Griffiths and Storey;
Parish Councillor Jenkins and
Mr. P. Thornton, Advisory Group Member.

ALSO PRESENT: Inspector J. McLoughlin (Merseyside Police) and 2 members of the public.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Platt, Parish Councillor Cawley and Mrs. B. Yorke, Advisory Group Member.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

61. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2009

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

62. UPDATE ON ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ms Sue Ashe, Resource Co-ordinator – Neighbourhoods Division, Planning and Economic Regeneration, reported on action and progress from previous meetings as follows:

(i) Minute No. 33 (2) of 1 October 2009 – Replacement of Stile with a Kissing Gate and Removal of barbed/razor wire on Dune Heath

Ms Ashe indicated that Ms Fiona Whitfield, from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, was in attendance to give a presentation on the work of the Dune Heath and answer questions thereon. (Minute No. 66 below refers).

(ii) Minute No.46 (iii) of 26 November 2009 – Neighbourhood Police Mobile Telephone Numbers

Councillors had now received mobile phone details from Inspector McLoughlin.

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(iii) Minute No.46 (vi) of 26 November 2009 – Larkhill Lane Street Sign

The street sign was now in place.

(iv) Minute No. 47 (2) of 26 November 2009 – Poplar Trees in Duke Street Park

Mrs. Yorke had asked for further information about poplar trees missing from Duke Street Park which she indicated had been planted to commemorate persons 'lost' in the First World War.

Ms Ashe indicated that 89 Poplar Trees had been removed from the park in April 2005 for health and safety reasons, because of their decaying unsafe condition. At that time the Council had been made aware that the trees might have been planted to commemorate persons lost in WW1 and as such had made enquiries to discover their origins. However, after a number of searches of records and by contacting local groups, no further information had been found to link the trees in any way.

Ms Ashe further indicated that between January and March 2005, 20 trees had been planted along the Duke Street Road boundary of the park; and in May 2006 a further 1,500 saplings had been planted in the park as a woodland belt along the Philips Lane boundary.

She concluded by indicating that more recent tree planting had taken place around the park's play areas, with 9 trees having been planted in February 2009 and 18 trees in August 2009.

(v) Minute No. 48 (a) of 26 November 2009 – Open Forum Question by Dr. D. Brennan on flood protection/pumping equipment at the Altmouth Pumping Station

A reply to Dr. Brennan's question had been received from the Environment Agency and was enclosed as Agenda Item. 12 (a). Ms Ashe indicated that Dr. Brennan had subsequently submitted a response to the Environment Agency which had been passed for initial consideration by the Council's Drainage Department. Following discussion with the Drainage Manager it had been suggested to Dr. Brennan that the Environment Agency be requested to attend a future meeting of the Area Committee to discuss flood protection and pumping equipment at the Altmouth Pumping Station and answer questions on the matter. Dr. Brennan had indicated that he would welcome this approach. Dr. Brennan was present at the meeting and concurred that he would be happy for the Environment Agency to attend a future meeting of the Area Committee.

(vi) Minute No. 51 (2) (b) of 26 November 2009 – Shoreline Management Report A3 Plans and Maps

Copies of the maps and plans and a hard copy of the report had been forwarded to Members by the Committee Administrator.

(vii) Minute No. 54 (2) of 26 November 2009 - Involvement of Young People/ Young Advisors in the work of the Area Committee

The Chair and Vice Chair had met with Miss Georgia Jones, the Formby Young Advisor, on 15 January 2010. At the meeting, Miss Jones had updated on the involvement of young advisors in area management and a questionnaire had been completed, the results of which, together with additional background information following Miss Jones’s research of other local youth organizations, would be used to start outlining some ideas on how to improve youth involvement with Formby Area Committee. A draft report on the findings and proposals would be submitted to a future meeting.

(viii) Minute No. 55 (2) of 26 November 2009 - reimbursement of £50.00 for litterbin plinth

The £50.00 refund for the litterbin plinth had now been credited to the Area Committee budget.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress and action from previous meetings be noted;
- (2) the Environment Agency be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee – preferably that on 18 March 2010, to give a presentation and answer questions on flood protection measures in the Formby area; and
- (3) Ms Ashe be thanked for her hard work and success in progressing action from previous meetings.

63. OPEN FORUM

No Open Forum questions had been submitted.

64. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector McLoughlin presented the crime statistics for the Formby Area during December 2009 and January 2010, comparing them with statistics for the same periods in 2007 and 2008 as indicated below:

| | Dec 2007 | Dec 2008 | Dec 2009 | Jan 2008 | Jan 2009 | Jan 2010 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All crime | 56 | 35 | 39 | 41 | 51 | 45 |
| Violent crime | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 11 |

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| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Robbery | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Burglary dwelling | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Theft from motor vehicle | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| Criminal damage | 5 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 9 |

Referring to the statistics, Inspector McLoughlin also provided a comprehensive report on recent and forthcoming initiatives and actions taken in respect of crime prevention and apprehension in Formby, highlighting the following matters:

- Burglary of dwellings – in a bid to combat an increase in burglary of dwellings (experienced mainly in the South of the Borough, with burglars trying door handles and burgling homes found to be unsecured), the police had set up ‘Operation Handle’ which involved the police themselves trying door handles in neighbourhoods across the Borough and advising residents of the potential risk where doors were found unlocked. In Formby, the doors of 350 homes had been tried, with 20 of these being found to be unlocked. Most of these had been in the vicinity of Alt Road and Redgate which held a particular attraction for thieves coming from out of town, due their proximity to the by-pass. Letters had been sent to all homes in this area warning of the dangers of leaving doors unlocked.
- Incidents of theft from motor vehicles had been relatively low for Formby compared with other areas such as Ainsdale and Birkdale. Inspector McLoughlin referred to a recent trend whereby stolen vehicles had been fitted with false number plates and sold on to unsuspecting purchasers. In a bid to combat this the police were providing non-returnable screws which drivers could use to secure their number plates. The police did not provide a fitting service for this, in case damage to the vehicles was incurred and they were held liable. However, in exceptional circumstances they would provide this service if the vehicle owner signed a disclaimer for any damage incurred.
- Three robberies had occurred at Formby Lower School, the modus operandi for which seemed to indicate that the culprit(s) knew their way round the building. However, the items stolen were marked

with 'Smart Kit', which would render them easily identifiable as school property.

- Following a robbery from the Scout Hut on Rosemary Lane, four youths had been apprehended at Formby Station and subsequently arrested and charged with the offence. The youths were from Crosby, Skelmersdale and Bootle.
- Inspector McLoughlin indicated that he was due to submit Formby's bid for 'Beachsafe' resources during the summer period. There were two quad bikes which were presently based at Crosby, however, efforts were being made to raise funds for further quad bikes, which had proven invaluable in tackling crime on the seafront and open spaces during summer months.

Inspector McLoughlin answered questions and discussion ensued on the following issues:

- the presence of police 'on the beat' in Formby and the necessity for completion of paperwork for recording incidents and processing arrests, which inevitably required police officers to be station based for carrying out this function. The Inspector indicated that each of his officers handled between 10 and 12 cases per month which involved a great deal of paperwork. They were also required to deal with anti-social behaviour issues and liaise and answer questions posed by the local community. He indicated that he was considering undertaking a time and motion study of officers during their work shifts.
- Violent crime statistics appeared to be high for Formby, but Inspector McLoughlin indicated that incidents recorded as 'violent crime' were somewhat misleading as they included such incidents as reports of 'dogs out of control', breaches of ASBOs and breaches of matrimonial order; and in relative terms, Formby was not a violent place. Taking this on board the Committee felt that it would be useful to receive a breakdown of the recorded incidents of violent crime for presenting with the crime statistics at the next meeting.
- the Committee commended the police presence around local shops and Inspector McLoughlin concurred that this had proven beneficial for both the police and public – referring to an incident where a local butcher had directed police officers to a known offender/pilferer whom he had seen entering a nearby charity shop. The Inspector also informed Members of the recent proliferation of thefts of a particular (expensive) brand of self tanning lotion from Boots the Chemist.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Inspector McLoughlin and his officers be commended for their

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efforts in helping keep Formby a safe place in which to live, work and visit;

- (2) Inspector McLoughlin be requested to provide a breakdown of February's violent crime incidents together with the usual crime statistics at the next meeting; and
- (3) Inspector McLoughlin be thanked for his attendance at the meeting and delivery of his report for December 2009 and January 2010.

65. UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE PRIMARY CARE TRUST

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Paul Acres, Chair of NHS Sefton on the work of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and on the key messages around health matters.

Mr. Acres:

- indicated that the PCT had now been in operation for three years and in effect was the NHS for Sefton
- indicated that £500m per year was spent on health care
- referred to the document "Better Health: Better Life" and the consultations undertaken regarding health services
- identified the following priorities for the PCT:
 - (i) improving the health of all residents
 - (ii) reducing health inequalities
 - (iii) improvements to all health services
 - (iv) spending of money wisely
 - (v) engagement with our communities
- indicated that patient waiting times had greatly reduced
- indicated that all national targets had nearly been met
- stated that there was now improved access to G.P.s at weekends and out of hours
- indicated that MRSA and hospital infections had been dramatically reduced
- detailed the provision of new dental services
- stated that one of the major challenges of the PCT was to reduce health inequalities between electoral Wards

- referred to the transformation of community services - looking at the best way of providing services at a local level
- indicated that the PCT was under great financial pressures - £325 million savings had to be made over the next five years

Mr. Acres, along with Dr. Janet Atherton, the Director of Public Health, answered questions from Committee Members on the following topics:

- the cessation of Homeopathy services
- out of hours cover
- the prevalence of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in Sefton.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr. Acres and Dr. Atherton be thanked for their informative presentation; and
- (2) Councillor Cuthbertson liaise via e-mail with Mr. Acres regarding the withdrawal of homeopathy services.

66. PRESENTATION - LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Fiona Whitfield, Conservation Officer for the Lancashire Wildlife Trust on the work of the Trust on Freshfield Dune Heath.

Ms Whitfield explained that:

- Freshfield Dune Heath comprised a mixture of lowland dune heath, acidic grassland, woodland and scrub and was the single largest lowland heath site in 'Lancashire'.
- Previously, in the 19th Century, the dune heath had been agricultural land; then in 1908 it was developed into a golf course; in 1941 it was requisitioned to create RAF Woodvale - subsequently used for army training; and in 2004 the heath was purchased from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) by the Wildlife Trust.
- Freshfield's 17 hectares of dune heath comprised 9% of the national total of this very rare habitat, with heather, sand sedge, wavy hair-grass and Sheep's Fescue being the dominant vegetation. However, a number of other specialist plants occurred, including heath grass, heath rush, bird's-foot, heath bedstraw and narrow buckler-fern, with 250 plant species having been recorded so far. In addition, gorse formed an integral part of the heathland landscape and willow scrub was scattered throughout. The Woodland was predominantly birch and pine. The ancient Wham Dyke drained the site, flowing inland into Downholland Brook.

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- Almost 1000 species of insect had been recorded, including 300 types of moth - notable species being the northern dune tiger beetle and the goat moth. The spectacular Emperor moth could also be seen flying during the day in late May and early June and 14 species of dragon flies had been recorded.
- Common lizards were frequent; and the rare sand lizard had been recorded close by.
- Many different bird species had been recorded and typical heathland breeding birds included good numbers of whitethroats and linnets. Woodland breeding species included woodcock, blackcap, chiffchaff and willow warbler. Kestrels and Buzzards also hunted the heath. Rarities recorded included the Sardinian warbler, the barred warbler and the firecrest.
- Large numbers of short-tailed field voles occurred, along with shrews, stoats, weasels and foxes. Red Squirrels were frequently sighted in the woodland and a small colony of water voles lived in the Wham Dyke.
- Since 2005 large areas of scrub had been removed in order to restore and extend the dune heath and acidic grassland, and the site was grazed with Hebridean sheep and during the summer by red pole cattle, in order to maintain and improve these habitats. Woodland had been thinned to allow regeneration of the ground flora, and a seven-year cycle of willow coppicing had begun to provide habitat for birds and other plants and animals.

Arising from the presentation and subsequent discussion, Ms Whitfield answered questions on the following issues:

- The replacement of the stile with a kissing gate for the benefit of walkers and visitors to the site.
- The legacy of the barbed and razor wire left by the MoD, the cost implications of removal, the health and safety risks, preventative measures (fencing) taken to prevent the public coming into contact with the wire, the legal implications of leaving it in situ and the possibility of using a local volunteer to remove the wire.
- Removal of brashings and gorse.
- Cutting down of trees and shrubs.
- Drainage of ponds and ditches and possible links to raised water levels on adjoining land.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Ms Whitfield be thanked for her informative and interesting presentation;
- (2) Ms Whitfield be thanked for arranging the replacement of the stile with a kissing gate on site;
- (3) in respect of the barbed and razor wire left on the dune heath, the Lancashire Wildlife Trust be requested to:
 - (i) seek legal advice about the legal implications of leaving barbed wire and razor wire in situ on the Freshfield Dune Heath;
 - (ii) seek estimates for the cost of removing the barbed and razor wire; and
 - (iii) explore the feasibility of using volunteer help in removing the wire; and
- (4) subject to the outcome of (3) (i) (ii) and (iii) above, the Committee give future consideration to agreeing funding toward the cost of removing the barbed and razor wire on the Freshfield Dune Heath.

67. THORNTON TO SWITCH ISLAND LINK - PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND EXHIBITION

Further to Minute No. 247 of the Cabinet meeting - held on 17 December 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director which provided details of the progress made on the development of the Thornton Switch Island Link Scheme, including the proposed scheme layout, the proposals for a public consultation and exhibition to be held in February 2010 in advance of the planning application and of initial approaches to landowners to open discussions about land acquisition.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

68. FORMBY FOOTPATH NO. 37 - PROPOSED ORDERS UNDER SECTION 26 AND 118 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the proposed legal creation of a public footpath

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from Range Lane, Formby to the shore, and the proposed extinguishment of the public footpath known as Formby No.37.

The report indicated that since the path had first been recorded the landscape had altered, the shore line had significantly changed and was further west than it was in the 1960's.

The area the path passed through was Ravenmeols Nature Reserve. This site was now designated as a Site of International and National Nature Conservation Importance and a Site of Local Biological or Geological Interest.

Since the site had become a nature reserve, circa 1983, the public had been permitted access to the area with limited restrictions. Various byelaws had been imposed on the use of the area but pedestrian use had not been restricted.

As a consequence Formby Footpath No.37 was no longer the only point of access to the shore from Range Lane and the public had established various walking routes within the site. This had had the effect of reducing use of the original footpath and over time, in places, it had been completely abandoned by the public.

With the reduced use and the impact of the environment the majority of the footpath was no longer evident on the ground. A number of sand dunes had risen on the line of the path and there were large areas of shrubbery that had become established, consequently obstructing it.

The report concluded that pursuant to the Highways Act 1980, Sefton MBC, as the Highway Authority, had a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public for the use and enjoyment of, and to prevent so far as possible the stopping up or obstruction of, all their highways. Therefore, to leave Formby Footpath No.37 in its current state would be a failure in that duty.

In order to resolve this issue and to ensure that the Authority was not failing in its duty, the Committee considered the several options indicated in section 2 of the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Legal Director be authorised to make concurrent Orders pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980, for the creation of a footpath known as Formby No.52, as shown on drawing number DC0453 and Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 for the extinguishment of the footpath known as Formby No.37, as shown on drawing number DC0450;
- (2) if the proposed Orders are unopposed then the Legal Director be authorised to confirm them as such;

- (3) subject to (1) and (2) above, a Definitive Map Modification Order be made under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to show the effect of the Orders on the Definitive Map and Statement; and
- (4) if the proposed Orders are opposed and referred to the Secretary of State for determination, a request be made to the Inspector that both Orders are either approved or refused.

69. INCE BLUNDELL FOOTPATH NO.6A - REMOVAL OF STILE

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services advising of the instruction for the Farmer at Carr Side Farm, Ince Blundell to remove a timber stile; and the intention of a Borough-wide review of all stiles with a view to making the network of footpaths more accessible.

The report indicated that following a change of ownership the field had reverted back to arable use and there was no longer any need for a stile to prevent the ingress and egress of animals.

RESOLVED:

That the report advising of the removal of the stile on Ince Blundell Footpath No. 6a be noted.

70. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the responses to questions raised at previous meetings be noted.

71. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Further to Minute No. 55 of 26 November 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director indicating that the balance of the budget available for allocation during 2009/10, including sums set aside for the provision of litterbins and street signs, was £10,423.92.

Details of the allocations made by each ward against the general provision in the current year were set out in section 2 of the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balance of £10,423.92 of the budget available for further allocation for the rest of the year be noted; and

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- (2) an allocation of £150 be approved for the provision of a bicycle marking kit for the identification of stolen bicycles, supplied by the Community Safety Department;
- (3) the following allocations, notified to the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director since the preparation of his report, be approved:

| Scheme | Amount £ |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Ince Blundell Hall – funding towards the cost of a new boiler | 5,000 |
| 1 verge tree and guard on Southport Road outside Moss Cottage on the opposite side of the road to the paper shop | To be notified at next meeting |
| Bench to complement existing planting scheme to be located on Alt Road – between bus stop and end of grassed area (design of bench and exact position to be agreed with Members) | To be notified at next meeting; and |

- (4) the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director be requested to liaise with the Head of Communications to arrange publicity in the local press for the schemes indicated in (2) and (3) above.

72. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of Formby Area Committee be held at **7.00 pm on Thursday 18 March 2010, at the Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby**

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 4 MARCH, 2010. MINUTE NOS.65,66,67 AND 68 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".

LITHERLAND AND FORD AREA COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE GODDARD HALL, STANLEY ROAD, BOOTLE
ON WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Moncur (in the Chair)
Councillors D Hardy, Brady, Cluskey, P Hardy and
Tweed

Local Advisory Group Members: Mrs.L.Cluskey,
Mr.J.Kelly, Mr.M.J.O'Brien and Mr.B.Walsh

ALSO PRESENT: 1 officer from Merseyside Police
2 members of the public

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Councillor D.Hardy in the Chair)

Apologies for absence were received from Local Advisory Group Members
Mrs.Burnhill and Mr.McNeight.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

59. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2009, be confirmed as
a correct record.

60. OPEN FORUM

During the Open Forum the following questions / comments were
submitted:

- (a) Mr.B.Thurston, commented that at the junction of Church Road
(A5036), School Lane and Orrell Road, Litherland one of the 'No
Entry' signs had been missing for a number of years; and the three
remaining 'No Entry' signs were only loosely attached to their metal
posts. Consequently they were being spun around by youths and
were only partially / occasionally visible from the road. The existing

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signage was inadequate and caused confusion to drivers. Urgent action was required to replace and repair the 'No Entry' signs.

RESOLVED:

That the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director be requested to respond to Mr.Thurston's request.

61. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Thompson referred to:

- The rise in burglaries across Sefton. Major operations had taken place across Linacre through to Hatton Hill. Over the last couple of months there had been numerous arrests for burglary. Many of the burglaries were aided by residents not locking alleygates or leaving the back door to their houses open. However, through initiatives like 'Operation Handle' in which Police Community Support Officers tested the handle of homes to check whether residents had locked their door. Over 2,000 doors had been tried in the Operation. As a result of such initiatives, home security and general good housekeeping was improving in the area.

(Councillor Moncur in the Chair)

- Linacre Road and Hatton Hill had continued to have issues with anti-social behaviour. Linacre Road in particular was somewhat problematic to police due to the geographic layout of the area. However, initiatives such as free busses to take youths to venues where organised activities were held to steer them away from anti-social activities, were proving to be successful.

A Councillor commented that the perception of crime by local residents was a concern; within neighbourhoods residents had significant fear of burglary. Inspector Thompson replied that the Police had developed many initiatives and made some real progress in tackling burglary, there had been over 30 arrests in the area; he went on to suggest that these successes could be communicated to residents via a newsletter. The Councillor commented that the fact that action was being taken to tackle burglary and there had been some successes would help provide reassurance to residents.

A Councillor asked how Litherland and Ford compared to the rest of the borough with regard to burglary statistics. Inspector Thompson replied that Crosby and Southport currently had the highest number of reported incidents across the borough. However, Litherland and Ford was treated as a priority area, and consequently received high levels of Police activity. If these activities were scaled down there would undoubtedly be a rapid escalation in the number of reported crimes.

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A Councillor asked whether the Police were aware that youths had started to target the new community centre at Captain's Green. Inspector Thompson replied that he was aware that there had been a rise in anti-social behaviour in the area, and the Force were employing a variety of tools to tackle the issue, including the free busses to take youths to venues where organised activities were held.

An Advisory Group Member asked whether 'Smartwater' kits would be made available to all local residents. Inspector Thompson replied that the Police only had a limited supply of the 'Smartwater' kits and all the kits had already been distributed, but they hoped to get more in stock soon.

An Advisory Group Member asked whether following the youth disorder on 12 and 13 February, around Sefton Street and Hatton Hill area, any arrests had been made. Inspector Thompson replied that as yet no arrests had been made but enquiries were progressing.

RESOLVED:

That the Police be thanked for their attendance.

62. THORNTON TO SWITCH ISLAND LINK - PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND EXHIBITION

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director - Communities regarding progress in relation to the development of the proposed Thornton to Switch Island Link and the public consultation and exhibition planned for February 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the Thornton to Switch Island Link - Public Consultation and Exhibition report be noted.

63. STERRIX LANE, LITHERLAND - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that sought approval to advertise the Council's intention to introduce traffic calming features on Sterrix Lane, Litherland.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to introduce the traffic calming features, be approved.

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64. PROVISION OF ALLEYGATES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that sought approval to proceed with the below mentioned various Gating Orders following requests from Community Safety and local Police.

| Area | Plan Number |
|---|-------------|
| Field Avenue | DC0511 |
| Kirkstone Road North Moss Lane Cumpsty Road | DC0512 |
| Nunsford Close | DC0513 |
| Litherland Road / Lunt Road | DC0516 |
| Delta Road and Ince Avenue | DC0517 |

The costs of processing the applications, including the costs of the gates would be funded by the applicants.

Members discussed the applications individually and agreed to defer consideration of following applications:-

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Moss Lane (only) | DC0512 |
| Nunsford Close | DC0513 |

in order to be provided with more information regarding the individual merits of each application from the applicant.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Planning and Economic Development Director, in conjunction with the Legal Director, be authorised to:
 - (a) Process Gating Order applications pursuant to s129a of the Highways Act 1980 by advertising the Council's intention to install gates to the effect of which would be to restrict access to the passageways as highlighted in the report and shown on the attached plans numbered DC0511, DC0512 (excluding Moss Lane), DC0516, DC0517; and
 - (b) Subject to there being no objections during the statutory advertising period, the Legal Director be authorised to

confirm the respective Orders. Where an objection is raised, a report will be prepared to the Area Committee, unless the objection is raised by the Emergency Services in which case, the matter would be referred to a Public Inquiry; and

- (2) the Planning and Economic Development Director be requested to invite the applicant to attend the 24 March meeting of the Committee to provide further information on applications for plan numbers DC0512 (Moss Lane only) and DC0513 Nunsford Close.

65. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS - SEFTON STREET AND HAWTHORNE ROAD, LITHERLAND

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that sought approval for the progression of Traffic Regulation Orders to maintain the free-flow of traffic on Sefton Street and Hawthorne Road, Litherland.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Orders described in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.5 and shown in annexes A and B be approved; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders, be approved.

66. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - HARTWELL STREET, LONGFIELD ROAD, BEECHWOOD ROAD AND CHELSEA ROAD, LITHERLAND

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that sought approval for the introduction of traffic regulation orders, the effect of which would introduce 'At Any Time' restrictions for junction protection on Hartwell Street, Longfield Road, Beechwood Road and Chelsea Road at their junctions with Linacre Road and to remove the existing 'All Days 9am – 7pm' restriction on Chelsea Road, Litherland.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Orders be approved, as shown on the plan in annexe A and set out in the schedules in annexe B; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders, be approved

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67. PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF RIGHT-TURN TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - RIMMER CLOSE, LITHERLAND

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that sought approval for the introduction of a traffic regulation order, funded by Bellway Homes, the developer of the former Secrets site, the effect of which would prohibit right turn manoeuvres from Rimmer Close onto Hawthorne Road, Litherland.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Traffic Regulation Order be approved, as shown on the plan in annexe A and the schedule in annexe B; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Order, be approved.

68. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - JUNCTION OF BRIDGE ROAD AND PENRHYN AVENUE, LITHERLAND

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that sought approval for the introduction of a traffic regulation order, the effect of which would introduce 'At Any Time' restrictions for junction protection at the junction of Penrhyn Avenue and Bridge Road, Litherland.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order be approved, as shown on the plan in annexe A and set out in the schedules in annexe B; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Order, be approved

69. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET - OPEN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that provided information of an application for funding under the quarterly open bidding round arrangements.

The application was from First Initiatives, a registered charity providing services and support to people with learning disabilities and their families and carers, for four wall mounted cigarette bins to be fitted to external areas where people smoked at Goddard Hall, Litherland. First Initiatives were concerned that the discarded cigarette stubs were a fire hazard and

they were also a flood hazard causing blocked drains. The sum requested was for £250.

Members discussed the application in considerable detail. They were particularly concerned that the application could be construed as supporting smoking, which was directly contrary to the Council's 'No Smoking' policy. However, Members also acknowledged that this was also a Health and Safety matter (in relation to discarded cigarette stubs being both a fire and flooding hazard) as well as a matter of general accommodation cleanliness.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Planning and Economic Development Director be requested to ask the applicant (First Initiatives) for information of how their application fits in with their strategy with regard to the anti-smoking campaign; and
- (2) it be noted that if the applicant demonstrates that their application is consistent with their strategy with regard to the anti-smoking campaign the Committee is minded to approve the application at its March meeting.

70. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No.52 of the meeting held on 28 October 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that provided information on available resources for the Area Committee area and progress on those items approved at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the current financial position and progress to date on items previously agreed within the report be noted.

71. CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director that set out the comments of the appropriate Officers on matters raised at previous meetings as well as correspondence relating to previous Open Forum questions.

Further to Minute No.50 of the meeting held on 28 October 2009, Members discussed the void house in Bark Road, Litherland. Members reiterated their concern that the One Vision Housing (OVH) property continued to attract vandalism. Members also commented on the reply

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received from OVH to the initial letter from the Planning and Economic Development Director.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the correspondence and Progress Report be noted; and
- (2) the Planning and Economic Development Director be requested to arrange a meeting between Ford Ward Councillors and One Vision Housing, to be held before the 24 March meeting of the Area Committee, to discuss the void house in Bark Road, Litherland.

72. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the agrees programme of meetings for this Area Committee, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 24 March 2010, at Cathy Roberts Memorial Hall, Osbourne Road, Litherland.

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH, 2010. MINUTE NOS 101, 102, 103 AND 104 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

CROSBY AREA COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH HALL, ST
STEPHEN'S ROAD, HIGHTOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Papworth (in the Chair);
Councillors Hough, Cummins, Gibson, Hill, D Jones,
Parry, Roberts, Tonkiss, Veidman and Webster; and
Parish Councillors Draper and West.

ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant Wright (on behalf of Inspector Turner -
Merseyside Police);
Miss Elena Mugarza and Miss Katy Russell (Young
Advisors);
and 5 members of the public.

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barber and Parish Councillor Hounsell.

Apologies were also received from Inspector Neil Turner (Merseyside Police).

95. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular, Miss Elena Mugarza and Miss Katy Russell, in their capacity as Sefton Young Advisors. Each provided a brief outline of their background and role as young advisor.

96. MR. BOB WRIGHT

The Chair reminded the Committee of the recent sad loss of Mr. Bob Wright, who had been an Advisory Group Member on the Crosby Area Committee since its inception. Councillors, Officers and Members of the public stood in silence in memory of Bob.

Committee members paid tribute to Bob, stressing much he would be missed, not just by people of Little Crosby, but also by the whole Crosby community. The Committee was reminded of Bob's huge contribution to the Crosby community, which included founding the Little Crosby Museum, his work at Crosby Hall Educational Trust, his role as Chairman of the Crosby Flower Show and as the driving force behind Little Crosby's success in the Britain in Bloom Competition; how he was always extremely caring and keen to share his knowledge and love of the local area, his willingness to help other people and to undertake even the smallest job to

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help others. He was a great character – warm hearted, passionate about Crosby – the ‘life and soul’ of the community - always cheery, yet fierce in getting what he wanted for the good of the area. His passing had left a great void.

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes informed the Committee of a proposal to purchase a bench in memory of Bob, which had received the wholehearted approval of his family.

RESOLVED:

That a bench in Bob’s memory be purchased from the Crosby-wide budget allocation, the location and inscription for which to be chosen in consultation with members of his family.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Member | Minute No. | Interest | Action |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Councillor Cummins | 100 –NHS Sefton – Key Issues | Personal - Non- Executive Director of NHS Sefton | Participated in discussion about the item. |

98. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the addition of Parish Councillor West to the list of those present at the meeting (and the deletion of his name from the apologies received as set out in Minute No. 94), the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

99. MATTERS ARISING

Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting, the Chair raised the following matters:

(i) Minute No. 81 – Potential Cumulative Impact

the issue of potential cumulative impact of licensed premises on South Road, Waterloo had been considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 22 February 2010 (Minute No. 79 refers) and it had been resolved that

‘.....existing Area Committees were a series of well publicised Open-Meetings and the most appropriate forum to obtain the views of the public concerning the licensing policy’..... that ‘..... the Council were looking to establish a number of Focus Groups through the Area Committees to obtain more specific views

on the current licensing policy during its consultation as part of the review of Sefton’s Licensing Policy....’

- (ii) Minute No. 84 – Proposed Car Park Charging Order – Crosby Civic Hall/Library, Hougoumont Avenue, Crosby Marina, Blucher Street and Burbo Bank Car parks

A number of meetings had been held and although no car parking charges were envisaged in the short term, under the present economic climate car park charges were expected to be implemented before the end of 2010.

100. POLICE ISSUES

Sergeant Wright presented and reported on Crosby’s crime statistics for January 2010, comparing them with the statistics for the same period in 2008 and 2009 (Hightown figures in brackets), as follows:

| | Jan 2008 | Jan 2009 | Jan 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All Crime | 210 | 271 | 192 |
| Violent Crime | 32 | 33(4) | 28 |
| Robbery | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Burglary Dwelling | 23 | 35(1) | 24(1) |
| Unauthorised theft / taking of a motor vehicle | 11 | 4 | 3 |
| Theft from a motor vehicle | 19 | 12 | 8(1) |
| Criminal Damage | 57 | 61 | 41 |

Sergeant Wright reported on a number of issues including:

- The continuation of Operation ABBA tackling anti-social behaviour across the 4 Crosby wards, which had resulted in the issue of 40 ASBOs and 4 parental control orders. There had also been an interim ASBO issued to a man in respect of his anti-social behaviour in Thornton and Church ward.
- The issue of 132 Smartwater kits for the identification of stolen property, the water mark being invisible to the naked eye, but visible under ultra-violet light.

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- Surveillance being undertaken at railway stations for the apprehension of persons carrying knives. Also, an initiative whereby Police Officers were issued with 'knife detection wands' and positioned outside pubs and clubs for the apprehension of persons taking knives into licensed premises.
- In a bid to combat an increase in burglary of dwellings involving burglars trying door handles and burgling homes found to be unsecured, the police had set up 'Operation Handle' which involved the police themselves trying the door handles and advising residents of the potential risk where doors were found unlocked. Homes with UPVC doors were found to be particularly vulnerable and often access was obtained without the occupiers knowing about it. Warnings were also given about occupiers leaving handbags and keys near their front and back doors.
- Bids had been made for mounted police and the dog section to assist weekend policing.
- Thefts of and from motor vehicles had been problematic at night in the Crosby Civic Hall / Library car park. The poor lighting in this area was considered to be a contributory factor and the matter had been taken up with the Council's Highways Department and Sefton Security.
- Working closely with park rangers, diversionary activities with local youths were being organised to take place during the Easter period, including street games in local parks and a 5 a side championship in Potters Barn park – in which the Police themselves would be participating.
- A Public Priority Meeting was to be held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 25 February 2010 to consult with the community about future policing priorities.
- Preparations were in place for policing the Sefton coast and public parks in Crosby and Formby during the summer period and the utilisation of the 2 quad bikes.

Sergeant Wright also responded to the following points raised by Councillors and members of the public:

- Reports had been received about serious anti-social behaviour caused by men (in the 18-25 age group) leaving the Royal Oak in Warrenhouse Road, Blundellsands, following the screenings of recent football matches. The men had left a trail of destruction smashing plant pots, bottles – and in one incident, hitting someone over the head with a hammer. Sergeant Wright agreed to liaise with Ward Councillors and look into the matter.

- Thanks were extended for the increased police presence (foot patrols) in Hightown and Sergeant Wright agreed to instruct Officers to keep an eye on the children's play area, where youths had been congregating.
- Congratulations were also extended for the reduction in crime rates and for the work of the Police in Seaforth – in particular the recent 'closing' of two known crack houses, bringing relative peace and quiet to the surrounding area.
- Criticism was made about the excessive numbers of police officers carrying out a recent speed check exercise, in contrast with the comparative small numbers of Officers patrolling the streets tackling 'real crime'. Sergeant Wright explained that the speed reduction exercise had been a one-off targeted operation (Operation Talisman) following an instruction from Police Headquarters and the Police Officers assigned to the operation had worked over and above their normal duty rotas.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Sergeant Wright be thanked for his informative presentation;
- (2) Sergeant Wright be requested to pass on the Committee's congratulations to Inspector Turner and the Crosby Neighbourhood Police Team for their success in keeping crime rates down in Crosby and Hightown; and
- (3) Sergeant Wright be requested to liaise with Blundellsands Ward Councillors regarding the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in Warrenhouse Road.

101. OPEN FORUM

The following matters were raised during the Open Forum:

- (a) Parish Councillor West submitted a request for a Pedestrian Refuge Crossing to be located at the junction of Kerslake Way (Railway Bridge) and the Roundabout at Lower Alt Road, Hightown. He indicated that a previous request for a refuge had not come to fruition because it had not been considered to be of high enough priority compared with other areas, based on the number of pedestrians crossing the road and the volume of traffic. However, he felt that a further site visit should be organised to take into account the *speed* of the traffic on the bridge approaching the roundabout at Lower Alt Road, which by virtue of a sharp turn of the bridge road prior to the roundabout, effectively created a restricted view of traffic for pedestrians, thereby creating a safety hazard and warranting further action.

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A response had been sent by the Assistant Director – Transportation and Spatial Planning, highlighting the recent report which had been considered by Crosby Area Committee on 20 January 2010 and indicating that Kerslake Way continued to remain a low priority compared with other sites within the Crosby area.

It was agreed that the Ward Councillors would request the Assistant Director – Transportation and Spatial Planning, to arrange another site visit to Kerslake Way with a view to taking the speed of the traffic in the area into account as a contributory factor for the provision of a pedestrian refuge.

- (b) The Chair exceptionally allowed Parish Councillor West to submit a further question expressing concern that the Crosby Civic Hall / Library Clock still remained unrepaired. He explained that he was asking the question in his capacity as a member and past president of the Crosby Rotary Club and informed the Committee that the clock had been donated in 1988, by the then Rotary Club President, Mr. Robert Harrington, to Mr. Doug Turner the Chief Engineer of the Borough of Crosby; on the basis that the clock would be maintained by the Borough Council.

The Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes indicated that she had obtained an estimate of £1,564 for the cost of repairing the clock, but unfortunately, due to the combination of budget freezes and an overspent Civic Buildings budget, there were no resources available within the Council to fund the clock repair at the present time. She had written to Parish Councillor West in this respect, enclosing a copy of the estimated bill from the clock repair company.

It was agreed that Ward Councillors would undertake informal discussions about finding a way to have the clock repaired.

- (c) Mr. Gardner had submitted a question requesting additional road signs around the junction between North End Lane and the A565 Formby by-pass, which he stated was extremely dangerous for traffic turning left on to the by-pass and for traffic turning right on to the by-pass towards Liverpool into North End Lane – as had been witnessed by the frequent occurrence of collisions. The questioner suggested a number of warning signs on the by-pass to improve the traffic flow around the junction and reduce the number of accidents.

The Traffic Services Manager had written to Mr. Gardner, indicating that a review of the approach to the junction both southbound and northbound, was to be undertaken to see if any additional signage was required. However, he stressed that the Council was constrained in the wording it could use for signs by the Department for Transport's Traffic Signs Manual and General

Directions 2004. Further, the junction had been identified under the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Local Safety Schemes Programme 2009/10 to address accident levels; and this Scheme was to be progressed to the preliminary design stage during 2010/11, though any progress beyond this stage would depend on future funding levels available through the LTP.

RESOLVED:

That the Traffic Services Manager be requested to report back to a future meeting of the Area Committee on the outcome of the review of signing on the north and southbound approaches to the junction between North End Lane and the A565 Formby by-pass.

- (d) A question had been submitted by J. Cannon raising concern about the proliferation of dog fouling along Brownmoor Lane, Crosby, asking why there was insufficient cleaning of the area and whether signage and stencils could be implemented to try and prevent the problem.

The Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes indicated that the question had been forwarded to the Cleansing Services Manager for action in respect of a clearing the dog dirt. She also proposed that she would contact the Community Payback Team who could take preventative measures such as distribution of leaflets and laying down stencils warning dog owners of the penalties for dog fouling.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods be requested to liaise with both the Cleansing Services Manager and the Community Payback Team to try and find a solution to the problem of dog fouling along Brownmoor Lane, Crosby, and provide a written response to the questioner outlining action to be taken.

102. NHS SEFTON - KEY ISSUES

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Paul Acres, Chair of NHS Sefton on the work of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and on the key messages around health matters.

Mr. Acres:

- indicated that the PCT had now been in operation for three years and in effect was the NHS for Sefton
- indicated that £500m per year was spent on health care

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- referred to the document "Better Health: Better Life" and the consultations undertaken regarding health services
- identified the following priorities for the PCT:
 - (i) improving the health of all residents
 - (ii) reducing health inequalities
 - (iii) improvements to all health services
 - (iv) spending of money wisely
 - (v) engagement with our communities
- indicated that patient waiting times had greatly reduced
- indicated that all national targets had nearly been met
- stated that there was now improved access to G.P.s at weekends and out of hours
- indicated that MRSA, Clostridium Difficile and other hospital infections had been dramatically reduced, partly aided by a reduction in prescribing antibiotics to patients
- detailed the provision of new dental services
- indicated the launch of a Chlamydia website
- stated that one of the major challenges of the PCT was to reduce health inequalities between electoral Wards
- referred to the transformation of community services - looking at the best way of providing services at a local level
- indicated that the PCT was under great financial pressures - £325 million savings had to be made over the next five years
- indicated that changes in the demographics, particularly in North Sefton with an increasingly ageing population, held significant challenges for the PCT and its partners
- informed of the successful submission of a joint application by Sefton Council and Sefton PCT for funding for the scrutiny of health inequalities in the Borough, with Sefton being one of only 9 successful applicants nationwide.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Acres, answered questions from Committee Members on the following topics:

- continuity of care for Manor Ward residents – with patients not being able to see their regular GP's at the Thornton Health Centre

- X-ray provision at Litherland Health Centre – children under 16 were required to be X-rayed at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool – could an exception be made for older children aged between 12 – 16?
- the case for more ‘walk-in’ centres in Crosby and upgrading of the Princes Street Clinic
- the problems with Church Ward (Seaforth) and parts of Manor Ward missing out on funding opportunities because of their location in the Crosby area, compared with Linacre and Derby and other more deprived wards
- the challenges of dealing with dementia – linked with the ageing population

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Acres be thanked for his informative presentation.

103. PROVISION OF ALLEYGATES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director setting out proposed Gating Orders which would permit alleygates to be installed at the undermentioned locations to restrict access to various passageways and thereby reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.

| Plan No. | Location |
|----------|---|
| DCO568 | Passageway leading from Holden Road to Green Lane, Waterloo |
| DCO569 | Passageway leading from Cambridge Drive adjoining the properties numbered 36–42 (evens) Cambridge Road and 1 Cambridge Road, Crosby |
| DCO570 | Passageway leading from Shaftesbury Road adjoining the properties 1-31 (odds) Shaftesbury Road, Crosby |
| DCO571 | Passageway leading from Brookfield Avenue adjoining 1 Brookfield Avenue, Crosby |
| DCO573 | Passageway leading from and forming part of Hill Street to Musker Street, Crosby |

RESOLVED: That

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- (1) the Planning and Economic Development Director, in conjunction with the Legal Director, be authorised to process Gating Order applications pursuant to section 129a of the Highways Act 1980 by advertising the Council's intention to install gates, the effect of which would be to restrict access to the passageways as highlighted in the report and shown on plans numbered, DC0568, DC0569, DC0570, DC0571 and DC0573;
- (2) subject to there being no objections during the statutory advertising period, the Legal Director be authorised to confirm the respective Orders; where there an objection is raised, a report will be prepared to the Area Committee unless the objection is raised by the Emergency Services, in which case the matter will be referred to a Public Inquiry; and
- (3) the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes) and colleagues be thanked for their hard work in ensuring the comprehensive provision of alley gating schemes across the Crosby area.

104. CHESTERFIELD ROAD, CROSBY - REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND PROTECTION OF PROPERTIES FROM VEHICULAR COLLISION DAMAGE

Further to Minute No. 80 (c) of 20 January 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director seeking approval for the progression of traffic calming measures on Chesterfield Road and Brownmoor Lane, Crosby, for the protection of properties from vehicular collision, as detailed in the report and shown on the plans in Appendices A, B and C.

The Chair welcomed four residents from Chesterfield Road, who described in detail the problems they had suffered through speeding traffic crashing into their homes, producing photographs graphically illustrating the damage caused and describing the effect which the incidents had had not only on their properties, but also on the health and well-being of themselves and their families.

The Committee sympathised wholeheartedly with the predicament of the residents and welcomed the traffic calming and other accident prevention measures outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the measures to improve the conspicuity of the junction of Chesterfield Road and Brownmoor Lane detailed as Option (B) of the report with funding found from the Traffic Services Revenue Budget be approved;
- (2) the introduction of anti-ram bollards as detailed in Option (C) of the report at locations shown in Annex (C), subject to the

outcome of exploratory trial pits to assess whether the bollards can be installed due to buried services; with funding for the trial pits and bollards being found from the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Department, be approved;

- (3) the Planning and Economic Development Director be requested submit a further report to the meeting on 27 May 2010, outlining the outcomes of consultation with local residents regarding the proposed introduction of traffic calming measures along Brownmoor Lane, detailed as Option (A); and
- (4) subject to (3) above, it be noted that Option (A) will be funded by the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Department.

105. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Further to Minute No. 90 of 20 January 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director indicating that the balance of the budget available for allocation during 2009/10, including sums set aside for the provision of litterbins and street signs was £9,061.66 and setting out details of the progress of schemes for which funding had previously been approved.

RESOLVED:

That the remaining balance of £9,061.66 of the budget available for further allocation for the rest of the year and the progress of schemes for which funding had previously been approved, be noted.

106. PREVIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE OPEN FORUM

A copy of a response to an issue raised at a previous meeting of the Committee was submitted for information.

The Committee was informed that Mr. Wilson, had requested that his question regarding lowering the height of the sand dunes along the Crosby Promenade, (Minute No. 80 (a) of 20 January 2010 refers), be resubmitted to the Committee, as he had not yet received a response on the matter.

The Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes indicated that she *had* sent a written response to Mr. Wilson, but that she would arrange to have the letter re-sent to him. A copy of the letter would also be included with the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes be requested to resend her letter of response to Mr Wilson's

Agenda Item 8d

CROSBY AREA COMMITTEE- WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY, 2010

Open Forum question raised at the meeting on 20 January 2010 on lowering the sand dunes along the Crosby Promenade.

107. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting be held at **6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 24 March 2010, at St. Stephen's Church Hall, St. Stephen's Road, Hightown.**