

# Public Document Pack

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 2010. MINUTE NOS. 6 AND 9 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

## ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE

### MEETING HELD AT THE NETHERTON ACTIVITY CENTRE, GLOVERS LANE, NETHERTON ON THURSDAY 27TH MAY, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Mahon (in the Chair)  
Councillors Brennan, M Dowd, P Dowd and Maher  
Local Advisory Group Member Mrs. M. Elson  
Sergeant Barnes - Merseyside Police  
3 members of the public in attendance

#### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2010/11

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Mahon be appointed Chair of the Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11; and
- (2) Councillor Brennan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bradshaw.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Area Committee held on 18 March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 5. OPEN FORUM

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

- (a) Councillor M. Dowd, on behalf of residents of Reapers Way, complained about cars and heavy goods vehicles inadvertently travelling down Copy Lane from the Northern Perimeter Road; that the problem was caused by inadequate signage directing traffic; and that a traffic sign at the location directing traffic to Crosby and Southport along the Northern

ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE-  
THURSDAY 27TH MAY, 2010

Perimeter Road would greatly reduce the problem. Councillor M. Dowd concluded that the Assistant Director (Transport and Spatial Planning) had been requested to install such signage but that the request had not been complied with.

Mr. M. Kilpatrick, Neighbourhoods Division, indicated that two signs had been ordered for the location but stated "Road not suitable for HGV's".

Members expressed concern about the non-compliance with the request; also complained that approval had been given to install street signs at Heysham Road and in various other locations in the St. Oswald and Netherton and Orrell Wards many months ago; and that although funding had been allocated via the devolved budget for the street signs, they had not yet been installed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Assistant Director (Transport and Spatial Planning):
    - (i) be advised of the concerns of the Area Committee relating to the inactions in erecting traffic directional signage at the Northern Perimeter Road; and
    - (ii) arrange for the installation of a directional traffic sign for Crosby and Southport on the Northern Perimeter Road before the next meeting of the Area Committee to be held on 1 July 2010; and
  - (2) the Neighbourhoods Area Co-ordinator be requested to pursue with Capita Symonds the installation of the outstanding street signs; and if the outstanding signs are not installed within a month then the matter be referred to the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director.
- (b) Mrs. D. Frostick, referred to Marian Square and its lack of cafés and places to eat; and indicated that she did not know of any other square without such facilities. Mrs. Frostick concluded by asking would the Council help in facilitating the opening of a café in Marian Square.

A local resident in attendance at the meeting also complained about the lack of public conveniences in the Marian Square vicinity.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chief Executive be requested to investigate what action can be taken by the Council to facilitate café provision at the Marian Square; and
- (2) the Operational Services Director be requested to investigate and advise the Area Committee what public convenience provision was

ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE-  
THURSDAY 27TH MAY, 2010

available in the Marian Square area and the potential for the provision of new provision.

(c) Local Advisory Group Member Ms. M. Elson asked whether the Traffic Services Manager could check out the car parking in Netherton Grange by the shops. She indicated that double yellow lines were in place part way up one side of the road which caused all vehicles to park on the opposite side; and that the parked cars impeded the full vision of traffic coming down the road, which may be hazardous for pedestrians, especially children, going to the shops. Ms. Elson concluded by asking if action could be taken to improve the situation.

Ms. Elson advised the Area Committee that she had received a written response from the Traffic Services Manager, but considered that it did not respond adequately to the points she had raised.

RESOLVED:

That the Traffic Services Manager be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee on the points raised in Ms. Elson's question.

(d) Councillor Brennan, on behalf of residents of Johnson Avenue and Moss Lane referred to the highways/traffic problems they were experiencing in the vicinity of the entrance to the bowling green on Moss Lane (Crescent).

The problems related to visitors to the shops parking across residents' driveways; numerous delivery vehicles using Johnson Avenue as a shortcut to the Netto supermarket on Orrell Lane; People Ford cars being test driven down Johnson Avenue; and that the road had now become a rat run and that the situation would worsen once construction work commenced on the former BAT site.

Councillor Brennan concluded that a sensible solution would be to restrict vehicular access so no traffic could enter from the Orrell Lane end. This would not pose a problem for emergency vehicles and would end the nightmare for residents. However, if that was deemed not viable for valid reasons, alternative measures must be explored including resident only parking at the Crescent as yellow lines would prevent those residents that lived on the corner of the Crescent from parking outside their homes.

Mr. S. Waldron, Assistant Director, Planning and Economic Development Department had advised that with a closure of Johnson Avenue at the Orrell Lane end there would not be enough space to create a turning head, and this may create unsafe turning movements at the Pearson Drive junction. In addition, the alleged rat-running by vehicles from Peoples and Netto would more than likely transfer to the parallel road (Alexandra Drive).

ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE-  
THURSDAY 27TH MAY, 2010

The views of the emergency services would need to be sought and it was likely they would not be supportive as the alternative route, if the appliance was coming from Orrell Lane, would be quite time consuming.

Parking at the Moss Lane end by shoppers and visitors to the Bowling Club could only be addressed by a Residents Privileged Parking (RPP) scheme. It was already on the list of 130 roads and the progress of these schemes was to be discussed with the Cabinet Member - Technical Services shortly.

On balance, the area would need to be considered as a whole and the traffic and parking issues addressed as part of a package of measures. It was recommended that further consideration was given when a way forward for RPP schemes had been determined.

Mr. Chadd, a resident of Johnson Avenue, detailed to the Area Committee the extent of the problems being experienced by local residents; and also complained about the use of floodlights at the bowling club, on occasions until 10.00 p.m., which shone onto residents' homes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director be requested to:
  - (i) formally approach the bowling club to explain the problems being caused by their members/visitors parking indiscriminately; seek a solution to the problem; and review the situation in three months to see if the problems experienced by residents have been alleviated; and
  - (ii) arrange a meeting with residents of Johnson Avenue/Moss Lane to discuss the problems they are experiencing; and
- (2) the Planning and Economic Development Director and Environmental and Technical Services Director be requested to investigate whether any breaches of planning conditions are occurring at the Moss Lane/Crescent bowling club in relation to the hours of operation of the floodlighting.
- (e) Mrs. G. Kinder requested the allocation of £1000 - £2000 from the Area Committee's devolved budget to upgrade the landscaping works at the Urban Oasis, Netherton.

Mr. M. Kilpatrick, Neighbourhoods Division, advised that this matter was currently being investigated and costings were being obtained for various improvement works; and that he would keep Mrs. Kinder advised of progress on the matter.

## **6. BENEFIT TAKE-UP TEAM - PRESENTATION**

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. P. Jenner, Development Officer, Sefton Benefits Section, on the work of the Benefits Take-Up Team in promoting Housing/Council Tax Benefit and other benefits in Sefton.

Mr. Jenner detailed the Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) take-up in the St. Oswald and Netherton and Orrell Wards; that there had been increase of 167 HB and 363 CTB awards made for the period April 2009 - December 2009, resulting in a total annual benefit increase of £1,671,135; and that in St. Oswald Ward, 2185 properties (40.46%) were in receipt of benefit whilst in Netherton and Orrell the figure was 1732 (32.76%);

Mr. Jenner also indicated that an Assistant Take-Up Officer had been appointed and that from November 2009 205 visits had been made to vulnerable claimants; detailed campaigns relating to child benefit awareness and low paid workers awareness and the production of a credit crunch leaflet; and concluded that the Take-Up team had recently worked with Shop Direct (Littlewoods) and Ladbrokes following the decision to make staff redundant; had visited Walton Prison for a meeting with NACRO; and had held talks with many groups in Sefton.

Mr. Jenner sought suggestions from Members on locations to hold benefit take-up surgeries within the Area Committee's boundary.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr. Jenner be thanked for his informative presentation;
- (2) the following locations be considered for benefit take-up surgeries/information distribution:
  - (a) post offices
  - (b) the Netherton Feelgood Factory as an outreach office for ½ day per week; and
- (3) Members be requested to contact Mr. Jenner direct with any further suggestions.

## **7. POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant C. Barnes reported on the following issues:

- anti-social behaviour contracts issued to youths who committed offences in the Marian Square area; this had reduced the number of complaints received from residents and business owners
- the shop watch operation undertaken in Marian Square

ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE-  
THURSDAY 27TH MAY, 2010

- problems experienced by local residents caused by youths congregating in the Orrell Mount Pavilion area; and that positive feedback was received from residents for the Police operation to tackle the problem
- that he would request his colleagues to investigate the traffic/parking problems being experienced in the Johnson Avenue area

Members referred to:

- the increasing frequency of youths hanging around the shops on Orrell Road. A representative of the Youth Service advised that she had been working closely with Inspector Thompson on dispersal tactics to resolve such problems at this and other locations in the area
- the phone box at Moss Lane/Crescent being used for drug dealing purposes; and that there was also general anti-social behaviour occurring in the area
- a break-in in Gardner Avenue to obtain the keys to the owners car that was subsequently stolen. Sergeant Barnes stated that this was the work of opportunist thieves and was a current problem
- disturbance being caused to residents by youths using motorcycles/quad bikes on the field at the back of Lunar Drive, Netherton. What was the Police enforcement position?

Sergeant Barnes advised that the Police had similar vehicles to use in the apprehension of offenders who were dealt with severely; and that numerous motorcycles had been confiscated and crushed. Sergeant Barnes concluded that the more calls that were logged, the easier it was to prioritise hot spots and target resources to resolve the problems experienced.

- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes/local community groups and how it was important that the Police responded to any issues raised by them.

RESOLVED:

That Sergeant Barnes be thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

## **8. BUDGET MONITORING**

The Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director which advised that the balance of its budget available to allocate during 2010/11, including amounts set aside for litterbins and street signs was £51,203.80 and that no requests for

ST. OSWALD AND NETHERTON AND ORRELL AREA COMMITTEE-  
THURSDAY 27TH MAY, 2010

allocation had been received since the last meeting; and detailing the progress made to date on allocations agreed during 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balance of the Area Committee's budget of £51,203.80 available for allocation during 2010/11 be noted; and
- (2) the progress made on allocations agreed during 2009/10 be noted.

**9. PARK LANE WEST NETHERTON - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGE - RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute No. 71 of the meeting held on 11 February 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director advising of the results of the recent consultation exercise undertaken with residents of 77-85 Park Lane West and 2 and 4 Pinetree Close, Netherton, on a proposal to introduce a pedestrian refuge on Park Lane West adjacent to properties numbered 79-81.

The report detailed the comments of the respondents to the consultation exercise, of which 66.7% were in favour and 33.3% were opposed; concluded that the refuge was one of seven proposed throughout Sefton as a result of the 2009/10 pedestrian crossing review; and that it was prioritised in the review as the site showed significant conflict between pedestrians and vehicles.

RESOLVED:

That the introduction of the pedestrian refuge scheme at Park Lane West, Netherton, and incorporating minor highway amendments as detailed in the report be approved.

**10. 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, 1 July 2010 at the Bootle Day Centre, Linacre Lane, Bootle, commencing at 6.30 p.m.**

This page is intentionally left blank