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## FORMBY AREA COMMITTEE

### MEETING HELD AT THE FORMBY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PARK ROAD, FORMBY ON THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Cuthbertson (in the Chair).  
Councillors Doran, Dutton, Griffiths, Ibbs and Mclvor and Parish Councillor Cawley.

ALSO PRESENT: 6 members of the public and Inspector Jim Atherton and Constable Mike Holmes, Merseyside Police.

#### 29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Jenkins and Starkey and Mr. Thornton (Advisory Group Member).

Apologies were also received from Hannah Chellaswamy, Acting Director, Public Health, NHS Sefton and Janette Maxwell, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes.

#### 30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Member	Minute No(s).	Interest	Action
Councillor Griffiths	7 – Sefton Strategy for Older Citizens	Personal – was Cabinet Member – Health and Social Care when the Strategy was submitted.	Remained in the room but took no part in consideration of the item.
	8 – Public Consultation on the Third Local Transport plan	Personal – Member of the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority	Remained in the room but took no part in consideration of the item.
	9 – Objection to Proposed Traffic Regulation Order, Park	Member of the Management Committee for Formby	Remained in the room but took no part in consideration of

	Road Formby	Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby, referred to in the report.	the item.
Councillor Dutton	40 – Application by Formby Parish Council for funding towards Chapel Street improvements	Personal - Member of Formby Parish Council	Remained in the room, but took no part in consideration of the item and did not vote thereon.

### 31. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 32. PUBLIC FORUM

The following questions/requests were received for consideration during the Public Forum:

- (a) A question had been submitted from Mrs Fletcher from Manchester, who had visited Formby Beach in June and was 'appalled by the amount of litter left on the beach.....everything from cigarette butts and cans, to discarded disposable barbeques and broken glass...all of which are potentially dangerous items, especially to young children'. She concluded the letter by stating that 'something should be set in place to change this mentality, such as imposing litter fines and pre-warning people to dispose of their litter'.

The Committee Clerk indicated that an interim letter had been sent to Mrs Fletcher whose letter had been received on 20 July 2010, shortly after the previous Area Committee meeting on 15 July 2010. The letter had advised that the problems at Formby Beach, which included crime and disorder, were being looked at as part of the Beach Safe operation and that the Police, the Council's Environment Section, Natural England and Formby Councillors, together with the local community were taking steps to address the problem.

Members indicated that a number of initiatives had been put into place as part of Operation Beach Safe. Namely:

- Sefton Coast and Countryside Rangers could now issue tickets for littering.
- Environmental Services and the rangers, supported by the Police, had undertaken a joint operation on the beach in August, with an emphasis on educating people not to leave their litter. (Unsurprisingly, no tickets were issued on those days, as everyone cleaned up after themselves)!
- The message was being reinforced with signs discouraging people from leaving litter.
- The education process was being continued with visits to schools and leaflets being circulated around the village.
- In addition, the Environmental Services Department had organised beach clear-ups using Community Payback workers and supported by local volunteers.
- Similar joint initiatives would be undertaken during Operation Beach Safe 2011.

RESOLVED:

That a written response be sent to Ms Fletcher advising her of action being taken in respect of litter on Formby Beach.

- (b) The Committee considered a letter submitted by Mrs Diamond-Morrison commending the local Police on their proposals to organise a trip to Rampworx, Aintree, 'which is an excellent facility for skateboards and BMX's', but expressing concern that there was no such facility (i.e. ramps) in Formby and disappointment that 'the wrong decision' had been made not to have ramps in Deansgate Lane some years ago. She stated that young people who were interested in BMX-ing and skateboarding generally kept out of trouble – the activity required a high level of physical fitness and did not promote drugs or graffiti. The youngsters needed safe ramps to practice on in a safe environment, away from derelict buildings and away from car parks, in a well lit environment. She concluded by requesting that the Area Committee resurrect the proposal to install a BMX/skateboard facility in Deansgate Lane 3 years ago.

Councillor Doran indicated that he had been involved in the initiative to install a BMX/skateboard park in Deansgate Lane, for which £60,000 had been made available by the Cabinet Member for Leisure Services. However, the level of vehemence against the project encountered from local residents had led to the initiative being abandoned. Following this set-back, Council Officers had investigated alternative sites in Formby but each location had attracted strong objection. The only area which

had not encountered any objection was the Alt Industrial Estate, which was somewhat remote and would have involved local children having to cross the Formby By-pass. The installation of a bridge over the by-pass was subsequently investigated, but the huge cost of this had been too prohibitive.

After a long, drawn out process, trying to find a location which would be agreeable to all parties, the Cabinet Member – Leisure and Tourism had taken the decision to withdraw the monies for the Skateboard/BMX park for funding other unopposed projects in the Borough.

The Committee concluded by indicating that notwithstanding future opposition to a BMX/skateboard facility in Formby, in the present economic climate, monies were no longer available to fund such a project.

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Diamond-Morrison be informed in writing of the Area Committee's response to her question.

- (d) A letter had been submitted on the night of the meeting from Mr. Knight, Chairman of the Formby Dickensian Society, requesting a contribution from the Area Committee towards the cost of putting on the 2010 Dickensian Society event in December.

RESOLVED:

That as the letter had only been submitted immediately prior to the meeting, the Committee did not feel that they had had sufficient notice to give full consideration to the request and it was agreed that the funding application be considered by the Councillors at a separate meeting in consultation with the Area Co-ordinator.

### **33. POLICE ISSUES**

Referring to the crime statistics provided with the agenda, Inspector Jim Atherton updated on crime and policing in the Formby area during August and September 2010 compared with the same months in the previous two years (2008 and 2009).

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	<b>Aug 2008</b>	<b>Aug 2009</b>	<b>Aug 2010</b>	<b>Sept 2008</b>	<b>Sept 2009</b>	<b>Sept 2010</b>
All crime	67	66	47	76	48	37
Violent crime	3	7	2	14	4	2
Robbery	0	1	2	0	1	0
Burglary dwelling	4	5	0	2	1	2
Theft of motor vehicle	2	2	0	2	1	0
Theft from motor vehicle	9	9	1	3	9	2
Criminal damage	17	13	8	19	8	3

Inspector Atherton reported on the following matters and answered questions thereon:

Crime incidents and successes

- A male from Utting Avenue, Liverpool, had been sentenced to one year in prison following conviction for burglary in July. He had knocked himself out whilst trying to escape the crime scene.
- There had been no dwelling house burglaries in August.
- Following a burglary in Formby, the offender had been caught by the car owner trying to steal his car, having taken the keys. The car had been driven off with a male accomplice, but was stopped on the Formby by-pass with the offender later being charged and the car seized.
- Four burglaries took place in September, during the daytime. One burglary resulted in detection and the offender was charged..
- A number of the violent crime statistics had involved child on child robberies; however, following a recent robbery from a youngster in Formby, the youngster had subsequently started senior school and had recognised and identified the offenders.
- A speeding operation around Duke Street Park had resulted in 28 tickets being issued in four weeks and the seizing of one car with no insurance.
- A bid for a cycle marking kit was being submitted to Formby Parish Council as part of a Christmas crime prevention initiative.

- Incidents of anti-social behaviour had been reported, whereby children were knocking on doors of peoples' homes and running away.

#### Operation Beach Safe

- Thanks were extended to the Area Committee for funding Beach Safe tri-signs discouraging visitors from littering and anti-social behaviour. The tri-signs had received positive feedback from the public.
- The operation had resulted in a significant reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour calls. There had been 823 alcohol seizures.
- A 'rave' was prevented from taking place in July.
- Partnership working with other agencies had proven extremely helpful and effective.

#### Crime Prevention

- Crime prevention messages had been circulated urging local residents to ensure their houses, sheds and cars were locked and to be vigilant now the dark nights were setting in.
- A Crime Prevention Day was to be held at the Flu Clinic on Wednesday 13 October 2010 featuring an 'interactive house' with information about crime prevention measures/advice
- 'Have Your Say' meetings were held at Formby Pool every last Thursday in the month.
- The Community Engagement Pod enabling local residents to 'have their say' had been very well received.

Arising from discussion, the Committee commended Inspector Atherton on his work since joining the Formby Neighbourhood Community Police. A number of positive initiatives and a general improvement in attitude had been evident since he had taken on the role of Neighbourhood Inspector for the area.

RESOLVED: That

Inspector Atherton be thanked for his attendance at the meeting, for his feedback on work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Team during August and September 2010; and on the good work, positive initiatives and improvement in attitude which had appeared to have filtered through to the rest of the team since he had joined the Formby Neighbourhood Community Police as Neighbourhood Inspector.

### **34. AREA MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Committee received a brief update on Area Management issues from Steve Honess, Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes, on behalf of Janette Maxwell, the Area Co-ordinator, who was unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the area management update be noted.

### **35. SEFTON'S STRATEGY FOR OLDER CITIZENS**

The Committee received a presentation by Mr. Roger Pontefract, Chair of the Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens (SPOC) on Sefton's Strategy for Older Citizens and considered the report of the Director of Equalities thereon.

Mr. Pontefract's presentation raised the following points:

- The population of Sefton had a significantly large proportion of older people (approximately 50% of its citizens) presenting challenges in respect of the services provided, cost of care, leisure activities, housing, transport, employment and so on.
- The SPOC, which had prepared the Sefton Strategy for Older Citizens, was a multi-agency partnership, the membership of which included a number of older citizens (people aged 50 plus), and had been formed for the support of older people, to enable them to be part of the planning of services.
- The Strategy challenged stereotypes of older people and set out how SPOC was responding to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing population, whilst recognising the constraints upon public expenditure during the next 3-5 years.
- The key points underpinning the strategy were:
  - ❖ Improving Communications between partners and between them and their communities
  - ❖ Raising standards in the delivery of front-line services and in 'age-proofing' them
  - ❖ Strengthening networks and collaboration by increasing social interaction and linking public services more effectively
- The Strategy was striving to achieve the following outcomes for older people:
  - (i) Financial security in respect of an adequate income, work opportunity and the availability of financial information, advice and support;

- (ii) high quality services that were local and accessible, planned to take the needs of older people into account and with public transport in Sefton meeting the needs of older people using public services;
- (iii) health and wellbeing services for older people were joined up and effective, in terms of physical, mental and emotional health, access to a range of activities and green spaces and a sustainable environment;
- (iv) personal safety and social connectivity with older people and their carers receiving suitable support, feeling safe at home and in the community and having suitable and decent accommodation;
- (v) being well informed and able to make a positive contribution to community life, building links with younger people and playing an active part in decision making; and
- (vi) agencies value the contribution which older people make, and that older people are free from discrimination.

Mr. Pontefract concluded by indicating that Sefton's population was changing and getting older and for a minority this would mean increased dependence, poor health and frailty. However, for most, this meant leading full, active and healthy lives for longer; playing a key role in the local community through continued employment or voluntary work, enjoying sport, social and leisure activities; and using computers and other forms of technology to stay in touch with family and friends and to shop and find information.

The SPOC wanted Sefton to be a place where old age was enjoyed rather than endured and had therefore prepared a Strategy which responded to the challenge of meeting the varied needs and expectations of Sefton's older people together with an Action Plan with a whole series of steps on how it hoped to deliver.

Mr Pontefract responded to a number of questions and points raised by Committee Members and members of the public in respect of transport links, the accessibility of shops and services – in particular, health services and hospitals; and the importance of suitable leisure services/provision in helping older persons remain physically and emotionally healthy and thereby helping to lessen the burden on the health services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr. Pontefract be thanked for attending the meeting and for his interesting and informative presentation;
- (2) the prioritisation of older people as a cross-cutting theme be supported; and



- (3) the provision of suitable leisure facilities for older persons in the Borough be endorsed as a key outcome in the Strategy.

### **36. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE THIRD MERSEYSIDE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director on the Preferred Strategy for the third Merseyside Local Transport Plan (LTP)

Steve Honess, Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes provided a presentation on the Strategy and Members were requested to answer a series of questions seeking their views on the priorities for the next LTP in respect of the Formby area. A copy of the Preferred Strategy was available on the Local Transport Plan website:

[www.TransportMerseyside.org](http://www.TransportMerseyside.org).

RESOLVED:

That the Councillors convene a separate meeting to enable close scrutiny of the third Merseyside Local Transport Plan (Preferred Strategy) and to provide a full and measured response, for feeding into the response being prepared by the Planning and Economic Development Director.

### **37. OBJECTION TO PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - PARK ROAD, FORMBY**

Further to Minute No. 10 of 27 May 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director on an objection to the proposed 'Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions at the junction of Park Road/Windsor Road, Formby and continuing across the access point into Formby Professional Development Centre.

The report indicated that the objector was a car owner and had ample off-street parking but pointed out that several of the residents were not so fortunate and the 'At Any Time' parking restrictions would have a detrimental affect on these residents. The objector had also pointed out that the parking problems occurred Monday to Friday during working hours when students were attending the Development Centre.

The report continued that the Traffic Services Unit and also the Traffic Management Liaison Group agreed with the view of the objector and recommended that the proposed 'At Any Time' restrictions be reduced to make it less restrictive for residents. It was therefore proposed that the restriction should prevent parking Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm with just a limited amount of 'At Any Time' restrictions at the junction.

The Committee discussed the report and indicated that they would prefer the parking restriction to be enforced from 8 am to 6 pm in line with other

parts of Formby and because some people using the Development Centre were likely to arrive before 9 am and leave later than 5 pm.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order, as set out in Annex A and detailed in the schedule in Annex B be amended so that the 'At Any Time' parking restrictions be effective Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm.; and
- (2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Order.

### **38. REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - PAGE COURT, FORMBY**

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director seeking approval for a Traffic Regulation Order, the effect of which would introduce 10 metres of 'At Any Time' restrictions on the north side of Page Court at its junction with Halsall Lane, extend the existing 'At Any Time' restrictions on the south side of Page Court by 8 metres into the turning head of the cul-de-sac and to introduce an '8am-6pm, 2 hours in any 3 hours' daytime limited waiting bay on the north side of Page Court.

It was proposed to introduce an individual order for the road incorporating all existing restrictions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order shown on the Plan in Annex A and set out in the Schedule in Annex B be approved; and
- (2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders.

### **39. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER -FOUNTAINS WAY / ABBEY CLOSE, FORMBY**

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director seeking approval for a Traffic Regulation Order, the effect of which would be to introduce 'No Waiting At Any Time' parking restrictions at the junction of Fountains Way/Abbey Close, Formby.

It was proposed to introduce individual orders for the roads incorporating all existing restrictions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order shown on the Plan in Annex A and set out in the Schedule in Annex B be approved; and
- (2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders.

#### **40. BUDGET MONITORING**

Further to Minute No. 26 of 15 July 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director advising that the balance of its budget available for allocation during 2010/2011, including amounts set aside for litterbins and street signs was £21,192.92.

The following budget requests had been received since the last meeting:

- (i) Further to Minute No. 20 (b) of 15 July 2010, further information had been submitted by Formby Parish Council in respect of their request for funding towards Chapel Street improvements;
- (ii) a request from Formby Neighbourhood Police attached as Item 12(a) to the report for £1,200 funding for local young people to visit Rampworx in Aintree, on Monday 25 October and Monday 20 December, linking in with the school holidays as part of a diversionary activity operated by the Police. Constable Mike Holmes, addressed the Committee about the application, emphasising the benefits of the scheme. He stressed that the youngsters involved in the scheme were not 'bad'. Furthermore, the goal of working towards winning a trip to Rampworx enabled the police to engage with and get to know local youths and prevented them from 'hanging around' and becoming involved in anti-social behaviour; and
- (iii) a request for a further £1,600 in addition to the £5,000 already committed towards the Alt Road Recreational Ground Play Improvements.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balance of the Area Committee's budget, £21,192.92 available for allocation during 2010/2011 be noted;

- (2) a decision on the request by Formby Parish Council be deferred and the Area Co-ordinator be requested to write to the Parish Council Clerk specifying the Area Committee's requirements in an application for Area Committee funding;
- (3) the Police request for funding of £1,200 to enable local youths to visit Rampworx, Aintree, be approved; and
- (4) a request for a further £1,600 in addition to the £5,000 already committed towards the Alt Road Recreational Ground Play Improvements be approved.

#### **41. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of Formby Area Committee be held at 7.00 pm on **Thursday 6 January 2011, at the Formby Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby.**

**N.B. Since the meeting, it has been agreed that an additional Special meeting of Formby Area Committee will be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 18 November, 2010, at the Formby Professional Development Centre, to receive a presentation on and consider the Council's Greenbelt Strategy in relation to the Formby area.**