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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 2009. MINUTE NO.s 48 AND 55 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN"

## LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Friel (in the Chair)  
Councillors Kerrigan, Gustafson, Larkin and McGinnity  
Local Advisory Group Members:  
Ms A Myers, Mrs B Rouse, Mr F Roberts and Mr N Woods

ALSO PRESENT Inspector C. Burnham, Merseyside Police and sixteen members of the public

#### 45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fairclough and Local Advisory Group Members Mr. D. Robinson and Mr. J. Costello.

#### 46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Member	Minute No.	Interest	Action
Councillor Friel	48 - Strand Road Residents	Personal - has contact with Delta Taxis Company Secretary	Stayed in the room, took part in consideration of item and did not vote
Councillor Gustafson	48 - Provision of Alleygates at Stadium Mews	Personal - works for a company that produces alleygates	Stayed in the room but took no part in consideration of the item and did not vote
Mr. F. Roberts	49 - Presentation on NHS	Personal - works for NHS	Stayed in the room and took part in consideration of the item.

**47. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2009**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the word "misappropriation" in the penultimate line of the questions detailed in Minute No. 37(c) (Section 106 Monies), as it was considered by Members to be inappropriate.

**48. OPEN FORUM**

During the open forum, the following questions were submitted :

(a) Further to Minute No. 84(c) of 3 March 2009, Mr. O’Gorman asked if there had been any response regarding the requested provision of an alleygate at Stadium Mews.

A Member reported that this was not a request for an additional alleygate and that OVH had agreed to fund it but that there may be a dispute over the ownership of the land, which was causing a delay.

Ms. Maxwell, Neighbourhood Engagement Co-ordinator (NEC) informed the meeting that the legal cost for gating orders was approximately £2000 and that if such orders were grouped together, the cost could be reduced. Also that, where three ward Councillors agreed a proposal relevant to the Area Committee budget, it could be agreed without being brought to Committee.

Inspector Burnham was asked if he would speak to residents, as they felt that there was a serious problem.

The Chair expressed concern that grouping together orders would result in delays and stated that the Southey St. Gating order was a priority for this Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

That, as the three Ward Councillors were in agreement, the gating order for Southey St. be agreed and funded from the devolved budget.

(b) Councillor Gustafson, on behalf of the residents of Strand Road requested that a traffic counter be installed at Strand Road to monitor traffic flows in that area and that the Assistant Director - Technical Services provide a costing for the Area Committee.

Ms. Maxwell (NEC) informed the meeting that it was not recommended that the Area Committee fund such a scheme as funding was not likely to be available at present for any traffic scheme which might arise from the survey.

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

Mrs. Dixon also reported problems with parking restrictions as follows:

Private Hire Taxis picked up/dropped off in Strand Road in spite of yellow lines and that there was no enforcement.

A Taxi Company had purchased houses in the Ash Street area and was using residents' parking permits to park vehicles, which was an improper use of such permits. She also asked if the Chair would declare an interest with Delta Taxis.

The Chair asked that the Legal Director's Solicitor, Mrs. Cain and the Committee confirm to Mrs. Dixon that he had already declared a personal interest. The fact that Mrs. Dixon was in error was confirmed

RESOLVED: That

- (1) funding by the Area Committee for the installation of traffic counters on Strand Road at a cost of approximately £1000 be approved and funded from the delegated budget and the Assistant Director - Technical Services be requested to take the necessary action to implement the proposal; and
- (2) the comments made by residents regarding Private Hire Taxis be referred to Mr. D. Marrin, Traffic Services Manager for investigation.
- (c) Councillor Gustafson, on behalf of Mr. Joynson, asked if a street name plate could be provided at Clayfield Close, as there was none at present.

RESOLVED:

That the provision of the street nameplate be agreed at a cost of approximately £85 and funded from the devolved budget.

(d) Mr. P. Connelly asked about the re-instatement of the traffic island at Christ Church known as Mark Connelly Island, following repairs by Morgan EST on behalf of United Utilities. The name plaque was also removed and repairs had still not been completed.

Members were concerned that Mr. Connelly's complaints were not acted upon and that he was denied access to the department's officers, when he called to Highways Department.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Connelly's complaint be referred to the Highways Department and that an urgent written response be requested.

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

(e) Ms. P. Warburton asked about policing issues which were of concern to residents of Silverdale and Holly Court; and requested the provision of Alleygates for Knowsley Road and Chestnut Grove.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be referred to Ms. Maxwell (NEC) for further information and action.

(f) Mr. P. McFadyen, on behalf of South Sefton Urban Garden, requested that the Area Committee assist in identifying land for use as Community Allotments.

Members agreed that this would be a good use of Brownfield sites as existing allotment provision was full and similar schemes such as at St. Winefrides and in Manchester had been successful .

RESOLVED:

That the Committee support the project and that the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director and the Leisure Director help identify such land and communicate with Mr. McFadyen.

(g) Mr C. Jones drew the attention of the Committee to problems with "Stop and Search" operations carried out by Police and how this appeared to victimise young people.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Jones be requested to leave the meeting to discuss the matter outside with the Police Officer, as it was becoming difficult to conduct the meeting.

(h) Mrs Hoang on Strand Road complained that residents were unable to park outside their homes owing to traffic restrictions and illegal parking.

RESOLVED:

That the points raised by Mrs Hoang be referred to Mr. D. Marrin, Traffic Services Officer for investigation.

(l) Mrs Rouse indicate that there had been no response to an issue raised at the July meeting regarding the renewal of traditional nameplates.

RESOLVED:

That Capita Symonds be requested to provide an urgent response.

(j) Mrs Rouse brought to the attention of the Committee the issue of a planning application that had been submitted for an Electricity Generating Facility on the Alexander Dock site, utilising a number of "RODECS"

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

(incinerators). Residents were concerned about environmental issues and requested that full consultation take place.

The Chair stated that a presentation had been made at the Town Hall and it would go to the Planning Committee in December 2009 but that, as full Air Quality assessments and other reports were not available yet, it was difficult to object until full facts were known.

Members agreed that further consultation was necessary and that it should have been brought to the last Area Committee. They felt that the application should be deferred until next year or until a public meeting had taken place. The Chair was sympathetic but stated that the Area Committee did not have any powers in this situation, as long as planning procedures were followed by the applicant.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director be advised of the Committee's grave concerns regarding the environmental impact of such a development; and
- (2) he be requested to defer consideration of the application until an urgent meeting is arranged for Planning Officers to inform and consult residents.

#### **49. POLICE ISSUES**

Inspector Burnham, Merseyside Police, reported that, overall, the situation was good and there had been a very busy period recently. He gave further information on the following issues:

There had been good consultation with OVH concerning planting and security issues in the Hawthorne Road area.

Vehicle crime on match days for Everton had been reduced and "Mischief Night" had passed with out serious problems.

A number of "ASBO.s had been issued; six arrests made; fifty "Stop/Checks" made and there had been several successes with drug arrests.

Members and Local Advisory Members expressed their pleasure with these statistics and offered congratulations to the Police Officers and commended the good work in Sefton and in the Linacre and Derby Wards, stating that it had not gone unnoticed by residents. However, with the 5 November approaching continuing vigilance was necessary.

Members had no problems with "Stop/Checks" as they increased the visibility of police on the streets.

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

In response to a question from a Member, the Inspector agreed that the PCSOs would meet residents of Bedford Road.

Members expressed concern that the funding for two mountain bikes requested previously had not been successful and it was reported that this was the responsibility of the Basic Command Unit. Inspector Burnham stated that it was now out of his hands but he would continue to pursue the matter.

The Chair stated that Neighbourhood Policing was good but that it was necessary to get that message across to the public and re-assure people of the efforts being made on their behalf, as often the negatives were aired but not the good work carried out by the Police.

RESOLVED:

That Inspector Burnham be thanked for his report and dealing with matters promptly.

**50. SEFTON PRIMARY CARE TRUST - PRESENTATION ON  
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESPONSE TO PETITION**

Further to Minute No. 39 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Area Committee received a presentation from Mr. L. Griffin , Chief Executive of NHS Sefton. Mr. Griffin gave an outline of the way existing services were provided via the District Nurses; Out of Hours provision; Children's Services; G.P. practices, etc and that plans were currently being developed for future Community Health services but that the main challenge would be finances, as the NHS would be subject to reduced funding.

This would necessitate a need to prioritise services and look at localising them by means such as encouraging G.P. practices to work together; improved help line services; "Walk in" and "Out of Hours" Centres; targeting problems such as Smoking and encouraging self help via prevention and Health Visiting. There would also be a need to improve building stock.

Mr. Griffin could not give details of the effect on local services but was keen to engage with residents and invited their contributions. He indicated that hoped to attend further meetings

With regard to the petition submitted by residents, stating that their children were at a disadvantage to other children owing to the poor transport links to the Litherland Town Hall Walk in Centre and requesting the PCT to persuade G.P.s to make out of hours visits to sick children's homes to reduce problems with getting them to the centre, Mr. Griffin was aware of the transport problems and how G.P contracts now excluded them from Out of Hours provision and would arrange a formal response to the petition.

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

Members raised the following issues:

That the petition arose from people's concerns that transport was a major issue, particularly for one parent families and that over 60 % of homes in the area were without cars.

That the effect of being unable to get appointments and having to wait three hours had the effect of G.P.s pushing patients to the "Walk in" Centres and that waiting three hours for treatment was not acceptable.

That the objective had been to improve provision but it did not appear to be working. The Triage system meant that people expecting to see specialists saw G.P.s instead and were subsequently obliged to go private. Members asked what was the view of the PCT to the moral implications of this outcome.

Mr Griffin stated that G.P.s could not provide specialist consultancy and asked that specific complaints be referred to him. He further stated that the Out of Hours provision had eased pressures on G.P.s to the point that they were now offering more out of hours appointments.

The Chair stated that three hours waiting was becoming normal, that this was unacceptable and agreed that specific complaints be referred to Mr. Griffin and he welcomed the new build at the Alder Hey site and the provision of more local services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the geographical statistics on respiratory morbidity within the Wards be supplied to Members, and
- (2) Mr. Griffin be thanked for his presentation.

## **51. OVERVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION ACROSS SEFTON**

Further to Minute No. 40 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CHildre'sServices) held on 22 September 2009 the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services on the provision of Youth Opportunities for the young people of Sefton.

Gill Mullen, Area Youth Manager spoke to the report and the statistical information contained in the appendix and stated that a further report would go back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members commented that there did not appear to be a great deal of detached youth work in the Linacre / Derby Wards and were informed that the detached work in Seaforth was being rolled out to cover the Sefton South area.

In response to a question from the Chair on the loan of equipment to young people for new sports, Ms. Mullen informed the meeting that

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

members of youth clubs could ask for their club to apply for funding that was available for such equipment

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Area Youth Officer be thanked for her presentation on her report; and
- (2) the report be noted

**52. PROGRESS AND ACTION ON PLANNING SECTION 106  
MONIES**

The Area Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the proposed spending from the Section 106 agreements, details of which were contained in the report.

Members expressed a wish that some of the funding be used to provide rangers in parks for security reasons

RESOLVED:

That the allocation and progress of spending from Section 106 monies be noted.

**53. THE VETTING OF PROSPECTIVE TENANTS VIA HOMESearch**

Further to Minute No. 36 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Housing Market Renewal Director on the review of the vetting process in relation to the letting of social rented accommodation.

Mr. Lunt, Housing Market Renewal Director, gave further information in relation to the report and answered questions from Members.

Members expressed concerns and asked questions in relation to the following:

That problem tenants were still likely unless checks were more thorough, i.e. where an applicant moved from another area and gave wrong information.

That a tenant in Bedford Road had moved in from outside the area and had paid key money.

Could housing benefits paid to problem tenants be restricted ?

That OVH were passing the buck in that officers were not thorough in enforcing the Authority's own regulations and allowed Housing Associations to pass on poor tenants.



LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

That there appeared to be more concern about the cost of CRB checks than the cost of taking problem tenants - CRB checks should be carried out for all applicants.

Mr. Lunt responded to the questions as follows:

That Housing benefit was now paid to tenants and not the Authority and could not , therefore, be restricted.

That accreditation for Landlords was worthwhile but it was normally the case that only the better Landlords applied.

That Social Housing providers had to work within budgets and frameworks and needed to maintain a balance between service provision and available resources.

That checks were as robust as possible given the vetting costs, the Data Protection issues and that legally, CRB.s could only be used where they were a legal requirement. Also, there were difficulties with exchange of information with other areas, if no client history was known or had been withheld. There were data sharing provisions with Merseyside Police but action could only be taken where there was evidence of offending.

Mr. Lunt informed the meeting that he would take these issues away and report back to the next Committee.

The Chair stated that the suitability of applicants was a serious issue and the impact of wrong decisions was high.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Housing Market Renewal Director be noted.

**54. HAWTHORNE ROAD. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR HOTSPOT**

Further to Minute No. 22(c) of the meeting held on 17 August 2009 and Minute No. 38 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhood Manager South, One Vision Housing (OVH) on possible security measures for bungalows in the Hawthorne Road/Wadham Road area.

Mr. Mitchener (OVH) gave details of the works outlined in the report in relation to fencing, a motion detecting camera and cutting back of bushes, as well as improved lighting.

Members stated that the service charge for residents for the camera was not a small charge as they were pensioners and Mr. Mitchener stated that the cost would now be met by OVH.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Mitchener be thanked for his report and that the three Ward Councillors be invited to a meeting to discuss any problem areas

**55. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS - WASHINGTON  
PARADE BOOTLE**

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Washington Parade, the effect of which would be to introduce "At any Time" restrictions and a taxi rank to the section of Washington Parade North of Marsh Lane, up to the closure point with Hornby Road Bootle.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order shown on the plan in Annex B and set out in the schedules in Annex C to the report 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.

**56. PLAYBUILDER PROGRAMME 2009/10 - SOUTH PARK**

The Committee considered the report of the Leisure Director on the second phase of the Council's Play Builder Programme 2009/10 and in particular relating to the proposed works for South Park Bootle.

The report indicated that the Council's Play Builder Project Plan, submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, set out how Sefton would provide innovative and stimulating play equipment and landscaping that would facilitate physically active play opportunities for all children, but with particular focus on 8-13 year olds; that whilst the design for the park was currently work in progress, the style of landscaping and type of play structures typically would include:

- landscaped mounding with specimen rocks
- a mixed range of trees and shrubs
- grassed surfacing
- innovative play structures integrated into the landscape
- some original design elements

The report concluded that the works would be tendered in November with a view to a start on site by January 2010; that the landscaping works and play equipment installation would need to be completed by 31 March 2010, and that following a 'settling-in' period, an official opening would be organised in May/June 2010.

Advisory members expressed general concerns with the number of trees being planted and the huge costs involved, i.e. £295,802 and also that the

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE- MONDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER, 2009

use of trees / shrubs needed careful consideration owing to them being damaged and the loss of sight lines when they became too big.

A Member requested that residents be consulted via a presentation and was assured that consultation would take place with residents and local schools.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed play area as part of the second phase of Play Builder works at South Park be approved.

**57. LITTER BINS - LINACRE AND DERBY WARDS**

Further to Minute No. 42 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the fourteen litter bins to be provided in the wards under the Step Clever scheme.

The Chair explained that these bins were to be provided outside specific small businesses as they were funded by the Step Clever scheme. This meant that the Committee was not able to have an input on the siting of the bins, as previously requested.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Environmental Protection Director be noted.

**58. POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF BYE-LAWS IN RESPECT OF  
BALL GAMES**

Further to Minute No. 5 (10) of the meeting held on 13 July 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Legal Director on the effectiveness of "No Ball Games" signs funded by the Area Committees and the possible alternatives to be investigated, such as the introduction of new bye laws.

Ms. S. Cain, Solicitor, outlined the issues regarding the effectiveness of such signs, commenting on problems with the enforcement of any possible byelaws; the possible agency that would be responsible for enforcement and the difficulties of obtaining successful prosecution.

Members commented that examples could be made and offenders taken to higher courts but the Solicitor informed the meeting that this was not cost effective.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Legal Director be noted.

#### **59. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director which gave an update on available resources and progress to date on those items approved at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

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

#### **60. PREVIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE OPEN FORUM**

The Committee considered Minute No. 37 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) held on 22 September 2009 on the Children's Home Strategy

Members reported that incorrect information had been given and a Member asked to refer the petition to Ofsted, which had responded to inform him that he had to write to the Local Government Association.

They were concerned that there was insufficient monitoring of the Small Scale Care homes, particularly in view of the possible explosion in demand for such provision and the possible effects of anti social behaviour on residents in the Wards.

The Chair advised that the Member take the matter to the Cabinet Member - Children's Services to discuss the issues around the lack of response.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Lunt arrange a meeting with the Ward Councillors and that the Director of Children's Services be asked to attend.

#### **61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the agreed programme of meetings for the Area Committee, the next meeting be held on **Monday 11 January 2009 at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle, commencing at 6.30 p.m.**