

CENTRAL & EAST 1 – NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

(Central & North Wards)

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2009

Present:

Cllr Y Lowndes (Chairman)
Central: Cllr Z Hussain & Cllr N Khan
North: Cllr C Swift & Cllr K Sharp

Also present:

John Harrison, Executive Director, Strategic Resources
Cate Harding, Neighbourhood Manager (Central & East)
Carrie Denness, Principal Solicitor
Ruth Griffiths, Lawyer (Education Children Services and Adult Social Care)
Angela Bailey, Chief Executive NHS Peterborough

Cllr David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources
Steve Boast, Chairman and Independent Member, Standards Committee

28 members of the public attended including representatives from MANERP, Gladstone Connect, Innova, Fulbridge Residents, Pakistan Community Association, NHS, Fire & Rescue Service, Cambs Police and Cross Keys Homes.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Fazal.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Council – Central and East 1 held on 13 October 2009 were approved.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the name for the Neighbourhood Council – Central and East 1 be 'Central and North Neighbourhood Council'.

4. You Said, We Did

4.1. The Neighbourhood Manager provided feedback on actions taken on issues of concern raised at the last meeting and provided a definition of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and advised that further information was available if required. It was explained that issues relating to prostitution in and around Burghley Road would be better addressed at Neighbourhood Panel meetings and that the City Council was working with residents to develop a residents' forum in the City Centre in partnership with relevant agencies. The Neighbourhood Council was further advised that city centre residents could receive a standing invitation to the Neighbourhood Council.

4.2. Members of the public and elected members asked questions in relation to:

- Progress in relation to regulation of HMOs, including new licenses issued as part of a pilot programme
 - A register of HMOs
- 4.3. The Neighbourhood Manager responded that the Council was currently reviewing the HMO licensing scheme and would provide feedback to the next Neighbourhood Council meeting when the review was completed.

5. Area Specific Issues

New England Neighbourhood Investment Plan (NIP)

- 5.1. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the recommendations from the Neighbourhood Investment Plan consultation would be included in the community action planning session to be held later in the meeting, providing a further consultation opportunity for residents that had not previously been involved.

Gladstone Park Community Centre

- 5.2. The Neighbourhood Manager sought suggestions from members of the public with regard to maximising the use of the currently under-utilised Gladstone Park Community & Recreation Centre.
- 5.3. Suggestions from members of the public and elected members included:
- Children's play centre at weekends
 - Opening hours should match demand – open and close later
 - School holiday activities
 - Cost to use facilities is very high – revise charges for schools and local groups, look at more concessions or the ability to pay in kind
 - Access to the centre from outside the area
 - Make facility more suitable for basketball - the windows at either end of the hall obstruct this
 - Develop a brochure to promote the availability of the facility
 - Creation of an ICT suite in an empty upstairs room
 - Day care facilities for the aged, and use by the disabled and disadvantaged
 - Community facilities for minority groups promoting community cohesion activities, e.g. Polish Day
 - The building requires refurbishment
 - Promote business hire at commercial rates
 - Encourage use by small businesses
 - Health links including a gym facility / fitness centre
 - The centre is understaffed
 - Lack of clarity as to whether the centre is a community centre or recreation centre
- 5.4. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that these issues would be raised with strategic partners to address them. The Centre was currently considered to be a Community and Recreation Centre.
- 5.5. Cllr Khan referred to open space on Russell Street and said that he would raise an amendment for its inclusion in the forthcoming Council budget. Cllr Hussain agreed that parks and open spaces were an issue for this area of the city.

6. Council Budget 2010-2011

- 6.1. Elected members and the public received a presentation from the Executive Director, Strategic Resources on the 2010-2011 budget and financial strategy for the next 5 years. The draft budget for 2010-2011 was available on the Council web site.
- 6.2. The Executive Director, Strategic Resources responded to questions which included the following:
- Independent inspectors have determined that the City Council provides good value for money and has good financial management; the City Council has received awards for efficiency
 - the current budget allocation for Neighbourhood Councils was £25,000 per year for five years, at a total of £125,000 per Neighbourhood Council over the five years
 - £6 Million had been allocated to refurbish and re-open Hereward School and to re-open the John Mansfield School as a community facility, this should ease oversubscription problems at the Thomas Deacon Academy
 - Neighbourhood Councils would be able to decide the allocation of funds and area priorities by including these in their Community Action Plans
 - No extra funding had been allocated in the budget for parking or landlord enforcement
 - Comments regarding Council Tax would be fed back to Cabinet
 - Government instructed a low Council Tax rise
 - Regeneration works should be included in the Community Action Plan, however external funding may be required to realise aspirations for this
 - The Gladstone Primary School was a priority but secondary schools would be dealt with first

7. Standards Briefing

- 7.1 Elected members and the public received a presentation on the code of conduct that councillors work within from the Chairman of the Standards Committee. The code of conduct and the complaints process were highlighted explained.
- 7.2 The Chairman of the Standards Committee responded to questions including:

- Details of recent hearings had all been published; none had been considered serious cases and had resulted in minor sanctions
- A serious issue could include a criminal offence or aggressive behaviour
- The Council is required to have a register of Members Interests available for inspection, but is not required to publish it; this matter will be considered further by the Standards Committee in January 2010.

8. Community Action Planning

- 8.1 The Neighbourhood Manager invited members of the public to participate in the interactive session which sought to identify local area priorities for the development of the Community Action Plan.
- 8.2 Cllr C Swift requested that copies of Neighbourhood Investment Plans be made available to the public. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that all recommendations made at Neighbourhood Investment Plan consultation events were taken seriously and that the Council wanted to provide every opportunity for residents and Councillors to provide their views. A consultation strategy for the Community Action Plan would be developed over the coming months.

9. Open Session

- 9.1 The Chairman invited members of the public and elected members to raise any matters affecting their communities. The main issues raised were:
- Residents' parking and general parking in Central Ward

- The need for greater parking enforcement
- CCTV and community safety
- The proliferation of licensed premises and availability of cheap alcohol
- Disabled access to streets and road crossings and the placement of street furniture
- Street lighting around Millfield shops and the Taverners Road car park

9.2 The Neighbourhood Manager responded that some areas of immediate concern could be dealt with at Neighbourhood Panels, with a view to developing much needed long term strategies. The Neighbourhood Manager encouraged members of the public to attend their Neighbourhood Panel meetings to express their concerns.

10. Next Meeting

10.1 The next meeting of the Central and North Neighbourhood Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 7 April 2010 at 7.00pm at the Fulbridge School.

CHAIRMAN
7.00pm – 9.15pm