

PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON	Agenda Item No. 6
20 January 2010	Public Report

Report of the Director of Operations, Paul Phillipson

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NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILS

1. PURPOSE

To update Parish Council Liaison on Neighbourhood Councils.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Parish Council members note the contents of the report and feedback any comments to the Neighbourhood team representative.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Management is a vehicle for improvement and change. Improvement in service delivery, where necessary, and change in the way service delivery agencies and other bodies relate to one another and the communities they serve. Its focus is on changing the way key mainstream services are delivered, tailoring them to the needs and priorities of neighbourhoods, and making a local team responsible for making sure that those improvements and changes are delivered. It requires effective participation by local people and organisations and commitment from service agencies to work in partnership at a neighbourhood level.
- 3.2 Neighbourhood management is a new idea for Peterborough but one which has worked well in other parts of the country. The Greater Dogsthorpe Partnership (GDP) trialled neighbourhood management in Peterborough between 2006/2010 and their model was mainstreamed by PCC. GDP was a four year £1.6 million project, funded by Central Government's Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and was designed to bring about lasting positive social, environmental and economic change for residents across the Dogsthorpe ward, most of North ward and a number of streets in Park ward.
- 3.3 These councils are an extension of the PCC's decision making structures to support the local needs of the community and are chaired by elected members. Parish, resident and community members will make up the councils. The Councils have an Advisory Panel of high level key partners including Peterborough Probation, Courts, Health, Education and Young People, Fire and Rescue and the Police. The key to the success of Neighbourhood Councils is input from the community. The existing mechanisms for engaging with communities, including the Neighbourhood Panels and Parish Councils will continue and be strengthened and these Panels will feed the Neighbourhood Councils. Neighbourhood Councils will meet quarterly and meetings will be held in the area to which they serve.
- 3.4 A series of Neighbourhood Council Meetings have been held throughout December – summary below.
- 3.5 **Central & East 1 - Now named Central and North Neighbourhood Council.**
- 3.5.1 Average attendance over first two meetings has been approx 35 members of the public.

- 3.5.2 **Key Issues Raised:** Houses of multiple occupation, enforcement issues in relation to parking, planning and illegal trading, out of date information on demographics.
- 3.5.3 **Key Challenges:** Cohesion with area having major influx of migrants, perception of being over consulted but no follow up action. Neighbourhood Investment Plans commissioned but with no status within council structure – no significant growth or regeneration plans intended in area in foreseeable future. Attachment to city centre and how resources may be used in inequitable manner and how city centre stats could distort data for the council area. Statistically one of the most deprived areas of the City.
- 3.5.4 **Positives:** Neighbourhood Investment Plans available tool to inform community action plans, successful networking to support enhanced partnership working in area.
- 3.6 Central & East 2 - Now named Dogsthorpe, East & Park Neighbourhood Council**
- 3.6.1 Average attendance over first two meetings has been approx 25 members of the public, including great attendance of young people participating in discussions and voicing their concerns and aspirations for the area.
- 3.6.2 **Key Issues Raised:** Enforcement issues in relation to parking, planning and illegal trading, street lighting and bus service in Parnwell, road works at the Eye roundabout, lack of community facilities in Park ward.
- 3.6.3 **Key Challenges:** Maintaining locality based presence of Neighbourhood Management Team after success of Neighbourhood Management Centre in Dogsthorpe, reassurance to active residents involved with Greater Dogsthorpe Partnership that they can still influence decisions in their area via the Neighbourhood Councils.
- 3.6.4 **Positives:** Greater Dogsthorpe Partnership operating in area over last 4 years and existing staff members in new Neighbourhoods structure to provide continuity. Neighbourhood Management Centre to remain in Dogsthorpe for foreseeable future to provide locality based office as key point of contact
- 3.7 North & West 1 – Now named Soke and Isle Neighbourhood Council**
- 3.7.1 Average Attendance over first two meetings has been approx 30 members of the public
- 3.7.2 **Key Issues Raised:** Relationship/Partnerships between Parish Council and Neighbourhood Councils; growth in rural area and impact on the communities in these areas; Footpaths across the rural area; Use of Renewable energy in the rural areas. Transport links across rural area
- 3.7.3 **Key Challenges:** To gain the confidence of the Parish Council members to believe in Neighbourhood Councils.
- 3.7.4 **Positives:** Headway already being made in cementing a good working relationship with Parishes. LM - City Wide Manager attending meetings to build on partnership. Neighbourhood Management Teams are engaged with local communities to resolve issues such as footpaths and transport links i.e. agreement to move Northborough bus stop to more suitable location.
- 3.8 North & West 2 - Now named Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee**
- 3.8.1 Attendance was 15 at October's and 40 at December's meeting; the latter had greater attendance due to issue topic about Gunthorpe allotments and residents wanting to raise their concerns for this issue.
- 3.8.2 **Key Issues Raised:** The Naming of the Neighbourhood Councils as in the wording

'Neighbourhood Council'; Enforcement issues in relation to street lighting and bus service in Werrington; main issue being the proposed changes for Gunthorpe allotments.

3.8.3 **Key Challenges:** The issue over the naming of the Neighbourhood Council due to confusion as already a Werrington Neighbourhood Council; Empowering local Cllrs and resident association members to overcome negatives and see the positives of Neighbourhood Councils

3.8.4 **Positives:** A recent agreement from Legal/Democratic Services that changing the wording Neighbourhood Councils is an option for a way forward and the name for NW2 would be following a vote by Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee. Following a meeting with Transport and Sustainable Environment Group and local Cllr, a suggestion for the way in which funding prioritisation towards bus stop requests has been made which could give way to some additional requests being agreed.

3.9 North & West 3 - Now named Peterborough West Neighbourhood Council

3.9.1 Average attendance over first two meetings has been approx 55 members of the public

3.9.2 **Key Issues Raised:** A large volume of enforcement issues in relation to parking, tree heights, street lighting in the Bretton and Ravensthorpe area. Concerns over the effect to local residents from two local developments; Edith Cavell New Hospital complex and the Grange Development for a new all weather sports centre and housing development.

3.9.3 **Key Challenges:** To develop the reports of enforcement issues to be taken to Neighbourhood Panel Meetings rather than Neighbourhood Councils. Providing reassurance to residents that we are listening to their concerns.

3.9.4 **Positives:** Following two public consultation meetings one in regards Edith Cavell and another for the Grange site public have been able to have questions answered and concerns listened to and taken forward by lead officers to look for solutions, meeting public reassurance challenges.

3.10 South 1 – now named Fletton, Stanground & Woodston Neighbourhood Council

3.10.1 Average attendance approximately 15 – 20 members of the public.

3.10.2 **Key Issues Raised:** Parking and traffic issues particularly on match days and the proposed introduction of residents parking in areas of Stanground.

3.10.3 **Key Challenges:** To draw down funding to support development of community facilities in Stanground South in line with timescales set out in Section 106 agreement.

3.10.4 **Positives:** Fletton Study to be used to inform the Community Action Plan, good engagement in the Community action Planning process.

3.11 South 2 – now named Orton with Hampton Neighbourhood Council

3.11.1 Average attendance approximately 20 members of the public.

3.11.2 **Key Issues Raised:** Parking in Orton, drink related anti-social behaviour in Church Drive area, lack of facilities for young people.

3.11.3 **Key Challenges:** The ongoing development within the South area and learning from experience in Hampton, not to be duplicated in Great Haddon. Difficulty in accessing Hampton College for community activities and lack of community provision in Hampton generally.

3.11.4 **Positives:** Good interaction between Council Members, officers and public with a willingness to work together to ensure the process is effective. Good engagement in the Community action Planning process.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None.

5. APPENDICES

None.