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PETERBOROUGH NORTH AREA COMMITTEE (NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE N&W2)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 JUNE 2012, 7.30 p.m.

Members Present:

Paston Cllrs Day and Knowles
Walton Cllr Sandford
Werrington North Cllrs Lane, John Fox and Judy Fox
Werrington South Cllr Thacker (chairman)

Officers Present:

Alex Daynes Democratic Services, PCC
Laura Almond Assistant Neighbourhood Manager, PCC
Kim Sawyer Head of Legal Services, PCC
Peter Heath-Brown Planning Policy Manager, PCC
Nick Harding Planning Services, PCC
Andy Tatt Transport and Engineering, PCC
Clair George Road Safety Officer, PCC
Denham Hughes 8-19 Service, PCC
Richard Oldfield Enterprise Peterborough

Others Present:

13 members of the public attended the meeting including representatives from Werrington Neighbourhood Watch, Police Panel, Woodhall Rise Residents, Morland Court, Werrington Neighbourhood Council and the Ploughman Public House.

ITEM	DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS	ACTION
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Cllrs Fower, Davidson, Shaheed and Simons.	
2. Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were received.	
3. Election of Vice Chair	Cllr Fower was proposed by Cllr Sandford. This was not seconded. Cllr John Fox was proposed by Cllr Day. Cllr Fox indicated he would not be vice-chairman this time. This was not seconded. Cllr Day was proposed by Cllr Thacker. This was seconded by Cllr John Fox. There were no other nominations. Cllr Day was named as vice chairman.	
4. Minutes from the previous meeting	The minutes from the meeting held 20 March 2012 were agreed to be accurate. Updates from the meeting were made available on the tables at the meeting.	
5. Position of Neighbourhood Chairman	Cllr Fox introduced debate on how the chairman of the Area Committee was selected including the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">In this area, only 33% voted for conservative group councillors;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Leader to allow each neighbourhood committee to be able to elect their own local chairman; and • Also request the Leader to stop the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) to the chairman and put the money into the area budget (now divided into seven areas), receiving £3071 each. For four meetings a year, this was over £700 a meeting. <p>Cllr Fox requested whether members of the public also supported this view.</p> <p>This motion was seconded by Cllr Sandford whose comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any committee should be able to choose own chairman; • Tradition was that the political group with largest number of people on the committee chose the chairman; • This committee has 4 Lib Dem, 3 Independent, 2 Conservatives and 1 Labour group member. No requirement for a conservative chairman; and • Leader of Council has said he wants more decentralising of powers but is trying to keep control by appointing his own chairman. <p>Cllr Thacker corrected Cllr Sandford as there were three Conservative members of the committee. Cllr Thacker further stated that she was appointed as chairman by Full Council and did not receive any additional allowance for being chairman of the committee.</p> <p>Cllr John Fox added that all Conservative members on this committee already received an SRA. Therefore, the position should be offered to someone else and put the money back into committee.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that in some cities the Mayors were now elected but not in Peterborough. There needed to be more accountability in Peterborough, more local voting for political leaders.</p> <p>Lawrence Wright stated that the Chairman should not be paid to chair as it was on behalf of and a duty to the community.</p> <p>David Hedges added that very few members of the public attended the meetings. It could not be justified that the meeting contributed to community engagement.</p> <p>Following debate, a vote was taken (5 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions) and it was agreed that a report be submitted to Council with the recommendations that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairmen of Neighbourhood Committees should be elected by the members of each committee; and 2. the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) allocated to the chairmen of the Neighbourhood Committees be withdrawn and the budget made available for Neighbourhood Committees to spend in their areas. <p>Lawrence Wright - Request in report that this is what the people of</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AD/JR</p>
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	the area want, not Town Hall 'dictation'.	
6. Open Session	<p>Audience members were given the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues affecting the area they lived in. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawrence Wright – need to ensure references are Area Committee, not Neighbourhood Committee, in the paper work. 	
7. Updates on Matters of Interest Relevant to the Committee	<p>a) <u>Werrington Centre and Staniland Way</u></p> <p>Members of the public were invited to raised concerns and discuss the proposed redevelopment of the Werrington Centre. Comments and responses to questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Harding, the Council's Group Manager for Development Management stated that Tesco was originally aiming to start development in Spring 2012 but wasn't able to and was now proposing to start in 2013. It was anticipated that a planning application to make some revisions to the approved scheme would be submitted in the next few weeks. • There would be a consultation event once they had been received. • The revised scheme is expected to include a petrol station, less car parking and a revised appearance of the proposed building (but the same floor space). • The revised scheme retained the existing requirement to improve the David's Lane junction which would become a roundabout junction that would not include traffic lights. Traffic lights are very expensive and we only install them where they are needed to resolve a traffic issue. • David Hedges – Tesco didn't say would begin in 2013. The roundabout would be started but the store commencement in 2014. Planning permission was also extended. Landlord of Ploughman public house offered a new three year lease which would be until 2015. The pub is due to be demolished under the approved plans. Want openness and honesty on what the plans are. Werrington Centre moving in direction of Orton Centre before its own improvement. How will the revised application be made known to people? • Nick Harding – We will write to all those that wrote in about the original application as well as neighbours, put a notice in the paper and put posters up.. • Regarding the Public House extension of lease, the extension was given for one year with a further two years but with break clauses meaning that only 2 months notice has to be given. • Nick Harding – the proposed road scheme would be a single roundabout at the junction of Davids Lane and Staniland and during its construction there will inevitably be disruption. • Andy Simons, Landlord of Ploughman public house – stated that he had a three year renewal of the tenancy from June this year. Break clauses were put in. No terms and conditions on renewal. • Nick Harding confirmed that there was not a requirement for Tesco to improve the David's Lane junction as an integral part of the recent demolition of a toilet block. Because the toilet 	

	<p>block has been demolished, this means that the development has started and therefore the planning consent remained valid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hedges – the slowing of traffic on David’s Lane would have the effect of blocking David’s Lane and Fulbridge Road becoming a rat run. • Cllr John Fox – Councillors are not more aware of what is going on than anyone else. City councillors have been working hard to get results on this issue. • Member of the public – a two page article in Times newspaper showed a similar situation near Glasgow where a shopping centre deteriorated to such a degree that the council simply agreed with Tesco proposals just to get something done. Nick Harding - confirmed that Tesco have planning permission so it is up to Tesco when it is implemented. Cannot force them to act. Can serve notice if buildings dilapidate too far. • Cllr John Fox – many complaints about state of the centre. Very few people here at this meeting but expected many more to come here tonight. Nick Harding confirmed that a walkabout by some local members and a Tesco representative is due to take place to identify particular problems that need to be addressed to ensure the centre does not look too run down. 	
	<p>b) <u>Peterborough Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</u></p> <p>Peter Heath Brown introduced the SCI including the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Localism Act, can produce local plans and orders. Had to revise the SCI to advise how communities could produce their own planning documents. • Considers involvement in planning matters. • Neighbourhood Plans allow Area/Neighbourhood Forums to produce their own plans. An Area can produce its own plans, smaller than the committee area, closer to Parish size areas. • SCI advises how the Neighbourhood Plan can be prepared. • Is about planning matters and Neighbourhood Development Orders to allow planning applications. Also includes how to consult on planning applications. • SCI is currently in draft form, available in Libraries and the customer service centre and on the council’s website at www.peterborough.gov.uk/sci. Can comment online, email or letter, by 5 July. <p>Comments and responses to questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Rivett - If a community group, such as a parish council, came forward to develop a plan, support from PCC would include the neighbourhood team on the Community Action Plan. P Heath-Brown – There was currently no additional budget for this so no monetary support. However, officers would give explanations on processes and guidance on what can and can’t be done. • D Hedges – Werrington Neighbourhood Council would be the group to take this forward in Werrington. What happens with the other areas in this committee with no current organisation to 	

	pick this up? Peter Heath-Brown – interest would come from the community, rather than the council determining specific areas. Awareness needs to be increased with public and groups. Need to form a Neighbourhood Forum and propose a boundary first.	
	<p>c) <u>Work Programme for Peterborough North Neighbourhood Committee</u></p> <p>Those Present were requested to suggest agenda items for future meetings. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sandford – very few people attend. Need to consider more publicity to encourage more attendance. Julie Rivett – Werrington Neighbourhood Council provides a newsletter and has allowed a space on that for the committee information. Need to use other local newsletters too and other means. • Cllr John Fox – Standing invitations – is there any point as they don't really attend? D Hedges – Neighbourhood Council members only know because they involved in local public affairs. How would other members of the public really know? 	JR
8. Next Meeting	The date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.	

Meeting closed 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN

ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	WHO AND WHEN?	STATUS
12 June 2012	Produce report for Council to consider recommendations made.	Alex Daynes / Julie Rivett, for 11 July	
	Consider more ways to advertise and attract people to the meetings.	Julie Rivett Ongoing	

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