



**Cllr P Nash (Chairman)**

Bretton North: Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Cllr Darren Morely, Cllr Pat Nash

Bretton South: Cllr Michael Fletcher

Ravensthorpe: Cllr Gul Nawaz, Cllr Harry Newton

West: Cllr Matthew Dalton, Cllr Nick Arculus, Cllr Samantha Dalton

***DRAFT MINUTES***

***Of a meeting of the Peterborough West Neighbourhood Council***

***(Area North & West 3)***

***held on***

***Tuesday, 1 March 2011 at 7.00 pm at the***

***Ramada Hotel, Thorpe Meadows, Peterborough***

**Members Present:**

Chairman	Councillor Nash
Bretton South	Councillor Fletcher
Bretton North	Councillor Nash (as Chairman)
Ravensthorpe	Councillor Newton
West	Councillors Arculus & M Dalton

**Officers Present:**

Julie Rivett	Neighbourhood Manager, PCC
Alana Diffey	Governance Officer, PCC
Mark Speed	Transport Planning Team Manager, PCC
Andy Tatt	Network Management Group Manager, PCC
Peter Garnham	Highway Maintenance Team Manager, PCC
Roy Clarke	Neighbourhood Officer, PCC
Jamie McFarlane	Neighbourhood Officer, PCC
Stuart Hamilton	Emergency Planning & Resilience Manager, PCC
Cherry Lester	Locality Manager, Young People's Service, PCC
Sabrina Bezkorowajnyj	Community Based Youth Worker, PCC

**Others Present:**

10 members of the public attended including representatives from the Street Leader Scheme and young people from the Rock in the Park event.

On behalf of the Members of the Neighbourhood Council, the Chairman congratulated Mrs Glennis Bentley who was awarded the MBE in the New Years Honours 2011, for voluntary service to Young People in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

With the agreement of the Chairman, the order of business was changed so that Item No. 7 Rock in the Park Film would be considered immediately after Item No. 5 Capital Programme of Works 2011-12.

ITEM	DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS	ACTION
1. Apologies for absence	Apologies had been received from Councillors Sam Dalton, Fitzgerald and Nawaz.	

2. Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2010 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman directed attendees to the 'You Said We Did' Matters Arising document which dealt with matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, following which the following items were discussed:</p> <p><u>Parking/Traffic Restrictions – Old Hospital Site</u></p> <p>Cllr Arculus commented that the response provided on this item did not answer the question from residents, which was whether those residential areas around the old hospital site which had parking restrictions would be lifted.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager responded that officers were aware of the issues and were concerned that should the parking restrictions be lifted too quickly without due consideration, commuters could cause similar parking issues given the area's proximity to the train station. The parking team would undertake a consultation on this issue when the development plans for the site were more developed and any likely impacts more clear.</p> <p><u>New School Buildings at Westtown School</u></p> <p>Mr Ed Murphy, School Governor at Westtown School, was told that a school would be built this financial year, but had since read that this was being put back until 2013/14. The existing school was over 100 years old and would have to lay off teachers to undertake any works to keep the building fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager advised that she had discussed the matter with Councillor John Holdich, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, and the Assistant Director Resources , Commissioning &amp; Performance and could confirm that the dates were correct. The future of the project would depend on what came out of the schools capital programme from the government.</p> <p>Mr Ed Murphy responded that there was pressure on school places particularly in this part of Peterborough, and with the proposed further residential development in the area, he questioned why the local authority was giving money to things like Anglian Ruskin University out of the capital budget for education when the city has children not even able to eat their dinner sitting down at the school because there isn't adequate school accommodation.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager assured residents that the key thing was that when any money became available, those areas where there was</p>	

	the most pressure for school places would be taken into account.	
4. Open Session	<p><u>Library Opening Hours</u></p> <p>Mr John Green, a resident of Bretton, raised concerns about the proposed reduction in opening hours to the libraries, particularly Bretton Library. Mr Green and a number of residents had prepared a petition with a couple of hundred signatures, which shows the community feeling about this issue.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the petition was submitted to full Council last week and that the matter is being considered. Library opening hours were being considered across the city, not just in Bretton. Many cities were looking at losing their libraries completely, whilst Peterborough sought to only reduce the opening hours.</p> <p>Mr Green responded that residents were concerned that this was first step to closing the libraries in the future, as a reduction in the availability of the resource would reduce the demand, and next year the Council will say the library isn't being used and use this as the basis for further cuts.</p> <p>The Chairman reiterated that this was not part of the City Council's proposals, and asked that the Neighbourhood Manager follow up on the progress of Mr Green's petition and respond to him directly.</p> <p><u>Parking Sign in Thorpe Meadows</u></p> <p>Mr Tony Lambert, resident of Thorpe Meadows, had asked two years ago for a parking direction sign instructing motorists coming in to Thorpe Meadows about the Nene Park Trust car park, with the sign to be situated near the boathouse and 20 yards past the post box. This would keep the parking away from the residential area. Mr Lambert had asked for this many times, and had also discussed the matter with Councillor Fitzgerald previously.</p> <p>The Network Management Group Manager advised that he would speak with Mr Lambert about his request.</p> <p>Mr Lambert also commented that along the paths and cycle ways, some of the wooden bollards required replacing, which he had reported to the Council in his capacity as Street Leader for Thorpe Meadows. Mr Lambert understood that this request had been forwarded to the Area Highway Inspector/Supervisor and hoped to receive some feedback.</p> <p><u>Emergency Planning</u></p> <p>Mr Tony Lambert advised that he was a Volunteer Flood Warden for Thorpe Meadows and asked the Council what it would do in the case of</p>	<p><b>JR</b></p> <p><b>AT</b></p> <p><b>AT/JR</b></p>

a flood in the area.

The Emergency Planning & Resilience Manager responded that the Council only has so many resources, and that:

- Ultimately it is the responsibility of residents to take care of their own properties in the event of a flood or emergency situation.
- Even though it has been some time since Peterborough has had any serious flooding, the Council continues to plan for such an event, and these emergency plans are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.
- A national event would take place in the near future which would look not only at river flooding but surface water flooding.
- A flood awareness campaign would be run late in the summer time, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and other agencies, to raise awareness on the areas likely to be flooded.
- When the Council attempted to hold a meeting on flood risk issues with the Environment Agency, only two people registered and interest and as a result the Environment Agency cancelled.
- Every year a page is published in the Your Peterborough magazine talking about flooding, precautions and how residents can take care of themselves, their homes and possessions.

In response to a question from Cllr Arculus, the Emergency Planning & Resilience Manager advised that the flood alleviation plan had been prepared by the Planning Policy and Strategy Manager's team.

JR/ RK

#### Parking and Driving on Grass Verges

A Ledbury Road Street Leader raised the main concern in his area, being residents driving on grass areas instead of using driveways. The top half of Ledbury Road was starting to look like a farmyard, resulting in mud on the road and holes 2 – 3 foot deep in the verges.

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that this matter would be dealt with under Agenda Item 6, Verge Parking.

#### City Hospital Traffic Lights

Mrs Glennis Bentley raised concerns regarding the new traffic lights at the City Hospital as it was considered that the timings were wrong and resulted in very dangerous driving conditions. Mrs Bentley commented was not the first time that residents had raised concerns regarding this issue, and felt that the previous response of the Council they would

	<p>have to wait 2 years for a survey to be undertaken before anything could be done as it was not a Council project, was inadequate.</p> <p>The Network Management Group Manager reported that whilst this matter was not specifically under his remit, he could advise that officers were aware of the issue.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Council Capital Budget</u></p> <p>A gentleman representing the Netherton Neighbourhood Association said that the Evening Telegraph had recently reported on the controversy around the spending of the Neighbourhood Council's £25,000 capital funds and understood that a certain figure was allocated to Werrington.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager advised that at the last meeting, elected members voted on agreed spending priorities for the £25,000. 3 projects were agreed, with 1 being an emergency footpath underpass between Ravensthorpe and Bretton that floods regularly, and this project was ongoing. There were 2 areas voted on around outdoor gym equipment for Bretton and West Wards, the siting of which was ongoing. The Longthorpe Tennis Club had certainly not been allocated funding from this capital money for lighting.</p> <p>In response to questions raised by residents, the Neighbourhood Manager advised that the Neighbourhood Council funds were being spent on the emergency footpath works as it was not a City Council project or responsibility. The problems arise from the A47 and the piping that goes through the area and would cost tens of millions to put right. Councillor Newton proposed the emergency footpath be designed so that all people could cross safely, without trying to cross the A47 as happens currently. This was an excellent way for the Neighbourhood Council to undertake a project to benefit the local community, and was voted on unanimously.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager reported that all of the £25,000 had now been allocated, with the cost of the footpath approximately £10,000 and the cost of the gym equipment for both areas at approximately £9,000 per site. Some other projects were to be funded through the Community Leadership Fund.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to take on board Mr Lambert's request about flood lighting being installed on the Nene Park Trust car park on board.</p>	<p><b>JR</b></p> <p><b>JR</b></p>
<p>5. Capital Programme of works 2011-12</p>	<p>The Transport Planning Team Manager addressed the meeting, showing a map of the schemes for the local area from the Capital Programme of Works for 2011-12. During his presentation, the Transport Planning Team Manager made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents should have received a leaflet in September 2010 regarding the Local Transport Plan and the three month</li> </ul>	

	<p>consultation period. There was a fantastic response rate to the consultation, with over 1,300 responses received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Schemes came to be included in the capital works programme via a number of routes, including requests from other departments, organisations, councillors and members of the public. Schemes were also identified through the Council’s monitoring regime and asset management plans.</li> <li>▪ Due to a limited budget for works, a number of methodologies were used to priorities schemes in terms of need.</li> </ul> <p>During discussion, the following points were noted:</p> <p>Mr Ed Murphy queried whether in the overall programme there was a neighbourhood element to the budget for the next year, and overall whether the budget was going up or being cut.</p> <p>The Transport Planning Team Manager responded that compared with last year, the budget for this item had been reduced by about £500,000 due in part to reduced funding from government. This was where the methodologies on assessment and prioritisation came into play, and officers felt that the views of local people were important in ensuring the right schemes were considered.</p> <p>Residents queried whether the use of fine plastic mesh being introduced to roadside verges to prevent the grass from being totally destroyed by vehicles was still current? Areas such as the road toward St Jude’s Church, which has quite wide verges, would benefit.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that there was some in Ravensthorpe, and she had been seeking the installation of this in Bretton for some time.</p> <p>Mrs Bentley asked whether the recently announced government funding to mend potholes had been included in this capital works programme.</p> <p>The Transport Planning Team Manager advised that the figure nationally was £1 Million, however the Council will not know until 16 March how much money it is likely to receive for this purpose. The Council currently has dedicated crews to deal with potholes.</p>	
<p>7. Rock in the Park Film</p>	<p>In presenting the item, the Chairman explained that this Rock in the Park event was the first time that an event of this type had taken place in Peterborough, and despite the wet weather it was an exceptional day.</p> <p>The Locality Manager, Young People’s Service commented that over 400 young people attended the event from all over the city. There was</p>	

	<p>no trouble on the day, with no arguing or fighting from anyone.</p> <p>The Community Based Youth Worker for North Bretton introduced Lucy, Gabbie and Rebecca, who were each involved in different elements of the Rock in the Park event. The unique event was city wide, with young people heavily involved in the planning and decision making. This involved taking on many responsibilities, having regular meetings, giving presentations at meetings similar to this one to apply for funding, and public speaking training to announce the bands.</p> <p>Lucy addressed the meeting, explaining that she had been involved from the start, and that the idea had come from the young people in Bretton, and the Pyramid Youth Club had developed the name and the logo. She had been closely involved in the auditions process at Club Revolution before a panel of judges who decided who could go through to the event.</p> <p>Gabbie addressed the meeting, explaining that she attended on the day and that it had been a shame about the weather. Her favourite band was Manual Overload. The karaoke was very good and looked like it had been a lot of fun. The rock climbing wall was also very good.</p> <p>Rebecca took part in Rock's Fashion Fix, and enjoyed going as she had the opportunity to meet new friends. She attended the day as a designer and a model, having made a dress out of carrier bags with a puff ball skirt in a Lady Gaga style.</p> <p>Attendees were then invited to watch the promotional DVD for the day.</p> <p>The Chairman congratulated the young people on their hard work and hoped that the next year's event would be just as successful.</p>	
<p>6. Verge Parking</p>	<p>Network Management Group Manager lead a discussion on verge parking, which has been a concern to many residents and an issue the Council has tried to tackle for many years. In introducing the item, the Network Management Group Manager made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The issue had been looked at in different ways and the Council had pioneered some methods, for example in 2006 in Dogsthorpe, the Council was the first city aside from Westminster to introduce a verge parking ban. It had always been viewed as a trial and the vision was to roll this out across the city. Obviously funding plays a big part in something like this being rolled out, however it was a successful order in Dogsthorpe. The City Council put in over £250,000 with some EU funding. The scheme was a success and the Council learned from it – it was a bold statement made by the Council in an attempt to deal with the issue.</li> <li>▪ The Council cannot just ban parking on verges, but needs to provide other parking facilities so that the vehicles have</li> </ul>	

somewhere to go.

- The Department for Transport had recently issued guidance to tackle pavement and verge parking.
- Works are prioritised due to fewer funds and addressing issues caused by the three bad winters recently experienced. Officers were seeking the views of the community to determine whether addressing verge parking was considered a priority for spending in the next year's funds.
- Officers acknowledged the need to include other agencies including Cross Keys homes, housing associations and other community groups. Mitigation could include planting of trees and installation of bollards, but it has to be put into perspective as nobody would want to see bollards everywhere.
- The new guidance was designed to make dealing with various traffic enforcement issues easier for local authorities, and whilst traffic regulation orders appear to be the way forward, schemes would still require funding due to the signage that would need to be implemented.
- Officers were doing some work with Cross Keys Homes to install some more grasscrete, predominantly been put in areas that are not highway. Care does need to be taken as to where it is installed because over time it can cause a tripping hazard.

During discussion, the following points were noted:

Residents asked when the old Edith Cavell Hospital was going to be knocked down so that on site car parking for the City Hospital would be completed, alleviating parking issues in residential areas, and if it would be possible to ask the Hospital to reduce car parking fees for staff so that they could afford to park on site. Other issues raised by residents included planning permission being given to turn garages into residential parts of the house, leading to residents not parking in driveways, and to stop allowing houses to be built in back gardens.

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that she and Councillor Samantha Dalton were due to meet with the Hospital again soon and would raise the parking issues.

In response to comments raised by residents, the Network Management Group Manager advised that traffic regulation orders were the way forward in dealing with enforcement issues regarding the destruction of grass verges, as currently the Council had little to no power to enforce.



The Network Management Group Manager confirmed that there was indeed a clearway order which affects the carriageway of Hartwell way. This changed when the parking enforcement programme came into effect a few years ago. Officers have tried to enforce along the highway verge, but because the rest of Hartwell Road wasn't highway, it could not be done.

Mrs Bentley suggested that at one time there had been parking areas within the area, that had since been grassed over and had trees planted on them – these could be reverted to additional parking space.

Residents expressed disappointment that after 4 years of raising the issue, the Council had not yet done anything, and this lack of action was encouraging people to do as they wished and show no responsibility for their actions. People are disengaging because nothing is being done. More people used to attend these Neighbourhood Council meetings for instance, but despite raising numerous issues around enforcement and parking issues, these have never been followed up. Confidence in local government is breaking down.

The Neighbourhood Manager assured residents that all their comments were being taken on board. The Neighbourhood Councils were not established 4 years ago, and whilst officers do follow up on all the issues raised at the meetings, it can take time to find, fund and implement solutions.

Residents thanked the Network Management Group Manager for coming along to the meeting for the discussion and invited him back to a meeting in twelve months time to discuss progress made. The Neighbourhood Manager clarified that whilst the Network Management Group Manager's work was one area, addressing these issues there a joint effort across the Council and with partner agencies such as the Police.

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<p>8. The Street Leaders Scheme</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Officer gave a presentation on the Street Leader scheme, and noted that it was good to see a few Street Leaders at the meeting. During his presentation, the Neighbourhood Manager made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Street Leader's scheme started in the Greater Dogsthorpe Area 5 years ago and was launched in 2008 when a few hundred people were recruited to report issues in their own street scene and city wide, such as fly tipping, graffiti, street lights and neighbourhood furniture.</li> <li>▪ Many people wanted to be involved in a more hands on way and to be involved in projects and other initiatives. Officers were now looking to rebrand the scheme to include things like Speedwatch and the digital switchover, so that that Street Leaders could be used as a volunteer force to get positive messages out into the community.</li> <li>▪ Officers were actively recruiting street leaders for any level of involvement. There were currently about 38 in this neighbourhood area, with 15 happy to just report issues as they are aware of them. The scheme is really all about being a good neighbour.</li> <li>▪ The Street Leader scheme differs from Neighbourhood Watch in that it is not about crime, but about issues for which the City Council is responsible in the main.</li> <li>▪ Previously the scheme had been mostly self managing, however in the future officers wanted to work more closely with the Street Leaders and provide more support through regular meetings.</li> </ul> <p>Residents queried whether all of these various groups, such as Neighbourhood Watch, Streetwatch, the Street Leaders Scheme would ever come together. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed that this is a good point and had been speaking with the Police about the potential to join up these schemes which are delivering good outcomes for the local community.</p>	<p>JR</p>
<p>9. Census 2011</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Manager reminded attendees that there was information on the Census 2011 in the agenda pack for the meeting, which detailed a series of events being organised to assist residents who might need extra help completing their census forms.</p>	
<p>10. Next Meeting</p>	<p>The Chairman advised that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed after the Annual Council meeting to take place in May 2011.</p> <p>It was also noted that a Neighbourhood Police Meeting would take place at the Ramada on 10 May 2011 commencing at 7.00pm.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.05pm