

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2009**

**COUNCILLORS**

**PRESENT** Jon Kaye, Terence Neville, OBE JP, Michael Lavender, Anne-Marie Pearce, Paul McCannah and Glynis Vince. (Councillor Vince submitted apologies for lateness)

**ABSENT** Dogan Delman and Chris Joannides

**OFFICERS:** James Rolfe (Director of Finance and Corporate Resources), Neil Isaac (Assistant Director Waste Management) Gill Gilby (Environmental Services), Ann Redondo and Jane Creer (Democratic Services).

**Also Attending:** Inspector George and approximately 15 members of the public.

**1  
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Pearce welcomed all those present to the meeting. She explained that it was hoped that using the Civic Centre as a base for this meeting and all future meetings would enable residents having access to easier parking and 'on site' refreshments being provided.

**2  
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dogan Delman and Chris Joannides.

**3  
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

**4  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**AGREED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record with the following amendments:

**5  
UPDATE FROM THE POLICE**

Inspector George gave a brief update on policing issues in the three wards, highlighting:

1. Cockfosters Ward

The three priorities in the wards were:

- Traffic issues, including speeding
  - Burglary prevention
  - Cockfosters parade of shops
- a) Traffic Issues within the ward remain high on the list of concerns with residents. Speeding, in particular alarms residents. The SNT will be conducting Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operations, Roads Safety Days with local schools and additional 'Blue Badge' initiatives in partnership with the L.BE.
- b) With regards to burglary on the ward, whilst there has been a reduction of incidents, the SNT will continue to raise awareness of crime prevention and home security. Burglary 'hotspots' are visited and crime prevention advice is given. 'High viz' foot patrols have been increased in these areas.
- c) Crime figures reveal that in the vicinity of Cockfosters shops, there is relatively low reports of incidents, but, there has been a few high profile robberies committed at some of the shops. As a result of these and to try and reassure retailers, the team will be performing 'High Viz' patrols, particularly in the lead up to Christmas.
- d) Monthly 'Drop –in-Surgeries will be held on the following dates:  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month 6 – 7pm at Hadley Wood Association Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month 3-4pm Oakwood Library, Bramley Road, all are welcome.
- e) A weekly wars newsletter is available via email at [Cockfosters.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Cockfosters.snt@met.police.uk) The Ward phone no. : 02087212688.

In response to a resident Inspector George explained that the Parks Team patrols Trent Park, but if an incident was reported to the police direct, they would attend.

2. Grange Ward

The three priorities in the ward were:

- Retail theft – Enfield Town
  - Robbery – Cecil Road
  - ASB – Gladbeck Way
- a) The officers in Grange Ward were working with a newly formed Enfield Transport team to try and prevent the incidents of theft in Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange.

## COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009

- b) In response to the robbery in Cecil Road, patrols have been increased and plain clothes operations have been initiated. There has also been increased use of the Council's CCTV.
- c) With regard to the ASB in Gladbeck Way, there have been reports of youths congregating in the car park at the Budgens store in Windmill Hill, where cannabis was being smoked and wheel spinning their cars. Residents have been leafleted asking for their views, and in liaison with the Councils ASB team a request has been submitted to view the deeds of the car park and establish who the owners are. During November a council ASB camera was deployed in the car park and the results are being analysed.
- d) Further consultation dates are to be held on :  
Wednesday 9 December 1-5pm at the Mobile Police Station outside the Goose at the George, The Town.  
Friday 11 December 11am – 2pm at Enfield Town Library.  
Monday 14 December 4 – 6pm at the Orchard Hall, Grange Park Methodist Church. The ward phone no.: 020 87212686

A short discussion took place on Grange Ward Issues with the following responses:

- Robbery figures were down in the area, but, they peaked in the summer months due to schoolboy robberies from suspects travelling in from the Haringey area. Arrests had been made.
- Inspector George would look into arranging for an A4 poster being posted in the orchard Hall to advertise the consultation meetings more fully.
- All incidents of robberies are "crime mapped" on a website: ' crime mapping Home office website' which details houses that have been targeted, not actually showing the number of the house , but a 'dot' signals the property.
- A resident advised that the Neighbour Watch Scheme that she attended had a direct link via email with their police representatives which details crime in their area
- Inspector George suggested a presentation on how Neighbourhood Watch Schemes work would be useful for residents advising them how to organise one and how to get the best out of them

### 3. Highlands Ward

The three priorities in the ward were:

- Burglary – Slades Hill area – Bycullah Road area
- Road Safety
- ASB – Worlds End Lane around Highlands School – Boxers Lake – Enfield Road.

- a) With regards to the burglaries in the Slades Hill Area.The 'Safe as Houses' operation was held on the 21 and 22 October. Various other measures had been taken to assist residents in crime prevention including:

## COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009

- Over 600 properties had been leafleted / visited
  - Properties had received free security devices including security locks and free timer switches. 'High viz' patrols would continue in the area.
  - Intelligence was being collated from information obtained from known burglar addresses.
- b) The road safety issues in Worlds End Lane were targeted and parking enforcement had taken place in partnership with LBE Civil Enforcement Officers on the 16/17 November 2009. There had been speed gun operations in Hadley Road and Slades Hill. Consultations were ongoing with LBE to introduce further traffic 'calming' measures in the area.
- c) The ASB in Worlds End Lane, around Highlands School, Boxers Lake and Enfield Road has been a ward priority for some considerable time. Due to the majority of the ASB being related to parking / speeding issues and the behaviour of motorists during the busy school drop off and collection periods, the issues are being dealt in conjunction with Road Safety issues. Since the demolition of the Merryhills library, ASB in that area was now minimal. A new priority has been identified due to squatters at 9-13 Slades Hill. The premises are derelict and are occupied by a group of criminals who use class A drugs. Local youths also use the premises to drink alcohol and smoke cannabis. Positive action is in place to remove the squatters from the ward as soon as possible.
- d) The ward telephone number is : 020 87212687

A short discussion took place on the Highland Ward issues with the following responses:

- 20 mph speed limits within the vicinity of school operated on a 24 hour basis as activities are being carried out beyond the school opening hours.
- The timeline in evicting squatters could not be defined as legislation applies which includes dealing with 'squatters rights'.
- The police pledge states that 80% of the SNT would be on the ward carrying out their duties, this is happening, but this would include duties such as going to court to obtain a warrant and National Audit figures would not reflect this.

Councillor Pearce thanked Inspector George for his time and informative updates.

## **6 CONSULTATION ON THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD'S 2010/11 BUDGET CONSULTATION (PAPERS TO FOLLOW)**

RECEIVED a presentation from James Rolfe, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.

## COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009

NOTED the contents of the consultation document distributed at the meeting, highlighting the following:

- The paper detailed the key financial pressures facing the Council which would account for an additional £22.9m.
- Consultations were being conducted as widely as possible including a 2 page pull out in the 'Our Enfield' publication and a detailed consultation paper and questionnaire on the website. Residents are encouraged to attend the special Scrutiny Panel meetings in December and the Scrutiny Commission on 21 January 2010.
- All views and comments submitted by residents will be fed in to the final decisions about the 2010/11 budget.
- Residents should let the Council know which services are important to them to allow prioritisation of services in the future.
- Enfield Council were assessed as in need £8.3m Grant Settlement, but actually only received £3.6 due to the 'damping' process. This was a two stage process with the Government deciding what each Council needed and having a Grant Floor level of 1.5%. The government had taken funding from those boroughs above the Grant Floor level.
- Future years are uncertain with decrease in funding likely. Enfield Council had a good 'track record' of financial stability, but, finding savings is essential to maintain this and at the same time deliver quality services.
- Enfield Council has achieved savings, cost reductions and additional income of £39m over the last 4 years, in addition, since last year savings of £9m following a review of staffing levels.
- Enfield's Council Tax had been consistently below the Outer London Average for the last 7 years.
- For 2009/10 a major service transformation will be in place called the 'Leaner Programme' which has achieved nearly £400, 000 savings in rent payments so far, by vacating 4 buildings. Reviews of the Council's departments have identified £1.8m of annual savings. The reviews have only covered a quarter of the departments, so further savings will be achieved once all the reviews have been carried out.
- In conclusion, James Rolfe encouraged residents to submit their views which would contribute to the Council's financial decisions.

Following a short question and answer session the following was highlighted:

- A net charge was paid direct to N.L.W.A. to sort and incinerate waste, but, any income earned is fed back to Enfield Council.
- The PCT provided funding for residents whilst in hospital, but, on discharge the Council's Social Services are responsible for their care.
- The 'damping' process was flawed, but, to change the system would be too complex.
- The Edmonton incinerator needs replacing, Enfield Council is liaising with the 6 other boroughs who 'share' the system, as to where it would be located and also what impact this cost would have on Council Tax charges.

## **COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009**

- Councillor Neville highlighted the need for Area Forums to allow full consultations on important issues such as the budget.
- Responding to the concerns of a resident who felt that the questionnaire was not a 'valid consultation paper', Councillor Lavender felt that the comments were 'fair'. He agreed that the level of service was dictated by budgets with each service demanding various allocations of monies. The resident said that 'your views' was not really applicable when asked to choose which service was more important to them. James Rolfe added that within the consultation processes patterns were looked for but, if no significant pointers are found it does make the process more difficult.
- A resident queried the use of agency staff within the Council and felt that this was not an efficient way of Council working. Councillor Lavender said that significant savings were made on junior administrative staff. He explained that permanent staff have 'packages' that agency staff do not qualify for. He said that all levels of staffing were being looked at to achieve savings, but, redundancy costs in some case were huge. Councillor McCannah added that there was a major shortage of social workers and childcare workers and agency staff had to be used. Councillor Lavender said that these issues were looked at in depth at the Council's Scrutiny Panels and reiterated that residents views did influence decisions.

Councillor Pearce thanked James Rolfe for his excellent presentation which was precise and informative.

## **7**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

RECEIVED a presentation from Gill Gilby on general environmental of the highlighting the following:

- Trading Standards reported a telephone scam that involves bogus callers stating the consumer's telephone line needs upgrade work. If residents receive such calls they are advised to contact Ofcom's Advisory Team on : 0300123 4000. To contact Consumer Direct : 0845 040506.
- Trading Standards reported a postal scam in operation that a card is posted through doors from a company Parcel Delivery Service (PDS) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and gave a contact number: 09066611911 . This is a scam originating from Belize, which, if the number is called £15:00 would already have been billed. Please contact the Royal Mail Fraud on : 0207 2396655, if a card is delivered to your residence.
- Trading Standards have advised that the following telephone number offers a free advice line sponsored by British Gas : 0800 048 88 55.
- Chalk Lane – if the proposed yellow lines were approved, access would be improved.
- Public consultations were underway in Grange Ward on junction safety improvements.

## COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009

- Public consultation were recently completed in Highlands Ward on a proposed new zebra crossing and a 'banned turn'.
- 3 abandoned and untaxed vehicles had been crushed and numerous untaxed vehicles removed across the wards.
- The Borough's street litter wardens continue to patrol the borough and to date 48 people who have failed to pay the £80:00 penalty for littering have been convicted at court.
- The graffiti team which was reorganised in June 2009, have been proactive and have removed over 1268 items of graffiti. In addition they have removed 95 flyposters and bill stickers.
- Community Safety Consultation – the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) will be holding it's annual 'Face the Public meeting on Thursday 4 February 2010 at 7 pm at the Civic Centre. Representatives from the Local Authority, Police, Fire Service, Probation, PCT etc. will be in attendance. Discussions will be held on the priorities in the Borough for 2010 – 11 and residents' views and opinions will influence strategies accordingly.
- Residents are advised that the winter months traditionally pose the greatest threat for burglaries and all precautions should be made to thwart incidents by keeping all windows and doors locked at all times.
- Alleygates have been a successful tool in tackling burglary and ASB problems. To find out more about the installation of alleygates the telephone number is: 020 8379 5422.

Councillor Pearce thanked Gill Gilby for her informative updates.

## 8

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

#### 8.1 Advance Notice Issues

##### i. Wheelie Bins

A resident (not in attendance at the meeting – query received in writing), queried the validity of the pilot scheme attached to the roll- out of wheelie bins in the borough. She said that she had spoken with an environmental officer who indicated that the wheelie bins would be introduced regardless of the pilot.

Neil Isaac said that he would write to the resident to assure her that the wheelie bin scheme was a pilot and that residents' views and comments would be taken on board at the end of the pilot.

Following debate / discussion the following was highlighted:

- Councillor Neville's comments that the basic issues attached to waste were driven by rising costs in waste disposal and recycling targets must be met. If councils do not meet EU targets, huge fines would be imposed which would impact on council tax. Wheelie bins were considered to be the answer to improving recycling and that was why Enfield was piloting the scheme. He added that wheelie bins allowed for a much wider variety of items that could be

## COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009

collected. Councillor Neville said that the streetscene would also be much improved as plastic sacks were continually torn and waste spilling out. He emphasised that all residents concern, comments were being listened throughout the pilot.

- Neil Isaac said that all comments / concern received so far have been responded to. Some residents have requested 'shared bins' as the ones they were given during the pilot were too big for their household. During the pilot it was important, that if the scheme was to go ahead, the blend of bins for all residents' must be achieved. Neil Isaac advised that 50% of litter in the borough came from split plastic sacks and this had to be taken into context for costs in street cleansing.
- Councillor Pearce's concerns on behalf of the resident whether the scheme was a pilot or would wheelie bins be imposed on residents albeit with the type of bin that best suits their households. Councillor Neville said that, in reality, residents can't be told 'you will have the bins', but, the financial incentive is too strong not to go ahead, as well as the issues attached to the recycling targets that must be met.
- A residents comments in support of the original concerns over whether the scheme was a pilot. He felt that in the spirit of the term 'pilot' it did not appear it was.
- Concerns were raised on behalf of elderly residents in the borough, who had bins delivered that they could not cope with due to the size. These considerations should have been taken into account before delivery. Councillor Neville acknowledged that the pilot scheme had not gone smoothly in all areas of the scheme and letters had been received concerning the plight of elderly and infirm resident when trying to manoeuvre the larger bins.
- Residents concerns over the operatives just 'throwing' the bins across the pavements after being emptied. Councillor Pearce endorsed these concerns. Neil Isaac said that crews had been followed on some routes and had been told to place the bins back properly. He would speak to residents at the end of the meeting.
- Councillor Kaye's concerns over the arrangements for people who live in flats and how they would be able to recycle more, especially green waste. Neil Isaac said that flats were not part of the pilot scheme, but alternatives were being looked, including biodegradable arrangements.
- It was hoped that the pilot scheme would be extended to look at efficient ways of the disposal / recycling of cooked food waste.
- Councillor McCannah's assurance that those residents' that had problems in handling the larger bins, an exchange would be made.
- A resident's comments, who lived in the Cats Hill area that the bins had been most effective, and that the operatives collected and deposited the bins in a tidy manner.
- Councillor Vince's comments on an event recently held at Enfield Grammar school, with six schools competing and won by Chace

## COCKFOSTERS, GRANGE AND HIGHLANDS AREA FORUM - 9.12.2009

Community School. Pupils had responded well to the 'No Waste' challenge and she felt that their enthusiasm bode well for the future.

Councillor Pearce thanked Neil Isaac and all attendees at the meeting for their input on the subject of wheelie bins.

### 8.2 Issues notified this evening

#### i. Planning query

Councillor Pearce informed the resident who raised a query of a recent planning application that had been granted for a nursery extension in his area, that she would get the relevant officer / Councillor to speak with him direct on the item.

#### ii. Roundabout at Hadley Road / The Ridgeway

Councillor Neville confirmed that the section 106 Agreement monies would be available for the provision of a roundabout.  
A target date would be notified.

#### iii. Manhole cover outside Merryhills School.

The problems associated with the manhole had now been resolved.

## 9

### **FEEDBACK ON THIS MEETING / FUTURE ITEMS**

In response to residents' Councillor Pearce agreed to have a separate item on future agendas for 'Matters Arising'.

The secretary confirmed with Councillor Pearce that action / response sheets would be provided at all future meetings.

Councillor Pearce thanked everyone for attending and urged residents to fill in the feedback forms. She wished everyone a 'Happy Christmas'.

## 10

### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 25 March 2010.