

**Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford East Area
Committee held on Thursday, 14 September 2017 at
Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford**

Commenced: 6.00pm
Adjourned: 7.00pm
Reconvened: 7.05pm
Concluded: 8.50pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT
Iqbal Salam Shafiq H Khan	R Ahmed N Pollard Stubbs R Sunderland Ward

Councillor R Sunderland in the Chair

13. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosure of interest in matters under consideration were received.

14. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2017 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

15. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

**17. BRADFORD EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM ACTIVITY TO
ADDRESS THE "SAFER COMMUNITIES" PRIORITIES WITHIN THE
BRADFORD EAST CONSTITUENCY WARD PLANS FOR 2016-2018**

The Bradford East Area Co-ordinator presented a report (**Document “K”**) which gave an update on some of the work undertaken by the Bradford East Area Neighbourhood Policing Team and an overview of the Bradford East Constituency Performance Data.

Inspector Collins of the Bradford East Neighbourhood Policing Team attended the meeting and gave a detailed presentation in respect of the information contained in Document “K”, highlighting in particular her plans for the development of the team. She outlined the team structure and informed Members that there were plans to recruit more staff. It was noted that the Police had begun to hold “days of action” in the area and would be holding two per ward per year. These events had already been very well received. She stressed that she wanted meetings to plan action to be more current than at present so that issues could be dealt with at the time of their occurrence.

She also explained the crime figures contained in the report and the reasons for the apparent increase in crime, which was the result of a change to crime data reporting, an increase in reports of historical crime and the effects of austerity on the community.

She highlighted positive data in respect of downward trends in robbery and burglary which were the result of work on offender management and vehicle patrols during the evening.

She advised Members that the number of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the Bradford East area was low and that she wanted to increase those.

She explained the process of dealing with anti-social behaviour from an initial warning letter to the use of criminal behaviour orders and stressed that her intention was to deal with such behaviour before it reached the final stages of intervention.

She also explained the use of mobile data devices such as smart phones and body worn video in increasing the efficiency of the Police as the requirement to return to base to input data was much diminished.

Members questioned Inspector Collins in some details on her presentation, including questions on:-

- How many calls were received in respect of residential children’s homes and what was the strategy for dealing with such calls ?
- Were calls more likely to be received in respect of looked after children rather than children living with their families ?
- What was the strategy in respect of fly-tipping and could privately filmed CCTV be used in court ?
- Did the Police make use of the BD2-10 website ?
- Was there still an issue of PCSOs being trained but then leaving the service or being moved to other duties ?



- Was any work being done on hate crime and particularly in respect of new communities and their reluctance to report crime, also was any effort being made to recruit Eastern European PCSOs ?
- What was being done in respect of drug crime in Bradford East ?
- What would be done to ensure that the data from this report contributed to a reduction in crime in future ?

In response, Inspector Collins advised that :-

- She was currently working to achieve better data in respect of calls regarding residential children's homes, especially as calls involving children missing from such homes were immediately prioritised and involved a high level of resources. She advised that a new team of officers had been established to work on this issue and confirmed that it was more likely that the Police would receive calls in respect of children in residential care than those living in the family home, mainly in respect of being missing from home.
- Fly tipping was an issue that was usually dealt with by Council officers rather than the Police and private CCTV was used by the Police for other issues. Inspector Collins undertook to ensure that a conversation was held between her officers and Council staff to try to clarify this issue.
- The BD2-10 website was monitored regularly and other social media such as twitter was also used.
- The current PCSO staff complement was at 30 and was set to increase. All future PCSOs would be aligned to wards and would be patrolling on foot. Inspector Collins considered their role to be key to operations. It was also noted that skilled PCSOs made good constables which did account for some staff losses but it was hoped that they would return to Bradford East as constables so that their local knowledge and expertise was not lost.
- Work was currently being undertaken to identify hate crime and to work with community groups, including the recruitment of volunteers from new communities to work alongside the Police.
- Inspector Collins explained in detail the efforts that were being made to deal with drug crime in Bradford East, including working to gain the confidence of the public to obtain good quality intelligence. The Chair also stressed the need for people to report all their concerns. She advised the meeting that there had been a successful operation in Undercliffe as a result of repeated reports from the public. Inspector Collins concurred with that view and recommended Crime Stoppers as a way of building a bridge between the public and the Police. She undertook to provide a report to a future meeting in respect of drug crime.
- She also undertook to provide a report on the issue of driving without insurance, although information gathering on that matter was quite problematic.
- In respect of using this report to enable a future reduction in crime, she explained that a tactical document was produced every two weeks with an interim one produced weekly, both of which informed the work of the Bradford East team. She prioritised the work of the team to be bespoke to the area.



The Chair concluded the discussion by stating how positive she was about the new trial Ward Partnership Team meetings that were being undertaken in three wards. If successful, that process would be rolled out across the area. She also highlighted how well the action days were received by the public. The ward officer also stressed that events for specific issues would be organised in future.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work undertaken by the Bradford East Neighbourhood Policing Team from April 2017 to July 2017 that contributed to addressing priorities within the ward plans for the Bradford East Area be noted.**
- (2) That the positive partnership working that has been established with Elected Members, Council Officers, community organisations, volunteers and residents within the Bradford East Area be noted.**

ACTION: Bradford East Area Co-ordinator

18. PETITIONS RELATING TO TRAFFIC MATTERS - GLADSTONE STREET AND ROWAN AVENUE, BRADFORD

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “J”** which reported on two petitions relating to traffic matters. These were:

- a) Gladstone Street, Bradford – Request for permit parking
- b) Rowan Avenue, Bradford – Request for permit parking

The Principal Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety made a detailed presentation in respect of the request for permit parking on Rowan Avenue, including confirmation that the consultations which Members had previously requested had now taken place. It had been agreed that the Police and wardens would increase their patrols and that the CCTV car would include the area in its route. The Bradford East wardens would also run a parking assembly in the school nearest Rowan Avenue.

The ward officer also confirmed that the issue was particularly challenging as the problem was related to parking at school times and new parents arrived each year which meant a constant process of informing and educating parents on responsible parking and walking to school wherever possible.

A Member noted that another Council had trained volunteer wardens to patrol outside schools and asked if that would be appropriate in this instance, possibly including parent volunteers would help with the problem. The ward officer undertook to look into that but it was reiterated that the Avenue did not meet the Council's criteria for permit parking.



A local resident attended the meeting and highlighted the problems that were occurring on Rowan Avenue, including the potential risk to safety, particularly that of children attending the school; abusive behaviour by people who parked inconsiderately when challenged by residents and the potential for emergency services vehicles to be unable to access the Avenue.

In response to a Member question, the Principal Engineer explained that there was no provision in the current resident's parking policy for schemes to be put in place to deal with time sensitive issues such as school time parking. However, the policy was due to be reviewed and that issue could be considered then.

Members discussed the issue of parking near schools generally, concurring that obstruction, threatening behaviour and abusive language were common problems.

In response to questions about permit parking and the construction of a turnaround, the ward officer advised that, if a home owner had their driveway blocked they could register the problem with him and wardens would then be able to issue a parking ticket to offending vehicles.

Members also registered their concerns that planning permission was given for new properties which meant that schools had to be extended and which also led to the type of problem being discussed in respect of Rowan Avenue.

Members then went on to discuss Gladstone Street and the Principal Officer, Traffic and Road Safety noted that the petitioner's concern was that residents of nearby streets, people using the madrassa and the shops were parking on Gladstone Street, which was causing a problem for residents but again, the street did not meet the criteria for a resident's parking scheme. He stressed that the main issue for this area was simply that it was very densely populated and could not accommodate all the residents' cars.

Members concurred with that view and noted that the point of having a policy was to ensure consistency wherever such problems occurred across the District.

In response to Member question, the ward officer advised that, if a car had a valid MOT and insurance it could be parked at the road side indefinitely. If there was no MOT, the vehicle would be notified to the DVLA and if there was no insurance, the Police would be informed. The owner of such a vehicle would be advised to remove their vehicle and, after a reasonable period, if no action was taken, the vehicle would be removed. The ward officer stressed that every effort was made to encourage car owners to deal with their own vehicle before enforcement action was taken.

Resolved-

- (1) That no action be taken on the request for permit parking on Gladstone Street, Bradford.**
- (2) That the Police and wardens (including CCTV vehicle) increase**



passing patrols of Rowan Avenue and that residents be encourage to contact the council in respect of blocked drives.

- (3) That officers offer a school road safety assembly to Thornbury Academy.
- (4) That the ward officer be requested to approach the social landlord in respect of Rowan Avenue, Bradford to discuss what options could be progressed.
- (5) That Highways officers be requested to consider residents living in the vicinity of schools and how they can be accommodated under any new policy on permit parking.
- (6) That no action be taken on the request for permit parking on Rowan Avenue, Bradford.
- (7) That the petitioners are informed accordingly.

ACTION; Strategic Director, Place

19. HARROGATE ROAD, APPERLEY BRIDGE - OBJECTIONS RECEIVED TO A PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

With the agreement of the meeting, consideration of this item was deferred to a future meeting.

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

20. CITYCONNECT 2 - BRADFORD CANAL ROAD CORRIDOR CYCLEWAY SCHEME (MOVING TRAFFIC) ORDER AND (WAITING LOADING AND PARKING) ORDER - OBJECTIONS

Previous Reference: Executive, Minute 7 (2017/18)

Members were reminded that at its meeting on 11 July 2017 the Committee had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Place, (Document "D") which had asked Members to consider objections to recently advertised Traffic Regulation Orders associated with the proposed CityConnect 2 - Bradford Canal Road Corridor Cycleway scheme.

This Committee had resolved –

1. That the Committee recognises and welcomes the Cycle link.
2. That the Committee is not content that the solution offered is a safer, more attractive urban environment that will make the positive contribution to Bradford's Cycling ambition. The Committee also recognises the challenges of the current site.



3. That Officers are asked to fully investigate an alternative scheme in the urban green space along side Valley Road, Bradford.
4. That the consultation be extended to include people who work along Valley Road, Bradford and whether they had access to Cycle to Work Scheme.
5. That the decision to overrule the objections be delayed until the above work is undertaken and presented to the Committee.

That decision of the Committee had subsequently been called in and the Strategic Director, Place presented **Document "G"** which informed the Committee about progress on actions undertaken to support delivery of the CityConnect 2 – Bradford Canal Road Corridor Cycleway Scheme.

A Member expressed his dissatisfaction with the process and stated that he considered that this Committee had been both decisive and responsible in its concerns for local business. He pointed out that the Telegraph and Argus had recently reported that businesses in the District were underperforming. He considered that a local business had not been consulted on CityConnect 2 and that the consultation process had been flawed.

The Chair agreed that this Committee had not been indecisive in its original decision, rather that the decision made had been unwanted. She expressed concern that a local business owner had informed her that they would leave the area and stressed that her focus had never been about preventing the cycleway but had been on protecting local business and employment.

Another Member noted that when the cycle superhighway had first begun there had been many such concerns but that they had been resolved and the super highway was now a well used resource. He did not consider that alternative routes would be feasible.

The Principal Engineer, Place advised Members that local businesses had been consulted extensively over a two year period in respect of this scheme.

Resolved-

- (1) That the progress on actions undertaken to support delivery of the CityConnect 2 – Bradford Canal Road Corridor Cycleway scheme be noted.**
- (2) That this Committee regrets the decision that has been taken and the fact that that some local businesses believe they have not been consulted**

ACTION: No Action

21. LOCAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - DEVOLUTION UPDATE AND FUNCTION OVERVIEW



The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “H”** which detailed how the service currently managed the Local Highway Maintenance function and allocated resources.

It also updated the Committee with regard to current operations being undertaken on the network and the indicative costs of works undertaken in the current financial year.

Resolved-

- (1) **That the current operational methods adopted for Local Highway Maintenance be noted.**
- (2) **That the indicative costs to date for the current financial year be noted.**
- (3) **That the list of current and proposed CAT3/4 works as shown in Appendices 5 and 6 of Document “H” be approved.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

22. PARKS AND GREEN SPACES SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “L”** which gave the annual report for the devolved Parks & Green Spaces Service, reviewed activity during the past year and also considered the significant issues that would have an effect over the coming twelve months with options where available for future service delivery, investment and savings.

The Principal Parks and Green Spaces Manager and the Technical Manager, Technical Design attended the meeting and gave a presentation in respect of parks and green spaces within Bradford East throughout the year, highlighting in particular the work undertaken with the friends of Eccleshill War Memorial and the issues about the glasshouses at Peel Park and the lake at Bradford Moor Park.

In response to a question about restrictive covenants, Members were advised that where one was in place, the Charity Commission would need to be consulted and, if an asset was disposed of, the resulting income would have to be applied in furtherance of the charity’s principles. The Principal Manager undertook to provide details of the covenant concerned for Members’ information.

The officers were also questioned in respect of on-going repairs to a bridge in one of the parks and in respect of Section 106 monies which arose from the planning process. They advised that the bridge works were still underway and that Section 106 monies had restrictions in place in respect of how they could be used; it was usual to consult with ward Members regarding their use. The Section 106 process had now been replaced with a formula funding process and parks and gardens was still one of the priorities listed under the new process.



A Member questioned the issue of repairs to playgrounds, querying whether there had been a lot this year. He was advised that it had been a difficult year for playgrounds and that a report was shortly due to be presented to the Executive on the issue.

In response to a question about the proposal for Bradford Moor Park, Members were advised that the issue to be consulted on was the proposal about in-filling of the lake to create a grassed area. It was stressed that the current lake was difficult to keep clean and that park users had been canvassed and were happy to have the area re-used, possibly for a cricket pitch. A Member was unsure about the proposal but was reminded that at this stage it was simply intended to consult on the matter and that it was important to provide a park that local people wanted to use.

A Member also queried whether funfairs were being charged a commercial rate to pitch in the District's parks and was assured that they were. Members were also reassured that income from the parks in the area was used for maintenance of green spaces in Bradford East.

The Chair concluded the discussion by stating that events in Peel Park, such as the recent cycling event were extremely positive for the area and put its parks on the map.

Resolved-

- (1) That Document "L" be noted.**
- (2) That option 2 detailed at paragraph 9.1 of Document "L" be adopted for Bradford Moor Park.**
- (3) That option 1 detailed in paragraph 9.2 of Document "L" be adopted for Peel Park Glasshouses.**

ACTON : Strategic Director, Place

23. EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS UPDATE

The Strategic Director, Children's Services submitted **Document "M"** which provided an overview of employability and skills in the Bradford East Area, outlined support available for residents and gave details of future plans for the area.

Members were advised that there were positive trends across the District, especially in respect of young people's participation, however there were still hotspots which were of concern such as Eccleshill having the highest level of young people regarded as NEET (not in education, employment or training) in the District.

Members asked whether the Council's membership of the West Yorkshire



Combined Authority had any positive outcomes for employment opportunities and was advised that it did, such as the current project to secure funding for apprenticeships.

In respect of the issue of NEETs in Eccleshill, Members were advised that the reason behind the figure was difficult to establish and that it was hoped that a similar project to the very successful Keighley project could be undertaken in Eccleshill to improve matters.

Members stressed the need to help young people before they became NEET in order to get the best results for them, especially in the current situation of schools being autonomous from each other and taking into account the level of poverty in Bradford East.

Members requested that, in future, the level of people staying in work be tracked as well as the current information.

Resolved-

That the content of the report (Document “M”) and the future plans to continue to support East Bradford be noted.

ACTION: No Action

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Bradford East Area Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

