

Blakelaw Ward Committee

28 May 2009

(7.00 - 7.50 pm)

Meeting held Fenham Libray, Fenham Hall Drive

Present:

Councillor: Schardt (Chair)

Councillors: Keating and P Lower

PRESENT:

H Warnford	- Ward Co-ordinator
G Haggerston	- Democratic Services
D Roberts	- Neighbourhood Response Manager
BMorphew	- North West Carers Group
M Newman	- Play Service
P Atkinson	- Your Homes Newcastle
M O'Toole	- Fenham Swimming Project
V Taylor	- Resident
F Stephens	- Resident
D Rowell	- Resident

113 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Schardt be appointed as Chair of the Ward Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

114 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and councillors and officers introduced themselves.

115 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

116 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

117 **CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

There were no representatives from the police at the meeting and therefore the Chair suggested that any police matters be raised under Matters of Local Concern.

118 **MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN**

a) **Speeding Traffic**

It was commented that there was a 20 mph speed limit on Wingrove Road North but many cars travelled well in excess of this. Children played in the street and therefore the practice of speeding was extremely dangerous. The resident who raised the matter indicated that the police did not seem to be enforcing the speed limit and requested that the mobile speed camera be deployed in the street.

A member commented that since the introduction of the speed limit, the average speed of vehicles had been reduced but there were still those who exceeded the limit.

Residents also reported a problem of speeding vehicles in Royal Crescent and Ridgeway.

The Chairman commented that there was a need to have a discussion with the police regarding speeding traffic in the area.

In response to a resident's question, the Chair advised that the Council proposed to introduce a 20 mph speed limit on all residential streets citywide over the next few years. He requested that the Ward Co-ordinator either obtain a timetable from Technical Services around how this would be rolled out, or invite an officer from Technical Services to attend a future Ward Committee meeting to discuss the Council's plans for 20 mph limits.

RESOLVED – That the Ward Co-ordinator be requested to -

- (i) look into discussions with the police around speeding traffic in the area,
- (ii) request the use of the mobile speed camera in Wingrove Road North, and
- (iii) look into the provision of information to the Ward Committee regarding the Council's proposals for 20 mph restrictions in residential streets.

b) **The Quarry**

A resident made reference to dens which had been built on The Quarry. A member indicated that he thought the situation at The Quarry had improved.

c) **Road Markings in the Royal Crescent Area**

A resident expressed concern about the lack of white markings at the junctions in the Royal Crescent Area as there were often vehicles involved in near misses.

d) **Road Surface at Queensway**

A resident expressed concern about the condition of the road surface at Queensway as there were a number of holes in the road. A member advised that the roads in the ward were reviewed every year by the councillors who took advice from Technical Services regarding which were in the worst condition.

e) **Coal Board Properties on Queensway and Greenway**

In response to a question the Housing Manager advised that agreement had now been received for the repair of the properties on Queensway and Greenway which had been affected by subsidence. Once the repairs were carried out the properties could be let.

119 **NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPONSE MANAGER UPDATE**

The Neighbourhood Response Manager advised that he proposed to install planters in various locations in the ward including Fenham Hall Drive shops, St. James and St. Basil's Church, Farm Foods, Netherby Drive and Gormans Fish and Chip shop. However, a resident had suggested that two planters be installed at Two Ball Lonnen. The Neighbourhood Response Manager indicated that he would therefore not provide a planter at St. James and St. Basil's church, and install two planters at Two Ball Lonnen.

It was noted that weed killing would commence the following week and the councillors would be advised when the programme would reach Blakelaw Ward.

The Neighbourhood Response Manager advised that he had commenced a weekly walkabout in Blakelaw with a housing officer to pick up local problems. The Ward Co-ordinator suggested that if residents were interested in the walkabouts they should let her know and she could inform them when they were taking place. It was noted that the next walkabout would take place on Friday 5 June at 2.00 pm starting at Cypress Avenue. A resident asked that this time be changed and the Neighbourhood Response Manager indicated that he would check and let him know.

120 **NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

Submitted: Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

A member advised that the Council was undertaking consultation on whether it should continue with a Leader and Executive, or have an Elected Mayor (as in North Tyneside). The Council would prefer the current situation to continue. However,

consultation was being undertaken to ascertain the views of local residents. It was noted that if residents wished to have an Elected Mayor they would need to submit a petition containing the signatures of five percent of the electorate.

The Ward Co-ordinator advised that comments were required by the following day.

A resident commented that he was against the idea of an Elected Mayor as this would be additional cost to the council.

On a show of hands those at the meeting unanimously voted against having an Elected Mayor for Newcastle.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

121 **BLAKELAW WARD BUDGET REPORT**

Submitted: Report by the Director of Neighbourhood Services (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

The Ward Co-ordinator advised that Blakelaw Ward Committee had been allocated a £35,000 budget for this financial year. The budget was split between Grant Aid and the Ward Support Fund and the councillors were being asked to agree a split between the two funds. At this stage it was proposed to split the budget 70 percent to Ward Support and 30 percent to Grant Aid. However, funding could be moved from Ward Support to Grant Aid if required.

The Ward Co-ordinator indicated that local groups could apply for funding and she was available to provide advice or support on how to apply if required.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) the report be received;
- (b) the initial budget split be set at 30 percent Grant Aid and 70 percent Ward Support.

122 **WARD SUPPORT FUND APPLICATION - PLAY SERVICE SUMMER PROGRAMME - £2596.63**

A representative of the Play Service advised that the application was in respect of play activities over the summer holidays to provide two sessions a week for five weeks. It was noted that one member of staff had to undertake induction training.

A member queried whether an application had been submitted for summer play from Fenham Hut and asked the Ward Co-ordinator to check.

The Chair requested that the Ward Committee be provided with a report back following the activities.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a grant of £2,596.63.

123 **GRANT AID APPLICATIONS**

The Ward Committee considered the following grant applications (previously circulated and copies attached to Official Minutes) and made the decisions indicated below:-

(a) Holly Court Lunch Club - £2418.00

There was no-one present to speak to the grant application but the Ward Co-ordinator explained that the funding was to provide a weekly lunch club for the residents.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) approval be given to a grant of £2,418.00;
- (ii) the applicant be requested to report back on a monthly basis;
- (iii) the Ward Co-ordinator advise the applicant that the Committee preferred a representative of the organisation requesting funding to attend the meeting to speak to their application.

(b) North West Carers Group - Trips - £394.00

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a grant of £394.00.

(c) North West Carers Group - Display Board - £225.39

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a grant of £225.39.

(d) Fenham Swimming Project - £2958

The applicant advised that Fenham Pool would be closed in November and December to permit works to be carried out. This meant that the Pool would not receive any revenue for this period. However, staff had to be paid and therefore the grant application had been submitted to the Ward Committee, together with Fenham and Wingrove Ward Committees. The project were trying to fund-raise themselves as well as applying to the Ward Committees and it was hoped they could break even by around 2012. A member indicated that precise details of costs for January and February were required.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a grant of £2,958.00

124 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL AT BLAKELAW NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising:-**(a) Deck Access Flats**

(Minute No. 105(a) refers).

A member reported that he had been advised that the deck access flats would be demolished by September and that YHN were interested in building social housing on the site. However, he remained concerned about dust and the proximity of the site to residential properties on the 165 Estate. The Chair indicated his understanding that the flats would be dismantled rather than demolished.

(b) Lay-bys on Binswood Avenue

(Minute No. 106(c) refers).

In response to a member's question the Neighbourhood Response Manager advised that it was not possible to take any action against vehicles parked on the grass verge unless the road in front of the verge had yellow lines on it.

(c) Elders Council – Older Persons Friendly City, Parks and Recreation Areas

(Minute No. 107 refers).

The Ward Co-ordinator advised that she had written to the Head of Leisure Services regarding the recommendations made by the Elders Council and expected a written response for the next meeting of the Ward Committee.

It was commented that the Committee had £150,000 in total to invest in capital projects over three years. Consideration was being given to providing a MUGA on the grassed area in Queensway, and also providing funding for the second phase of Blakelaw Park.

A resident suggested that the MUGA be installed on The Quarry instead as there was no other play equipment in this area. A member commented that this was not a particularly flat site and may attract anti social behaviour. However, consideration could be given to this location. A resident indicated that it could be installed on the football pitch at The Quarry as this was a flat piece of land.

125 INFORMATION EXCHANGE**(a) Newcastle Warm Zone Leaflet**

A resident indicated that she had tried to have new cavity wall insulation at her property but it could not be done because of drill holes from a previous installation. The Ward Co-ordinator suggested that the resident try getting in touch with Warm Zone again.

(b) Parking Enforcement Poster

The information was received.

(c) **Summer in the Parks Publicity**

The information was available from the Ward Co-ordinator if required.

(d) **Newcastle Carers Conference advert 11 June 2009**

The information was received.

(e) **Minutes of 26 March 2009 held at Fenham Library**

The minutes of the meeting were received for information.

(f) **Ward Committee Database**

The information was available from the Ward Co-ordinator if required.

126 **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Ward Committee would be held on Thursday 25 June 2009 at 7.00 pm in Blakelaw Neighbourhood Centre. The meeting would be preceded at 6.30 pm by an informal drop-in for residents to raise issues with local councillors, council officers, YHN and the police.

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