

## **Wythenshawe Area Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2009**

#### **Present:**

Councillor McCulley – In the Chair.

Councillors Bracegirdle, Burns, Cooley, Cowell, Eakins, Evans, Keller, Barbara O'Neil and Brian O'Neil.

Also present: Councillor Clayton.

#### **WAC/09/36          Minutes**

##### **Decision**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009.

#### **WAC/09/37          Community Governance Review – alternative arrangements in Northenden**

Consideration was given to a joint report of the City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive (Performance) subsequent to the decision of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee that following the Review of Community Governance arrangements it was not minded to introduce parish arrangements in Northenden, and to consult Wythenshawe Area Committee on what alternative community governance arrangements might be put in place.

A number of members indicated that they did not support a model that imposed an additional layer of bureaucracy in the area, but were generally supportive of the proposal to develop and extend the existing ward coordination model to give a stronger focus to community engagement and support to community groups. Members highlighted the importance of reflecting good practices in other parts of the city about using NSF and cash grants to engage residents, of ensuring that the separate identities of different parts of the Northenden Ward were reflected in the community engagement activity feeding into ward co-ordination, and ensuring that the alignment of a research officer to the Ward was used to gather the full views of residents, including those who were traditionally hard to reach.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Performance) outlined to the Committee the delivery mechanisms that would be involved, stressing the important role of the research officer in bringing information together that would give members and the wider community a truly representative picture of the ward, and the important contribution that regular residents surveys would make to securing a good cross section of community views in the ward.

One member reminded the Committee that 60% of the residents of Northenden had indicated support for a parish council, and he moved that no arrangements be adopted that did not include the establishment of a parish council in the ward. The motion was not supported.

**Decision** (Councillor Eakins dissenting)

To recommend to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee the adoption of an enhanced version of Option C incorporating work within the existing ward coordination model to (a) actively increase the level of community engagement and representation, including the involvement of a research officer as described by the Deputy Chief Executive, and (b) to ensure that the separate identities of different parts of the Northenden Ward are reflected in the community engagement activity feeding into ward co-ordination and with a specific focus on -

- Capacity building work to continue to support community groups with a view to developing their ability to participate effectively through the ward coordination structure.
- Review of the membership of the community meeting to ensure that representatives from all resident, tenant and community groups in the area who wish to be engaged are invited to attend, including work to engage hard to reach groups. This would require a mapping exercise of groups within the ward and writing to the chair or leader of each group to ascertain if they want to be involved.
- Setting dates in advance for community meetings and ensuring that all invitees are aware of these well in advance.
- Making greater use of the ward coordination web pages to keep residents informed of the ward coordination process.
- Ensuring that there is a clear structure available to people residing in Northenden on how they can engage with and influence the ward coordination process.
- Making minutes of both community meeting and WSCG meetings available to people residing in Northenden (e.g. on the website).
- Ensuring that the neighbourhood partnership meeting feeds into WSCG meetings.

**WAC/09/38      Land at Selstead Road, Woodhouse Park**

An application (090885) was submitted seeking approval for the principle and access for the erection of 3 storey, 40 bed care home (Class C2) with associated car parking and landscaping / amenity space.

Late representations were submitted and considered by the Committee.

**Decision**

To recommend to the Planning and Highways Committee that the application be refused on the grounds that the proposed development is located in an area identified in the City Council Special Needs and Supported Housing Policy as having

above average provision. The applicant has failed to demonstrate a local unmet need, and it is the considered view of this Committee that further provision would lead to an over supply and over concentration of this type of special needs housing in this ward. As such the Committee considers the proposed development to be contrary to policies H1.5 and DC2 of the Manchester Unitary Development Plan and to the provisions of the Special Needs and Supported Housing Policy which is Supplementary Planning Guidance forming part of the Development Plan.

Councillors Burns, Keller and Barbara O'Neil withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this application.

## **WAC/09/39      Flood management in Wythenshawe**

The Committee received a presentation from Mike Maddocks from the Environment Agency highlighting the risk of flooding in parts of the Wythenshawe area. The presentation showcased the advantages of free flood warnings to communities through Flood Warnings Direct, and the ambition that this free service reached 80% of people at risk of flooding by 2012/13. More than 50% of the residents in the risk areas in Wythenshawe were already signed up to the free service and local members were encouraged to promote the service within the communities that they served.

## **WAC/09/40      Special interest items**

The Chair indicated that he had received a number of requests from local organisations to attend and present at future meetings.

### **Decision**

1. To invite Wythenshawe Law Centre to attend the next meeting.
2. To request the Chief Executive to coordinate arrangements, in consultation with the Chair, for members to visit Wythenshawe Hospital on a date outside the schedule of forward committee dates, subject to a representative cross section of members from each of the five wards being able to attend.
3. To invite Wythenshawe FM to attend a future meeting.

## **Decision taken under delegated powers**

## **WAC/09/41      South Manchester Resource Recovery Centre, Longley Lane, Sharston**

Application 091004 was submitted, being a proposal for a Variation of Conditions 16 and 17 previously attached to application 083920 relating to replacement of CCTV monitoring with monitored GPS and re-timing of traffic calming due to a programme of highway works.

Late representations were submitted and considered by the Committee.

Members were concerned that mechanisms were established that fed information from the proposed GPS monitoring arrangements back to ward councillors so that they could be aware of problems and act on them prior to receiving complaints about vehicle movements from local residents.

### **Decision**

To approve the application, subject to the conditions proposed by the Head of Planning; to the revised Condition 1 contained in the late representations, and to officers exploring with the applicant means by which local councillors can receive regular feedback from the GPS monitoring.

Revised Condition 1 – a scheme for the monitoring and review of the routing and signing strategy, which shall include details of a GPS tracking system shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council as the LPA within 1 month of the grant of consent,. The strategy for monitoring and review shall be adhered to at all times within 1 month of the grant of consent.