

## Northampton Borough Council

### Area Partnership 2 - Northampton East Area Partnership (Billing, Ecton Brook, Lumbertubs and Thorplands)

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

#### Present:

Councillor Lee Mason (Chair)	- Lumbertubs Ward, NBC
Councillor Jamie Lane	- Ecton Brook Ward, NBC
Councillor Christopher Malpas	- Billing Ward, NBC and NCC
Councillor Margaret Pritchard	- Lumbertubs Ward, NBC
Councillor Ulric Gravensande	- Northampton County Council
K Abel	- Northamptonshire PCT
L Ambrose	- Northampton Borough Council
Sgt S Bedford	- Northants Police
P Hackett	- Waste Services, Northampton Borough Council
A Kapoor	- Neighbourhood Warden, NBC
N Wooding	- Neighbourhood Warden, NBC
J Capstick	- Individual
M Clasper	- Billing Parish Council
J Cox	- Thorplands Residents Association
S Shaw	- Billing Parish Council

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from S Attfield, C Grethe, L Ingram, C Mistry, D Nichols, S Parsons, G Pritchard, R Shah and P Touati.

#### 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2007

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

#### 3 Matters Arising

##### 3(A) Birds Hill Road Off Billing Brook Road (Page 2)

Councillor Pritchard reported that the speed monitoring at Birds Hill Road had been carried out however the issue of making the road a lower speed zone was still outstanding and queried whether this could be followed up with Northamptonshire County Council.

**ACTION: L Ambrose to follow the issue with Northamptonshire County Council in relation to lowering the speed limit on Birds Hill Road.**

##### 3(B) Money 4 Youth Project (Page 4)

L Ambrose reported that as part of the Money 4 Youth scheme some projects were up and running and included Urban Dance Workshops, Duston Girls Keep Fit Project, Dance and Drama in Kings Heath and Craft Activities Club in Eastfield in YMCA Bus. She informed that the project "Gateway to Leisure" provided a limited number of free leisure cards with a £20 credit to spend at a chosen NBC Leisure Centre before the end of March 2007. The leisure

card was available to anybody between the age of 13 and 19 years who did not already have a card. The card could be used on a range of services including swimming, cinema and gym. They were available on a first come first served basis from the NBC Leisure Centres.

She added that they were also looking on the possibilities of having a mobile ice rink around the Christmas period.

### 3(C) Weston Favell Centre Toilets (Page 5)

L Ambrose reported that in relation to the standard of the toilets in Weston Favell Centre no progress had yet been made and that she would update the Area Partnership once she received the information.

### 3(D) Weston Favell Centre Walkway, Penistone Walk (Page 6)

L Ambrose reported that she had not yet had an opportunity to raise the concern about the walkway and the uneven path near Penistone Walk. She commented that she would follow up on the action and update the Partnership.

## **4 Northampton Borough Council Waste Collection**

P Hackett, Waste Services Manager, NBC gave a verbal presentation on the waste management services operated by the Northampton Borough Council.

He reported that the waste management services had a budget in the region of £4.5m and employed 127 people. The roles ranged from Service Manager, Recycling and Waste Minimisation Officer, Operation Officers, Waste/Recycling Collectors, Clinical Waste Collectors, Trade Waste Collectors, Recycling Material Sorters, Technical Clerks to Transport Officers.

He gave a breakdown and the number of vehicles used by them for various collections which included the collection of black wheelie bins, plastic and cans, paper and card, collection of black sacks from terraced houses and flats, collection from hard to reach areas, trade waste, bulky items collection, clinical waste collection. He reported that they had a Roll-on-Roll-off vehicle that transported 40 cubic yard containers to and from disposal sites. They also had a 7.5 ton box vehicle that was used to deliver wheelie bins, recycling boxes. He reported that they collected from approximately 89,000 domestic properties twice a week and from approximately 1600 commercial properties each week. He gave a breakdown of the tonnage of different types of waste collected in 2005/6.

He reported that all their employees went through an element of corporate training, which included equal opportunities, manual handling and basic health and safety. He reported that a group of their employees had already completed an NVQ in Waste Management and another group was about to begin their NVQ training process. The training course included elements such as customer care, which covered issues such as placing empty bins and boxes back properly, risk assessments, vehicle reversing techniques and a more in-depth training session on health and safety. He reported that employees were getting trained on how important it was to take ownership and responsibility of their area that they worked and also to be aware of their surroundings as they moved along from street to street collecting waste. They also received Health and Safety training.

In relation to collection over holiday periods they reported that the only days they did not collect was on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. They worked on all bank holidays.

They collected the Christmas Day and New Year's Day waste on Saturdays if those days fell on a week day. He reported that if they missed one day off collection approximately 17,500 properties would not have their wheelie bins/sacks collected. He reported that changes in collection days over the Christmas and New Year period were normally announced via the media (radio and local newspapers), NBC's own website and any other publications that the Council might release during the run up to Christmas and the New Year. He reported that they could not notify all 89,000 domestic properties by letter as this was not feasible, the last estimate cost they had was approximately £30,000. He added that the letter was also addressed to the occupiers and there were a lot of people who did not open these type of letters and threw them straight into the bin. They could not personalise the letters with names, as they were not allowed to access the database with all the customer names under the Data Protection Act.

He reported that since the introduction of the wheelie bins "side waste" had hit the streets. Side waste was normally recycled house waste or waste that had been placed next to the wheelie bin because the bin was full. This was usually because individuals did not recycle properly. He reported that those who did not recycle would end up costing everybody that pays Council Tax more at a later date. He reported that the Council had to meet EU/Government targets by 2010. The targets were set to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill sites. He reported that if Northamptonshire County Council were currently paying £20 per ton to dispose our residual waste they would probably be paying £170 per ton in 2020. He reported that NBC had a Recycling Team and their role was to encourage customers to recycle. They did this through education and special road shows. They also worked very closely with the Northamptonshire County Council "Slim Your Bin" campaign team.

He commented that the Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) was where the recycling materials were sorted. He reported that this separated the steel, aluminium, plastic, paper and card ready to be baled before transporting them to the relevant processing mills. It was noted that they sold the steel and aluminium that was sorted out.

Councillor Malpas commented that it was great news in relation to the recycling and training in relation to the dumping of boxes. However in relation to getting information about the changes in collection he reported that even as a Councillor he found it difficult to find the correct information. He suggested that the Councillors should be given information, as Councillors often produced their own publications and leaflets. He added that the information given to Councillors during the last Christmas period was very late and therefore not helpful. Councillors needed to be informed at least four weeks in advance of the changes.

P Hackett reported that they had now started producing newsletters about waste collection for Councillors.

Councillor Gravesande commented that it was the residents of Northampton who had requested collection on bank holidays and that this was the reason why the service had been introduced. It had been running for a number of years and residents should be aware that collections were made on bank holidays. Councillor Lane suggested that the team might need to emphasise via media that the Borough Council did collect as usual on bank holidays and that the only days they did not collect were Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

A resident with visual impairment commented that publicising the changes in newspapers

did not benefit those with visual impairments. L Ambrose suggested that when the team published information via the media they should also look to publishing information on the talking newspaper via the Northampton Association for the Blind.

In relation to the introduction of the bulky waste collection charges and improvements P Hackett reported that the service had now improved and the average days of collection was now 7 days as opposed to 7 weeks. He reported that the fly tipping situation had also improved.

Councillor Malpas reported that in relation to bulky waste collection they could collect up to three items for a fixed price of £10. He gave an example of individuals who had contacted the bulky waste collection team to collect three items, one of which included a carpet. He commented that the individual to be helpful had cut the carpet in three pieces and that the collectors had classed the carpet as three items.

In relation to the rotating bottle banks that were currently at Westbridge he commented that it was very difficult to find a location as they were quite noisy and residents did not often approve of them being located in the vicinity. Councillor Pritchard commented that the Lings Wood field was a good location for them as a number of football matches took place there and the field was often filled with cans and rubbish. Councillor Mason commented that having rotating bottle banks was not entirely helpful as people often forget of its movements.

Councillor Mason requested that a number of residents in Lumbertubs were awaiting their wheelie bins. P Hackett reported that the wheelie bins had not been purchased but leased by NBC from the DEFRA funding grant. NBC did not have sufficient funding to purchase them. He reported that they had no more funds available to purchase or lease additional wheelie bins. NBC had applied for a grant to DEFRA and if successful this would be resolved.

In relation to the collection of waste in black sacks and side waste especially in flats he reported that they were currently working on a project to introduce a shared 'large yellow bins' in the block. This would avoid a number of problems including the rat issues. The waste would be collected on a regular basis. He reported that this project was currently being piloted and if successful it would be implemented throughout Northampton.

In relation to garden waste he reported that they used it as compost.

P Hackett reported that throwing papers in a plastic bag was not an issue as they had a system, which separated the waste. He reported that it in fact was quite helpful as it stopped the papers from flying away.

P Hackett reported that they still did tours for residents and school students at the site and anyone interested should contact the Waste Services Management Team.

A resident queried whether there were any clothing banks in and around the area. P Hackett reported that there was a clothing bank at Weston Favell Centre. It was noted that the town centre Morrisons also had a clothing bank and that Moulton Park also had one.

P Hackett reported that he had a copy of the information that he presented to the Area Partnership for circulation and anyone interested could take a copy.

The Area Partnership thanked P Hackett for an informed presentation.

## 5 Police Safer Communities Team

Sgt S Bedford, Northants Police gave a presentation on the Thorplands, Lumber tubs and Rectory Farm Safer Communities Team. The Abington and Weston Favell Communities Team and Ecton Brook and Billing Safer Communities Team was yet to be launched.

He reported that the Government had given commitment that by 2008 every area in England and Wales would benefit from a dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing team that would work with the community to identify and respond to local concerns and priorities. He reported that all police forces were now implementing the neighbourhood policing programmes. He commented that in Northamptonshire these teams would be known as Safer Communities Team. He reported that the Safer Communities Teams (SCTs) provided communities with a dedicated team of officers who would work closely with partners, agencies and local communities to tackle crime and disorder concerns and issues identified within their neighbourhood. The team would be made up of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, Special Constables, other police support and also include partner agency staff such as neighbourhood wardens. The structure and staffing of individual SCTs would vary according to local needs and available resources. For Thorplands, Lumbertubs and Rectory Farm SCT they had one Sergeant, five Police Constables, five Police Community Support Officers and three Neighbourhood Wardens. He reported that these had doubled compared to the previous allocations. He reported that this SCT was red circled, this meant that the officers allocated to this area could not be deployed to any other areas. There were of course exemptions to this and officers would be allowed to support during events such as Silverstone, Balloon Festival etc.

He reported that they would be working with the community to identify the needs of the residents. They would hold community action plan meetings on a nine weekly basis.

He reported that they were looking at processes to engage and consult to establish community priorities and to review the process on a six to twelve month cycle. He commented that they were looking to identify the expected priorities, which were of immediate concern to local residents such as disorder, environmental concerns. He reported that whilst the actual crimes were reducing the fear of crime was increasing. They were looking to have an assured community by encouraging reporting of crime and disorder, challenging inappropriate behaviour, standing as witnesses and providing community intelligence. He commented that the risk of offending and getting caught would increase which should help prevent recommitting of crimes.

He commented that the Thorplands, Lumbertubs and Rectory Farm Safer Community Team were carrying out a community survey to identify the top three priorities for them to tackle in the next three to six months.

Councillor Pritchard reported that she found it very difficult to contact someone at present and queried whether this would be improved. Sgt. S Bedford commented the best solution to ensure that they got through to someone at the team was by calling the general number 01604 700700 rather than calling the individual's number. He reported that at least one team member will be on duty and will have a mobile phone available. He reported that they also had a generic e-mail address which they could use [SCTThorplandsLumbertubs@Northants.Police.uk](mailto:SCTThorplandsLumbertubs@Northants.Police.uk).

Councillor Malpas commented that the presentation was giving conflicting information. To date they had been advised to tell individuals not to challenge the offenders in any way. He

queried whether challenging would actually be enough given the current punishment and prison situation the state was in. Sergeant S Bedford commented that those communities that were prepared to challenge had lesser issues to resolve. He added that challenge can take various forms and that it took time to build the community to work together as a team.

Sgt. S Bedford reported that the PCSOs would spend approximately 80% of their time carrying out beat related visible duties and the rest in meetings, the Police Officers (POs) would spend 80% of their time on beat related activities that were not visible such as carrying out interviews etc. He commented that in relation to the number of officer allocation in each area it depended on the area and their statistical crime figures. In relation to the hours covered by them it was noted that officers were on an eight-hour shift and their finishing time depended on the time they started. Their work would finish between 1.00am and 2.00am depending on the areas needs.

A resident queried why there was a huge increase in Council Tax but there would be less Police Officers around. S Bedford commented that there was expectation that they would be losing 11 police posts within the County however the PCSOs were to be increased by 26 posts.

The Area Partnership members noted the presentation and thanked Sgt S Bedford for the presentation.

## **6 Local Issues - General Discussion**

### 6(A) Raisins Field Close, Ecton Brook

A resident reported that the three bollards that separated the park from the Raisins Field Close to stop it being accessed by vehicles had been removed and tarmaced. She queried why the bollards had not been replaced.

N Wooding, Neighbourhood Warden commented that he would investigate the issue and update the Partnership.

**ACTION: N Wooding to investigate the removal of three bollards at the end of Raisins Field Road.**

### 6(B) Underpass, Great Billing

A resident reported that the underpass in Great Billing Way to the pocket park was an absolute disgrace due to overflow of water. Councillor Malpas reported that this occurred every year and they were trying to resolve the issue. He commented that this was the responsibility of Anglian Water who were refusing to rectify the situation.

### 6(C) Bus Shelters, Great Billing

A resident reported that the bus shelter on the Great Billing village side on Wellingborough Road needed tidying up as it looked appalling. The Partnership noted that this belonged to the Parish Council and that plans to replace it with concrete were in place for next year.

### 6(D) Stagecoach, Meeting with S Keeble MP

Councillor Malpas reported that the Billing Ward had a multi-agency group set up, and had invited the Stage Coach and Sally Keeble MP to tackle the bus issues. He reported that the Number 16 was now safe as it had security cameras installed, however the Number 1. Service was still an issue.

Sgt S Bedford reported that they were working with J Freeman, Director of Stage Coach in a

joint operation with inspectors looking for people without tickets and moving busses being attacked. He reported that they were moving the Thorplands bus-stop from the underpass.\_

## **7 Information Exchange**

### 7(A) International Women's Day

L Ambrose reported that the Community Forum's were holding an event to celebrate the International Women's Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007 from 9:30am to 1:00pm at the Guildhall, Northampton. The event featured young women speakers, visit from the Mayor, displays and workshops that included Fair Trade, Ceroc Dance and Henna.

To book a free place they needed to contact Lindsey Ambrose on 01604 837566 or email: [lambrose@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:lambrose@northampton.gov.uk).

### 7(B) Money For Youth Update

L Ambrose gave an update on the Money 4 Youth scheme, which had begun in August 2006. Some projects were now up and running and included, Urban Dance Workshops, Duston Girls Keep Fit Project, Dance and Drama in King's Heath.

Other upcoming projects that had been agreed included Organising a Football Festival for young disabled people run by Northampton Town Football in the Community. The project involved around 100 young people from around the county. The football festival will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am to 2,00pm at Moulton College.

She reported that up to date information on the projects could be accessed via the Council's website [www.northampton.gov.uk](http://www.northampton.gov.uk) or following the link below:  
[http://www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=329&pageNumber=2](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=329&pageNumber=2)

She informed that the project 'Gateway to Leisure' provided a limited number of free leisure cards with a £20 credit to spend at a chosen NBC leisure centre before the end of March 2007 on a range of services including swimming, cinema and gym. They were available on first come first serve basis from the Leisure Centres by young people aged 13 to 19 years who did not already have a leisure card.

She clarified that these projects were able to come about as part of the Central Government funding for youth activities via the Youth Opportunities Fund.

### 7(C) Brookside Residents

It was noted that the Brookside Residents were having an annual spring clean on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007 from 11am to 1pm including lunch at Lodge Farm, Anyone interested to participate were welcome.

## **8 Two Items for the next Meeting**

The Partnership requested information on the future plans for Weston Favell centre especially as the building was now owned by new owners. A resident queried on plans for better facilities for disabled people.

L Ambrose reported that she would try and see whether anyone would be able to come to the meeting to speak about the future plans for Weston Favell Centre.

The Partnership noted that the Probation Service has expressed an interest to attend the future Area Partnership meeting. The Partnership agreed that this could be the other item on the Agenda.

**Agreed that the two items for the next meeting would be:**

- 1) Future Plans for Weston Favell Centre (if possible)**
- 2) Probation Service**

## **9 Dates of Future Meetings**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was yet to be agreed. Due to the Northampton Borough Council elections in May 2007 the next meeting was not likely to be until June 2007.

The meeting concluded at 20:45