

## **HAZEL GROVE WARD COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 22 November 2007  
At: 6.25 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Christine Corris, Stuart Corris and Kevin Hogg.

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED – That Councillor Kevin Hogg be elected Chair of the Ward Committee for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor Hogg in the Chair

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **3. WARD COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

A representative of the Head of Area Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out proposed procedures to be followed at the Ward Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Ward Committee Procedure as set out in the report be adopted.

### **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **(i) Neighbourhood Policing**

The local PCSO from Greater Manchester Police attended the meeting to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public on the Neighbourhood Policing issues in the Hazel Grove Ward.

The following issues were raised:-

- The possible introduction of a taxi rank in Hazel Grove. The Police have raised concerns about the possibility of anti-social behaviour with the Council.
- There was currently no application for a taxi rank, which would require both the licensing and planning consent.
- There was an ongoing problem associated with youths congregating near Sainsbury's Supermarket. Efforts to disperse them had resulted in them moving further along the A6.
- The telephone number of Hazel Grove Police Station was 856 9973. Calls would be recorded on an answering machine and responded to as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – That the PCSO be thanked for her attendance.

#### **(ii) Public Question Time**

## Hazel Grove Ward Committee – 22 November 2007

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Chair of the Ward Committee.

Seven questions were submitted in relation to (a) the necessity of planning permission for smoking areas (b) a possible taxi rank in Hazel Grove (c) speeding on Beech Avenue (d) the possible link road between Queens Avenue and Beech Avenue (e) over-grown trees on Daniel Street (f) the possible closure of public houses in Hazel Grove, and (g) litter and the cleanliness within the Hazel Grove district centre.

The questions were answered at the meeting.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) be requested to provide an update to Councillors on progress with proposals to install a link road between Queens Avenue and Beech Avenue, Hazel Grove to reduce 'rat running'.

(2) That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) be requested to investigate measures to reduce speeding on Beech Avenue and Commerical Road/ Bosden Fold Road and report back to a future meeting.

### (iii) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

### (iv) Area Committee Flexibility Funding

There were no applications to consider.

## **5. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

A representative of the Head of Area Governance submitted a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance & Governance) (copies of which had been circulated) outlining proposed changes to Polling Districts and Polling Stations as a result of a review carried out by the Returning Officer.

RESOLVED – That the Returning Officer be requested to ensure that:-

- (i) The polling station at St. Simons R.C Primary School, Hazel Grove is accessible to voters and the school gates are open from the beginning of polling
- (ii) The entrance to the mobile polling station FF on Cherry Tree Drive be situated to ensure that the entrance is facing the road to allow adequate access for voters and to ensure adequate signage.

## **6. TRAFFIC ISSUES IN THE HAZEL GROVE WARD**

A representative of the Head of Area Governance reported that this item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor Hogg.

The Chair invited feedback from the public on traffic issues in Hazel Grove. The following comments were made:-

- There had been severe disturbances in Hazel Grove caused by the phasing of the lights at the junction of the A6 and Sainsbury's supermarket, as only three cars were leaving the junction at a time. There had been violent and threatening behaviour to staff at the supermarket from motorists.
- There were ongoing problems with traffic at the 'Rising Sun' junction.
- There were too many sets of lights in Hazel Grove and this was hampering the free flow of traffic.

The Chair reported that the SEMMMS A6 by-pass was now likely to be completed in phases because of the concerns of the Department of Transport about the cost of the project.

A further question was asked about the procedure for the establishment of residents parking schemes. Councillors explained the procedure and invited the resident to submit a petition to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) be requested to investigate the phasing of the traffic signals at the junction of the A6 London Road and the Sainsbury's Supermarket and report back to a future meeting of the Ward Committee.

## **7. REGENERATION OF HAZEL GROVE DISTRICT CENTRE AND PROVISION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

A representative of the Head of Area Governance reported that this item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor Hogg.

The Chair invited the public to comment on the Hazel Grove district centre and the efforts to enhance it. The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Concern was expressed about the growing number of pubs and clubs within Hazel Grove and the nuisance this caused to residents.
- The district centre reflected those who shopped there – the takeaways and pubs were there because there was demand for them.
- There needed to be more investment by the local brewery in their pubs as these were increasingly looking out of place amongst the other establishments.

Katie Roberts, from the Council's Regeneration Team and Co-ordinator for the Hazel Grove Partnership, attended the meeting with Adrian Moakes, a local artist who had been commissioned to provide a piece of public art outside Sainsbury's Supermarket, to be funded from planning contributions provided when the store was built. A model and drawings of ideas for the artwork were also available, and the Ward Committee and members of the public were invited to provide feedback on the designs.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Public art in this space was welcomed.
- The design featuring hazel trees would enhance the area's identity.
- The positioning of the art needs to take into consideration the proximity of the bus shelter to ensure that it does not become a source of anti-social behaviour.
- The colour of the up-lighting should alternate to enhance the feature.

RESOLVED – (1) That Katie Roberts and Adrian Moakes be thanked for their attendance.

(2) That the Ward Committee supports the proposals for the public art to be funded from the Sainsbury's planning contribution.

(3) That the Managing Director (Solutions SK) be requested to ensure that for 2008 the festive lights in Hazel Grove District Centre are installed earlier in the installation cycle than for 2007.

## **8. BUS SERVICES IN HAZEL GROVE**

A representative of the Head of Area Governance reported that this item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor Stuart Corris.

Councillor Corris reported on changes to the 358, 375 bus services and the introduction of a new 362 service that were to be introduced from 6 January 2008 by Stagecoach, following concerns raised by users and Councillors. The changes should ensure more reliable and timely services. In particular, the 258 service would revert to a through service in the evening, and the new 362 service would run from Stockport Station via the A6, Stepping Hill Hospital, Hazel Grove and Bosden Farm to Marple.

Councillor Corris also reported that there was strike action planned by Stagecoach employees due to take place on 27 and 29 November, 1, 3, 5 and 7 December.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **9. APPLICATION FOR THE USE OF TORKINGTON PARK**

(NOTE: The Chair was of the opinion that this item although not included on the agenda should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with section 100 B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the Ward Committee to allow consideration of the application without undue delay to the applicant)

A representative of the Head of Area Governance submitted a report of the Service Director (Leisure & Regeneration) (copies of which had been circulated) outlining an application from Stockport Cats Protection requesting permission to hold a Family Fun Day event at Torkington Park on Saturday 2 August 2008.

RESOLVED – That the Stepping Hill Area Committee be recommended to approve the application.

## **10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Ward Committee were invited to agree dates for future meetings.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Area Governance be requested to make arrangements for the Ward Committee to meet on the following dates, at a venue to be agreed with the Chair:-

- 21 January 2008

## Hazel Grove Ward Committee – 22 November 2007

- 19 March 2008

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

g:\minutes.nov\Hazel Grove Ward Committee – 22 Nov 2007