

STEPPING HILL WARD COMMITTEE

Meeting: 19 November 2007
At: 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Ben Alexander, Maggie Clay and Mark Weldon.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

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

Councillor Clay in the Chair

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the first meeting of the Stepping Hill Ward Committee. The Chair explained that the Ward Committee was part of a pilot to improve public involvement in the work of the Council and this meeting was the first Ward Committee to have met in Stockport.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interest was declared:-

Personal interests

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Ben Alexander	Any items relating to Solutions SK as a Council-appointed Director of the Company.

4. 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.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Neighbourhood Policing

The Chair reported that the local Police Community Support Officer was unable to attend the Ward Committee.

The following issues were raised:-

- There was an ongoing problem with youth nuisance around Boothby Street Park.
- The recent problems in Great Moor Park and Norwood Park had been addressed following partnership working with the Police, the Council and local residents through the 'Friends of' groups. The establishment of a Friends group for Boothby Street may be a possible solution.
- The youths had been moved out from the parks but were congregating outside the shops/ takeaways on the A6.
- Young people in the area had been consulted by the Council's Youth Service and had indicated that they would welcome a teen shelter in the area.
- The area of land outside Stockport School on the A6 may be a suitable location for a teen shelter.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Area Governance be requested to ensure that a future meeting is devoted to the issue of anti-social behaviour.

(ii) Public Question Time

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

Two questions were submitted in relation to (a) anti-social behaviour in Boothby Street Park, and (b) the residents parking on Maxwell Avenue.

Question (a) was answered during consideration of the previous item.

RESOLVED – That, in accordance with the Code of Practice, the Chair be requested to respond to the questioner in relation to the question about the proposed residents parking scheme on Maxwell Avenue.

(iii) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(iv) Area Committee Flexibility Funding

There were no applications to consider.

6. 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, and requesting the Ward Committee to comment on the proposed changes to the Stepping Hill Ward, in particular Polling Districts TA and TC.

RESOLVED - That the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance & Governance) be requested to clarify whether it was proposed for Woodend Road and part of Egerton Road to be included in Polling District TA or TC.

7. CONSULTATION ON A NEW ACTION PLAN FOR GREAT MOOR LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRE

Paula Kelly and Yonas Fenti of the Council's District and Local Centre Regeneration Team attended the meeting and made a presentation to the Ward Committee on the results of surveys of businesses and shoppers within the Great Moor Local Centre about the condition of the Local Centre, and identifying the key issues that needed to be addressed as part of the Action Plan to enhance Great Moor centre.

Councillors and members of the public discussed the results of the survey and related issues about the Great Moor Local Centre. Comments were made, including:-

- There was a perception that there were too many takeaways;
- In order to meet the shortfall in traditional shops such as butchers and green grocers, a producers co-operative should be encouraged;
- Parking was a very important issue. Lay-bys had been removed sometime ago which had exacerbated the problems;
- The Council were considering putting in parking lay-bys, particularly where the footway was wide enough, but this was dependent on the utilities infrastructure under the footway;
- Parking was a particular problem on the corners of the junctions with A6, particularly Cherry Tree Lane, which caused hazards;
- The Council was taking a harder position with car dealerships who infringed parking regulations and planning conditions;
- It was encouraging that the figures showed Great Moor was vibrant despite the disadvantages of the A6. There were some good 'niche' shops;
- There needed to be more advertising to raise the profile of the centre. Not enough local people shop locally;
- CCTV may not be helpful along the linear stretch of the A6. The funding would be better spent on lay-bys and other improvements;
- The mobile camera at Saint Saviours Church worked well as a deterrent;
- Improving the lighting and intensity of the lighting, the general layout and the environmental quality may help;
- The land at the corner of the A6 and Norwood Road was in private ownership. The Council would need to work with the owners to help improve it. It was recognised that it was currently in a very poor state;
- Litter and graffiti were an ongoing issue. More regular cleaning and more litter bins may help. In particular the passageways behind the shops and houses off the A6 were a problem;
- There was an ongoing problem with potholes on the A6;
- Having a Local Centre Partnership was often a good way to co-ordinate activity to improve the area, for example in Marple the recent success of the Food Festival was achieved through their Partnership;
- Local Councillors were very supportive of the proposals and believe the future for Great Moor was very positive.

RESOLVED – (1) That Paula Kelly and Yonas Fenti be thanked for their attendance and presentation.

(2) That the priorities for the Great Moor Local Centre Action Plan as identified in the

presentation be endorsed.

(3) That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) be requested to investigate whether potential illegal parking of vehicles for sale in the lay-by in Great Moor and take the appropriate enforcement action.

8. 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:-

- 23 January 2008
- 19 March 2008
- 13 February 2008

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.