

STEPPING HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting: 3 December 2024

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Pete West (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Jake Austin (Vice-Chair); Councillors Grace Baynham, Will Dawson, Dominic Hardwick, Helen Hibbert, Wendy Meikle, Dan Oliver and Frankie Singleton.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 29 October 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following interests were declared:-

Personal Interests

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Grace Baynham	Agenda Item 11 – 'Progress on Area Committee Decisions' as an employee of Stepping Hill Hospital.
Dominic Hardwick	Agenda Item 11 – 'Progress on Area Committee Decisions' as a member of the Stepping Hill NHS Foundation Trust.

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced that the council had been selected to be part of the Government's Design Code Pathfinder Programme. Following a competitive procurement process, the council had now selected its preferred consultant, and work had begun on the project.

One of the key aims of the design code project was to 'reduce opposition to new development, by empowering local communities to set standards that they expect all new development to meet, by winning hearts and minds.' To achieve this aim the project would include a series of engagement exercises with local residents and stakeholders to gain

their views. This was scheduled to take place over the coming months and would include a mix of in-person and online events.

The Chair stated that the following Christmas events taking place over the festive period:

- Short Street, Hazel Grove Christmas light switch on at 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm on Thursday, 5 December 2024.
- The Worker Bee Christmas market on Saturday, 7 December 2024 at 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, including a choir and a visit from Father Christmas. The Chair thanked the United Reform Church for making their space available for this event.
- The Norbury Church Santa Dash (5km running race) on Sunday, 8 December 2024 at 4.00 pm.

(ii) Neighbourhood Policing

It was reported that a representative of Greater Manchester Police had been unable to attend the meeting, although a written update was provided, and the Chair drew particular attention to the following matters:

- Three male suspects had been arrested in connection with a cannabis farm in a barber shop in the Hazel Grove area of the A6.
- A prolific thief had been arrested after further operations which targeted such offences.
- The Police Day of Action on 14 November 2024 had led to an arrest for a quantity of Class B drugs which were found and seized.
- A mini operation Avro had resulted in 32 stopped vehicles, with one penalty notice issued, five traffic offence reports, one arrest, two drugs swipes with one being positive and leading to an arrest, one vehicle search under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act and one cannabis community resolution for the possession of cannabis.
- The Stockport Police Cadets Test Purchase Operation had taken place. Ten shops had been visited resulting in three knife sales with prosecutions to follow by the Trading standards.
- In an update on Operation Hurricane, it was reported that five specialist Police bikes were being used within the district which had resulted in two pursuits of bikes. One bike and one bag containing controlled drugs had been recovered.
- Between 1 and 26 November 2024 there had been ten burglaries within the Stepping Hill Area Committee area. Burglary was down by 18.4% from last year and burglary detection rates were at 14.7%, above the target of 11.1%.
- Residents were encouraged to sign up to the 'Bee in the Loop' system which was designed to help strengthen the dialogue within communities in a positive and proactive manner and to enable residents to provide information and help solve crimes.

(iii) Public Question Time

Members of the public were invited to submit questions to the Chair of the Area Committee on any matters within the powers and duties of the Area Committee, subject to exclusions set out in the Code of Practice.

Two public questions were submitted as follows: -

- Relating to the 'Thriving Neighbourhoods Plan'.

In response it was reported that a number of 20 mph zones were planned for the area. A consultation on a 20mph zone between Chester Road and Bramhall Moor Lane was currently underway and a report would be considered at a future meeting of Stepping Hill Area Committee. The A6 to Bramhall Park cycle route had been completed three years previously and had recently been extended to Ladybrook Valley. Feasibility work into more cycle initiatives was underway in the Stepping Hill Area Committee area.

Residents would be kept informed on the progress of these schemes as they were reported at Area Committee. Residents were also encouraged to lobby to their local councillors and request updates from relevant cabinet members.

- Relating to the cost to the council of repairing damage at the site of the former Offerton High School following a recent traveller incursion at the site.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, the Chief Executive was requested to respond to the questioner in writing.

(iv) Petitions

One petition was submitted by Ken Rees with 306 signatures in relation to a request for a new leisure/ sports facility in Offerton.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Members commented that a new sports/ leisure facility would be a welcome addition to the Offerton area and stated that it should be an ambition for the council.
- The financial pressures upon the council and consequential difficulties in delivering such a facility were noted.

RESOLVED – That the petition be referred to the Deputy Chief Executive for a response.

(v) Open Forum

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance reported that no organisations had indicated that they wished to address the Area Committee as part of the Open Forum arrangements.

(vi) Ward Flexibility Funding

There were no Ward Flexibility Funding applications to consider.

5. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

There were no development applications to consider.

6. PLANNING APPEAL, ENFORCEMENT APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICES

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) summarising recent appeal decisions; listing current planning appeals and dates for local enquiries; informal hearings for planning appeals, and enforcement action within the Stepping Hill Area Committee area.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. AKESMOOR DRIVE & BROOKLYN ROAD, OFFERTON

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) requesting the Area Committee to approve a 20mph speed limit on Akemoor Drive, Brooklyn Road and Lakeside Green in Offerton and No Waiting at Any Time restrictions at the junction of Akemoor Drive with Mile End Lane.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the legal advertising of the following Traffic Regulation Order and, subject to no objections being received within 21 days from the advertisement date, the subsequent making of the orders at a cost of £3,500 to be funded from the Area Committee's Delegated Budget (Offerton Ward allocation):-

20mph Speed Limit:

Akemoor Drive, Brooklyn Road & Lakeside Green

The full length covering the extent of Adopted Highway.

No Waiting at Any Time:

Akemoor Drive

Both sides from the South Eastern kerb line of Mile End Lane for a distance of 10 metres in a South Easterly direction.

Mile End Lane

South East side from a point 11 metres South West of the South Western kerb line of Akemoor Drive in a North Easterly direction to a point 15 metres North East of the North Eastern kerb line of Akemoor Drive.

8. STORE STREET, HAZEL GROVE

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) requesting the Area Committee to approve the removal of the 'free' resident permit parking on Store Street in Great Moor.

The following comment were made/ issues raised:-

- The low consultation response from residents was noted.
- Members requested further information on alternative proposals to the removal of the free permit parking.

RESOLVED – That the consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Area Committee to allow for the consideration of potential alternative measures to the removal of the current ‘free’ resident permit parking on Store Street, Great Moor.

9. RESIDENT PARKING SCHEME - DIAMOND STREET, HEAVILEY

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) providing details of a desk-top study of the parking availability on a section of Diamond Street, Heaviley following the receipt of a petition from residents requesting a Resident Parking Scheme.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred pending a ward briefing on this matter.

10. DEVONSHIRE ROAD PARK - DELEGATED WARD BUDGET REQUEST

With the consent of the Area Committee this item was withdrawn.

11. PROGRESS ON AREA COMMITTEE DECISIONS

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress since the last meeting on decisions taken by the Area Committee and detailing the current position on area flexibility funding. The report also included the current position on the highway and traffic management delegated budget.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Members requested that a request for the Discretionary Ward Budget (Offerton ward allocation) to be used to fund a youth project in Offerton be dealt with as an urgent matter.
- Members requested that the Christmas Tree recently removed from Torkington Park be replaced before Christmas.
- Members requested that consideration be given to the installation of a permanent Christmas Tree in Torkington Park.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

The meeting closed at 6.57 pm