

MEETING	HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	21 JULY 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HYMAN, ORRELL AND RUNCIMAN COUNCILLORS CRAWFORD AND REVELL DAVE CAULFIELD AND MARTIN GRAINGER, CITY STRATEGY JUDITH WARD, ALLOTMENTS OFFICER IAIN DUNN, STREET ENVIRONMENT AMANDA STENSON, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE INSPECTOR ALISDAIR DEY AND PCSO JOHN ARMSTRONG, SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP JOHN COOK, GROUP RESPONSE/COMMUNITY RANGERS GINNIE SHAW AND RICHARD STRATFORD, NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT UNIT TWELVE RESIDENTS

APOLOGIES

1. SURGERY - 6.30PM

1. Surgery

Residents had the opportunity to speak with:

- Councillors Carol Runciman, Keith Orrell and Keith Hyman
- Parish councillors Don Crawford and Richard Revell
- Dave Caulfield and Martin Grainger from City Strategy about the Local Development Framework (LDF)
- Judith Ward, Allotments Officer
- Iain Dunn, Street Environment
- Amanda Stenson, Young People's Services
- Inspector Alisdair Dey and PCSO John Armstrong, Safer Neighbourhood Team
- John Cook, Group Response/Community Rangers
- Ginnie Shaw and Richard Stratford, Neighbourhood Management Unit

2. WELCOME AND MINUTES

2. Welcome and minutes

2.1 Councillors welcomed everyone to the meeting

2.2 The minutes of the April ward committee were approved and signed

3. POLICE REPORT

3. Police report

- 3.1 Inspector Alisdair Dey and PCSO John Armstrong provided a report on police activities in the ward, indicating very positive trends. In North Yorkshire as a whole, crime had reduced by 3% and 40% of this reduction had been in Huntington and New Earswick which was again down by 11% in the current financial year. PCSO Armstrong thanked all agencies involved for their contributions. His report was endorsed by Inspector Dey who also referred to positive work at Monk's Cross.
- 3.2 Residents asked questions and made comments as follows:
- Q: To what do you attribute the reduction?
A: This is a very proactive team. Thirty four search warrants were issued in . The paradox of crime statistics is that the more crime is detected, the higher the crime figures appear to be. Statistics don't provide the total picture.
- Q: Doesn't Monk's Cross have their own private security?
A: Yes. We wish to work closely with the private security firms and are promoting a partnership (MXARC). So far, ASDA is on board. Police, however, are responsible for crime detection and reduction.
- Q: Does this raise a problem with allocating public resources to private businesses?
A. We are ultimately responsible. We do, however, try to build partnerships so that resources are used as efficiently as possible.
- Q: What about the role of good citizenship?
A: It's important that we work with other agencies and services in the community like the local schools so PCSOs visit and get to know pupils so they see police as approachable.
- Q: What difference has a local office made?
A: A huge difference. Been easier to contact residents, for them to contact us and reduced travel time.

4. PLAYBUILDER PROJECT

4. Playbuilder project

- 4.1 Councillor Carol Runciman provided a presentation on the Playbuilder Project, emphasizing the following points:
- City of York Council has been allocated £1.12m over 2 years from the Government Playbuilder Project to develop play in 22 play areas across the city

- An audit had been carried out to identify gaps; the primary target will be 8 – 13 year olds; the provision must provide sites that are accessible to all (including disabled children), promote adventurous play (so not traditional slides and roundabouts) that allows children to take safe risks
- In the ward, Orchard Park has been included in Year 1 of the programme (£40,000)
- Substitute trees will be included so children learn to respect natural environment
- If you have any questions, you can contact Simon Haddock, Mary Bailey or Dave Meigh in the council's Learning, Culture and Children's Services.

4.2 Residents asked questions and made comments as follows:

Q: Puzzled by the figures: what is funding being spent on?

A: Assume some has gone on project management. However, majority will be spent on children's play: this is an unprecedented amount and will not come York's way again.

Q: Youngsters in the target age group like to use their bikes and have built informal play track locally near Huntington Hall. Such provision is very positive but it does need litter bins as well.

A: Will report this to Mary Bailey

Q: Will the new equipment be robust? Example of site at Askham Bryan

A: Yes, definitely a criterion. The Askham Bryan site has been mentioned to Play Team already, but will be again.

Residents were advised that further information can be obtained at www.yor-ok.org.uk/playbuilder

5. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

5. Allotment provision

5.1 Judith Ward, Allotments Officer, provided a colourful presentation on allotments in York, making the following points:

- Sixteen allotment sites in York are managed by CYC (none in Huntington and New Earswick ward), with a further 24 managed by other organisations such as parish councils (for example, Huntington) and independent agencies
- The two World Wars of the last century had encouraged an increasing interest and use of allotments (the WW2 slogan being "Dig for Victory") but since then there had been a general decline as allotments were less important in the 1960s

and in the '90s there was a trend for plots to become derelict and abandoned

- More recently, however, there had been an upturn in the use and demand for allotments, so they all have waiting lists
- An example of a new allotment site is New Lane, Strensall, which is managed by CYC for Strensall Parish Council. It was a requirement of planning permission and by the time a suitable location had been found the waiting list was so long that the plot size had to be halved (the original size of an allotment was 1/16th of an acre, estimated to be sufficient to feed a family of 6 with a lot of hard work. Now 150 sq. yds is the standard size for new tenants and smaller plots and raised beds are a helpful approach)
- An all-age, inclusive approach is being encouraged (for example, Glen Gardens, Tang Hall) and intergenerational sharing of knowledge about gardening and cooking the results

5.2 Residents asked questions and made comments as follows:

C: Huntington allotments have a majority of women with very good allotments. A: Yes, this is the case at most sites

Q: Could allotments be incorporated into the LDF?

A: Short answer is "Yes". Work done on the plan looks at

need for different types of open space across the city; will try to address deficiencies and factor in such needs in new developments. Also looking at potential of existing land for more allotment provision

C: New Earswick allotments will take Huntington residents on waiting list. Increased popularity and success of take up of allotments in last 5 years has been partly down to the work of Judith Ward and colleagues.

6. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

6. Local Development Framework

6.1 Martin Grainger introduced the Local Development Framework (LDF), using a slide presentation including the following points:

- The LDF is a planning blueprint for the future of the city. The context is, having grown substantially in the last 150 years, York will continue to grow. Anticipated that in the next 20 years there will be an additional 50,000 people, making a total population of 245,000 with a requirement for an additional 850 homes (this is from the Regional Spatial Strategy for the Yorkshire and the Humber) and at least 1,000 jobs per year. Additional challenges are dealing with climate change and creating sustainable neighbourhoods and communities so York is not a "twin track" city

- The LDF includes 4 key documents: Core Strategy, Allocations Document, City Centre Area Action Plan and North West York Action (including the so-called “tear drop” and former British Sugar site) Plan. Included in the vision for the first time are permanent green belt boundaries and the main urban area is the primary focus for development, including Hungate, Nestle South, Germany Beck and Derwenthorpe. Shortfall of land for 4,400 homes and new land for business means looking at areas outside the urban area, whilst keeping in mind a number of key constraints. These include: preserving York’s historic character and setting; protecting its green infrastructure; and minimising flood risk as well as taking into account transport, sustainability, agricultural land quality and open space.
- Should York grow, certain areas are preferred for development, as shown in the leaflet distributed with Your Ward and Your City. This is a long term plan, so there may be sites that become available that we don’t yet know about.
- We are hoping to allocate at least 30% to open spaces and facilities. The Strategic Policies are Design and Conservation; Affordable Housing; Gypsy and Traveller sites; Community Stadium; Plan for sustainable waste management; Reduce energy demand; BREEAM/sustainable design; Encourage public transport, walking and cycling; Green infrastructure; Maximise public space; Manage flood risk.
- The current stage is an important one in the consultation process.

6.2 Residents asked the following questions

Q. Have you taken into consideration that Huntington and New Earswick are divided by the River Foss, that they are two separate entities?

A. Yes, this has been taken into account.

Q. Why has the Heslington and Fulford area not been designated?

A. There are constraints here, such as the Heslington Conservation Area. There is also the Heslington East development. It is not that Huntington is of no value. We are trying to make our approach as open and transparent as possible. Anyone who has a different view from that proposed is encouraged to respond to the consultation document.

C. The urban sprawl of Haxby / Wiggington contradicts the vision

A. Past plans have not provided the same steer. Get plan through to set a design that allows for a more sustainable future.

Q. Who designs the regional plan?

A. The Regional Assembly for the Yorkshire and Humber region together with central government. There is upward pressure on population growth. The 850 figure represents a policy of restraint from the Regional Assembly.

Q. What happens if the 850 figure is incorrect?

A. Developers will put in applications for 850 new homes anyway and go to the planning inspector, taking power away from themselves and giving it to the inspectors.

Q. People not living in Huntington and New Earswick will back sites here so that their own areas will be less affected.

A. We can factor this into the process by analysing post codes on the consultation form. There will also be further consultation and technical work carried out. The idea at the moment is for residents to let us know what they think and for us to respond to that.

Q. This is an idea that is potentially exciting. Are there any models for comparison elsewhere in Europe?

A. Yes. Cambridge for example. In Europe, similar cases can be found in the Netherlands, Montpellier in France and Freiberg in Germany. A very high degree of sustainability is factored into the British Sugar site and we will look at what works in York at the moment. CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) has been quite complimentary.

Q. What about traffic congestion? The northern bypass will be at capacity when open.

A. We are taking an holistic approach. We need to look at and address quality of life issues. There will be an examination in summer 2010 of the deliverability of plans. A lot of work will go into looking at what we can deliver.

Q. Sustainability has frequently been referred to. What about affordability? What definition are you using for this?

A. Government definition is for 25% of household income to be spent on housing accommodation. Annually there is a need for 1200 new affordable homes, so this is greater than the general figure of 850 new homes. 70% of new homes need to be socially rented and low-cost home ownership. There is a need to maximise housing and to balance types of housing.

Q. In new development areas, will a range of housing be built?

A. There will be a mix of housing types. There is a need for housing older and young people, to reverse the proportion of apartments to houses and to create a mix of types, tenures and ages.

Q. Brockfield Park Drive. 50 Years ago, it was a nice place to live, now it is like a highway because of developments at Monks Cross. On-street car parking also a problem. Will it be possible to retro-fit?

A. We do not want to compromise existing communities. We will try to address issues like on-street parking and to improve existing areas and not just develop new ones.

Q. A lot of Huntington and New Earswick residents work in Leeds and Bradford. Will new residents work in York?

A. The plan includes sites to provide employment in York and the provision of public transport to provide a balanced approach.

Q. It is claimed that greenbelt land will not be needed until 2025. Is there a guarantee that this is the case?

A. There is enough land until 2021. We are taking a robust, strong approach, including developing on brownfield sites. York has not had a development plan since 1956. Once a plan is approved, developers wouldn't be able to develop in advance of planned sites. We will then be in a strong position to stop developers bringing sites forward. We are looking to build a phased plan.

In addition to the Your Ward insert, information is available on the council's website at www.york.gov.uk/LDF/corestrategy. Residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation document by the deadline date of Friday 28 August 2009.

7. HAVE YOUR SAY!

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7.1 Residents were invited to ask any further questions.

7.2 Cllr Orrell closed the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance and the officers for their contributions

, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 9.00 pm].