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MEETING	HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	29 APRIL 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS FIRTH, HOGG AND R WATSON  TWENTY FIVE RESIDENTS NATASHA ALMOND, YORK COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE FIONA WILLIAMS, HEAD OF LIBRARIES AND HERITAGE, CYC SHARRON HUTCHINSON, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES, CYC IAIN DUNN, STREET ENVIRONMENT, CYC TOM LAURIE, NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE MORA SCAIFF, GINNIE SHAW AND TOBY KNIGHT, NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT UNIT, CYC

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## 1. SURGERY

- 1.1 Local residents had the opportunity to speak to Cllrs Richard Watson and Paul Firth; Iain Dunn (Street Environment Officer); PCSO Tom Laurie from the Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team; Fiona Williams (Head of Libraries and Heritage); Mora Scaife, Ginnie Shaw and Toby Knight (Neighbourhood Management Unit); and Sharron Hutchinson (Children and Young People's Services).
- 1.2 Residents had the opportunity to find out more about the Sustainable Communities Act and the plans for the Central Library.

## 2. WELCOME AND MINUTES

- 2.1 Cllr Paul Firth welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2.2 The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

## 3. VOLUNTEERING IN THE WARD

Natasha Almond of York Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) gave a presentation on the Volunteer Centre and the services provided for voluntary and community groups, including setting up, funding advice and a community accounting service. CVS are trying to postcode volunteering opportunities. She distributed various leaflets, particularly focussing on young people.

Residents had the following questions:

- a) Are costs incurred by volunteers re-paid?

Response was that reasonable out of pocket expenses are usually paid.

- b) How much is currently paid to re-imburse use of volunteer's own car?

Response was 42 pence per mile (40 pence of which is not taxed).

Cllr Firth thanked Natasha Almond for her attendance.

#### **4. YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY**

Fiona Williams, Head of Libraries and Heritage, gave a presentation on the plans to transform the Central Library into an Explore Learning Centre. The concept originated in Sweden and builds on the success of Explore centres in Acomb and New Earswick.

The following points were noted:

- 4.1 Books are still 80% of the Library business; in addition to the 14 buildings and mobile library, there is a home library service run by the WRVS that they would like to expand. They are asking some communities which books should be stocked.
- 4.2 Free internet access is available for York residents and a world class enquiry service; residents interested in family history can access Ancestry.com for free.
- 4.3 IT training is available on a one to one basis, 1 hour free.
- 4.4 Transformation of Acomb library into an Explore, including a café and learning rooms has increased its use threefold.
- 4.5 The Central Library is York's flagship library, built in 1927. Phase 1 of the changes will take the ground floor back to its original size. The target is to double its use to 1 million visits per year, encouraging people to stay all day by provision of a café (which will also provide catering for adult education); and to open on Sundays. There is an aspiration that community groups will use the building (this is free from 1 April 2009). Books will be more evident and increase to 120,000. Library staff will be more accessible to the public.
- 4.6 The plan is for Phase 1 to be complete and the library to re-open by Christmas 2009.

Residents had the following questions:

- a) Do you receive good quality books from the public?  
Response was: Yes
- b) Any progress with move of Haxby library into Memorial Hall?  
Response was that the move will happen within 5 years
- c) Which books are the most popular?  
Response was that the biggest use is of children's books, followed by fiction
- d) Will the City Archive be upgraded?  
Response was that there are long term plans to move the city archives from the City Art Gallery to the reference area of the Central Library, which will double the opening times. An external funding bid has been submitted in order to fund the move.

#### **5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT**

Mora Scaife, Principal Neighbourhood Manager, provided a presentation on the Sustainable Communities Act. City of York Council passed a resolution in November 2008 adopting the Act and measures are in hand to implement its provisions.

The following points were noted:

- 5.1 The Act is aiming to devolve powers from central government to local councils in situations where it is felt that local people will have a better understanding of how to deal with an issue. This is a grassroots initiative, looking to get ideas from local residents.
- 5.2 The scope of the Act is very broad, covering social, economic and environmental issues; anything that can promote the sustainability of local communities.
- 5.3 The council is looking for ideas from community groups, parish councils and other groups as well as individuals. These will be examined by a citizens' panel and agreed upon before forwarding onto the LGA, which will in turn filter it up to the Secretary of State.
- 5.4 The deadline for suggestions is the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. The criteria for the suggestions is that it is only something that central government can currently do, and that the granting of the power to local government could be shown to increase the sustainability of the community.

Residents asked the following questions:

- a) Will there be any more money available locally because of the Act? For example, could the business rate come back to the local authority?  
Response was that return of business rate has been suggested as an idea to go forward. It is not known whether or not more money will be available because of the Act
- b) Why has City of York council signed up?  
Response was that the Act is a potential opportunity for more say in what goes on in York
- c) Will suggestions automatically go to the Secretary of State?  
Response was that they will not. They will go to a citizen's panel, then CYC, then the Local Government Association, then the Secretary of State. CYC would have to make the idea work in York so it is about the art of the possible.

## 6. 2008/09 BUDGET UPDATE

Cllr Firth summarised the 2008/09 outturn. He reminded residents of the three ward ambitions: reducing anti-social behaviour; increasing road and pedestrian safety; developing pride in our communities. He then referred to the progress of schemes:

### **Ambition 1: Reducing anti-social behaviour**

HX-08-02	Street lighting on Orchard Park	Completed
HX-08-03	Community Rangers	Completed
HX-08-04	Street lighting on Jubilee Court	Completed
HX-08-06	Street lighting on Westfield Close	Completed

HX-08-09	Grant to Active York Partnership	Completed
HX-08-43a	Extra street light in Mallard Way	Waiting costs after design work
HX-08-43b	Lantern conversion, Calf Close	Completed

### **Ambition 2: Increasing road and pedestrian safety**

HX-08-12a&b	Install two vehicle-activated signs Usher Lane & Towthorpe Rd	Completed
HX-08-44	Improve footpath York Rd to Briergate	Completed

### **Ambition 3: Developing pride in our communities**

HX-08-21	Grant to CAB for outreach	Completed
HX-08-24	grant to Haxby & Wigginton YCA	Completed
HX-08-28a	Funding to improve play equipment Ethel Ward	Awaiting final report
HX-08-28b	Funding to improve play equipment At Wigginton Park	Cancelled
HX-08-32	Install litter bin North Lane	Completed
HX-08-45	Grant to Wonder Years	Completed

### **2007-08 revenue carry forward schemes**

HX-05-2g	Street lighting on The Village	Completed
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### **2007-08 capital slippage schemes**

HX-07-04	Install drop kerbs at Wandhill And junction of Forestgate & Oak Tree Lane	Completed
HX-07-18	Street lighting fund	Slippage
HX-05-02	Windmill Way street lighting	Scheme on hold

Residents asked the following questions:

- a) the street lighting on the footpath across from Oaken Grove – is it in the 09/10 budget?  
Response was that it might have been a carry forward from previous years because of the lengthy design and consultation process
- b) How much did the litter bin on North Lane cost?  
Response was that it cost £830

## **7. HAVE YOUR SAY**

Have Your Say!

Residents asked the following questions:

- a) What about the 2009-10 budget?  
Response was that information is available on page 2 of February Your Ward and in the minutes of the last meeting
- b) What is the progress on the York Road vehicle activated sign (VAS)?

Response was that there is funding in the 2009/10 budget for two VAS, on York Road and Towthorpe Road, outgoing route. Possibly fund two from each year's budget, though have limited life in preventing speeding

- c) How can vehicle speeds of 80mph on Usher Lane be tackled?  
Chicanes may be possible solution. There are "It's our neighbourhood: Watch your speed" available; and 95 Alive forms for residents to complete to build up a case to introduce speeding restrictions
- d) July 2008 Cllr Watson wrote to the Chief Constable about reductions in police numbers. Has he received a reply?  
Response was that none had been received.
- e) Facility for having ears syringed has been withdrawn from Haxby so now have to go to walk-in centre on Monkgate. It's a six week process from start to finish. Is Haxby only area affected?  
Response was that this seems to be the case. Nurses have to be trained and had refused.
- f) Please express appreciation to whoever responsible for cleaning up graffiti  
Response was thanks, will pass onto team doing work
- g) Mention of £4.5m for Haxby station in Your City: is there any news about when?  
Response was that ward councillors have invited Ian Stokes to speak at the next ward committee on 8 July.
- h) Comment on Cycling City: local survey results. Will use to put pressure on to get cycle tracks installed in Wigginton Road and Haxby Road

, Chair

[The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 9.00 pm].