

SEFTON AREA PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL Councils
Aintree Village-Formby-Hightown-Ince Blundell-Little Altcar
Lydiate-Maghull-Melling-Sefton-Thornton

Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Partnership held on Thursday 21st July, 2016 at Maghull Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs G.Lee (Chair, Melling), K.Brennan (Hightown), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), J.Bailey (Lydiate), M.Byrne (Maghull), J.Desmond (Maghull), C.Jones (Sefton), C.White (Sefton), D.Miles (Thornton), Cllr Paulette Lappin (Cabinet Member for Regulation & Corporate Services)

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs J.Colbert (Aintree Village), M.Coles (Formby), P.Wiencke (Formby), I.Cowell (Clerk, Ince Blundell), R.Baker (Melling), T.Carr (Melling), J.Duffy (Clerk, Sefton), M.Duffy (Sefton)

* All those present introduced themselves.

1. GUEST SPEAKER

1.1 Paulette Lappin – Cabinet Member for Regulation & Corporate Services

“Developing Partnerships”

1.1.1 Overview

Paulette explained that her role is to oversee Regulation and Corporate Services, and she is also involved with Democratic Services.

The Sefton 2030 Vision also falls under her remit. This is a new and exciting Vision for the Borough, which invites anyone who lives, works or visits Sefton to get involved. SMBC are working closely with key Partners, businesses, private sector organizations, and the voluntary, community and faith sector to determine what important for Sefton and its’ communities in the future. It also looks at important themes including health and wellbeing, the environment, regeneration, transport and travel, business development and employment provision, and resilience.

Paulette stated that she has read the Parish Charter, and commented that it raises some good points. She also recognises the importance of working together to improve the quality of life for residents; particularly since SMBC will have lost 40% of their funding by 2020.

1.1.2 Comments / Questions

- (a) A lot of time was spent revising the Parish Charter, yet some Ward Councillors and members of SMBC Management don’t seem to recognise it. The Neighbourhood team was very supportive in assisting with the revision of the Charter, but it is not working.
Paulette expressed her willingness to assist with any specific issues, and clearly recognises the positive work of Parish Councils. A briefing for Sefton Councillors was mentioned, and also a group called ‘One Council’, which consists of SMBC workers who have united to try and get the best for local communities overcoming any red tape to do so.
- (b) It is felt that individual Area Committees were a better way of engaging with Communities as they were more localised.
Paulette recognises that the current Area Committee structure does not work. More local Community Forums before the main Area Committee meeting have been suggested.
- (c) As Area Committee meetings are very Council led, there is little chance for local communities to have their say on how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money should be spent.

- (d) It is feared that Lydiate residents may be paying twice for maintenance of their Parks and Gardens, following the abolition of the double rating payment. Residents would prefer to maintain such land in-house, since it is maintained to a better standard by doing so. It was suggested that the only solution might be to return the land back to SMBC ownership and responsibility to avoid this situation.

Paulette suggested that Lydiate PC make contact with Ian Moncleur who may be able to help.

A new document about Green Spaces is to be published soon for comment. The

Neighbourhoods department may also be able to suggest possible funding avenues.

Unfortunately it is a reality that budget cuts could result in a reduction of services, as there will be less people to provide them.

Paulette agreed to forward a document entitled, "New Realities" to the Secretary. This document covers new ways of working with regards the provision of Council services.

Paulette Lappin kindly offered to attend our meeting again in 6 months.

The Secretary raised the problem of getting Ian Maher, Leader of Sefton Council to attend our meetings – despite several different dates now having been offered. Paulette agreed to chase this up on our behalf. The Chair suggested that a Special Meeting could be called if Ian Maher could agree a date to meet with us, should the next meeting not be possible.

The Chair thanked Paulette for attending.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (19/05/16)

Cllr Ibbs proposed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the Meeting and Cllr Desmond seconded this. Those present were in agreement. The Chair commented on the good work done by Jayne Kayll who kindly stood in for the Secretary in her absence at the last meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from the previous Minutes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Sara Moreton, Assistant Project Manager -Highways England - 20/7/16
 - Sara who is involved with the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme has requested to attend a future meeting
 - *The group agreed to invite Highways England to September's meeting*
- * Johnny Duffy, Clerk Sefton PC - 19/7/16
 - Copy of email sent to Sara Moreton & Carl Stockdale of Highways England asking them to contact SAPLC Clerk
- * Pam Crilly, Clerk Melling PC - 19/7/16
 - Electronic Banking. Do any other PCs/TCs use this? How do you get around the 2 signatories for a cheque rule?
 - *Some member Councils have 2 Councillors who have authority to access the bank account, and the Clerk puts forward any payments that are due.*
- * Planning Department, SMBC - 19/7/16, 12/7/16, 7/7/16
 - Weekly Planning Lists 28/6/16, 20/6/16, 14/6/16
6/6/16, 31/5/16 & 23/5/16
- * Ian Cowell, Clerk – Ince Blundell PC - 12/7/16
 - Suggestion to have discussion with SMBC about Area Committee report at Annual meeting
- * Jill Coule, SMBC - 12/7/16
 - Expressed willingness to discuss Area Committee report with us & queried whether this is best done at a future group meeting or via a telephone call?

- * Cllr Mike Coles, Formby PC - 11/7/16
 - Email sent to Jill Coule about the Area Committee report following discussion with Ian Cowell and Cllr Lee about this. Cllr Coles questions,
 1> Is it a proper democratic model?
 2> How will it evolve into an improved structure without getting further away from the Elector and residents on matters we can contribute?

Cllr Coles also expresses concern over the Liverpool model.

- * Cllr Mike Coles, Formby PC - 10/7/16
 - Cllr Coles draws our attention to pages 69-114 of the Area Committee report & he suggests that Andrea Watts be invited to a future meeting to discuss this.
- * Johnny Duffy, Clerk Sefton PC - 10/7/16
 - Document: "Liverpool Economic Briefing 2016 – A monitor of jobs, business & economic growth" (January 2016)
- * Jill Coule, SMBC - 8/7/16
 - Link to Area Committee report
- * Cllr David Miles, Thornton PC - 24/6/16
 - Volunteering for Treasurer's post
 → *Cllr Ibbes proposed that Cllr Miles be appointed as Treasurer, and Cllr Byrne seconded this.*
- * Johnny Duffy, Clerk SPC - 22/6/16
 - Suggestion of Ince Blundell Village Hall, St Bennett's Church Hall or Saint Benedicts School for Annual Event
- * Jayne Kayll - 26/5/16
 - AGM Minutes
- * Paulette Lappin, Cabinet Member for Regulation & Corporate Resources - 18/6/16
 - Introduction. Expressed an interest in the work of the PCs & a desire to establish good working relationships with us to better serve Sefton residents
- * Andrea Watts, SMBC - 15/6/16
 - Availability of projector for Annual Event will depend on date. Only encrypted SMBC issued pen drives can be used in SMBC laptop
- * Jill Coule, SMBC - 14/6/16
 - Stated she'd previously mentioned that Full Council Meetings clash with our own, but this hasn't made a difference
 → *The Secretary replied explaining the difficulty in arranging our meetings to fit round the meetings of our 10 member Councils, and her own shifts. An apology has since been received from Jill Coule.*
- * Annette McGarrigle, SMBC - 10/6/16
 - PA Contacts
- * Cllr Gerry Lee, Chair - 22/5/16
 - Ian Loughlin's presentation from last meeting on Community Infrastructure Levy
- * Ian Loughlin, SMBC - 20/5/16
 - Clarification about who has responsibility for spending the Neighbourhood & Council portion of the Levy
 → *The group is still unclear as to which elements of the Neighbourhood Plan CIL can be spent on?*

5. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND DISCUSSION

Representatives of Sefton Parish Council and Sefton Village met with Sara Moreton and Carl Stockdale of Highways England on Wednesday 13th July, 2016 at the Punchbowl in Sefton Village to discuss the proposed options for the Port of Liverpool access improvement scheme. Our Chair, Councillor Gerry Lee also attended.

Option 1 will involve extension of the current route along Dunnings Bridge Road (A5036).

Option 2 will involve the proposed route passing through Rimrose Valley to the A5758. The road would narrow down Church Road to prevent lorries from using it, and this option would incorporate a series of bridges and underpasses. There are concerns over the impact this could have on Lydiate Lane and Edge Lane, and also about flooding risk to the surrounding area.

In addition to concerns about flooding, there are also concerns over the impact either route could have on air quality due to vehicle emissions.

It was queried why the A5758 junction is so wide and has been left open? The suggestion was also made to extend the rail network.

Nothing has been decided yet, and a Public Consultation will take place between November and Spring 2017. The earliest that work will proceed on the route will be 2020. Peel Holdings are looking to Highways England to finance the access road improvements. Highways England will therefore be responsible for conducting risk assessments and consultation in order to obtain the views of local residents about this, and ultimately it will be they who validate the finances of this project. They also expressed a willingness to attend local meetings.

6. FUTURE SPEAKERS

- * Highways England (29/9/16)
- * Ian Maher – Leader of SMBC
- * Andrea Watts, SMBC
Re:- Area Committee report
- * BT Outreach
Re:- Provision of high speed Broadband to areas currently experiencing very poor speeds?

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Annual Event

Several venues have been suggested for the next Annual Event including Rushtons Café in Thornton and Sefton Church. Rushtons was visited but was not a preferred option due to the seating, which would be uncomfortable for any length of time, and in any case for personal reasons they could not accommodate us. Sefton Church has also been ruled out this time for similar reasons.

The Secretary had also recently visited Ince Blundell Village Hall. The venue is excellent and would meet our needs in terms of size, comfortable seating, adequate parking, and also toilet and kitchen facilities.

After some discussion, it was agreed that we should look to hold this event in January 2017 since there is no point in holding the Event for the sake of it due to the work and cost involved with the Event, and the situation regarding several important issues currently affecting us will be more certain by then.

The group was in agreement with the date and venue for the Event.

The Secretary made a request for any cake bakers who may be able to assist with the provision of cakes for the Event.

The following Agenda items and Speakers were suggested,

- * Flooding - Andy Mahon of SMBC Coastal Erosion & Emergency Planning team was suggested
- * Parish Charter
- * Jane Kennedy, Police Commissioner
- * Air Pollution
- * SMBC Budgets / Cutbacks

8. Area Round Up

8.1 Hightown Parish Council

Sadly Councillors David Warren and Tim Asbury have retired from Hightown Parish Council after many years service to both their community and this group. Their contributions will be greatly missed.

Councillor Karl Brennan has now taken on the role of Chair, and David and Tim have since offered him their support.

Councillor Warren asked that his thanks be passed on to our Chair and Secretary for their tireless work for this group.

8.2 Little Altcar Parish Council

Their recent Civic Service was not as well attended as they'd have hoped.

They feel that more Parish Councillors should have been present at the recent Canal celebrations as a show of solidarity.

8.3 Lydiate Parish Council

The recent Leeds to Liverpool Canal celebrations were a good model of working together, and also a successful event. There were a good series of events run by the Mersey Motorboat Club in conjunction with local Schools, which culminated in a Fun Run at Aintree Racecourse.

8.3 Maghull Town Council

Paul Challinor has been appointed as their new Events Co-ordinator. The next event will be a free Literary Festival with a Roald Dahl theme to be held on 6/8/16 on KGV field. There will a theatre company attending, and those attending our encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters.

The Council has been granted temporary use of an empty shop in Maghull Square. Health related advice sessions will be held at the shop over 4 consecutive Saturdays.

It was reported that 3 Flood Committee meetings have also taken place.

The Neighbourhood Plan is still being developed. There has been an apparent omission with regards mention of the Clinical Commission. This is imperative in view of the increasing population of Maghull. The Council also met with NHS England last week.

8.4 Melling Parish Council

The Canal celebrations also brought out the local residents in Melling. There was a BBQ in the Ratepayers Club, and also performances from Sparkle and Shine dance group. Thanks were expressed to the Maghull Lions Club for their involvement with the event.

8.5 Sefton Parish Council

A meeting was held with Highways England on 13/7/16 in relation to the proposed Port Access Scheme.

8.6 Thornton Parish Council

Sadly several Parish Councillors have resigned.

A meeting was held recently about potential Flooding risks for the area. SMBC are now putting the onus on property owners to maintain drains.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 29th September, 2016 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Maghull Town Hall.