



Report for:	West Green and Bruce Grove Area Committee	Item number	
	28 February 2013		

Title:	<i>The Chair's response to Agenda items put forward to the Area Forum and Committee meeting and an update on previous issues discussed at Forum meetings</i>
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Report authorised by :	
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Lead Officer:	Ayshe Simsek
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Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decision: N/A
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

To provide feedback on requested agenda items explain how they have been taken forward.

To further provide an update on previous issues discussed at the forum meetings, this was requested in the feedback questionnaire issued at the last meeting in June.

2. Background

At the first Area Forum and Committee ward members talked about the aims of the Forum and committee which included working with local people to improve the neighbourhood for all residents.

The area committees have additional powers to shape aspects of local services in response to local conditions and residents' concerns. A local area plan for the West Green and Bruce Grove has now been completed and will be guiding future council activities, local budgets and planning decisions in



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the area. The plan will now also help shape the agenda for forthcoming Forum and committee meetings.

Meetings start with an open public forum followed by a decision-making session of the Committee that is open to the public.

The Forum is also about shaping aspects of local services in response to local conditions and residents concerns allows opportunities for local residents to ask questions of local councillors and council officials, to make suggestions and raise issues of concern, as well as to network with other local residents, traders and activists.

Suggestions for topics at this meeting were sought from local residents and community groups to enable the agenda to be driven as far as possible by local people.

Joe Cullen – local resident raised the following concerns which have been responded to below.

- Lack of diversity of the shops along Bruce Grove, offering the same products,
- The shop fronts - can the store keepers be incentivised to keep their shop fronts tidy/ new lick of paint?

The Tottenham Traders in partnership with the Council and the Police have recently launched the Tottenham High Street Charter which set out a list of priorities to improve of High Streets. One of the trader's objectives is to improve their shop fronts and their window displays. A number of clean up events and workshops will be happening over 2013 to support the traders with this.

One of the Council's key objectives for town centres is to ensure that people have access to a full range and quality of goods and services. The way town centres look is an important factor in their character and the way they are perceived. Through planning policy in particular, the Council seeks to support and promote all of its town centres as existing successful and vibrant town centres and places that will attract new businesses, jobs and homes.

The predominant use in our town centres is A1 (shops). However, in order to encourage a more mix of uses and vibrancy, we will also encourage other appropriate non A1 uses. These include banks, estate agents (A2), restaurants (A3) pubs (A4) and take aways (A5) or



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community facilities. are also appropriate uses within town centres, and are encouraged.

We recognise that some uses within town centres can have negative impacts on vitality and vibrancy, for example, the clustering of betting shops and hot food take away. The Council is actively working to promote a wide range of retail uses as well as leisure and community uses. The Council is in the process of updating its planning policy on retail and town centres and will be consulting on the document in March. New retail development that will have a negative impact on existing town centres will be resisted where possible. We will encourage proposals that add to the vibrancy and choice of shops in the existing centres

- The bridge at the bottom of Bruce Grove - needs painting and lighting - it's the gateway and so needs some TLC

There is ongoing dialogue with Transport for London and Network Rail about their investment plans for Bruce Grove and there are significant projects proposed in the next 2 years that could see all pavements from Monument Way to Bruce Grove re-paved and for the railway bridge to be repainted. We are working with both organisations to confirm and expedite plans.

- Anti social/intimidating behaviour outside numerous betting shops on the High Road. Wondering what the council/police intend to do.

This question has been passed to Inspector Hutchinson who will be attending the forum meeting.

Update on issues discussed at previous forum meetings

Junction between Tottenham High Road and Bruce Grove Station

As part of the Bruce Grove Public Realm update,

Bruce Grove Youth Centre

Five young people who are users at Bruce Grove have been involved in the formation of an Area Youth Forum. There will be a formal launch in February half term with an immediate focus on recruitment and fundraising. The young people want to make a short film of what life is like for them in the Tottenham area and use this mechanism to identify key issues for consideration.



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Bruce Grove Youth Centre is currently used four evenings per week and is used by a Training Provider, First Rung, and two days per week to work with young people who are at risk of disengaging from employment or training. It is also used during the day time by students at the Tuition Service (an alternative provision for students with medical needs or who are school phobic or who have additional educational needs) for recreational activities in their break time. The Centre provides a safe meeting space for our work with young people who need individualised targeted support. Unity Radio, an internet based radio station is based at Bruce Grove. On average 25 young people attend and they have successfully interviewed a number of high profile people including: the US Secretary of State's Special Envoy, Hannah Rosenthal at the Hours Against Hate walk at Bruce Castle Park, KC, a DJ at Choice FM, David Lammy MP, and Labrinth, a chart topping performer at the Spirit of London Awards 2012.

We are working in partnership with the Harington Scheme to provide work experience and accredited horticultural training to a group of young people with LDD. The young people will work to reclaim the land at the back of Bruce Grove and transform it into a wildlife garden with the prospect of incorporating natural play and growing fruits and vegetables.

Broadwater Farm Facilities and Amenities

At the last meeting in June, it was indicated that the meeting in October would take place at Broadwater Farm Community Centre to enable a discussion about Broadwater Farm facilities and amenities. This discussion has now been deferred to the April meeting when more information is expected to be available on what may be possible at Broadwater Farm.

Higham Road

In response to the suggestion to have convex mirrors along the public highway, the Highways team have advised that the glare from the mirror can often increase the potential for accidents

Bullying in Schools - raised by the Broadwater Farm Resident's Association on April 23 2012.

On the Forum Agenda

Regeneration update on Tottenham

Information included on Bruce Grove Public realm paper

The roles and ways to expand performing arts and positive benefits it has in our local area especially as children , younger and older people can be involved promoting creativity, health, friendship and positive activities.



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Notes of the presentation and discussion were passed to Regeneration and Children's services.

Council Tax Benefit Changes

Previously the Area Forum had been advised that Council tax benefit was being abolished and local authorities were being required to develop their own schemes by 31 January 2013, for 2013/14. The government was transferring the support to councils in 2013/14, with a reduction in funding of 10% and a requirement that the council's own scheme must maintain the support to pensioners. Cabinet had considered various options for the scheme at its meeting on 10th July 2012 and agreed to consult on the following 4 proposals

- To reduce payments to all working age claimants by an equal proportion in line with the reduction in government funding – estimated to be 20%.
- Reduce savings and investment allowed to £10,000
- Remove entitlement if less than £1
- Amend the maximum backdating period.

Subsequently, consultation responses from residents in November 2012 indicated a desire that some groups to be protected – in particular pensioners and the disabled. In response, the scheme recommended, protected claimants in receipt of particular benefits and recognised significant disability,

Full Council agreed on the 17th January to a reduced council tax support to working age claimants (excluding those in receipt of certain disability related benefits) by 19.8% overall, and also agreed the following technical changes to exemptions and discounts.

- a) Reduction of discount on Class D empty properties undergoing major repair (previously known as Exemption Class A) to 50% for one year and 0% discount thereafter. This was previously agreed at a flat 0% discount;
- b) Payment of an Empty Homes Premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than two years of 50%. Unoccupied annexes and properties belonging to a member of the armed forces currently absent as a result of this are excluded from this premium;
- c) One-off 100% discount for the first calendar month for Class C properties (Empty properties) and 0% discount thereafter. Occupation periods of less than six weeks will be disregarded in administering this discount;



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3. Recommendations

3.1 That the report be noted

4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A