

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Held at: Merlyn Vaz Health Centre, Uppingham Road

Who was there:

Councillor Paul Newcombe

Councillor Abdul Razak Osman

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ SESSION

The following information stands were sited in the room. Members of the public visited the stands and were given an opportunity to meet Councillors, Council staff and service representatives.

Ward Councillors and General Information Local councillors were present for general queries.	Police Issues Local Police were present for issues or general queries.
Youth Summer Activities Information was available on the local summer activities.	Health Through Warmth Advice was provided on the Health through Warmth scheme.
City Wardens Service The City Warden for the Charnwood Ward were present	

At the conclusion of this informal session members of the public were invited to take their seats and take part in the formal session of the meeting.

1. WELCOME

Councillor Osman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave thanks for support over the last year.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Osman was elected Chair of the meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Satish Shah, Leicester City Council, Terry Herbert and Diana Canks.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

6. HEALTH THROUGH WARMTH - ENERGY SAVING ADVICE

Milo Cereghio, Home Energy Officer, explained the Health Through Warmth (HTW) project to residents. He stated that the project was initiated by NPower and implemented through the City Council. The aim was to improve warmth and quality of life for vulnerable residents through insulation, grants for boiler repair and replacement, and radiator or storage heater replacement. It was for private households where one or more people were vulnerable to cold or damp. It was not means tested. An officer would visit the property and identify what was needed. A contribution of 50% was provided to replace appliances and for those who could not afford the rest, the team would seek the shortfall through charities.

In response to a question it was explained that the service would not be beneficial to urgent repairs or replacement, such as a broken boiler. It was noted that the Warmfront scheme was also available however was much slower to implement than HTW. Leaflets were available at the meeting.

Milo confirmed that HTW was not available to Council housing tenants as that service was already covered.

The Chair commented that HTW was a valuable service and helped to make financial savings.

7. SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND SCHEMES

Martin Forbes, Senior Youth Worker provided information and gave a breakdown of the youth summer activities at Northfields Youth Centre. The four week programme would run from 25 July to 19 August and would operate Monday to Friday. The target group was aged between 13 to 19 years old, however they would accept young people from 11 years to 25 years with additional needs.

Each activity week was themed, with boxing events the first week, funded through the Community Meeting. The second and third weeks focused on sport and aerobics and the fourth week advice through Connexions. Each week would also contain additional activities and a trip, including to the British Museum. Martin explained that all the details were on their Facebook web page.

Anita Patel, Member Support Officer announced that information was also available from the Leicester Information Service and Extended Schools Coordinators.

Kevin Sheriff, Highfield Adventure Palyground, explained that they received a significant number of young people from the Charnwood Ward. Their summer activities would run for six weeks and was an open access play scheme. They welcomed children and young people between the ages of five and fourteen years.

Chrissie Field, Housing Service, suggested that information be passed to the local housing Service to include on their notice boards.

8. CITY WARDEN - UPDATE

Chirag Ruda, Charnwood City Warden, explained that he had recently been appointed to the post and outlined the role of the City Wardens. He highlighted that

the key responsibilities included tackling environmental crimes, cars for sale on the road and providing information. The City Wardens had the ability to provide fixed penalty notices.

It was noted that community work and school visits were carried out. It was hoped that this would prevent the problems forming. Chirag had recently attended a school assembly and hoped to cover all the schools in Charnwood.

In response to a question it was noted that the hours of work were between 9am and 5pm however this would be extended is authorised.

It was queried if the City Wardens were able to tackle work being carried out on cars on the street. It was noted that information could be passed to the DVLA if there were any problems.

9. POLICE ISSUES - UPDATE

Sgt Thompson provided an update on the following crimes in the Charnwood Ward:

- The continuous problem of cars for sale on the street was being investigated.
- since the last meeting double yellow lines had been installed near the Merlyn Vaz centre to help provide better access for emergency vehicles.
- At the back of Forest Road there had been a number of problems with anti social behaviour. This had been caused by two properties which had been addressed. In addition it was thought that the space above the shops was being used as a night club and this was being investigated.
- There had been a 25% decrease in recorded crime since last year.
- Anti-social behaviour had also decreased.
- Officers had attended schools regarding anti-drug and anti-bullying campaigns.
- Work was being carried out with the housing office.
- A leaflet had been produced called 'Are you legal?', which outlined what was and was not legal.

A resident expressed concerns regarding criminal damage and drug taking on Farnham Street. The gateway to the council flats had been broken and not repaired causing considerable problems to the residents. Sgt Thomson asked that all crimes be reported to the police to enable a better understanding of where the priority areas were. She noted that tenants were advised to keep the property gates closed, however this could not be enforced. Housing Officers apologised that repairs had not been carried out and noted the location. Councillor Newcombe reported that following a walkabout with housing officers a report had been produced on all the repairs that were needed in Charnwood. They were currently investigating the installation of intercom doors as it was felt the gates, such as on Farnham Street, were not fit for purpose. The properties with the most need would be tackled first and Farnham Road could be included in this list. This matter was discussed further under item 11. 'Housing Capital Initiative Proposals'.

Chrissie Field, Housing Services, requested that any leaflets be e-mailed to the housing office.

10. TRAFFIC ISSUES - UPDATE

The Chair reported on the outstanding highways issues identified in the area as follows:

- The double yellow lines by the Merlyn Vaz centre, as mentioned by the police, created better access.
- Benches would be installed at Charnwood Walk. The intention was to re-use benches from Humberstone Gate East.
- The Green Lane Road bollards were being replaced
- Mere Road zebra crossing was to be repainted during the summer school vacation.
- Brambling Road concrete bollards would soon be reinstalled.
- Protruding drain on Wood Hill would be trimmed at the same time of the works on Mere Road.
- There were problems on Mere Road with cars parked on both sides. It was felt the redesign of Mere Road was needed.
- The drainage problems on Mere Road would be followed up.

A resident requested that the pedestrian crossing on Humberstone Road by Preston Lodge be more user friendly for people with visual impairments. It was thought that the lights had previously had a 'beep' sound. The Chair agreed to investigate this further.

The Chair reported that the vehicle activated signs on Victoria Road East were a priority and a timescale would be provided and that the possibility of moving the bus shelter was being explored. In addition it had been requested that a shelter on Uppingham Road be removed, which was considered unsafe by the police. Sgt Thompson explained that the shelter attracted anti-social behaviour as the local drinking order did not cover the bus shelter. The Chair requested that details of the order as outlined in the Cabinet Report be obtained.

Discussion took place regarding dogs on Sparrow Park. It was explained that dog owners were asked to respect that the space was also a play area. It was anticipated that if the play area was upgraded it would also be sectioned off.

A resident reported that vehicles were parking on double yellow lines on Brambling Road, this prevented other vehicles turning around.

Residents felt an additional crossing would be beneficial by the school on Northfield Road.

Action	Officer	Deadline
Obtain details of the drinking order on Uppingham Road.	Anita Patel, Members Support Officer	Next meeting.
Investigate the sound on the Humberstone Road pedestrian crossing.	Councillor Osman	Next meeting.

11. HOUSING CAPITAL INITIATIVE PROPOSALS

Chrissie Field, Area Manager and Andy East Team Leader, Housing Services, explained that funding was available to allocate to housing environmental improvements and agreement from the Community Meeting was needed for Charnwood projects.

It was reported that in the 2010/2011 financial year a number of changes had been made on the Charnwood and Northfield estates. These included door entries in the Morton estate and lighting on Craven Park.

The 2011/12 budget was to cover six neighbourhood housing areas including Charnwood. As stated under item 9, 'Police issues', a report had been produced identifying works needed. The cost was in excess of the annual budget. The proposals in the Charnwood ward were as follows:

- Door entry systems in the Morton and Charnwood estates. Each block was priced at £15,000, which totalled substantial more than the overall budget. It was noted that the electrics for the intercoms to each flat increased the cost.
- Locks on gate entries to four housing blocks and residents would be asked to keep the gates closed. This would total around £47,000.
- Replacing the fencing on Farnham Street with metal fencing or plastic which was a higher cost.
- Installation of additional parking bays near the Charnwood Housing Office at a cost of £3,000 per bay.
- On Northfield estate improvements to 8 bungalows to create a second exit.

Officers reported that priorities could be selected for work to be carried out in 2011/12 budget. The meeting felt that Farnham Street was a priority for a door entry system following discussions under 'police issues'.

Members felt that urgently needed entry systems should be the first priority and the parking bays the second.

Chrissie Field brought to the meetings attention problems with a council owned disused parking area, which was overgrown and been used for fly tipping and a disused garage with drainage issues. In addition she reported plans for the local housing officers to use the Charnwood housing office space in addition to offering it to other local agencies, this would prevent the office being disused and targeted.

12. BUDGET

The Chair reported that the Charnwood Community Meeting had £15,000 for the 2011/12 financial year, and had spent the full allocation from the 2010/11 financial year. The annual budget would be divided equally into sporting and culture and environmental allocations, with a £1,000 cap on any new bids.

The following applications were considered:

1. LCC Sports Services, Steve Walsh and Muzzy Izzet: Easter Soccer Academy.

The applicant stated that the activities could take place during the summer or October holidays. Members felt October would be more beneficial as other summer activities had already been programmed.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to the value of £2,500.

2. Love Hoops Foundation: Active Women Love 2 Play Basketball

The Chair noted that there were no representatives in attendance to present the application and they were not based in the city.

RESOLVED:

that this application not be recommended for funding due to the reasons stated above.

3. Northfields House youth Football Project

The applicant detailed the application and noted that crime had been reduced following the original introduction of the scheme. It was added that the installation of goal posts would be an advantage for young people to use outside of school times.

The Chair noted that following discussions with the police Inspector the Joint Action Group (JAG) was to receive money which could potentially part fund the scheme. The Chair proposed that the Community Meeting contribute £1,600 in principal and take the remaining funding proposal to the JAG.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in principal to the value of £1,600, subject to match funding from the JAG.

4. One Community One Leicester

The Chair stated that the applicant had already received £10,000 from the Council's Community Fund and the event had already taken place, therefore the application would not be supported.

RESOLVED:

that this application not be recommended for funding, due to the reasons stated above.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would take place on 27 September 2011.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.