

KNIGHTON COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2019

Held at: Overdale Junior School, Eastcourt Road, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3YA
- ENTRANCE VIA OVERDALE ROAD

ACTION LOG

Present:
Councillor Grant
Councillor Dr Moore

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u>
29.	INTRODUCTIONS	<p>Councillor Dr Moore as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all present introduced themselves.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>
30.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gugnani, the City Warden, the representative from Knighton Green, PC Duncan Tebbit of Leicestershire Police and Flood Risk Manager Phil Thompson</p>
31.	ACTION LOG	<p>The Action Log of the meeting held 27 November 2018 was confirmed as a correct record.</p>
32.	TREE PRESERVATION, ENFORCEMENT AND POWERS	<p>Trees and Woodlands Officer Tony Mason gave a presentation on issues surrounding tree preservation in the ward. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Trees and Woodlands department managed over 15000 trees on Council land, including trees on parks, housing areas and highways.• Trees are planted between October and March and watered throughout the summer. This year 500 trees have been planted.• The average tree cost £460 for purchasing and planting. If a tree failed in the first 3 years, then another tree would be planted at no further cost.• Council policy was to replace any trees that were removed within the first planting season. However, the ability to do this was sometimes hampered when budgets were constrained by unforeseen circumstances such as storms, whereby a large amount of money would go on removing damaged trees leaving less for replanting.

		<p>Councillor Dr Moore reported that more money was to be given to the ward for trees from the Ward Community Budget. Councillor Grant added that there would be a meeting to discuss tree issues in the ward.</p> <p>Tony Mason directed people to the Planning Department for more information about Tree Preservation Orders.</p> <p>Councillor Dr Moore encouraged those present to continue reporting trees for preservation and gave assurance that Ward Councillors would ensure trees were planted in areas that they were contacted about.</p> <p>Action: Community Engagement Officer to make available copies of the tree strategy.</p>
33.	ALDI STORE PROPOSAL UPDATE	<p>Transport project manager John Dowson referred to the proposed new Aldi store in the area, noting concerns had been raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Wedge where the development was planned had a policy that prohibited retail. • Access to the proposed site would be very close to a roundabout that might cause traffic congestion. Therefore, a transport assessment would be necessary.
34.	TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS UPDATE	<p>John Dowson provided an update on highways which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those present were invited to make suggestions of where to plant new trees. • A bid had been made to the Productivity Investment Fund for the Putney Road development and had been supported by the Department for Transport. • The Putney Road development was intended to link Aylestone Road and Welford Road to relieve congestion and improve access to sports grounds. • It was expected that the development would cause a slight reduction in traffic on Welford Road and prevent the effects of the Freeman's Common development being concentrated on Welford Road and Victoria Park Road. • Whilst there was currently no pollution monitoring in the area, John Dowson suggested monitoring pollution on Welford Road, Herrick Road, Great Arler Road and

		<p>around schools, adding that it was the council policy on pollution to encourage people to use public transport, cycle or walk. Action: John Dowson to consider options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be a planning meeting with the City Mayor in the week commencing 4 March 2019 to discuss traffic calming issues, including Shanklin Drive. <p>John Dowson explained that although there was concern increased access to sports grounds would impact the area, on match days people often parked outside the area and walked in.</p> <p>A map showing the locations of road traffic accidents was circulated showing greater concentrations of accidents around junctions and more accidents on Shanklin Drive than would usually be on that type of road. Councillor Dr Moore reported that accidents had diminished since pedestrian islands had been installed. Action: Councillor Dr Moore to explore getting more speed cameras in the ward.</p> <p>Objections were made to the proposed development on the Mary Gee site on Ratcliffe Road. Councillor Dr Moore explained that people would have a chance to object and offered to represent objectors if it went to committee.</p> <p>Concern was raised about people parking across driveways on Ratcliffe Road and white lines were requested to be painted outside driveways to prevent this. Councillor Dr Moore advised that if the council was emailed on the issue then they could look into getting lines painted. Action: Community Engagement Officer to follow up request.</p> <p>PCSO Geoff Smith advised that white lines outside driveways were unenforceable and to call 101 if you were blocked in.</p>
35.	FLOOD PLAN UPDATE	Apologies for absence were revived from Flood Risk Manager Philip Thompson.
36.	KNIGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM	<p>A written update was circulated (as attached).</p> <p>Councillor Dr Moore thanked the forum for the work they were doing to help the environment.</p>
37.	KNIGHTON GREEN UPDATE	Councillor Dr Moore read out a written update from the Knighton Green group. Points included:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting had been held to help understand how to manage the area. • Seven apple trees had been purchased and were to be planted on the morning of 28 February 2019. • Two areas had been marked out for the annual wild flower meadow. • 2000 crocus bulbs had been planted in November by De Montfort Rotary Club and the local Scouts. • Information boards were to be installed. • Work on the spinney area and the scrub near the river bank was to be carried out.
38.	KNIGHTON FUN DAY UPDATE	<p>The Chair of Knighton Park Joy Marshall gave an update on Knighton Fun Day. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The events manager has stepped down due to family commitments. New candidates were in the process of being interviewed. • Children from Overdale School were looking to work on a wild flower meadow. • The area behind the outdoor gym was being developed. • An appeal was made for people to volunteer with the group. • The next Knighton Show (formerly Knighton Fun Day) would be on 1 September 2019. <p>Councillor Dr Moore reminded those present that any funding applications from the group would have to be received and processed quickly as there would be no carry-over of the current budget.</p>
39.	CITY WARDEN	Apologies for absence were received from the City Warden.
40.	NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE	<p>PCSO Geoff Smith gave an update on local policing issues across the ward. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Tebbit was the new beat officer for the area having moved from Evers Monsell. • There had been a spike in burglaries around the Ratcliffe Road area around December. High visibility police patrols had been carried out during this time and arrests had been made. Burglaries had since diminished considerably. • Residents were advised to leave lights on when leaving the house, make use of timer-switches intruder alarms and to let their neighbours know when they would be away.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees were advised not to leave items on display in vehicles, and not to leave car keys near the front door of their houses. Attendees were also warned that keyless cars were vulnerable to technology made to gain entry. PCSO Smith advised cyclists to lock their bikes in a secure place using a strong D-lock. Graffiti had increased around Stoneygate Road, Avenue Road and in the alleyways around Shanklin Drive. Graffiti was also reported on vehicles in this area. Attendees were encouraged to report Graffiti and those doing it if they see it. Residents were asked to be wary of youths on bicycles at night as they were often trying to get into cars. Residents were asked to call 999 if they saw anything suspicious. <p>Concern was raised about people dealing drugs from cars near the nursery on Shanklin Drive. Action: PCSO Smith to investigate.</p>
41.	WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET	<p>From an opening balance of £19800 remaining at the last quarter, two bids had been supported in principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knighton Lunch Club Knighton Park Show. <p>The remainder of the budget, £3935, was to be allocated to Trees and Woodlands for replacement trees in the Ward.</p> <p>Councillor Grant stated that a bid from Knighton Neighbourhood Forum for air quality monitoring would be reviewed after the election.</p>
42.	ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:10PM</p>

Minute Item 36

Knighton Neighbourhood Forum

Update for Knighton Ward Community meeting

Knighton Forum has made significant progress since the last Ward Community meeting in November.

In December the **Open Spaces Working Group** met to discuss feedback provided from a meeting with Council officers. We are currently redrafting our Open Space policies in the light of the comments and suggestions received and gathering the supporting evidence we will need.

Our Transport Survey closed in December with 134 responses and the next step is to generate transport policies that are supported by the evidence of our survey. The **Transport Working Group** met in January to discuss the survey results and met again in February to discuss proposed policies. A further meeting is scheduled for March after which we will be looking to table our proposed transport policies at a meeting with Council Planning officers.

In January Steering Group members and our Planning Consultant Paul Tebbitt presented draft **Housing and Planning** policies to Council Officers. Our policies were well received and the Council provided some helpful advice about further evidence and documentation we will need to include in our Neighbourhood Plan.

The first meeting of a **Conservation and Heritage Working Group** was held at the end of January. This group will identify heritage assets in Knighton, namely buildings of historic, architectural or cultural importance. A first walk around Knighton was organised for 15th February and further walks are planned. The Working Group will meet next on 28th February.

On 18th February Knighton Forum held a well-attended open public meeting on Flood Risk Management. Our guest speaker was the Council's Flood Risk Manager, Philip Thompson and his presentation was followed by a wide-ranging and lively discussion. At this meeting we also discussed a proposal from Adlington for the development of the former Mary Gee Houses site. The meeting unanimously agreed that this development of 100 luxury apartments for over-55s is not what the community needs. The Steering Group has been mandated to respond to Adlington, in the light of our draft housing policies and the perceived need for smaller, affordable homes in the area.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to the Councillors for funding the installation of bike racks outside four local retail premises. The bike racks are now fully installed. We are still hoping to obtain funding for the lease of portable equipment that will enable us to monitor air quality in the Knighton Area. Note that we have received enquiries from individuals in two other, neighbouring wards who have an interest in this issue.

G. Whittle
26th February 2019.

