

## RUSHEY MEAD COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2020

Held at: Rushey Mead Recreation Centre, Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester LE4 7YJ

### ACTION LOG

Present:  
Councillor Patel  
Councillor Willmott

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u>
20.	<b>INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES &amp; DECLARATIONS</b>	<p>Councillor Patel as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions.</p> <p>No declarations were made.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clair, The City Warden, and Environmental Ranger Kim Venables of Parks and Open Spaces.</p>
21.	<b>ACTION LOG OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<p>The Action Log of the previous meeting held 22 October 2019 was agreed as a correct record.</p>
22.	<b>WARD COUNCILLORS' FEEDBACK</b>	<p>Councillor Willmott thanked the residents for working together as a community in order to help get the library and recreation centre refurbished and expressed gratitude that the Library and Recreation Centre were not merging. Councillor Patel informed those present that Councillors' Surgeries would be held at Rushey mead Recreation Centre.</p> <p>An enquiry was made about how Ward Community Meetings were publicised. Councillor Willmott requested that posters be put up with the dates for the Ward Community Meetings for the whole municipal year once they are arranged. <b>Action:</b> Democratic Support Officer to arrange meetings for the next municipal year and give to Community Engagement Officer to publicise.</p>
23.	<b>LOCAL POLICING UPDATE</b>	<p>No Police representatives were present at the meeting. Apologies were not received. However, Councillors acknowledged that Police were often called away unexpectedly due to the nature of their job.</p>
24.	<b>CITY WARDEN</b>	<p>Apologies were received from the City Warden. A written report was circulated (attached).</p>

	<p><b>UPDATE</b></p>	<p>In addition to the report, the Community Engagement Officer, on behalf of the City Warden, informed those present that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regards to the planting of trees on the corner of Magnus Road and Harrison Road – this had been forwarded to the correct department and they were making enquiries with the school. Updates would be given once a decision had been reached.</li> <li>• With regards to liaising with the public regarding bird feeding and signs on Rushey Fields – The City Warden had contacted Parks and Open Spaces and informed them. They would not be installing any more signs at this time, although they had cleared up the food and would continue to do so. They were aware of the problems.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Patel reported that the City Warden had received complaints about rodents around Jacklin Drive. She reported that the City Warden believed it was due to people leaving food for birds and this needed to be discouraged. The City Warden was liaising with residents and with Environmental Services about how best to tackle the issue.</p> <p>A report was made of people also feeding birds around Watermead Park. The Community Engagement Officer gave out the contact details of the City Warden so that reports could be made. The City Warden could be contacted through: <a href="mailto:city.warden@leicester.gov.uk">city.warden@leicester.gov.uk</a> or through the Council Website. Their address was given as:</p> <p>City Wardens, Phoenix House 1 King Street Leicester, LE1 6RN</p>
<p>25.</p>	<p><b>HIGHWAYS UPDATE</b></p>	<p>Highways Officer Robert Bateman gave an update on highways issues in the Ward. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The installation of bollards on Melton Road was under consideration.</li> <li>• The parking scheme for Harrison Road was still in the design stage but would eventually be advanced.</li> <li>• Timings for the traffic lights around the junction</li> </ul>

		<p>between Troon Way and Gleneagles Avenue when turning right were being considered as people had said there was not enough time to turn. However, Mr Bateman said that it was important to note that it needed careful consideration as time would be lost from another turn as a result of any change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plans for disabled parking bays had been suspended pending government advice.</li> <li>• Requests for one-way streets needed careful consideration as one-way streets often increased the speeds of traffic as drivers did not anticipate oncoming vehicles.</li> <li>• New bollards had been installed around the school on Leire Street junction.</li> <li>• Leaflets would be distributed by schools showing how far it was possible to walk from a certain school in a certain time. The idea was to encourage people to walk to and from school to reduce congestion and problem-parking around schools.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Gobey of Neighbourhood Services reported that the 'Beat the Street' initiative would be happening again around the whole city.</p> <p>A resident enquired as to whether a camera that had been knocked down in an accident outside the Indigo restaurant on Melton Road would be replaced. Robert Bateman responded that it was very likely to be replaced as there was a maintenance budget for such issues. <b>Action:</b> Robert Bateman to report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>A resident asked as to whether the walking leaflets for schools could also be distributed through libraries. <b>Action:</b> Robert Bateman to explore the possibility.</p> <p>Speeding was reported around Harrison Road and Flax Road. Councillor Patel noted that a one-way system was being considered in the area. <b>Action:</b> Robert Bateman to investigate options.</p> <p>A complaint was made about cars parking on grass verges and creating mud. It was asked if the verges could be paved. Councillor Willmott explained that paving verges could in fact encourage more cars to park on them and suggested installing a hard surface that grass could grow through. <b>Action:</b> Robert Bateman to consider options.</p>
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		<p>A resident raised concern that there was not enough time to turn right at the junction between Checketts Road, Melton Road and Marfitt Street. <b>Action:</b> Robert Bateman to feed back to Highways team.</p>
<p>26.</p>	<p><b>VOLUNTEERING WITH PARKS</b></p>	<p>Apologies were received from Environmental Ranger Kim Venables of Parks and Open Spaces.</p> <p>A leaflet and poster about volunteering with Parks was circulated (attached).</p> <p>The Community Engagement Officer read out an email from Kim Venables. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leicester Environmental Volunteers were a department within Leicester City Council Parks and Open Spaces.</li> <li>• They worked with a range of volunteers, from school groups to corporate groups.</li> <li>• They were active across the whole city, but on Monday there was a local group that worked at Watermead, Appleton Park and Oakland Nature Reserve.</li> <li>• They worked to maintain and improve the quality of these open spaces and bring communities together. This meant working on a wide range of jobs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pushing back scrub which is burying crocuses.</li> <li>○ Pushing back brambles and blackthorn from taking over valuable wild flower meadows.</li> <li>○ Coppicing Hazel – which clears glades for wildlife, and opens up the woodland, making the area feel safe for the people who come to the park.</li> <li>○ Creating paths through woodlands to reduce antisocial behaviour, as well as making the woodland accessible for the local community.</li> <li>○ Litter picking which means that, again, the local communities can really feel safe, and appreciate the green space.</li> <li>○ Painting benches, creating steps, and pathways.</li> <li>○ Opening paths of vegetation during summer months</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The group welcomed new members. Details on how to enrol were on the poster circulated (attached).</p>

		<p>Councillors reported on further works that Parks and Open spaces were undertaking in Rushey Fields. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The manufacturing and installation of knee-rails to secure some areas was being awaited. Once this was completed, a new seating area with picnic benches and bins would be installed.</li> <li>• Highways had been unable to complete the line marking and speed restriction hump due to the recent weather. They were aware that this work was still outstanding.</li> <li>• The Property department had been contacted regarding a power outage at the Pavilion that feeds the lights. This would be investigated, and the future of the separate power source was being considered due to funding.</li> <li>• The Rushey Fields Residents Group had reported that they were happy with the work being done. A meeting between them and Parks Officers was to be arranged to discuss the landscape work.</li> </ul> <p>A request was made to install bins around Melton Road and Harrison Road. <b>Action:</b> Councillors to consider options.</p>
27.	<b>COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET</b>	<p>The Community Engagement Officer gave an update on the Ward Community Budget.</p> <p>Since the last Ward meeting the following applications had been supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gujarati Comedy Group- £225</li> <li>• Rushey Mead Ward Councillors for Appleton Park Outdoor Gym- £3000</li> <li>• Belgrave ASC Lunch Club for ingredients- £300</li> <li>• Leicester Holi Event- £500</li> <li>• Mindful Warriors- Yoga and mindfulness in schools- £500</li> <li>• Elderly Men’s Exercise Club- £500</li> <li>• Liga Orlovska for May Half term activities at Rushey Mead library- £700</li> </ul> <p>There was a remaining balance of £397 that would be carried over to the next budget if no other bids were received this financial year.</p>

		<p>Feedback had been received from Rushey Mead Bhajan Sandhya on how Ward Funding had facilitated activities and events including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light exercise and yoga sessions to help members with mobility issues.</li> <li>• Educating members on cultural matters by taking them on day trips.</li> <li>• Celebrating cultural diversity with get togethers at festive times such as Christmas and Diwali.</li> <li>• Bringing together the elderly, some of whom would otherwise have limited social interaction in the community.</li> </ul> <p>A resident asked whether a Tai Chi group (who had previously been supported by Ward Funding) could be moved back to the Rushey Mead Recreation Centre.</p> <p>Mark Pringle of the Rushey Mead Recreation Centre said that she had received an email from the group, and that they would be returning to the centre.  <b>Action:</b> Community Engagement Officer to contact the group to check that they were returning, and to inform them that they could re-apply for funding in the next financial year.</p>
28.	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	<p>Jos Johnson of Highfields Rangers announced that the club was about to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and there would be many events to celebrate, including: A Gala Event at the Manor Hotel, a spoken word production about the black contribution to UK sport, a cricket match and a football match.</p> <p>He encouraged those present to make use of the club as its experiences had reflected the diverse journey of Leicester.</p> <p>Those present were directed to the Highfields Rangers' pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.  <b>Action:</b> Community Engagement Officer to take contact details to circulate.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.24pm</p>

# Minute Item 24

## RUSHEY MEAD

### CITY WARDEN REPORT

10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### AREA WORK

Notices have been issued to several landowners regarding the condition of their property, with a varying degree of compliance. Warrants have been required in some instances and works carried out in default.



#### BINS ON STREETS

We have received complaints on several streets about residents using their wheelie bin to reserve parking. Notices and warnings have been served and these properties are monitored as regularly as possible. I have also continued monitoring the bin project in the side streets between Melton Road and Harrison Road, with more warnings for breach of conditions and 3 Fixed Penalty Notices.

#### FLY-TIPPING

A camera was installed at Lockerbie Shops, on Gleneagles Avenue, to combat the regular fly-tipping around the recycle bins. Using the footage from the camera, a total of 5 fly-tipping Fixed Penalty Notices were issued following successful investigations. The camera has now been moved to another location in the city. Several Warnings have also been issued to several properties in conjunction with side waste around Melton Road.

#### GENERAL

Several warnings have been issued to properties regarding waste items on the highway or in their front yards. We have also had a rise in bird feeding complaints and warnings, letters and leaflets have been sent out to properties in the area. We have received a growing number of complaints about vehicles parking up in residential areas on a regular basis and the occupants littering. Unfortunately, no enforcement action has been taken yet as nobody has come forward as a witness. Before we can take legal action, we have to meet certain requirements. If you see someone throwing litter from a vehicle and are prepared to sign a statement; make a note of the time, date, registration, item that had been littered, the location and any other details (distinguishing features of people involved) that may be useful.

Four Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued during patrols throughout the ward for littering and paan spitting.





# Leicester Environmental **Volunteers** wanted



**Make a difference in Leicester and get involved!**

Many opportunities available from litter picking, reporting street scene issues, gardening, painting, cleaning, coppicing, ecology and water based projects.

**E: [lev@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lev@leicester.gov.uk)**

**W: [leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering](http://leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering)**

 **leicester\_news**

 **@LeicesterParks**



## Leicester Environmental Volunteers



# Land Based

[leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering](http://leicester.gov.uk/parks-volunteering)





# The Litter legacy Group

Leicester is a beautiful city with lots of green spaces but some of our lovely parks need a little TLC. Litter Legacy is the group that loves to clean up 'problem areas', in both 'big parks', such as Watermead Country Park and Aylestone Meadows, and 'little parks', such as Bede Park. Whilst our grounds maintenance teams regularly litter pick these areas, some open spaces need additional help, please pledge your support. These beautiful areas could be brilliant for wildlife if only they were litter free!



On Monday, between 1.30pm and 3pm, we will visit a variety of parks and green spaces - full details of addresses and car parking will be given when you book your place on the session. Either come along regularly or when we are at your local space!

Together, we can work towards our parks being litter-free for future generations!



# Community Flood Relief Warden Scheme

Community Flood Warden schemes are completely voluntary, and can consist of a single person or several people acting as volunteers. The Warden's role is to help raise awareness of any flood risks in their community, help pass on flood warnings when they are issued, help prepare for flooding and help vulnerable people both during and after flooding has occurred. A Community Flood Warden may also be part of another group such as Neighbourhood Watch.

Community Flood Wardens are an important part of the local community but can also play a key role in assisting the Environment Agency, water authority, local and county councils with local information on flood conditions. For example, before or during a potential flooding event, the Community Flood Wardens may be contacted to give an account of ground conditions, water levels and the weather locally. This will help the Resilience Partnership Team and Environment Agency activate relevant plans and coordinate an appropriate response across the city and county.

Community Flood Wardens may notice or have been given information about a blocked watercourse, culvert, drain or burst pipe. The Warden should then report this to the relevant agency so that the necessary remedial action is carried out. By doing this, watercourses will be kept flowing unobstructed thus reducing the risk of local flooding.

Community Flood Warden Schemes in your area are operated and supported by Leicester City Council.





# Cemetery Champions

Leicester's cemeteries are a rich resource of the city's heritage and social history. Leicester City Council works with a number of voluntary community groups to offer a range of volunteering opportunities to help conserve, maintain and promote the cemeteries.

## **Friends of Belgrave Cemetery**

The Friends of Belgrave Cemetery who formed in 2004, aim to promote interest regarding the maintenance and conservation of this peaceful Victorian cemetery and organise activities which aid with the restoration of the cemetery and preserve its heritage.

Members meet at the cemetery every Sunday morning (weather permitting). Volunteer opportunities include assisting the public locating family graves, looking after old graves, sweeping paths, gardening and conservation jobs. The volunteers also arrange regular events, including guided walks and the annual commemorations of Armistice Day. For more information please visit: [fowrcl.org.uk](http://fowrcl.org.uk)



## **Friends of Welford Road Cemetery**

The Friends of Belgrave Cemetery who formed in 2004, aim to promote interest regarding the maintenance and conservation of this peaceful Victorian cemetery and organise activities which aid with the restoration of the cemetery and preserve its heritage.

Members meet at the cemetery every Sunday morning (weather permitting) and volunteer opportunities include assisting the public locating family graves, looking after old graves, sweeping paths, gardening and conservation jobs. The volunteers also arrange regular events, including guided walks and the annual commemorations of Armistice Day.

For more information please visit: [friendsofbelgravecemetery.org](http://friendsofbelgravecemetery.org)

## **Saffron Garden of Peace**

The Saffron Garden of Peace Group is a voluntary organisation that helps to maintain and conserve Saffron Hill Cemetery. Volunteers meet regularly to help with the maintenance and conservation of the cemetery undertaking such tasks as assisting the public locating family graves, looking after old graves, sweeping paths, gardening and conservation jobs. For more information please visit: [saffrongarden.org](http://saffrongarden.org)



# Park Force

Regular Park Force activities are based in parks across Leicester, ranging from horticulturally themed tasks in formal gardens to environmental and conservation work in country parks, with many of these to choose from each month.

Tasks change with the seasons, as they are tailored to fit in with the needs of the wildlife of each site, and so volunteers will never be bored!

On Castle Hill Country Park, we coppice and thin out woodland in the Winter, repair seats and paths in the Summer and prune fruit trees in the Autumn.

Our popular Abbey Park Garden of Senses sessions offer an opportunity to garden throughout the seasons and practice gardening skills in a calm and beautiful setting. Also on Abbey Park, the mediaeval-themed Cloister Garden sessions grow produce to share and also learn about historically grown foods.

On Spinney Hill Park, on Monday mornings, we enjoy a range of horticultural themed activities and take part in projects to rejuvenate specific areas of the park and Infinity Gardens.

The Relaxation Garden sessions are held within a quiet secluded garden in Victoria Park, behind the lodges. Again the emphasis is on horticulture and learning about plants away from the gaze of other park visitors, allowing volunteers to relax and enjoy the gardening and volunteer experience.

The Botany Discovery sessions are predominantly based within the greenhouses at Knighton Park. Volunteers will cultivate plants from seed and occasionally visit other parks across Leicester to collect specimens, create cuttings and grow new plant stocks. The new plants will then be planted out on the park. In addition to these regular sessions, volunteers can come along to special events and new opportunities out on parks.





# Horticultural Grounds Maintenance Work Experience

Whether you are looking to take your first steps in horticulture, thinking of a change of career or have previously worked in horticulture and would like to refresh your skills, work experience with Parks and Open Spaces can offer a variety of venues across the city in which to do just that!

When you contact us, we will send you an application form to complete. If you are successful, you will be invited to attend an interview. Following a successful interview you will be offered a work experience placement.

You will be required to provide your own safety work boots with a good tread. We will ask you to wear old clothing suitable for working in all weathers and seasons, as it may become snagged on thorns. All other safety and protective apparel will be provided depending on the work you will be undertaking.

You will be expected to fully complete a five to eight week placement at one of the following parks which are spread all over the city. We aim to place you in a convenient location near to where you live. Our workforce starts at 7.30am and finishes at 3.30pm from Monday to Thursday and 7.30am - 3pm on a Friday. We will expect you to be reliable, punctual, hard working and keen to learn new skills.

Our placements are subject to availability at the following venues; Abbey Park and Pets Corner, Evington Park, Knighton Park, Aylestone Hall Gardens, Belgrave Hall Gardens, Braunstone Park, Castle Gardens, Saffron Hill Cemetery, Welford Road Cemetery, Gilroes Cemetery and Spinney Hill Park.

On your first day you will be guided through our health and safety induction training and introduced to the staff you will be with over the coming weeks. At the end of your fully completed placement you will receive a reference letter, which we hope will assist you to progress further in your chosen career.

Please note that we are unable to offer full time employment as a result of your work experience placement but a good reference letter from the local government in the career field you wish to follow will further support your applications for work in both the public and private sectors.





# Orchard Group

Come and join us as we prune fruit trees at Evington Park and Evington Arboretum; we also maintain the plants in Evington Parks Fruit Garden.

This is a very welcoming group, which have done some impressive tasks in the two parks. No experience is necessary as there will be many others willing to lend a hand or give advice.

Most of the work is carried out during the Winter, with some smaller tasks taking place during the Summer, culminating in a big apple day where you can teach the public about apples and make some wonderful homemade apple juice.



# Burnaby Garden Group

At the Burnaby Gardens in Evington Park there are many things to get involved with, from maintaining the new rose garden to developing existing beds. The sessions are usually run by a Green Hat Leader supported by the local parks gardening team.



