

ACTION LOG**WARD: Evington Ward Community Meeting:****DATE: 13th May 2026****TIME: 6:00pm****VENUE: Evington Library****Present**

Cllr Deepak Bajaj
 Cllr Zuffar Haq
 Cllr Jenny Jonnou
 Leicestershire Police – PC Joe Taylor
 Traffic and Highways – Robert Bateman
 Antoin Akpom Achievements Foundation – Cheryl Armatrading
 Evington In Bloom – Helen Pettman
 Garden of Prosperity – Forzana Lorgat, Farah Patel
 Golden Token – Dujana Nasir
 WCEO – Angela Martin
 Residents: 21

Apologies

Nicole Powell
 Sgt Chris Hall

Item	Action to note	Who
1.	Introductions & Apologies, Declarations	
	- The Chair, Cllr Bajaj opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. - No declarations were noted.	
2.	Councillors Feedback	
	The meeting noted an update from Councillors <u>Cllr Haq –</u> - Potholes / Headland Road, Ethel Road included on Traffic and Highways List - Resurfacing to Coleman Road agreed – Date to be confirmed. - Bike Racks requested on Main Street, outside Eden Café. - Issues with / fly-tipping around the ward reported to City Warden. <u>Cllr Joanou –</u> - Theft from Tesco Supermarket increased / doors locked, allowing six young people at a time. - Reported Post Office working well, in situ inside the Chemist - Traffic lights requested at the bottom of Downing Drive - Update on the planning application for the home on the Golf Course – Planning Denied. - Comments made on effect of increased housing and effect on traffic <u>Cllr Bajaj –</u> - Patch walks around the ward – reported fly-tipping in and around Rowlatts Hill area. - Update on housing on Hospital Close - Distributors requested for delivery of Evington Echo magazine.	

3.	Community Action / Developments	
- The meeting noted an update from Community Groups from within the ward. <u>Cheryl Armatradin – Anton Akpom Achievements Fondation - Updated on work with young people in the ward</u> - Included work in the youth club on, Homework and a Homeless Project - Mum's wit Babies Classes - Young Person's Entrepreneurs - Girls Skills Development Course. <u>Helen Pettman - Friends of Evington – Updated on the work of Evington in Bloom and other supported projects – Appendix A.</u> <u>Forzana Lorgat, Farah Patel - Garden of Prosperity – Appendix B.</u> <u>Dujana – Nasir - Golden Token – Youth and Community Provision, Updated on-</u> - Weekly Football Sessions – Adults and young People - Men's Mental Health Project - Advice Sessions - Community space and provision for up to 796 young people.		

4.	Highways Update	
- The meeting noted an update from Robert Bateman, Traffic and Highways. - No repairs on the ward - Junction Downing Drive / Uppingham Road, radar priorities - Marydene Drive / Evington Lane – Bollards removed - New Haven Road – Toblerone's added - Harringworth Road – Lamps to be added. - Whitehall Primary School – Walk to School Scheme in place / Mascot 'Strider'. <u>Information Request -Camera Car, how many prosecutions and tickets issued for Evington ward.</u> <u>Goodwood Road into Church Road, roundabout reported as crumbling</u> <u>Signage requested – Gartree Road, re heigh restrictions</u> <u>Repaint yellow lines and replace 'keep clear' sign St Deny's church.</u>		

5.	City Warden update	
The meeting noted no update from the city warden.		

6.	Housing Update	
The meeting noted a written update from Housing – Appendix C.		

6.	Neighbourhood Police Update	
- The meeting noted an update from Local Policing Team – - City of Leicester School – Core Group of boys reported for aggressive behaviour - Update on local priorities and developments in the ward. - Local Policing Newsletter Attached – Appendix D.		

7.	Ward Community Budget	
▪ The meeting noted a Ward Funding update ▪ Ward Funding April 2025 – March 2026 - £18,000.00. ▪ Number of applications supported to date: 9. ▪ Balance remaining: £10,473.60.		

The meeting closed at: 8:00pm.

Appendix A - Friends of Evington – Community Activities / Developments

Talk to give to the Community meeting for Evington Ward today – 13th May 2026

I'm a trustee of a local charity called **Friends of Evington**. We have two main aims: **enhancing our local community** and **supporting local environmental improvements**.

On the community side, we publish the **Evington Echo** magazine and post updates on our website - covering local news, societies, events, local people, and other information that benefits residents. We deliver **around 6,000 copies** door to door, thanks to our excellent team of volunteer deliverers.

We also hold an **umbrella insurance policy with Zurich**. This allows us to support local not-for-profit groups - particularly informal groups that are not independently constituted - so they can operate and run activities safely. These groups are insured under Friends of Evington's umbrella policy, with risk assessments in place. As groups grow and become constituted, they typically move on to arrange their own independent insurance cover.

Our currently insured community groups are:

- Evington Social Group
- **Scrabble Group**
- Rummikub Group
- Friendship Group
- Zumba Group
- Gentle Exercise Group
- Yoga at Mayflower Church Community Rooms
- History and Heritage Group

On the environmental side, we also support and insure local groups. We work with **Leicester City Council** staff, who register these groups and have accepted our umbrella risk assessment arrangements for them.

Our currently insured environmental groups are:

- Sedgebrook Gardeners
- High Street Flats Residents' Garden
- Horton Hill Project
- Friends of Piggy's Hollow
- **Main Street, Evington**

From **2012** onwards, we referred to our charity's environmental work as "**Evington in Bloom**." This year, our **It's Your Neighbourhood** group is called "**Main Street, Evington**", reflecting that many of our main Bloom activities take place along Main Street. Other activities that used to sit under "Bloom" are now either independent or are run by a group leader who is a member of Friends of Evington.

Some groups we previously helped now have their **own insurance arrangements**. These include:

- Nurturing Roots
- The Garden of Prosperity

And the following groups are now insured through **Grow Together (Charity No. 1193728)**:

- **Friends and Neighbours Downing Drive**
- **Graceworks**
- **Evington Village Green and Hall**

Friends of Evington has also submitted a bid to **Evington Ward** for a **new bench at the Evington War Memorial**, as the existing wooden bench - installed in **2014** - has now rotted.

I have applied for the full supply cost of **£1,772.60 to Evington ward** and I have confirmed with Leicester City Council through Victoria Hudson, (Parks & Open Spaces Operational Manager) that they can remove the old bench and install the new one using their own staff, so Friends of Evington won't need to do the installation.

In 2014, we delivered what was, for me, one of our best projects, working with **Leicester City Council and a ward councillor, Baljit Singh**, to commemorate the start of the First World War. The project upgraded the War Memorial site through cleaning and greening, supported by council work and funding, and we also secured **National Lottery Heritage Fund which was** funding for an opening event, special publicity, a bench and a time capsule. The opening event included the City Mayor, all the local schools, and a special tea and commemoration event. The **time capsule** burial was part of another community event and is to be opened in **2114**.

Appendix B – Garden of Prosperity

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Garden of Prosperity and share the journey, achievements, and impact of our project within the local community. Garden of Prosperity was established in 2024 with a simple but meaningful vision: to transform an unused outdoor plot into a safe, welcoming, and purposeful community space where children, young people, mothers, and families can learn, grow, and thrive together. Starting with very limited resources and little more than a rotavated area of land, we set out to create a space that would benefit local families through nature-based activities, practical learning, wellbeing support, and positive community engagement. Through determination, volunteer commitment, and strong community support, we have steadily developed the site into a valued community asset.

A Mum-Led Community Initiative

From the outset, one of our key aims was to create a project led by mothers, for mothers and families. We recognised the importance of providing opportunities for mothers to spend quality time with their children, improve their wellbeing through access to nature, and build supportive relationships within their local community. The project has been shaped and delivered largely through the dedication of local mothers, who have played a central role in planning activities, organising sessions, maintaining the site, and supporting its ongoing development. This community-led approach remains one of our proudest achievements and has helped create a welcoming environment where families feel valued and connected.

Community Reach and Impact

Since launching, Garden of Prosperity has welcomed approximately 500 individual children to its sessions and activities, with around 100 children attending regularly each month. These figures do not include mothers, toddlers, and other family members who also access and benefit from the space on a regular basis. We currently deliver:

- Weekly Wednesday sessions for mothers, toddlers, home-educated children, and families.
- Sunday sessions for children aged 5 years through to teenagers, delivered most weekends throughout the year.

Our activities are designed to promote physical, emotional, educational, and social development and have included:

- Gardening and food growing
- Outdoor cooking and fire skills
- Nature-based learning
- Science activities and experiments
- Arts and crafts
- Confidence-building exercises
- Teamwork and social development activities

These opportunities enable children to learn practical skills, connect with nature, develop confidence, improve wellbeing, and build positive relationships with others in their community.

Overcoming Challenges

Like many grassroots community projects, we have faced challenges. A donated shed that had become an important part of the project was unfortunately destroyed through vandalism. Rather than allowing this setback to halt progress, volunteers came together to rebuild and improve the site using recycled and sustainable materials wherever possible. Through funding support and significant volunteer effort, we were subsequently able to develop a cabin space, which has greatly

enhanced our ability to deliver activities throughout the year regardless of weather conditions. Most recently, a small grant of £300 enabled us to purchase water butts and a rotavator. This investment directly supported the launch of our Children's Growing Project, where each participating child is allocated their own growing plot to plant, nurture, and harvest produce throughout the season.

Funding Request

We are seeking funding of £3,000 to support the continued delivery and development of Garden of Prosperity's community programmes over the coming months. This funding will allow us to expand opportunities for children and young people while continuing to provide a safe, engaging, and educational outdoor environment for local families.

Children's Growing Project

A portion of the funding will be used to support our Children's Growing Project, where children are given their own growing spaces to cultivate vegetables, herbs, flowers, and other produce. Funding will help provide:

- Hand trowels and gardening tools
- Compost and soil improvers
- Seeds and young plants
- Watering cans
- Plant markers and growing materials
- Equipment required to maintain and expand the growing areas

This project teaches responsibility, patience, environmental awareness, healthy eating habits, and practical gardening skills while giving children a sense of achievement as they watch their crops grow from seed to harvest.

Teen Development Programme

Funding will also support a programme of workshops and activities specifically designed for teenagers, helping them develop practical life skills, confidence, creativity, and leadership abilities. Planned workshops include:

- Incense making
- Soap making
- Natural health and beauty product creation
- Outdoor cooking and baking over a fire
- Kitchen-based cooking and baking sessions
- Self-care and personal hygiene workshops
- Arts, crafts, and traditional skills activities

Alongside these practical workshops, we aim to support young people in developing leadership and community-building skills. Participants will be encouraged to plan and organise projects and events that benefit others, such as a mini spa day for younger children and pre-teens. These experiences help develop communication, teamwork, confidence, organisation, and a sense of responsibility.

Toddler Outdoor Play and Exploration

Funding will also help us enhance opportunities for our youngest attendees by developing dedicated outdoor play and exploration areas. This will include:

- Mud kitchen resources
- Digging and sensory play equipment
- Nature-based learning materials
- Outdoor toys and exploration tools

These activities support early childhood development by encouraging creativity, sensory exploration, physical activity, problem-solving, and social interaction within a natural outdoor environment.

Expected Outcomes

The investment of £3,000 will directly benefit children, young people, and families within our community by:

- Increasing access to outdoor learning opportunities
- Improving confidence and self-esteem
- Teaching practical life skills and healthy habits
- Strengthening community connections and social inclusion
- Encouraging environmental awareness and sustainability
- Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing through engagement with nature
- Providing safe, constructive activities for children and teenagers throughout the year

The project will continue to provide opportunities for families to connect, learn, and grow together while creating a stronger sense of community ownership and involvement.

Sustainability and Long-Term Development

While grant funding is essential for supporting the continued growth of Garden of Prosperity, our long-term aim is to establish a sustainable model that allows the project to continue serving the community for many years to come. Over the coming months, we plan to gradually introduce affordable participation fees for certain activities and workshops where appropriate. These fees will remain low to ensure accessibility for families while helping to contribute towards the ongoing running costs of the project. Income generated through participant contributions will help cover:

- Site rent and hire costs
- General maintenance and repairs
- Replacement of equipment and resources
- Materials required for future activities and workshops
- General operational expenses

Our intention is not to create barriers to participation but to establish a balanced and sustainable approach that enables the project to continue delivering high-quality activities while reducing long-term reliance on external funding. Alongside participant contributions, we will continue to seek community partnerships, donations, volunteer involvement, and future grant opportunities where appropriate. The project has already demonstrated its ability to maximise resources through volunteer commitment, recycled materials, and strong community support. By building on these foundations and introducing modest self-generated income, we aim to create a resilient and sustainable community asset that continues benefiting local children, young people, and families for years to come.

Conclusion

Garden of Prosperity has achieved a significant impact within a short period of time. What began as an empty outdoor space has become a thriving community resource that supports hundreds of children and families through learning, wellbeing, skill development, and meaningful community engagement. We are proud of what has been achieved through hard work, volunteer dedication, and careful use of resources. With additional funding, we will be able to build upon these strong foundations, expand our programmes, improve facilities, and ensure that even more children and families can benefit from the opportunities Garden of Prosperity provides. We appreciate the

opportunity to share our story and hope this demonstrates both the impact already achieved and the significant potential for future growth and development within our community.

Asiyah Bhaiyat
Farzana Lorgat
Farah Patel

Appendic C – City Warden Update

The housing team is exploring the possibility of providing parking laybys on Ethel Road, (on the border of North Evington and Evington wards) in next year's environmental budget. This will help ease congestion on Ethel Road during rush hour traffic and resolve the problem of tenants/residents parking on the grass. This project will, however, be subject to financial constraints.

The housing team have deep arranged for some of the blocks of flats on the Rowlatts Hill estate to be deep cleaned at the beginning of this year. Some of the blocks that were deep cleaned include Rowlatts Hill Road, Rockingham Close, Illingworth Road and Ambassador Road.

Tenants have moved into some of the completed houses on Hospital Close. The houses have been completed to a high standard with solar panels, electric car charges and a defect liability period, where defects back to the contractor to remedy. These are family-friendly houses and the tenants who have moved in are happy with their new homes.

Thank you

Peter Ababio
Team Leader
Housing Division
Leicester City Council
01164545201

Appendix D – Local Policing Newsletter



Leicestershire Police
Protecting our communities
leics.police.uk

Evington & North Evington Beat Newsletter

Issue: May 2026

Your Local Beat Team



Meet Your Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer

PCSO ARICHANDRA	PCSO GOODEY
PCSO COOK	PC WICKS
PC MAKDA	SGT HALL
PC TAYLOR	PC DARBAR
PCSO MEERUN	PCSO OLEH

Up Coming Beat Surgery

- Beat surgery at Evington Library, Evington Lane, Mon day 08 June, 11:00am - 12:00pm
- Beat surgery at Spinney hill Station, 10 Monday June, 19:00-20:00
- Beat Surgery at Natwest Bank, St Saviour road, 22nd June
- Beat surgery at Falcon Cash & Carry, Rowatts Hill Road, Wednesday 25th June, 18:00pm - 19:00pm

EVINGTON & NORTH EVINGTON BEAT PRIORITIES (ISSUED 1ST JANUARY 2026)

- Improve community engagement opportunities with our communities. We find attendance at local community engagements is often low giving us little opportunity to engage with the wider community.
- Regular complaints regarding inconsiderate parking in and around schools during pick up and collection times.
- Licenced premises in the area not adhering to their alcohol license conditions. Having an impact on anti-social behaviour.



કમ્યુનિટી બીટ સર્જરી.
આ સત્રો રહેવાસીઓને તેમના સ્થાનિક અધિકારીઓ સાથે સીધી રીતે વાતચીત કરવાની એક ઉત્તમ તક આપે છે.
તમારો અવાજ મહત્વનો છે – અમે સાંભળવા અને સહાય કરવા માટે અહીં છીએ.

કમ્યુનિટી બીટ સર્જરી.
ये सब निवासियों को अपने स्थानीय अधिकारियों से सीधे बातचीत करने का एक उत्कृष्ट अवसर प्रदान करते हैं।
आपकी आवाज़ महत्वपूर्ण है – हम आपकी बात सुनने और सहयोग करने के लिए यहाँ हैं।

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Public Service



PC 1527 and PC 1511 carried out high-visibility foot patrols in Sparrow Park, providing reassurance to local residents and maintaining a visible and approachable presence. The officers also listened to concerns raised by the community regarding issues in and around the area and have taken appropriate action to address them. They continue to engage with residents, supporting efforts to keep the neighbourhood safe.

Earlier this month, Dedicated Neighbourhood Officers carried out a joint patch walk between St Saviour's Road and Gwendolen Road, working alongside partner agencies. During the walk, areas where antisocial behaviour has been reported were visited, allowing officers to better understand local concerns, share information, and identify the most effective joint response. This partnership approach helps address issues early, support vulnerable individuals, and improve the area for residents.



This month, officers attended an address on East Park Road following concerns raised by the public, where a cannabis grow was identified and dismantled. While views on cannabis may differ, it remains illegal in the UK, and addressing its production is an essential policing responsibility.

Cannabis cultivation is frequently associated with organised criminality, presents significant fire hazards due to unsafe electrical installations, and can cause damage and disturbance to neighbouring properties.

Neighbourhood Link



Neighbourhood Link is an easy, free email messaging service from Leicestershire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other local partner organisations, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you. Sign up to receive email alerts about police activity and initiatives in your local area, crime prevention advice and information and warnings about current scams and fraud. You'll have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood team and have your say on your local policing priorities.

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#YouSaidwe Did

Community Engagement



SGT 2239, PCSO 6125 AND PCSO 6153 met with representatives of the Daman community from across East Leicester. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for meaningful engagement, enabling officers to develop a clearer understanding of broader community concerns. There was also productive discussion regarding the process for notifying both the local authority and the police of forthcoming events and celebrations, supporting improved coordination and communication.



PC 1527 attended the Evington Ward meeting at Evington Library alongside local partners and residents. It was positive to see a strong turnout, with residents engaging in constructive discussions and raising local concerns. Clear actions were agreed, and partner agencies demonstrated good collaborative working. Residents are encouraged to continue getting involved in supporting their community.

Officers were honoured to attend the Youth of African Network event, where the community kindly invited them to speak on the issue of knife crime. They valued the opportunity to share insights, provide guidance, and take part in meaningful discussions. Engagement with such an inspiring and committed community was greatly appreciated, highlighting the importance of working together to raise awareness and support positive change. Officers encourage residents to attend future beat surgeries or get in touch with any concerns or information.



Beat Surgery



Keep up to date of latest beat surgery locations on Facebook page
[@EastLeicesterpolice](#) and Neighbourhood link



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#YouSaidWeDid



PC 1511 and PC 993 conducted proactive patrols on Green Lane Road and stopped a vehicle for routine checks. Enquiries revealed the vehicle was being driven without valid insurance, and the driver was wanted on two outstanding warrants.

The male was arrested at the scene, and the vehicle was seized due to the insurance offence.



Leicestershire
Police



Confidence Survey

We want to hear what you think...



SCAN
ME



Community beat Surgery. These sessions provide a great opportunity for resident to speak directly with their local officers.

Your voice matters -- we're here to listen and support.

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