

Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

5:00 pm, Wednesday, 16 December 2009

Held at: Blessed Sacrament Church Parish Hall, Gooding Avenue

Who was there:

Councillor Michael Cooke

Councillor Anne Glover

Councillor Wayne Naylor



Leicester
City Council

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.

Environmental Services	Highways and Transport
Officers from Environmental Services were on hand to discuss issues relating to Street Cleaning, Wheelie Bins and Recycling.	Officers from Highways and Transport were available during the Information Fair to respond to residents about any Highways and Transport related queries.
Area Housing Office	Members Support Team
An Officer was present from the Area Housing Office.	Officers from the Members Support Team were present to advise residents on how to apply for grants from the Community Meeting.
Leicestershire Police	Clockwise Credit Union
Officers from the Local Policing Unit were present.	A representative from Clockwise Credit Union was present.
Turning Point Women’s Centre	Ward Councillors and General Information
A representative from Turning Point Women’s Centre was present.	Members of the public were given an opportunity to talk to their local Councillors or raise general queries

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.

66. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Naylor was elected as Chair for the meeting.

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

69. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Community Meeting, held on 7 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

70. WARD ACTION PLAN AND PATCH WALK FEEDBACK

Following agreement from the Chair, it was agreed to move this item up the agenda.

Members provided feedback on the patch walks that had been conducted in the area.

Patchwalk 1 13/11/2009

Some of the issues that had been highlighted included:

- Concern about the car's speeding on Overpark Avenue instead of using Winstanley Drive with its road bumps.
- Graffiti on Ashthorpe Road play equipment.
- Sunken Concrete slabs on Braunstone Avenue and Gurtheridge Crescent.
- Some damaged Road Humps.
- Vehicles parked on pavements.

Patchwalk 2 – 14/11/2009

Some of the issues that had been highlighted included:

- Vehicles parked on pavements.

- Some roads and pavements in need of repair. Some recent repairs which had been carried out were not adequate.
- Sunken grass verges holding water.
- Some shrubbery needed litter picking.
- Concern about some house frontages.

Patchwalk 3 – 20/11/2009

Some of the issues that had been highlighted included:

- Some NTL boxes need repainting.
- Bus shelter with graffiti.
- Vehicles parked on pavements.
- Damaged drop kerbs and verges.
- Speeding on Overpark Avenue.

Patchwalk 4 – 21/11/2009

Some of the issues that had been highlighted included:

- Rancliffe Crescent Road seemed in poor condition.
- Car parking on paths/verges.
- Overgrown green area on Wodehouse Road.
- Litter around park entrance and end of Grey Ferrers Residential Home.
- Street lighting – bottom of Boynton Road.

Councillor Cooke stated that the idea of patch walks was to make a difference to the area. The Community Meeting was informed that there would be special meetings held in the areas where the patch walks were conducted. All the issues raised would be brought together in an action plan.

Councillor Cooke stated that some money had been allocated from the Community Meeting budget for extra services. It was suggested that there should be a 'before and 'after' record completed showing the improvements that had been made.

A resident raised concern at the dustbins that were on the street. Councillor Cooke stated that every house with it's dustbin outside had been noted. The Community Meeting was informed that there would be a City Warden assigned to the ward from April who would look at issues such as these.

71. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION - AREA ACTION PLAN

Jeff Miller, Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation was present to answer any Highways and Transport related queries.

The following issues were discussed:

- Traffic calming on Winstanley Drive - Jeff reported that the Traffic Impact Team would be carrying out a survey of the area and feedback would be brought to the next Community Meeting. This would help problems to be identified.
- Safety scheme on Hallam Crescent – Jeff reported that the design of the scheme had changed following consultation with residents and Ward Councillors however work had now gone ahead with the scheme.
- Parking problems – Jeff reported that similar problems had been reported at other Community Meetings as well.
- Verge Hardening – Jeff reported that £10,000 had been marked from the local environmental works budget for work to be carried out. however £45,000 was required for work to be carried out on Braunstone Lane and the Braunstone Lane East bridge. Jeff added that the Ward Councillors had requested the figures be looked at again and it be attempted to reduce the amount that was required. A resident stated a lower amount required for the work had been previously quoted. Concern was raised that every time it rained, water went all the way on the path. She commented that the main areas of concern were 341-348 Braunstone Lane.
- Grit Bins in the Braunstone Lane area. Jeff stated that half of Braunstone Lane fell in the County Council area and he had passed the request on for more grit bins to County Council colleagues. With regards to the area which fell under the City Council, Jeff commented that it would be looked at providing two to three bins for the area.
- Poor condition of pavements for buggy users – Jeff stated that all future schemes would make sure pavements were adequate for everyone.
- Damaged to pavements by utility companies – Jeff stated that utility companies had been told that if there were problems caused by them they would be brought back to fix them.
- Flooding in the car park at Braunstone Leisure Centre – Councillor Naylor stated that there was a problem with the drainage in the car park at the Leisure Centre. Jeff agreed to investigate the problem and report to the next meeting.
- Parking – Jeff stated that the City Council could enforce illegal parking on double yellow lines and the Police carried out enforcement of obstructive parking. He added that any reports of parking problems were welcomed from Community Meetings.
- Issue with parking outside 157 Hallam Crescent East. Jeff stated that the issue would be picked up with the concerned resident.
- Residents raised concern that double yellow lines had been painted on Waltham Avenue and New Fields Avenue and subsequently all residents had been forced to park on the pavements as a result. Jeff stated that City Council officers should have consulted Ward Councillors prior to putting the double yellow lines on however they may have been inserted for safety reasons. Members stated that they had spoken to Officers and had been told the restriction on parking would be lifted during the Christmas period. Jeff stated that for all future consultation schemes, it would be made certain that appropriate consultations have taken place.
- Concern was raised that dropped kerbs in the ward were not flat enough.

- Concern was raised about the road surfaces on Imperial Avenue and Fosse Road. Jeff stated that it was possible for emergency maintenance to be carried out if holes in road surfaces were 4cm deep. He added that if there were problems then maintenance would be planned however he commented that he wasn't sure if anything was planned for Fosse Road and agreed to check. Concern was raised that the worst area was between Imperial Avenue and Winchester Avenue.
- A resident queried whether it was possible to name paths on Hockley Farm Road. Jeff stated that it needed to be found out if they were part of the highway, if they were then they could be named. The process was that officers came up with names, and then it was discussed with the Ward Councillors followed by the Cabinet Lead.
- Concern was raised about the new Rowley Fields bus route. Councillor Cooke explained that a public meeting to discuss the matter would be arranged in the new year,
- A resident raised concern at the loose lighting on Narborough Road. Jeff stated that normally highways inspectors carried out checks on the lighting. He added that the Rapid Response team would be able to deal with the problem. It was agreed to pass on the exact location of the problem to Jeff.
- Concern was raised at the flooding on Imperial Avenue and Winchester Avenue as the water rose up towards the houses. Jeff stated that the area was known to be a 'black spot'. The drains and gullies in the area had been checked and a range of options were currently being explored. A grant had been received from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to tackle flooding in the city.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Results from the Traffic Impact Survey on Winstanley Drive be brought to the next meeting.	Jeff Miller, Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation	The next meeting.
Look into reducing the amount required for Verge Hardening on Braunstone Lane and Braunstone Lane East Bridge.	Jeff Miller, Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation	The next meeting.
Look into providing Grit Bins in the area.	Jeff Miller, Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation	The next meeting.
Look into the drainage at Braunstone Leisure Centre.	Jeff Miller, Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation	The next meeting.
Check if road surfacing works planned for Fosse Road.	Jeff Miller, Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation	The next meeting.

72. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mick Walker, Cleansing Services and Hughie Blair, Graffiti Manager were present to discuss any environmental issues in the ward.

With regard to Cleansing Services, Mick stated that the 22 wards in Leicester were split into 10 areas and Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields was classified as Area 1. All streets in Leicester were cleaned to the national standard and there were currently 10 street sweepers operating in Braunstone. Cleansing standards in Leicester were monitored and the City Council's Cleaning Services Section were responsible for cleaning all public toilets in Leicester and at all the events that took place in the city. Councillor Glover requested whether the cigarette stubs on the top of the bins outside the Co-Op on Hallam Crescent could be cleared up. Mick stated that the bin was owned by the Co-Op however he would look into the issue.

A resident requested whether any more dog bins could be provided. Mick stated that eight new dog bins had been funded in the Braunstone area this year however it was still down to the public to use the bins. He added that he would look into whether any new bins could be provided.

Hughie stated that cable boxes tended to attract a lot of graffiti however whenever one was cleared it was noted. He commented that his service completed less work in the ward compared to other areas in the city as there were less problems reported. He encouraged residents to contact him if they were aware of any graffiti that needed clearing.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Look into the issue of cleaning the cigarette stubs on top of the bins outside the Co-Op on Hallam Crescent.	Mick Walker, Cleansing Services	The next meeting.
Look into whether new dog bins could be provided.	Mick Walker, Cleansing Services	The next meeting.

73. BUDGET

Councillor Cooke presented the budget for the Community Meeting.

He reported that there had been one application submitted for funding. This was:

- 1) Achievement Project for Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Residents, b-active - £2, 930.**

Members stated that they had held discussions with the applicant to ensure the Rowley Fields side of the ward would be covered by the project as well.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £2, 930 be allocated from the Ward Community Fund subject to final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

Members informed the Community Meeting that the following applications had been approved under delegated powers by the Councillors as the value of the applications was under £500:

1) Sunday Night at Her Majesty's Kidz 2 Entertain U - £500.

2) Ashthorpe Road Make a Difference Day, Joint Action Group (JAG) Braunstone - £150

The Community Meeting was informed that there were currently three applications which were likely to be submitted. These included a skills centre at the back of Fulhurst School, Learning sessions at Caldecote Primary School and Braunstone Golden Gloves. Members stated that discussions would be held on these applications.

74. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Residents felt that the publicity for the meetings should be distributed earlier.

It was announced that the next meeting would be taking place on Wednesday 17 March 2010 at 5pm.

75. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 6:45pm.

