

# **Eyres Monsell Community Meeting**

**Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Wednesday, 3 February 2010**

**Held at: Eyres Monsell Community Centre, Hillsborough Road**

Councillors in attendance:

Councillor Rory Palmer
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## 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.

<b>Ward Councillors and General Information</b>  Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	<b>Police Issues</b>  Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
<b>City Warden</b>  Tackling litter, waste and environmental services issues in the ward	<b>LINK</b>  How to get involved in scrutinising local health services
<b>Energy Advice</b>  How to save energy in the home	<b>Highways</b>  Dealing with highways issues in the ward
<b>Saffron Resource Centre</b>  Information about the services and facilities offered	

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.

### **37. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Palmer took the chair for the meeting.

### **38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Blower. They were also received from Scott Kennedy-Lount and Nicola Bassindale.

### **39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Palmer was asked to declare any interests he may have in the business on the agenda and/or declare if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to him. No such declarations were made.

### **40. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Eyres Monsell Community Meeting, held on 9 November 2009, were agreed as a correct record.

### **41. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK**

Councillor Palmer and Ian Stapleton, Area Housing Manager, gave an introduction to the large amount of positive and exciting initiatives on the estate. Much of this involved agencies and residents working together. These initiatives were discussed as follows:

#### **The EMAS**

This was a community awards event which would take place on 12 March in the Working Men's Club. This would recognise people's contribution to making life better for people on the estate. Nomination forms were to be released shortly. It was also reported that six local residents had recently been invited to 10 Downing Street in recognition of their work.

#### **Community newsletter**

A community newsletter was being launched and would involve the local community. Ian Stapleton invited ideas for articles.

#### **Shelter for young people/ball court lights**

Councillor Palmer explained that government funding had been secured to support community work and respond to issues raised at community meetings. Such work included the installation of a shelter for young people opposite the Glen and lights for the ball court.

#### **Operation Piccolo**

This was a joint initiative with the Police and City Council. This would provide additional security and energy efficiency for bungalows. A query was raised regarding a greater risk of frozen pipes following improved home insulation. It was reported that residents would be advised on how to avoid this. Residents also asked

if the scheme could be extended to include vulnerable people who lived in cottage flats and houses. It was reported that the bungalows were being targeted as they were particularly highlighted by thermal imaging and that resources for the project were limited but that we would consider all other older/vulnerable people if and when resources permit. It was suggested that information about the initiative could be published in the community newsletter or sent out with the minutes of this meeting.

### **Big Tidy Up**

The next event was scheduled for 22 February. The focus would be on clearing litter, tidying and recycling. Further events would be scheduled through the year. It was reported that Biffa had offered the use of a waste vehicle for free on the day. Residents raised concern about mess left following waste collection. They were advised to let the Council know straight away of any such instances so they could be dealt with quickly.

### **Refurbishment of Eyres Monsell Primary School**

Councillor Palmer reported that the re-launch event following the refurbishment had been a huge success, with performances by the students and Act Up Theatre Company. It was a great community facility and it was suggested that a future Community Meeting could be held there.

### **Re-launch of Magpie Youth Centre**

The newly-refurbished centre had recently been officially re-launched and it now offered a wide range of facilities for young people.

### **Saffron Resource Centre**

Peter Thomson from Saffron Resource Centre explained work they were doing to ensure that children weren't missing out on entitlement to free transport to school. It was agreed that information about this service would be included in the community newsletter.

Residents raised concerns about their inability to help vulnerable neighbours during the snow due to the lack of grit and grit bins. The hard work of the gritting staff was recognised, and the suggestion to reinstate bins was acknowledged, although it was noted that they had previously been targets for vandalism. It was noted that a solution was required if more severe winters were experienced. Councillor Palmer suggested that this may be considered for funding from the Community Meeting budgets, and the community could manage the bins and grit use.

It was reported that Sally Farr, Head Teacher of Rolleston Primary School, had retired. The meeting expressed its thanks for her hard work in the local community.

A suggestion was made that a calendar of events in the area should be provided to the next meeting.

## **42. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE**

Sergeant Andy Partridge introduced himself to the meeting. He explained that policing boundaries had changed to align with ward boundaries.

PC Mark Brennan gave a presentation on recent policing work, pointing out that a focus was to tackle antisocial behaviour on Swinford Avenue and Howden Road. He asked residents to keep them informed of any issues of concern.

A resident thanked police for their work on Hillsborough Close and their continued visibility in the area. It was noted that this had been possible with the involvement of residents.

Residents raised queries about the Exchange and the Invincible sites. It was reported that a notice had been served on the owners of the Invincible to clear the site, but since then a caravan had been dumped there. Work was ongoing to get this removed within legal constraints. Councillor Palmer explained that the proposals for the redevelopment of the Exchange had been delayed due to current economic circumstances. However, the Council remained committed to the scheme and a new developer was now involved. In response to residents' concerns, he stated that a planning application had never been submitted by the original developers, and is would be done shortly. It was noted that residents had been led to believe by the original developers that planning permission had already been obtained.

#### **43. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGETS**

Jerry Connolly, Members' Services Officer, introduced applications for funding from the Community Meeting budgets. Applications were discussed as follows:

##### **Application 1: Improving lighting at rear of bungalows**

Ian Stapleton explained the application. Poor lighting was to be replaced and increased to improve security. Trees that offered shelter had been pruned. He thanked Sue Green for the work she had done on the scheme. Funding had also been obtained from the JAG.

AGREED: that the meeting supports the funding of a maximum of £1500 from the Ward Community Fund.

##### **Application 2: Police Neighbourhood Action Team Transport**

David Budd introduced a request for funding from the Neighbourhood Action Team for £500 towards providing a non-police fleet car for one year. This would support police work by enabling the team to gather evidence for referral to field intelligence, officers and magistrates and obtain warrants and search premises. An officer showed the meeting the protective clothing and equipment worn for this. The team had contributed to 134 arrests in Freeman, Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and Knighton. The vehicle would enable them to work more effectively and safely. Aylestone, Freeman and Knighton were also being asked for a contribution.

AGREED: that the meeting supports funding £500 from the Ward Community Fund.

##### **Applications 3 and 4: Act Up Young People's Theatre Company**

Jerry reported that this bid was to extend the work of this highly commended group. Aylestone and Freeman wards were also being asked to contribute. Councillor Palmer stated that he was supportive of the work, which was professional and impressive. He suggested that the group be invited to perform prior to a future Community Meeting.

AGREED: that the meeting supports the funding of £866 from the Community Cohesion Fund and £1163 from the Community Fund.

**Application 5: Dog waste bins**

This application was deferred to the next financial year. Residents were asked to identify on a map where they would like bins to be placed in order for sites to be investigated. It was noted that combined litter and dog waste bins were now available and could be an option for the ward.

**Application 6: Youth Engagement Project**

Ian Stapleton explained the application, stating that young people had been consulted about what they felt they needed, and they requested a shelter and lighting to the ball court. It was noted that these young people caused no problems for residents. The lighting would be on sensors and timers, and there was very little light leakage. Residents felt that it was important to show that the young people were trusted and give them something useful.

AGREED: that the meeting supports the funding of £10,453 from the Ward Action Plan budget.

**44. WASTE BINS**

It was agreed that this item would be considered at the next meeting and would take into account the locations that residents had identified earlier in the meeting.

**45. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.