

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

2:00 pm, Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Held at: The Linwood Centre, Linwood Lane, Leicester

Councillors in Attendance

Councillor Dale Keeling

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.

Ward Councillors and General Information	Police Issues
Members of the public could talk to Councillor Keeling and officers from the city council.	Residents could raise issues with Sgt Darren Little, Pc Paul Archer, PcsO Jackie Moore-Freakley and PcsO Lindsay Bones.
Wheatsheaf Planning Application	City Warden Scheme
Members of the public could talk to Richard and Tom Hazleton from Urban Rhythm, Justin Fox JSP Architects and Barry Smith, PRP Engineers about the planning application.	Barbara Whitcombe, Team Manager for the City Wardens and Scott Parke, City Warden for the Freeman Ward were present to talk to residents about environmental issues in the area.
Multi Access Centre	Community Safety
Elizabeth Botmeh was present to talk to residents about the services that were available at the Multi Access Centre.	Representatives were present to give out information relating to community safety.
Local Involvement Network (LINK)	
Members of the public could find out how they could give their views on local health services.	

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.

29. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Keeling as Chair welcomed everyone to the Freeman Community Meeting.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shelton and Ian Stapleton, Area Manager, Housing Services.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were asked to declare any interest they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act applied to them.

Councillor Keeling declared that in respect of item 9, The Budget, there was an application from the Saffron Community Health Alliance for the Saftas, and he had received a Safta award last year. In addition, in relation to item 5, The Wheatsheaf Works Planning Application, Councillor Keeling declared that he had sent a letter to residents to inform them that this item would be on the agenda for today's meeting.

32. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Freeman Community Meeting held on 1 September 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

33. TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MUDDIMER

Councillor Keeling requested a two minute silence in tribute to local resident Brian Muddimer, who died recently.

34. WHEATSHEAF WORKS PLANNING APPLICATION

Tom Hazleton, Developer from Urban Rhythm and Justin Fox, JSP Architects gave a presentation to the community meeting on the Wheatsheaf Works planning application.

Tom and Justin made the following points:

- It was planned that there would be a wholesale refurbishment of the site which would include new buildings and refurbishment of the existing building.

- The existing building was 'listed' and it was intended to maintain the character and integrity of the building.
- It would cost approximately £10m to convert the listed building and because of the expense, a high density development was planned.
- There had been concern that because the site had been made secure, work had already started on the site. However, the site had been secured because lead had been stolen and the developers had a responsibility to protect the listed building. In addition, work had been carried out with the conservation officer as part of the ongoing investigations.
- It was intended that there would be a mix of housing, but it would be mainly affordable. There was also an aim to put the focus back on family style housing in the area.
- It was hoped that the development would attract a wide range of people, including older people and young people and that people would stay and become part of the community.
- Urban Rhythm and JSP Architects had long histories of converting listed buildings and their aim was to complement and not devalue the building.
- The Hazletons would have a management role over the development and a concierge would be provided.
- A request for a traffic survey had been made by the council on 12 July and in response, a survey was carried out three days later. The survey was carried out in term time as the schools were still open, although students from university had returned home.
- 165 parking spaces would be provided and there would be 2 cycle spaces for every house.
- The developers were required to submit a travel plan to the council, and as part of the plan, bus passes would be provided for new residents. It was acknowledged that some people would not want to use the buses, but for others, a one month bus pass could be sufficient to encourage use of public transport.
- The possibility of providing a hire car facility was being explored.

Residents raised the following questions:

- *Will the Wheatsheaf Theatre be completed before the new building starts?*

Tom and Justin responded that the work would be carried in several phases, over approximately 4 -5 years. It was intended that some new building would be

carried out in the first phase, which would generate finance for work on the listed building.

- *Could you create more parking spaces and reduce the new build?*

Justin explained that as much parking space had been provided as possible as the plans had to fall within the city council planning policies.

- *Parking at the Wheatsheaf Theatre is difficult and people have to park on the street. Will any parking be provided there?*

Tom and Justin explained that there would be some parking available, but it was also anticipated that many people would walk to the theatre because it was a community facility.

- *The possibility of providing a hire car facility was mentioned. How would this work?*

Justin explained that they were working with officers in the highways section to ascertain the best method.

- *What about sustainable heating. Will this be provided?*

Justin explained that they were working with the specialists in the city council on this issue. Where it would not be possible to put in sustainable heating in the listed building, ways of offsetting this in the new build were being investigated. Solar panels had been considered but it was acknowledged that they were no longer the most efficient method of sustainable heating. Justin added that implementing sustainable heating would be easier if they were planning a total new build on the site, rather than working around a listed building.

The Chair thanked Tom and Justin for their presentation and explained that they had agreed to come to the next Freeman Community Meeting, which would be held in the Wheatsheaf Theatre.

35. MULTI ACCESS CENTRE

Elizabeth Botmeh, from the Adult Skills and Learning Service was present to talk to residents about the service that was available at the Multi Access Centre. Elizabeth made the following points:

- The Multi Access Centre (MACs) is part of a multi agency approach to help people to improve their skills with the aim of helping them into employment or training.
- This is a local service, working from a range of local venues such as Saffron Resource Centre, Saffron Lane Housing Office and the Linwood Centre.

- They can offer referrals to sector specific vocational training programmes developed in consultation with employers such as Routeways courses.
- The MACs work with a number of partners such as De-Montfort University Voluntary Academy, Business Link and local organisations such as Pink Lizard.
- They can offer support with CV writing, job applications and preparing for interviews.

Elizabeth added that if anyone wanted further details, leaflets with additional information were available.

36. KNIGHTON FIELDS ARTS CENTRE

Jerry Connolly, the Member Support Officer to the Freeman Community Meeting explained that he had been given an update on the Knighton Fields Arts Centre which he read out to the meeting.

Jerry made the following points:

- The Knighton Fields Arts Centre was run by the city and county councils on a collaborative basis.
- The centre was the base for the Leicestershire Arts in Education service which provided music, dance and drama opportunities for children and young people across the county and city.
- The centre was used for after school and evening lessons and rehearsals.
- There had been a decision by the county council to withdraw core funding from this service as part of their budget cuts. Consultation on a new phase of the service was being currently being carried out, however it was possible that the use of the centre might be discontinued within the next 12-15 months.

A member of the public commented that the centre was a fantastic facility, but it was under used by people in the Saffron, Freeman and Aylestone wards. He added that it should be used more by local people. Jerry responded that the information he had been given was that the centre was heavily used, though he was not sure whether it was used by the local schools.

It was agreed that an update on the Knighton Fields Arts Centre should be brought to the next meeting.

37. POLICING PRIORITY UPDATES

Police Constable Paul Archer gave a short update on the policing priorities in the area.

Paul explained that the policing priority to tackle anti-social behaviour at the Kingfisher Centre and Neston Gardens had been closed as anti-social behaviour had been reduced there. However a new priority to deal with anti-social behaviour on Marriott Road had subsequently been identified. Paul added that anti-social behaviour was still an issue in the area and that there were three individuals in particular who seemed to be causing problems. Paul asked members of the public to let him know if there were any problems that they wanted the Police to deal with.

Paul stated that in future, the Police would spend part of their time working at the Linwood Centre and would have two computers based at there. In addition, there was a possibility that they would also work from the Saffron Sports Centre in the future.

Councillor Keeling thanked the Police for attending the meeting and praised them for the work they were doing.

38. BUDGET

The following budget applications were presented to the Community Meeting;

Welford Road Local Policing Unit, Neighbourhood Action Team Plain Vehicle

Jerry Connolly, Member Support Officer informed the Community Meeting that this budget application had been withdrawn.

Goldhill Adventure Playground Sports Project

A funding application for £250 had been received from the Goldhill Adventure Playground (GAP) for a table tennis table and assorted bats and balls to enable young people to play sports in a safe and friendly environment. A further identical funding application had also been submitted to the Eyres Monsell Community Meeting. A resident praised the playground and stated that it was an important new resource for the area. He added that a considerable amount of the funding for GAP had come from external sources and that play workers had worked very hard on the project.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application for £250 for the Goldhill Adventure Playground Sports Project be supported.

Community Engagement

A representative from the Saffron Arts Forum explained that a funding application for £900 had been submitted for the production and distribution of The SAFF, a new community magazine project. The magazine would help inform residents as to what was happening in their area and meetings, such as the Freeman Community

Meeting would be publicised. The meeting was informed that every household in the Freeman Ward would receive the magazine, but this was later corrected to refer to houses in the Saffron Lane Estate.

Jerry expressed concern that the previous issue of The SAFF had contained an article that may have been construed as political, and as City Council funding was sought, it may be appropriate to have the magazine reviewed or edited before it went to print. There was some discussion over this issue as some members of the public expressed concern that this would in effect result in the community magazine being censored. The representative from Saffron Arts Forum commented that she had been aware that due to an oversight, an article that might be considered as political had been included in the magazine. Concern was also expressed from a resident that Community Meeting funding had already previously been given to a project that was for the benefit of the Saffron Lane Estate.

After some discussion it was suggested that Jerry should have further discussions with the Forum and that £300 for 2 issues should be supported in the meantime, with consultations to take place with Jerry on editorial guidelines.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application to the value of £300 (for 2 issues of The SAFF) be supported and that there should be consultation with Jerry Connolly on editorial guidelines.

The Safta's

A funding application for £1330 from the Saffron Community Health Alliance, had been submitted to organise a community event to celebrate volunteering in the Freeman Ward area. The Safta's would be held in a suitable venue in the Freeman Ward in February 2011 and would recognise the time, energy and hard work that volunteers gave to the area free of charge.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application for £1330 for the Safta's be supported.

Action Taken	Officer Identified	Deadline
For the funding applications that had been supported in the meeting be submitted to the Cabinet Lead for approval.	Jerry Connolly, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible.

39. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 3.58 pm.

