

# Castle Community Meeting

**Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Wednesday, 20 July 2011**

**Held at: THE TEA ROOM - FIRST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, TOWN  
HALL SQUARE, LEICESTER**

Who was there:

Councillor Neil Clayton
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Councillor Lynn Senior
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## **FORMAL SESSION**

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Neil Clayton was chair for the meeting.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Kitterick.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were asked to declare any interests that they had in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Senior declared an interest in Item 6 on the agenda 'Policing – presentation from Inspector Chris Cockerill', that for the avoidance of doubt she was one of three representatives for Leicester City Council on the Police Authority Board.

Councillor Senior declared an interest in Budget Application 2 'Queens Road Fair and Craft Market' as she was employed by Age Concern who had a charity shop on Queens Road.

Councillor Senior declared a personal interest as her partner was an employee in Highways and Transportation at Leicester City Council.

### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Castle Community Meeting held on 2 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **5. SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

1. David Tebbutt, Early Years' Service, Planning and Commissioning, outlined details of where information could be found for summer activities, childcare and play schemes in Leicester for children aged 3 years 19 years. Links to information could be found on Leicester City Council's website, or by contacting the Family Information Service. Contact details were as follows:

Phone: (0116) 225 4890  
0800 952 5678 (Freephone)

Internet: <http://families.leicester.gov.uk/welcome/>

Email: [family@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:family@leicester.gov.uk)

2. Information was also provided on summer activities held at the Highfields Community Centre for young people aged 11 to 16 years. 'Raise Your Game'

includes arts, sports, cooking and independent living activities. The scheme usually attracted young people from the local catchment area, but often people visiting family and friends in the area attended. Activities cost £1 per session.

## **6. POLICING - PRESENTATION FROM INSPECTOR CHRIS COCKERILL**

Inspector Chris Cockerill from the City Centre Local Policing Unit gave a presentation on the LPU's activities from January 2011. A copy of this presentation is attached to the minutes.

It was reported that in February 2011, the Police changed the model of response in Castle Ward. 999 responses were now dealt with by six LPUs, and were covered by shifts of 41 officers over a five-shift cycle. Officers were based at different locations in the community, and the Police were considering an office base at QE College, but that this would depend on receipt of sufficient funding.

Insp. Cockerill outlined crime figures for Castle Ward for the financial year 2010-11.

8,996 crimes were reported within the ward, which spanned a variety of offenses. It was reported that there was a 5.1 per cent reduction in crime based on figures for the same period the previous year. Furthermore, reported crime had been going down in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland over the past three years. However, there had been an increase in burglaries in the Clarendon Park area at the beginning of the year. It was thought the burglaries were committed by one prolific burglar who was subsequently caught.

Crime figures from April 2011 to the present date were down 3.7 per cent. Other figures from across the BCU were reported as follows:

Burglary	down 34%	
Theft from vehicles	down 41%	(almost half the amount for the same time period the previous year)
Theft from shops	down 25%	
Anti-social behaviour	down 25%	

Anti-social behaviour, particularly street drinking, was a significant problem for the Joint Action Group (JAG), but figures for street drinking incidents were down by nearly 50 per cent which was visibly. This was due in part to working jointly with the City Council on offender management.

Inspector Cockerill stated the Police wished to hear from people in connection with the main issues they thought there were in the community. Information passed to the Police is then fed back into the JAG, which consisted of councillors, housing, Fire Authority, Chamber of Trade, etc. The information consequently helped to shape projects, for example, the 'Prevent and Deter' project, whereby potential offenders were spoken with before they committed crime. Crime was managed through the tasking and co-ordination of the group, targeting offenders and crime 'hot spots'.

In answer to a question, Inspector Cockerill stated there was some correlation between neighbourhood watch schemes and crime figures, but not always.

Information on the local area was published in a six-monthly newsletter, the Police website and through Inspector Cockerill's blog.

Priorities for the area included aiming to reduce prostitution. Initiatives for controlling prostitution in the area included an Anti-Social Behaviour camera, operated remotely in partnership with the Council. This would enable number plate identification of vehicles.

The Police had also worked with the two Universities following the spate of thefts of property in the city centre, and students were warned to look after their property, particularly mobile phones.

In conclusion, Inspector Cockerill reported falls in crime statistics over the last three years, and the Police would be working with communities to identify priorities for the area. He also asked that issues be reported to officers directly at Mansfield House Police Station.

Residents were then given the opportunity to question Inspector Cockerill and the following issues were raised;

- a) There were issues with anti-social behaviour on and around New Walk, from people leaving pubs and clubs, and that it was having an undesirable effect in the area. It was also stated there were similar issues in the Queens Road area. Residents were concerned at issues would increase once the Universities opened again in the Autumn. It was stated New Walk was a 'No Drinking' zone and residents asked what the Police were doing to tackle issues in the area. The Police responded that reports of anti-social behaviour were fed back to the Team that covered New Walk to respond. Licensing issues were dealt with by the licensing authorities, and it was the City Council who set closing times for licensed premises. There was potential for the introduction of night-time levies, with premises paying a levy if they wished to stay open past a particular set time. Money acquired from levies would be ploughed back into managing issues, with 70% going to the police and 30% to the local authority. Residents asked Officers based at the Universities to speak with student unions to stop pub crawls during Fresher's week and prevent public order issues. It was reported that it was often private promoters who organised such events for students. The Police added that they were not aware of some events occurring until they took place. Universities now paid for extra police to be on site to cover events.
- b) A resident complained that Leicester University had closed a right of access. The Police said they would investigate the matter, and that they would raise this with colleagues at the Fire Service.
- c) Residents complained about a 24 hour gym on Filbert Street and Warwick Street, with customers of the gym parking where residents usually parked. Councillors explained that the issues were for traffic enforcement to investigate and that they would feed the issue back to them. It was reported that the car park planning permission on Filbert Street would expire in the Autumn, and any further application would be opposed. A resident stated she had heard that another large De Montfort University building would be placed on the site and that it would reduce daylight to her property. It was stated that

Councillor Kitterick had opposed the planning application at the time but it had been approved.

- d) Residents complained about cyclists on New Walk and asked what the Police were doing to curtail this, and it was felt that some cyclists were aggressive and placing people's safety at risk. Residents from the Queens Road area also stated that this was an issue,. The Police stated that they were enforcing bylaws when cyclists were seen on New Walk and issued with fixed penalties.

Inspector Cockerill and his colleagues were thanked for attending the meeting and giving a presentation.

## **7. CITY WARDENS UPDATE**

City Wardens Nik Krneta and Andrew Moyse provided an update on issues dealt with by the City Wardens in Castle Ward.

- Littering still continued to be a problem, particularly late at night and around fast-food eateries. McDonalds on Eastgates went out at 5.00am on Saturdays and Sundays to clean the area near to the premises. Also, in the past three months, 163 litter fines have been imposed.
- Businesses had a duty of care to store bins and dispose of waste correctly. 62 businesses were issued with penalty notices for failing to provide information on where business waste was being sent.
- Fines were issued to people for unauthorised distribution of printed material for which a licence is required.
- Street drinkers on Conduit Street were reported to the Police as part of Operation Caldwell.
- Section 46 notices were issued to flats occupants on Albion Street and Granby Street to move bins and store them properly to discourage fly tipping. Residents stated that if students left properties, then the landlords should be responsible for removing the bins from the street. It was reported that City Wardens were working with Universities to ensure rubbish was collected.
- Energy (Superfly), at King Street, were instructed to install lockable bins. Residents complained these bins were kept in the street, and that a pile of rubbish was growing, and that the premises should empty the bins. The meeting was informed that City Highways had given permission for the bins to remain in place as there were no other storage facilities at the premises.
- There were 8 pending court cases for fly-posting, one of which was associated with a large club in the city. Also being prosecuted was a promoter associated with the club.
- A graffiti cleaning session arranged for July was initially postponed, but had taken place since. It was reported that the whole city would be tackled to clean graffiti but there were limited resources to do so.

Kate Newton, Leicester University Representative was present at the meeting. She asked that photos of 'tags' should be taken and sent to her. These could then be passed on to youth workers who may recognise the tags.

Residents asked if a bike park could be created at Leicester University, as there were many students with motorbikes who parked haphazardly in the street and reduced parking for residents. Councillors asked the City Wardens to raise the issue with the University.

Councillors reported that walkabouts had taken place with a Planning Officer, and that issues had been followed up. It was noted by Councillors that there were lots of infringements in the Conservation area, which would be raised with Jennifer Timothy, Senior Building Conservation Officer at the City Council.

Councillors thanked the City Wardens for attending the meeting.

## **8. BUDGET**

Francis Connolly, Democratic Services Officer, introduced this item of business. He noted that there was £15,000 in the budget prior to the meeting.

Members considered the following applications:

**Decent Exposure Exhibition** – request for £855 toward the cost of hiring exhibition space and costs associated with the opening night, such as refreshments.

Councillors identified that the bid was for a project based in the city centre that benefitted other wards in Leicester, and that the benefit would not be felt centrally by Castle Ward residents.

RESOLVED:

that the application be refused.

**Queen's Road Fair and Craft Market, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011** – request for £3,000 (£1,500 for each date) towards the operation of these events, including road closures.

The meeting was asked to note that the stalls would be run by local residents and the money would not be used to subsidise businesses.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and the sum of £3,000 be allocated from the Ward Community budget.

**Back to Netball** – request for £745 towards the cost of venue hire, netball coaches, the design and printing of promotional material, free child care for attendees during sessions, and equipment for pilot lessons.

Councillors stated that they were proposing to reject the application in its current form as it was not solely for Castle Ward. However, they were willing to work with the applicant to develop the application for Castle Ward, as they wished to see netball being delivered within the Ward. The provision of netball facilities was supported by residents at the meeting. They stated that the scheme would be useful for young women, and might help reduce anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:

that the application be rejected in its current form.

**Welford Road Cemetery – bird and bat boxes** – request for £551.30 towards the cost of purchasing a number of bird and bat boxes, which would be installed around the cemetery.

The application was submitted by Friends of Welford Road Cemetery. The application was endorsed by Councillors who stated the designated green space area benefitted the local area.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and the sum of £551.30 be allocated from the Ward Community budget.

**Highfields Festival** – request £6,000 (Joint bid with Spinney Hills and Stoneygate Wards) toward the cost of staging/equipment/flooring, staffing (temporary), artists, catering, publicity/marketing/HCAN, security.

It was stated that funding from the other Wards was still awaited. The original intention was to have the festival in Spinney Hill Park, but due to restoration work, the event would have to take place at Highfields Community Centre. The event would also engage with Czech and Slovak Communities in the area.

Councillors stated that the area in Highfields that Castle Ward covered was relatively small – and hence agreed to pledge a smaller proportion of the requested amount.

RESOLVED:

that the application be amended to read £500 to be allocated from the Ward Community Budget.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following items were raised under any other business;

- A Fair would be held at St Stephen's Church on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- Leicester University and PC Harvey Watson would run a 'Shush' campaign to encourage students to be considerate when returning home at night. Sweets would be given out as an encouragement to keep quiet.
- Blooming students scheme – plants and tools would be given to students to encourage to improve the front of houses and improve the look of an area.

## **10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.






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## City Centre Local Policing Unit



Inspector Chris Cockerill



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## LPU Overview



- Citizen Focus Sergeant
- Three Neighbourhood Sergeants
- Neighbourhood Action Sergeant
- Twenty four Constables and eighteen PCSO's



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## LPU Overview



- City Centre – 2 Pc's & 4 PCSO's
- New Walk – 3 Pc's & 3 PCSO's
- Cultural quarter – 3 Pc's & 3 PCSO's
- Highcross – 2 Pc's & 3 PCSO's
- Riverside – 2 Pc's & 3 PCSO's
- Clarendon Park & University's – 3 Pc's & 2 PCSO's



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## Crime information



- April 2010 – end March 2011 8996 crimes
- 5.1% reduction on previous year
- Reductions in Burglary, Assaults, Theft from Vehicles.



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## Crime information


- April 2011.....
- 3.7% further reduction in crime to date
- Burglary down by 34%
- Theft from Vehicle down by 41%
- Theft from shops down 25%
- Anti Social Behaviour down by 25%




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## Our Priorities

- Identified from the community
- Delivered through the Joint Action Group
- Crime managed through the tasking and coordination group targeting offenders and crime hot spots.
- Reporting back on results







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## Current Priorities



- Street Drinking and ASB Granby Street – Operation Cadwell and partnership work. ASB now down 47% in the area
- ASB in Riverside – Reduction in ASB around Burnmoor Street.
- Prostitution DeMonfort Street / Princess Rd East – New ASB Camera being installed. Council CCTV and Police Operation in place.

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## Police initiatives

- Crime reduction in Clarendon Park – New student year ahead, Burglary prevention.
- Theft Persons in the City – Who is taking your phone home tonight?
- Continued focus on ASB

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## Conclusion

- Crime is falling and has done so for last three years.
- Anti Social Behaviour is falling.
- Working in the community on issues that are priorities for the community.
- Doing more with the same.

