

# Evington Community Meeting

**Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**3:00 pm, Thursday, 15 March 2012**

**Held at: Evington Park House, Cordery Road, Evington**

Who was there:

Councillor Deepak Bajaj
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Councillor Baljit Singh
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#### **43. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Bajaj was elected as Chair and welcomed everyone to the Evington Community Meeting.

#### **44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Prince's Trust and the Chair explained that there would be no presentation on this item.

#### **45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made,

#### **46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 December 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **47. WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Councillors Deepak Bajaj and Baljit Singh presented their Ward Councillors' report and made the following points:

- Work had taken place to progress on the location of a neighbourhood centre in Evington, and the model that was developing was for a main service centre to be based at Evington Park House. It was hoped that the Police would also hold surgeries there as well and that the centre would provide a facility for the community. Local community groups would also be able to hold meetings there. It was also hoped to offer a hub at Gamel Road and to provide opportunities for volunteers.
- There had been a serious traffic incident on Goodwood Road, at a mini roundabout where there had already been several near misses. Members of the public had expressed concerns that the roundabout was dangerous and could not be seen in the dark. The Councillors were working with officers at the Council to make this safer.

A comment was raised from the floor that there were concerns over the whole of Goodwood Road and not just the mini roundabout. In addition a bus terminus appeared to have been created there, as there were sometimes as many as four buses in the layby close to Ambassador Road. The drivers kept their engine's running, rather than turning them off whilst the buses were parked up.

- A previous petition requesting improvements to the footpath at Woodborough Road had been presented to Council. Funding had been allocated and the work would now be going ahead.

#### **48. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE LINDEN ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL PETITION**

David Poxon, Team Leader for Road Safety provided an update on the Linden Road Primary School petition. David made the following points:

- The council were looking to improve signing on the approach to the school and re-doing the zig-zag lines. This would involve the present lines being stripped and then re-marked.
- Before this work could be carried out however, there would need to be a Traffic Regulation Order, which was a legal process requiring a consultation. This would take approximately 4 months.
- A pedestrian crossing was not considered to be viable, because of the houses there. People did not want a pedestrian crossing outside their house because it would mean that they would not be able to park outside their own home.

Concerns were expressed that the process was taking too long and action should have been taken earlier.

Councillors responded that David Poxon's team were working on this issue, but there had been budget cuts of approximately £40m and staffing in the Road Safety Team had been reduced gradually from 12 people to just 4. Comments were also raised that the real culprits were the parents who parked their vehicles dangerously and endangered the lives of the children. The school continually sent out letters asking parents to park responsibly.

David explained that there was a 'walking bus' scheme called Star Walkers, which operated successfully in some county and city schools and Councillor Singh added that Linden Primary would also have a walking bus scheme from the Spring 2012.

David was thanked for his update.

#### **49. THE PRINCE'S TRUST**

There was no presentation on this item as no representative from the Prince's Trust was able to attend.

#### **50. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT - ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Mebis Bachoo, Sports Regeneration Officer was present at the meeting and he provided an update on activities for young people in the area, including activities during the Easter holidays. The meeting heard that there was a local basket-ball group which met at the Evington Leisure Centre and free swimming sessions were also available.

Councillor Singh advised that the activities need to be advertised in schools and also at Evington Park. Mebis explained that information was available on the Leicester City Council website at [www.leicester.gov.uk/sports](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/sports)

The meeting also heard that Be-Active for Women sessions were offered for girls and women on Thursdays from 11.00 – 12.00 at Evington Park House. Currently there was only one attendee and people were encouraged to come along and give the sessions a try. It was suggested that more people would come if the time changed; perhaps to lunchtime.

A suggestion was made that activities should be advertised in the Evington Echo, but Mebis responded that it was difficult to advertise as activities and the timetable changed depending on what funding was available.

Mrs Pauline O'Brien from the Evington Boys' Club asked Mebis if an instructor could come along to the club and the Councillors asked Mebis to liaise with Mrs O'Brien about this.

## **51. UPDATE ON THE HOUSING CAPITAL RECEIPTS INITIATIVE**

Anne Harris, Estate Management Officer and Chrissie Field, Area Manager from Housing gave an update on the Housing Capital Receipts Initiative.

Anne addressed the meeting first and explained she managed most of the housing stock in Evington. Anne added that money had been spent on:

- Railings, at knee height, on Cordery Road, to prevent parking on the grass. This had generally been well received although one owner occupier was still parking on the grass. He had been spoken to.
- Painting at Ethel Road flats – Anne had received an email to say that the painting would be complete before the end of the financial year. The railings, sheds and shed doors would also be painted.
- The work on the front of the flats would hopefully be carried out during 2012 / 13 budget permitting.
- Gisborne Court Hand Rails: assurances had been given to Anne that this work would be completed by the end of the financial year.

A member of the public asked whether the notice boards at the Ethel Road flats were going to be moved as they were currently situated inappropriately. Anne apologised as this issue had slipped her mind, and agreed to look into the matter.

Chrissie then addressed the meeting and explained that the maintenance work had been a new responsibility for the housing division, and the additional duties had proved to be a steep learning curve for officers.

Chrissie added that the housing capital receipts initiative was being replaced by the environmental and communal improvement budget. With the new budget, funding would also be drawn from tenants' rents as well as the sale of housing stock. New procedures meant that housing officers could talk to Ward Councillors first and then report back at Community Meetings, which should result in a speedier process.

Councillors noted the new procedures and commented that that there should still be consultation as to how the budget should be spent.

## **52. EVINGTON IN BLOOM**

Local resident, Helen Pettman, the co-ordinator of the Evington in Bloom Group, gave the meeting an update on the project. She explained that Evington in Bloom had three aims:

- Horticultural achievement
- Environmental responsibility, and
- Community involvement (groups involved included the youth club, the Cedars and schools).

There was a team of gardeners but Helen explained that more volunteers were needed. Members of the public were shown a number of photographs and pictures of work that the Evington in Bloom volunteers had carried out in Evington.

Helen explained that Evington in Bloom was launched successfully on 14 March at Evington Library and had been attended by a number of special guests including the High Baliff. Members of the community heard that the project had particularly benefitted from the Community Meeting and the local Councillors.

Councillor Singh paid tribute to the people of Evington for their commitment and dedication to the community. A local resident commented that many of his local neighbours had previously had nothing to do with gardening, but he had helped them by lending them some gardening tools and showing them what to do. A community spirit had developed from that and now the neighbours were enjoying their gardening and talking to one another more than before.

Helen was thanked for her update.

## **53. CITY WARDEN UPDATE**

Nicole Powell provided an update on the work that she had been involved with in the Evington Ward. Nicole explained that she had dealt with a wide variety of street

scene enforcement issues including littering, graffiti, dog fouling patrols, the removal of fly posters and the duty of care inspections at local businesses.

Nicole added that the problem with cars for sale and no road tax, on Goodwood Road and the village lay-bys had been reduced.

There had been an increase in fly tipping on Evington Park by the recycling bins, where people were dumping a variety of items including clothes, car tyres and electric fans. Officers did check to see if they could find any identification on such items, although they could not always trace the person responsible. The City Wardens did try to educate people to be more responsible in their behaviour.

#### **54. POLICING UPDATE**

PCSO Georgina Cook (6513) gave an update on policing issues in the Evington Ward and made the following points:

- Road safety issues at Linden Road Primary School - the police were working with Leicester City Council and they were also trying to educate parents to encourage more responsible behaviour.
- Burglaries – all neighbourhoods were being affected and the crimes were taking place at different times rather than at any specific times. A funding application for window alarms had been submitted to the Evington Community Meeting for consideration at this particular meeting.
- Lead thefts – recently an empty house had been broken into and all the copper piping had been stolen.
- Residents were asked to talk to Georgina if they were worried about security in their homes, as she could pay a visit to people's homes and offer advice.
- Anti-social behaviour appeared to have decreased generally and residents were asked to talk to Georgina if they were aware of any problems. It was reported that there were some problems of anti-social behaviour on Greenacre Drive and Woodborough and Georgina agreed to look into those concerns.

#### **55. BUDGET**

Jane Ushwell, Senior Parks Officer thanked the Community Meeting for the funding previously granted for crocus bulbs, which had been planted on various locations including Goodwood Road and in Evington Park. There was a bee hive in the park and the crocus pollen provided food for the bees as well. Jane added that the funding had paid for a special planting machine and operator, as there were too many bulbs to be planted by hand.

Julie Harget, Democratic Support Officer then presented the Community Meeting budget. The following funding applications had been received and had been considered in depth by Francis Connolly (the Member Support Officer to the meeting) and the Ward Councillors. The value of funding bids received had been greater than the balance that remained in the community meeting budget, which meant that some bids could only be partially supported and some could not be supported at all.

**Burglary Target Hardening Project (2053) Insp. Bill Knopp (Spinney Hill LPU) and Nazira Vania (LCC Community Safety Team)**

Amount requested: £1200 : £500 already approved leaving a balance of £700 requested.

Funding was requested for timer switches and window alarms as crime prevention measures in 'hotspot' areas to prevent burglaries and also to properties which had already been burgled to prevent re-victimisation.

The meeting was advised that £500 had already been supported by Councillors and fast tracked.

RESOLVED:

that the balance of the funding bid from the Spinney Hill LPU and the LCC Community Safety Team for the burglary Target Hardening Project be supported to the value of £700

**Pitch Hire and Football Equipment: Meesha 88 (2054)**

Amount requested: £1400

Funding was requested for pitch hire, football equipment and additional coaching courses for Meesha's voluntary members.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application from Meesha 88 be supported in full.

**Evington in Bloom: Flowers, Planters, Competitions, Events (2055): Friends of Evington Park and Village Green – Helen Pettman**

Amount requested: £1500

The proposal was for planters, flowers and competition prizes for the Evington in Bloom project.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application from the Friends of Evington Park and Village Green, for flowers, planters and competition prizes for the Evington in Bloom project be supported in full.

**Evington in Bloom and Evington Village Hall Centenary Year Celebrations (2056): Jean Matthews, Secretary at Evington Village Hall.**

Amount requested: £500

Funding was requested for an open day at the village hall to celebrate its centenary year and also Evington in Bloom.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported in full.

**To Involve Evington Youth Club in Evington in Bloom (2058): Evington Youth Club**

Amount requested: £2,000

Details of the proposal:

The proposal was to involve members of the youth club in the Evington in Bloom project, to garden, make beds and plant and maintain them.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £1900.

**Coleman Evergreens Summer Outings (2059) : Coleman Evergreens**

Amount requested: £491.50 requested from each of the Coleman and Evington Ward budgets.

Funding was requested for coach trips to the seaside, to the theatre and lunches and refreshments.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to the value of £200

Jane Ushwell, Senior Parks Officer gave an outline on the following funding application.

**Install 4 Pedestrian lighting columns on Evington Park (2060): Jane Ushwell.**

Amount requested: £6618.00

Jane explained that the proposal was to install lights at Evington Park House as the whole area from the Cordery Road entrance to the car park and house was not lit. There was therefore a serious health and safety risk during the evenings and in winter months when people coming onto the Park wanted to access the house. This entrance was a popular one and was used daily by parents taking children through the park to school.



RESOLVED:

that the funding application from Jane Ushwell, Parks Officer for lighting at Evington Park be supported in full.

**Evington Friendship Club (2061): Mrs Valerie Ridsdale**

Amount requested £700

The proposal was to pay for speakers and outings for members of the group. The oldest participating member was 96 years old and two other members were over 90 years.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £500.

**Evington Flower Club (2062): Mrs V Ridsdale**

Amount requested: £1000

Funding was requested to pay for the demonstrator's fee, the cost of hall hire, insurance and affiliation to the National Association of Flower Arranging Society, without which it would not be possible to get demonstrators.

The meeting was informed that the Councillors had considered the bid carefully but had decided not to support the bid.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be unsupported

**New Pathway and Door (2063) : 19<sup>th</sup> Leicester (Evington) Scouts**

Amount requested: £610

Funding was requested to pay for a concrete path to make the access to the scout hut safer and cleaner and also to replace the pedestrian access door to the scout hut. The current door was only an internal door and not very secure.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application from 19<sup>th</sup> Leicester (Evington) Scouts for a new pathway and door be supported in full.

**Pink Lizard Cohesion Project (Bringing young people together) (2064): Pink Lizard developing youth / community / Magpie**

Amount requested: £3225 (between Evington, Freeman and Eyres Monsell Wards)

The proposal was for funding to deliver a community cohesion arts project, to work with young people across communities in the Evington, Freeman and Eyres Monsell Wards.

The meeting heard that Councillors had considered the bid carefully but decided not to support the funding application.

RESOLVED:

that it be agreed that the funding application be unsupported.

Julie explained that it was anticipated that there would be approximately £60 remaining in the budget, after the agreed bids had been supported, and it was agreed that any outstanding balance should be set aside for hanging baskets for the Ethel Road flats.

## **56. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Tribute was paid to Mr Tony O'Brien, who was present at the meeting. Mr O'Brien had previously served as Ward Councillor for Evington and Councillors and local residents paid tribute to him for his hard work for the community during his time in office.

## **57. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm.

