

# **Eyres Monsell Community Meeting**

**On Thursday, 17 January 2013**

**Starting at 2:00 pm**

**The Council Chamber, First Floor, Town Hall,  
Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 9BG**

**The meeting will be in two parts**

**The following items will be considered:**

- **To note grant applications approved under the Council's "fast track" procedures since the last meeting; and**
- **To approve the remaining grant applications received since the last meeting**

*Please note, there will be no Information Fair at this meeting*

**YOUR community. YOUR voice.**

**Your Ward Councillors are:**

**Councillor Virginia Cleaver  
Councillor Rory Palmer**



## **Making Meetings Accessible to All**

### **WHEELCHAIR**

Meetings are held in a variety of community venues. We will only hold meetings in venues where there is suitable access for wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about accessing a venue by wheelchair, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on the details provided.

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### **INDUCTION LOOPS – HEARING AT MEETINGS**

We provide a loop system at every meeting for people with hearing aids. If you have a hearing aid, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting for further assistance if you think you won't be able to hear what's being discussed. There is also a facility which can help people hear better if you don't have a hearing aid but are hard of hearing, again please speak to the Democratic Services Officer about this.

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## **Help us to make improvements!**

Please help us to improve Community Meetings by filling in an **Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting. Thank you.

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## **For further information contact**

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[www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings)

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**The first part of the agenda covers formal items which the Councillors need to deal with to ensure that regulations on holding meetings are kept to.**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillors will elect a Chair for the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The first main item on the agenda is Declarations of Interest where Councillors have to say if there is anything on the agenda they have a personal interest in. For example if a meeting was due to discuss a budget application put forward by a community group and one of the Councillors was a member of that group, they would not be able to take part in the decision on that budget application.

Councillors are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or other interest they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Appendix A**

The minutes of the previous Eyres Monsell Community Meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and 17 October 2012 have been previously circulated and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

**This next part of the agenda covers items where input from you on issues that affect your community is welcomed.**

**5. APPLICATION FOR GRANTS APPROVED UNDER FAST TRACK PROCEDURES**

**Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.**

To note any grants, which have been approved from the 2012/13 Eyres Monsell Ward Community Budget under the Council's "fast track" procedure.

**6. GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

**Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.**

To consider the following applications for grants from the 2012/13 Eyres Monsell Ward community Budget:-

- a) Drop Kerb Scheme - £5,000 – submitted by Ben Manners, Leicester City Council
- b) Free Running - £480 – submitted by Leicester City Council Youth Service
- c) Community Mosaic Project - £285 – submitted by Catch 22

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

# **Eyres Monsell Community Meeting**

## **Your Community, Your Voice** **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**4:00 pm, Thursday, 20 September 2012**  
**Held at: Eyres Monsell Community Centre**

Councillors in Attendance

Councillor Virginia Cleaver
Councillor Rory Palmer

## **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>	<b>Police Issues</b>
<b>City Wardens</b>	

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.

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Palmer was elected Chair for the meeting.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Jean Dutfield and Joan Garrity.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

RESOLVED:

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Eyres Monsell Community Meeting held on 21 March 2012 were agreed as a correct record, subject to correcting the spelling of Jean Dutfield's name in the apologies for absence item.

## **5. COUNCILLORS' COMMUNITY REPORT**

**Councillor Cleaver reported the following:**

- The Sheltered Housing Charter, detailing standards which private landlords were required to adhere to, was to be adopted shortly.
- The success of the recent Goldhills event was welcomed and thanks were extended to the organisers.
- The Forum for Older People was reviewing its Charter and its structure to improve the Council's engagement with older people in the city.
- The Rupert House Friendship Group had held a successful Jubilee Event.
- The area of redundant land at Featherstone Drive, which was formerly an allotment, was being considered for garden use. A proposal to plant an orchard and the installation of raised planted beds had been put forward.
- It was reported that despite significant publicity a large number of places on various Adult Learning courses were not being taken up. Details of the types of courses available and enrolment details were made available.
- Memory Clinics were to be held at the Community Centre which would give advice and support to people suffering with dementia. Residents were encouraged to attend the clinics to learn about the problems of dementia and the support available to sufferers and carers.
- The Catch 22 police initiative was continuing to reduce anti-social behaviour and in liaison with Voluntary Action Leicester funds had been received to continue this important community work, particularly to reduce drug misuse and increase engagement with young people.

### **Councillor Palmer reported the following:**

- The Annual Horticultural and Craft Show had been successful and the organisers were congratulated, particularly as the event had continued to improve year on year.
- The Management Group concerned with the Linwood/Aylestone Football Club site had asked for representation and Councillor Palmer had been pleased to accept.
- The Saffron Acres Open Day had been a good event, and the publicity concerning the 'Blaby' tomato variety had been of great interest.
- The recent Advice Fair had been a success with a number of service providers attending, giving information and details of their services. Further similar events would be organised.
- Welcome news had been received concerning an Eyres Monsell School which had received an improved Ofsted report and grading, bringing it out of the special measures category.
- Consultation on the A426 Bus Corridor Project had commenced and it was hoped that improved junction arrangements would reduce congestion and improve air quality. Residents were encouraged to become involved in the consultation process.
- The recent flooding of the new play area had caused frustration to parents and the matter was being investigated with a view to remedial works being undertaken to improve drainage.
- The annual Register of Electors canvass was ongoing and residents were urged to ensure that they had registered their right to vote.
- Changes to the Council Tax Benefit arrangements were causing considerable concern to Councillors. It was noted that various groups would no longer receive benefit, or receive reduced benefits, under the Government's proposals. Consultation was ongoing to ensure the best protection for those affected.
- The campaign against the planned closure of the Children's Heart Unit at Glenfield Hospital continued, and had recently included a protest at the House of Commons.
- The celebrations for the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Torch Relay through the city were highlighted and the legacy of the event on the city was welcomed.

### **The Police, the City Warden and community representatives were invited to give a report on their activities.**

#### **Leicestershire Police**

Ps Andy Partridge reported on the reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour, particularly around the area of The Exchange. He noted that the increase in provision of youth activities had led to the reduction in incidents.

It was reported that a former resident of the Ward, Paul McGovern, was working as a Prison Officer in the Greater Manchester area and undertook community based



crime prevention work as part of his duties, including work within schools. It was reported that PO McGovern had recently made contact with the Police in the Eyres Monsell area and had offered to undertake crime prevention work within the ward on a voluntary basis, possibly involving Eyres Monsell Primary School. The meeting supported and welcomed this initiative.

In reply to questions and comments continuing problems of quad bikes and mini motorbikes were reported. It was confirmed that the Police had powers of seizure if riders of the vehicles could be identified. The importance of reporting incidents was reiterated.

### **City Warden**

Scott Clarke reported on his recent environmental activities. Problems persisted with cars for sale being advertised on the highway. In respect of local businesses causing litter adjacent to premises, Scott reported on Section 93 powers, whereby the Council could enforce the cleaning of an area, if it could be proven that the owners of premises were acting irresponsibly in respect of their waste management.

Scott also confirmed that a 'messy garden' initiative allowed gardens to be cleared of rubbish, furniture, appliances and other items, and the residents charged for the clear up. This would only be implemented in circumstances where the residents acted irresponsibly and ignored earlier contact asking them to clear gardens.

### **Community Association**

Wayne Natzel, Chair of the Community Association, reported on the Community Association's partnership with the City Council and advised of the type of events which were held at the Community centre, these included lunch clubs and a breakfast bar meeting but he considered that more could activities could be arranged. He advised that lottery funding was being sought which would allow for events and activities to be properly financed and he referred to the stage area and to the sound and lighting available which were available for larger events.

Wayne requested that any suggestions for future community events be forwarded to him for consideration by the Community Association.

In conclusion Wayne commented on the work undertaken to improve the communal garden areas and the meeting agreed that this had been an excellent community payback scheme. Photos of the improvements would be included in a future edition of the Monsell Mail.

### **The Chair asked for comments arising from the above community reports.**

In respect of anti-social behaviour issues the meeting discussed the need for youth provision. It was reported that problems increased when the Magpie Youth Centre was closed and that The Exchange often then attracted young people who would have attended the Youth Centre. It was also noted that the Magpie's opening hours were being reduced. It was suggested that provision of a 'teen-shelter' could reduce

problems. The need to engage with the younger people to find their opinions on suitable provision prior to making provision was highlighted.

The police answered questions concerning enforcement and made comment on the difficulties experienced with the area above the co-operative shop. The access needed for residents of the flats did not allow the police to close off any areas and this allowed for young people to misuse the area. The situation was being monitored but as fewer flats were occupied the problem was continuing.

In discussing the A426 Bus Corridor Project it was agreed that details of the proposed scheme should be made widely available. It was noted that consultation events were due to be held. The principle area of concern was the Aylestone Road/Lutterworth Road/Middleton Street/Wigston Lane junction however no significant improvements seemed to be proposed as part of the project.

The area of around The Exchange had been sold to a new developer who had shown increased interest in improving the area. In reply to a question the process involving enforcement was explained, however it was felt that the new developer had begun to deal with the formal processes before work on the site could commence. The meeting welcomed the encouraging update.

In conclusion, a member of the public raised concern at the lack of provision of play equipment for younger children. It was noted that play equipment was often made unsafe by larger children and subsequently removed, but was not replaced, which led to a lack of provision for children of 'toddler' age. It was confirmed that a programme for replacements would be in place but that equipment was often not installed straight away.

## **6. PLANNED CHANGES TO THE WARD MEETING**

Councillor Palmer gave a presentation which suggested changes to the structure and organisation of future Ward Community Meetings.

Instead of formal meetings in a fixed venue it was suggested that a series of community walkabouts covering every street in the ward over the course of the year would be preferable. All households would be informed and all relevant agencies would be asked to attend to answer questions, hear concerns and pick up work to do including Councillors, Housing Officers, City wardens, Cleansing Services, Highways Officers, Police and any other relevant representation. Residents would not have to attend for the whole walkabout (they could if they wished), but could attend the walkabout on just their own street.

It was reported that the meetings in their current format generally had a good attendance, had a wide range of issues discussed at them and were lively meetings, with people being able to have their say.

Councillor Palmer expressed a view that Meetings were sometimes too formal with presentations from the front and then questions and that whilst attendance had been good, it was from a very low proportion of the population living in the area. He felt it

was wrong to assume that just because people did not turn up they were not interested in their local community.

The timing of meetings was also considered to be an issue, together with venues. Councillor Palmer felt that the idea of a “meeting” could also be detrimental as some people wanted to be involved in community issues but did not want to attend a formal meeting.

It was proposed that a report and action list could be produced and published (like meeting minutes) after each walkabout and that progress on previous issues would be reported.

It was noted that Housing Officers already do patch walks and discussions on how the community walkabouts could link to those patch walks were being held.

It was considered that people would see the walkabout and take part which would involve more people and reach more people in the community.

In respect of the Ward Community Budget applications it was suggested that these would still be transparent and that decisions would be reported back to the community. A more organised system was proposed with funding application deadlines through the year being agreed and Councillor’s Budget Meetings being convened which would be formally minuted and reported back to the community.

A proposal to allocate the budget to different areas of activity based on the funding bids approved since 2008/09 was submitted. From the £18,000 annual budget it was proposed that £2,500 would be required for community meeting/walkabout communication. The remaining £15,500 would be allocated proportionally to the following categories:

- Community events
- Community safety and crime prevention
- Children and youth projects
- Older people projects
- Other/miscellaneous

Councillor Palmer asked for questions and comments on the proposed changes to the structure an organisation of Ward Community Meetings.

The meeting discussed the ideas within the presentation and expressed support for a move away from formal meetings with a top table. In discussing the walkabout it was considered vital that to the work of other agencies would be necessary to avoid duplication.

In discussing the recording of decisions made, it was confirmed that formal minutes would not be prepared following the walkabouts. An action sheet detailing the problems encountered, actions required, estimated timescales for completion, and lead Officers/Agencies would be drawn up during the walkabout.

In conclusion of the item the meeting discussed the role of the Monsell Mail. It was considered that the publication would have a vital role in promoting the walkabout initiative, reporting on findings and updating on actions. The present editorial policies were discussed and it was noted that items could be included if received within sufficient time. In respect of the proof-reading and in reply to a particular view expressed, it was noted that the publication relied on volunteers and that a remarkable outcome was achieved having regard to the resources available. The editorial team were congratulated on their continuing efforts. It was noted that anyone who felt they could assist would be welcome to become involved.

Councillor Palmer was thanked for his presentation and it was agreed that the initiative be supported. The next agreed 'meeting' would therefore not be convened as a meeting, in favour of a 'Community Walkabout'.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

## **8. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6:00 pm.

# **Eyres Monsell Community Meeting**

**Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**10:00 am, Wednesday, 17 October 2012**

**Held at:**

**Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester**

Councillors in Attendance

Councillor Virginia Cleaver
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Councillor Rory Palmer
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## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Palmer was elected Chair for the meeting.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Beverley Hall, Jean Dutfield and Adrian Russell.

Councillor Palmer welcomed everyone to the budget meeting, which was a new feature to consider Community Meeting funding applications.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Cleaver disclosed an Other Disclosable Interest in funding application from Pink Lizard Cohesion Project, as a family member had contact with the organisation, and she would not take part in consideration of application.

Councillor Cleaver also disclosed an Other Disclosable Interest in the two funding applications submitted by Rolleston Primary School as she was a School Governor at the school, and she would not take part in consideration of the applications.

In accordance with the Council's new Code of Conduct these interest were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice Members' judgement of the public interest. The Members were not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting during discussion on these items.

## **4. APPLICATION FOR GRANTS APPROVED UNDER FAST TRACK PROCEDURES**

The following budget requests were included on the agenda for formally noting as it had been agreed by Councillors in-between meetings to enable the project to take place.

### **(i) Saffron Neighbourhood Management Board – Community Foodbank - £250**

RESOLVED:

that the previously agreed funding be noted.

### **(ii) Southfields Community Association – Diamond Jubilee Celebration - £500**

RESOLVED:

that the previously agreed funding be noted.

### **(iii) Wayne Natzel and Eyres Monsell Events Committee – Picnic on the Park (Family Fun Day) - £500**

RESOLVED:

that the previously agreed funding be noted.

## **5. GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Application 1**

#### **Pink Lizard Cohesion Project – Pink Lizard Developing Youth - £3,225**

The meeting was informed the application had been presented before, and discussions had taken place with the organisation. It was agreed to support the application on the basis of match funding to contributions made from Evington and Freeman Wards funding.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £750.00.

### **Application 2**

#### **Rolleston Primary School – Installation of Traffic Bollards - £500**

Road safety was considered to be a big priority, and it was noted that Transport budget was under pressure. The meeting was informed that other wards has funded schemes of a similar nature.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £500.00.

### **Application 3**

#### **Vicky Hudson – Family Exercise to Music Session - £480**

It was noted that participants were from Eyres Monsell Ward, but was on the geographic boundary of other wards. It was suggested that 50% of the finding be supported up front, and that a review of the attendance logs was made after three events to establish the attendees home location, and the situation reviewed.

AGREED:

that 50% of the funding be supported to the value of £240, and attendance at the session be reviewed.

### **Application 4**

#### **Monsell Arts Group – Providing Arts to Eyres Monsell - £500**

The amount requested was a contribution to the total cost. Councillors stated the project was a good opportunity for the community but requested a written report be provided by the group to Councillors on the project.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £500.00.

### **Application 5**

#### **St. Christopher's Friendship Group – Social Stimulation and Visual Awareness - £500**

It was noted that the group operated on the border of the Ward, but agreed it was a well-attended group that had operated for 20-plus years. The Councillors agreed to support the funding application but requested that an application be presented in the future to Freeman Ward Community Meeting funding.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £500.00, but a future funding application be presented to Freeman Ward.

#### **Application 6**

#### **Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire – Eyres Monsell Community Garden - £500**

Councillors discussed the detailed application and agreed that Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire was a well-recognised organisation. They noted that the funding application was a small percentage of the overall funding.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £500.00.

#### **Application 7**

#### **Steve Jones – Gardening / Orchard Scheme - £500**

Councillors noted that the funding application was one of two submitted by Rolleston Primary School, and that the PTA should consider fundraising for projects.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £500.00.

#### **Application 8**

#### **Saffron Neighbourhood Management Board on behalf of the event steering group – Saffron Neighbourhood Celebration Event - £200 (joint bid with Freeman Ward – total bid £700)**

Councillors discussed and agreed to fund the application.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £200.00.

#### **Application 9**

#### **Sgt. Andy Partridge, Leicestershire Constabulary – Joint HMP / Police project Actions Have Consequences crime prevention education in schools - £100 (joint bid with Freeman Ward – total bid £150)**

Councillors stated the work in schools was well received and a worthwhile project.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £100.00.

#### **Application 10**



**Goldhill Jr Management Group – Sound Around Project - £300 (joint bid with Freemen Ward – total bid £600)**

The funding application was to provide audio equipment for use by Youth Groups. Councillors discussed and agreed to fund the application.

AGREED:

that the application be supported to the value of £300.00.

**Applications not supported**

**Application 1**

**Saffron Support for Elderly People – Luncheon Club Refit**

The application was withdrawn as the organisation was disbanding.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- (i) Councillors stated that the deadline for applications to be next considered was December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012. A budget meeting would be arranged for January 2013.

**7. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 10.15am.

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