

# Aylestone Community Meeting

**Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Thursday, 14 March 2013**

**Held at: St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 633 Aylestone Road, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8TF**

Who was there:

Councillor Adam Clarke
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Councillor Nigel Porter
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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.

<p><b>Ward Councillors and General Information</b></p> <p>Members of the Ward could talk to their local councillors and raise general enquiries.</p>	<p><b>Police Issues</b></p> <p>Officers of the Local Policing Unit were present to talk about issues and raise general enquiries.</p>
<p><b>City Warden</b></p> <p>A representative of the City Warden Team was present to talk about street scene enforcement issues or raise general enquiries.</p>	<p><b>Alcohol Awareness</b></p> <p>Members of the Drug Alcohol Action team were available to talk about alcohol awareness and give out literature.</p>
<p><b>Stop Smoking</b></p> <p>A representative of the NHS Public Health Team was available to give advice and literature on ways to stop smoking.</p>	

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.

## **176. CHAIR OF THE MEETING**

Councillor Clarke announced that he would be Chair for the meeting and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillor Clarke stated that he had a statement to make on the previous meeting and asked that it be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. He stated that “an anonymous leaflet was distributed prior to the previous meeting. The content of the leaflet was of a political nature and named individuals and could only have been intended to have created antagonism at the meeting. While these meetings should contain lively debate they should be a-political and should not be deliberately antagonistic. They should be conducted in a spirit of respect, honesty and integrity. Leaflets of this nature do not help achieve this and as a result on this occasion extra council resources were deployed.”

## **177. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I Bufton, Mr Gale, Ms Hill, Mrs Howarth, Mr Nightingale, Mr A and Mrs C Poulter, and Ms Sparsa.

## **178. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Clarke declared an Other Disclosable Interest in community budget items as he had been involved in discussions on the grant applications and he had also previously been involved in discussions with various groups associated with the proposals for the closure of Sharplands and was also on the Steering Group for the Basketball Arena Project.

Councillor Porter declared an Other Disclosable Interest in community budget items as he had been involved in discussions on the grant applications and he had also previously made comments in relation to the closure of Sharplands and the Basketball Arena project.

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.

## **179. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Councillors were asked to agree the minutes of the previous meeting of the Aylestone Community Meeting held on Tuesday 22 January 2013.

A Member of the public referred to Minute No. 169 (Update on the A426 Bus Lane) and commented that the minutes stated that ‘a number of local residents were against the scheme’ and this should have said ‘there was unanimous opposition to

the scheme.' The Democratic Services Officer stated that there had been several people at the meeting who had spoken in favour of the scheme. A member of the public also confirmed that there was not unanimous opposition to the scheme.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Aylestone Community Meeting held on Tuesday 22 January 2013 be agreed.

## **180. COMMUNITY SPORTS ARENA PROJECT**

Kevin Routledge, Leicester City Riders, gave an update on the Community Sports Arena Project. This was a joint project between the Leicester Riders, Leicestershire County Cricket Club and Leicester College. An outline of the project was reported at the last meeting and an open day was held at the County Cricket Ground on 23 February to see the full extent of the project.

Kevin explained that the open day went well and approximately 600 attended. Leaflets were distributed to 10,000 surrounding properties, (although some residents in Hawksby Road indicated that they had not received one). Anyone who missed it could get a copy of the presentation by contacting him. The project was valued at £3.3m and £2.4 m had been raised to date. A bid had been submitted to Sport England and the outcome of this should be known the following week. There were now two projects one for the Arena (the size of approximately 12 badminton courts), which would be owned by a non-profit making company, and one for a development of 14 flats which would be owed by the Cricket Club, and income from the rents would be used to support the club's finances.

A joint planning application was being made for both projects. The external design of the Arena had been completed and ECB approval was being sought. Local residents had been invited to a meeting to discuss their concerns expressed over parking and access and egress arrangements. Representatives of the Cricket Club had been present and had taken these concerns away and would be reporting back to a further meeting in two weeks to address the issues.

The next meeting would be held on 27 March 2013 a 7.00pm in the Fox Bar at Grace Road and anyone was welcome to attend. All the three partners in the project were keen to establish a group of local people to address issues surrounding the proposed scheme and to assess whether any proposed solutions were working. The Cricket Club's Chief Executive had been in post for two years and was unaware of some of the local concerns that had been expressed. The Club were keen to address these issues.

Steve Brown, Team Leader Planning Services, stated that no planning application had been received. Although the Council supported new sporting and housing developments in principle, any proposal had to satisfy issues of accessibility, traffic, environment and noise and disturbance to residents. Once a planning application was received, there would be widespread consultation with surrounding properties and a consultation period of 5-6 weeks could follow. The final decision on the

application would be taken by the Planning Development Committee and would not be delegated to officers.

Following questions from members of the public, Mr Routledge stated that:-

- The Cricket Club would receive the income from the proposed 2 storey flats together with the rent for the Arena and corporate events.
- The period of construction would be 6 months if there were no delays, but this was dependent upon the cricket season and BSkyB so that the construction work did not impact upon the coverage of televised games.
- The Riders had looked for somewhere to develop an Arena for some 15 years, and this was the best value for money venue, as it allowed them to build an Arena at a cost of £2.4m by utilising the existing Mike Turner Suite as part of the Arena; instead of constructing a completely new build at a cost of £5m.
- Sport England were expected to fund 8-10 projects nationally.
- The parking issues associated with Riders games would be less than that for cricket games, as the capacity crowd in the Arena would not be more than 2,000 people.
- The Riders played in the winter months, and home games were on a Saturday from 7.30pm to 9.15pm and Sundays from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. There should be little noise breakout from the building.
- Due to the footprint of the Cricket Ground site, there would not be any further extension to the proposed Arena.
- The capacity for the crowds at cricket matches would be reduced from 7,000 to 4,200 as a result of the development.
- There were approximately 160 trees on the site subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
- The former Saffron Lane Velodrome site had been considered but was discounted once it received planning permission for the housing development.
- The users of the facility would be Leicester College from 9.00am to 5.00pm during term time, (some primary schools could also use it as well), the Riders and users for the Special Olympics and wheelchair basketball.
- Leicester College should not add to parking problems in surrounding streets as students would use public transport.

A number of members of the public expressed opposition to the proposals and in addition to comments that were answered above, they also stated that:-

- It was short sighted to build flats on the car park when the club were losing revenue.
- The possibility of developing the facility at Leicester Racecourse should be considered.
- There was a petition circulating opposing the development.

Councillor Clarke stated that he had been invited to join the Steering Group and there were also a number of residents meetings planned. Councillor Porter had also been invited to join the Steering Group. Councillor Clarke indicated that was happy to take any views forward.

Councillor Porter stated that he was happy to continue on the Steering Group and represent the views of those opposed to the development. He was aware that there were a large number in favour of the proposal, together with the City Mayor and Councillor Clarke, but equally there were a large number of residents against it and he wished to ensure that their views were represented and put forward at these meetings.

## **181. ALCOHOL AWARENESS**

Julie O'Boyle and Priti Raichura, Drug Alcohol Action Team, Leicester City Council gave a short verbal presentation on alcohol awareness.

50 people per year died as a result of alcohol related illnesses in Leicester and there were also 7,000 admissions per year at an annual cost of £10m to the NHS. Alcohol abuse also contributed to increased levels of anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, crime and social harm. The death rates for males from alcohol related illnesses in Leicester were the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst in the East Midlands and the fifth worst in the country.

Following a question from the public, Julie stated that there was evidence that the price of alcohol affected levels of consumption. The price of alcohol can have an effect upon people who have a serious drinking problem. There was also evidence to suggest that the later in life young people started to drink alcohol, the more responsible they were in its consumption. Reference was also made to the cultural and psychological differences between the British attitude towards consuming alcohol, compared to those for Eastern Europe and France for example. There was more evidence of binge drinking in Britain than on continental Europe. There was also a worrying trend that more people were being diagnosed with severe liver disease in the 50-60 year age range, and the age of people being diagnosed was falling.

Leaflets advising upon alcohol consumption, and the resultant effects upon health, were circulated at the meeting. Further advice could be obtained the Council's website, Change for Life, Alcohol Concern and the NHS website.

Julie and Priti were thanked for their presentation.

## **182. STOP SMOKING**

Mark Endacott, National Health Service gave a short verbal presentation on ways to stop smoking. This coincided with 13 March 2013 being National No Smoking Day.

There were 7 Nicotine Replacement Therapy products that could be used to assist smokers to stop smoking. These ranged from gum, patches, inhalers, mouth and nasal sprays, tablets and lozenges and Champix (a product that mimics nicotine and blocks receptors to reduce the craving for smoking).

People were more likely to stop smoking with a supported programme than just giving up and having withdrawal symptoms, which usually resulted in the person

starting to smoke again. Each of the therapies used a step down approach to reduce the requirement for nicotine over a period of time until the craving no longer existed.

Assistance could be obtained through national helplines, contacting the local Public Health Team and through local pharmacies. Leaflets were distributed giving contact details.

Following a question in relation to the effectiveness of electronic cigarettes, Mark stated that these were not currently licenced for use in the NHS and he was, therefore, unable to comment upon their effectiveness.

Mark was thanks for his informative and helpful presentation.

### **183. IMPACT OF CLOSING SHARPLANDS**

Jayesh Parmar, Team Leader, Traffic Engineering, Leicester City Council gave an update on the impact of the closure of Sharplands and in particular the problems of turning right onto Glenhills.

He stated that a number of petitions had been received from local residents in relation to traffic issues in the area.

Extensive surveys of traffic flows had been carried out from 7.30am to 9.30am and 4.30pm to 6.30pm and these indicated that the junction was not critical compared to the flow of traffic on this corridor, but it was a pinch point where delays occurred to both side roads when flows were heavy on Glenhills corridor. The traffic flow surveys did show that there were reasonable two way flows for Glenhills Way and on the side road. As a consequence, the signal timings had been adjusted (by reducing the cycle times) at both Lutterworth Road/Soar Valley Way and to the 'Pork Pie' island, to create gaps in the traffic flow to allow the side road traffic to access the main road. The Toucan crossing had also been re-modelled to have a double cycle during peak time. Also, the control room operators were monitoring the two sites and when they observed a queue on the side road, they were able to force the pedestrian demand and make sure it did not significantly impact on traffic on the ring road.

The accident records for both sites and supporting data showed that there was not a dominant pattern that warranted a remedial solution as a priority. There were many demands on the Council's capital programme, and, based upon the information set out above, it was not felt that the works would attract sufficient priority to confirm funding to enable the work to be carried out in the next few years.

An option to install a yellow box and intelligent detector which would trigger the nearby pedestrian, crossing was outlined to the meeting. The cost of the works was approximately £10,000 for each site (£1.5k for the yellow box which included traffic management and £8.5k for the signal works).

It was suggested that the funding from the Aylestone and Eyres Monsell Ward Community budgets could be used to fund this work.

A member of the public questioned why Sharplands had been closed and suggested that it be re-opened. A number of the public explained that the issue of closing Sharplands had been requested by a petition and had been discussed at several community meetings since March 2012. The proposals to close Sharplands had been the subject of public consultation. The majority of people living in Sharplands and the surrounding streets had welcomed its closure

Jayesh was thanked for his update.

It was AGREED: that consideration of funding this work be deferred to the next meeting to allow an application to be submitted.

#### **184. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE**

PC Moore, Leicestershire Police reported upon crime in the Ward. He reported that there had been 3 burglaries and 3 robberies in the last 60 days. Garages and sheds had been broken into and he reminded everyone to make sure these were securely locked. Thefts from vehicles had been affected by the parking for rugby and football matches and had mainly involved thefts of satellite navigation systems left on view in the vehicles.

#### **185. CITY WARDEN**

Roy Smith, City Warden, gave an update on the issues dealt with since the last meeting. He reported upon the following:-

- There had been an increase in incidents of dog fouling in the last two months as the weather improved. Additional plain cloths patrols from 6.00am were being implemented.
- Wardens were targeting smoking in 'smoke free vehicles' (work's vehicles) and two fixed penalty notices had been issued.
- 10 fixed penalty notices had been issued for littering from vehicles.

A member of the public reported an issue with graffiti in Vernon Road and the City Ward agreed to investigate and report back.

The City Warden was thanked by the public for dealing with issues in Knighton Lane and Aylestone Road.

A problem of a dog owner cleaning up after their dog in Percy Road and then leaving the bags of dog waste on a nearby property was reported and the City Warden agreed to investigate this.

Several members of the public referred to problems of parking on the pavement and on roads causing an obstruction. It was noted that the Civil Enforcement Officers



could only take action if the road was subjected to a Traffic Regulation Order. Otherwise, it was the responsibility of the Police to take action against parking that caused an obstruction. However, the Police did not generally take action where pedestrians still had a metre of space to walk by a car parked on a pavement.

## **186. BUDGET**

It was noted that the approved expenditure so far this year for the Ward, was £9,279.50 which left a balance of £8,720.50 for the remainder of the year and any bids submitted for approval at this meeting.

The following applications had been received and were to be considered by the meeting. Councillor Clarke stated that the value of the bids received was in excess of the funds available and that any bids that were not approved at the meeting could be considered at a budget meeting at the Town Hall after 1 April 2013 when the budget for 2013/14 would be available.

### **1) Gilmorton Development Group**

An application (No 1378) for £989 had been received from the Gilmorton Development Group to provide a small computer network and internet connection at the Gilmorton Community Rooms. Internet access and training would be free to help residents to access essential online public services. It was hoped to set up a Work Club with the support of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre.

RESOLVED:

that consideration of the application be deferred as Councillor Porter had asked for further information.

### **2) Gilmorton Development Group**

An application (No 1379) for £500 had been received from the Gilmorton Development Group for Pink Lizard Youth Activities involving football and rugby and the hire of rooms.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £500 be approved.

### **3) Leicester City Council Parks Services**

An application (No 1380) for £498 had been received from Leicester City Parks Services for the repair of St Andrews Church Footpath. The crazy paving slabs had lifted in places and were causing a trip hazard. The Parks Services didn't have a budget for footpaths etc in closed church yards.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £498 be approved.

#### **4) Leicester City Council Highways**

**£400**

An application (No 1381) for £400 had been received from Leicester City Highways to provide Grit Bins for Hopyard Close and Montrose Road at the closed end of each car parking area. If provided by the Ward, the bins would be maintained and filled with salt as and when necessary at no cost to the Ward. Councillor Porter stated that he had received representations from residents stating that if there was requirement to provide the grit bins then the City Council should fund its provision.

RESOLVED:

that consideration of the application be deferred until a Budget Meeting in April or May 2103.

#### **5) Gilmorton Development Group**

An application (No 1382) for £500 had been received from the Gilmorton Development Group for a Spring Summer Fete for Gilmorton Estate. There would be rides, stalls food and refreshments. The event would also encourage people to volunteer and help in projects to improve the estate.

RESOLVED:

that consideration of the application be deferred until a Budget Meeting in April or May 2103.

#### **6) Saffron Resource Centre**

An application (No 1383) for £1,500 had been received from the Saffron Resource Centre for Welfare Advice for people on Gilmorton Estate. There was no face-to-face welfare benefits or debt advice for the Gilmorton Estate residents. The funding would provide a weekly advice session at the Community Rooms, Hopyard Close. The project would be administered by a qualified advice worker, client contacts and outcomes would be monitored to AQS standards and an evaluation report would be compiled at the end of the three month pilot to support applications to Charitable Trusts and Foundations for continuing funding.

RESOLVED:

that consideration of the application be deferred until a Budget Meeting in April or May 2103.

#### **7) Bio Blitz**

An application (No 1384) for £2,000 had been received from Bio Blitz for an event that would take place on Aylestone Meadows Local Nature Reserve on 17 and 18 May 2013. The aim was to record as many different species within the timeframe allowed and encourage the public's interest in their local biodiversity. The costs were higher than usual because the Nature Reserve did not have any infrastructure to support the event. In addition to the

materials needed to support the event, the grant was needed to provide welfare facilities including toilets and hire a marquee.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £1,577 be approved.

#### **8) Aylestone Hall Gardens Annual Garden Party**

An application (No 1385) for £500 had been received from Leicester City Parks Service to support the Annual Garden Party and provide additional activities to cater for the increasing attendance at the event.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £500 be approved.

#### **9) Aylestone Playing Fields – Naturalised Drainage Scheme**

An application (No 1386) for £1,500 had been received from Leicester City Parks Service to install a natural drainage scheme at Aylestone Playing Fields. The scheme was originally going to cost approximately £5k, but due to the range of community groups, site partners and local residents, the majority of the work would be undertaken as part of environmental volunteer week.

RESOLVED:

that consideration of the application be deferred until a Budget Meeting in April or May 2103.

#### **10) Aylestone Local Action Group**

An application (No 1387) for £285 had been received to provide volunteer insurance, launch materials, seeds, plants, compost and pots for the 'It's Your Neighbourhood Aylestone in Bloom 2013' event. The event was part of the national event 'It's Your Neighbourhood' organised by the Royal Horticultural Society and the East Midlands in Bloom as part of Britain In Bloom.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £285 be approved.

#### **11) Aylestone Local Action Group**

An application (No 1388) for £1,980 had been received to commission, purchase and install 3 large stainless steel planters to match existing ones in Aylestone and materials to plant them. The proposal was part of the national event 'It's Your Neighbourhood' organised by the Royal Horticultural Society and the East Midlands in Bloom as part of Britain In Bloom.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £1,980 be approved.

### **12)Aylestone Local Action Group**

An application (No 1389) for £492 had been received to refurbish materials for planters, hanging baskets, and road side troughs. The proposal was part of the national event 'It's Your Neighbourhood' organised by the Royal Horticultural Society and the East Midlands in Bloom as part of Britain In Bloom.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £492 be approved.

### **13)Leicester City Council Urban Design Team**

An application (No 1390) for £478.49 had been received to erect bat and bird boxes to further increase the wildlife and amenity value of the Montrose spinney.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £478.49 be approved.

### **14)Eyres Monsell Allotment Society**

An application (No 1391) for £830 had been received to replace the locks on both main gates and provide 70 sets of keys for the locks.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £830 be approved and the applicant be advised to reduce the costs of providing the keys if at all possible.

### **15) Eyres Monsell Allotment Society**

An application (No 1392) for £480 had been received to repair a container donated by the Riverside Group. The container needed a new floor and the welding of a steel plate as well as new locks and keys for the door.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £480 be approved.

### **16)Leicester City Council – Parks Services Team**

An application (No 1393) for £800 had been received to purchase equipment for the volunteers who carry out targeted work to clean brooks and streams of litter and flotsam which falls outside the remits of all official agencies. It was noted that the application had been withdrawn since the agenda was printed.

RESOLVED:

that no further consideration be given to application.

### **17)Leicester City Council - Parks Services**

An application (No 1394) for £500 had been received to actively encourage people to become involved in helping to look after the environment through encouraging the site to be used for formal education training to help people gain qualifications. The groups using the site range from children to adults of all abilities.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £500 be approved.

### **18)Leicester City Council - Creative Works Team**

An application (No 1395) for £800 had been received to produce a community leaflet to be distributed to 6,000 households in the Aylestone Ward containing information on how the ward fund was spent in 2012/13 and how community groups could bid for funding.

RESOLVED:

that that consideration of the application be deferred until a Budget Meeting in April or May 2103.

### **19)Leicester City Council - Parks Services**

An application (No 1396) for £400 had been received to fund a vocal entertainer, provide refreshments and First Aid cover for a Golden Oldies event in Aylestone Hall Gardens. Parks services staff would assist in staffing and providing 100 chairs for the event and with providing toilets and the electrics required for the singer.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £400 be approved.

### **20)Leicester City Council – Cleansing Services**

An application (No 1397) for £200 had been received to provide and install a litter bin at the end of Duncan Road, in response to persistent dog fouling in the area.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £200 be approved.

## **187. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A member of the public referred to the number of potholes in Milligan Road to Aylestone Way and asked what the City Council proposed to do about them. Councillors agreed to make further enquiries and report back to a future meeting.

## **188. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.