

# Thurncourt Community Meeting

**Ocean Road Community Centre,  
Thurnby Lodge  
On Tuesday, 26 March 2013  
Starting at 6:00 pm**

**The meeting will be in two parts**

**6:00 pm – 6:15 pm**

**Meet your Councillors and local service providers dealing with:-**

- **City Warden Service**
- **Police Issues in the Ward**
- **Community Meeting Budgets and Enquiries**

**6:15 pm onwards**

**Get involved in your area and planning for the future. There will be presentations and discussions on:**

- **Information Item – Relocation of Current Users of the Raven Centre**
- **How to Pay Rent and Council Tax & Update on Welfare Reforms**
- **Housing Issues**
- **Highways Issues**
- **City Warden Service**
- **Police Issues**
- **Ward Community Budget**

**YOUR community. YOUR voice.**

**Your Ward Councillors are:**

**Councillor Luis Fonseca  
Councillor Rob Wann**

## **INFORMATION FAIR**

You can raise matters of concern, give opinions and find out information which may be of use about the following:-

- **City Warden Service**
  - **Police Issues in the Ward**
  - **General Council Matters and Other Issues**
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### **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.

#### **BRAILLE / AUDIO TAPE – CD / TRANSLATION**

If you require this agenda or a particular part of it to be translated or provided on audio tape, the Democratic Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend on equipment facility availability). In certain cases, subject to the agreement of the local Councillors, translation facilities can be provided at the meeting.

#### **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.

**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**

Members are asked to 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 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 MEETING**

**Appendix A**

The minutes of the Thurncourt Community Meeting held on 28 January 2013 are attached 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. INFORMATION ITEM - UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF CURRENT USERS OF THE RAVEN CENTRE**

A short update will be given on the relocation of current users of the Raven Centre.

**6. HOW TO PAY RENT AND COUNCIL TAX TO THE COUNCIL**

City Council officers will give a presentation on ways to pay Council Tax and Housing Rents. The presentation will give particular advice to those people who will be affected by the changes to the Welfare Rights Scheme that come in to effect on 1 April 2013. This will include those who have to pay Council Tax for the first time and those who will now receive housing benefits payments directly to themselves. A brief overview of the changes to the Welfare Rights Scheme also will be given.

**7. HOUSING ISSUES**

Housing officers will give an update on housing issues in the Ward.

**8. HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Highways officers will give an update on highways issues in the Ward.

**9. CITY WARDEN UPDATE**

The City Warden will give an update on issues in Thurncourt Ward.

**10. POLICE ISSUES UPDATE**

To receive an update on Policing issues in the area.

**11. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET 2012/13**

**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.**

- a) The Members Support Officer will provide an update on the Ward Community budget for 2012/13; and
- b) The following grant applications are submitted for consideration:-

**Application 1**

Applicant: 1st Thurnby Lodge Brownies

Project: Assistance with rent

Amount Requested:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Estimate/ Actual cost?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting (£)</b>
38 weeks @£6.20 for weekly meetings	£235.60	Actual	£235.60
12 weeks @ £6.20 for extensions to weekly meetings	£74.40	Actual	£74.40
10 weeks @ £18.60 for school holiday activities	£186.00	Actual	£186.00

Total	£496.00		£496.00
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**Summary:**

1<sup>st</sup> Thurnby Lodge Brownies meet weekly at Thurncourt Community Centre. Several meetings a year are extended to for parties and practices, (eg, shows, carol singing) and for planning meetings with parents.

Activities are also provided in the school holidays, either in the evening or during the daytime. For example, in the summer holidays, these activities are in the daytime, as many of the Brownies do not have the opportunity to go on family holidays and have few other activities to go to. Thurncourt Community Centre is used for this, so that activities and games are not disrupted by the weather.

Thurnby Lodge Brownies is for girls that live in the vicinity of Thurnby Lodge.

There often are incidences when parents cannot afford the weekly subscription. These girls are not excluded, but it does impact on income. Therefore, if the rent is paid by this grant, it will be possible to reduce the weekly subscription for a time.

**Application 2**

**Applicant:** Tuesday Evening Bingo Club – Mrs B Ayres  
Friday Evening Bingo Club – Mrs J Worley

**Project:** Assistance for the Tuesday and Friday Evening Bingo Clubs

**Amount Requested:**

Item	Cost (£)	Estimate/ Actual cost?	Request to Ward Meeting (£)
Running costs and purchase of bingo books: £250 for each evening session	£500	Actual	£500
Total	£500		£500

**Summary:**

The purchase of the bingo books and assistance with running costs for both groups is requested, as falling numbers makes it increasingly difficult to manage the sessions. Both sessions are run for people on the estate.

### **Application 3**

Applicant: Mr T Taylor (member of Tuesday (Seabroke) Club)

Project: Outing for the Tuesday (Seabroke) Club

Amount Requested:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Estimate/Actual cost?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting (£)</b>
Bus	£500	Estimate	£500
Meal	£250	Estimate	–
Total	£750		£500

#### Summary:

The grant will be used towards an outing to a place of interest for the club members, with a meal. This will take place in the spring or early summer. Costs above the level of grant given will be met by club members.

The outing will be for club members, who live on the Thurnby Lodge estate. There currently are 40 members. Any spare seats will be offered to friends of club members.

### **Application 4**

Applicant: Rowlatts Hill Allotment Society (Colchester Road site)

Project: Provision of a Chemical Toilet

Amount Requested:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Estimate/Actual cost?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting (£)</b>
Re-circulating chemical toilet	£600	Actual	£600
Sanitizer and re-fill	£60	Actual	£60
Delivery charge	£100	Actual	£100
Total	£760		£760

Summary:

The site has over fifty plots, but has no toilet facilities. This is particularly difficult those who live some distance from the site and means that visitors to the site, such as school children and other interested people, cannot be entertained.

The toilet will be sensitively sited and regularly inspected and emptied. It should be odour free.

It is also hoped that having a toilet will make it easier to let the several empty plots that are currently on the site.

**Application 5**

Applicant: Christ Church Parish Church

Project: Family Friendly Seating Area in Church Building

Amount Requested:

Item	Cost (£)	Estimate/ Actual cost?	Request to Ward Meeting (£)
Two-seater sofa	£249.99		£249.99
Table and four chairs	£99.99		£99.99
4 bean bags @ £25 each	£100.00		£100.00
Total	£449.98		£449.98

Summary:

In January 2013 a new monthly service was started to try and attract families, with breakfast provided first. It therefore is intended to provide a family-friendly seating area at the back of the church.

the church wants to buy a sofa and a table and chairs, plus bean bags for the children to sit on during the service.

**Application 6**

Applicant: Rosemary Goodman and Vinny Cooper

Project: 55<sup>th</sup> Community Gardens and Allotment

Amount Requested: £3,000

Summary:

It is hoped to create a place where all sections of the community will be happy to come to learn how to grow their own fruit and vegetables. It is hoped that eventually surplus produce can be given to the local church, schools and community groups around the estate. Organic growing will be encouraged, so encouraging birds and wildlife. It is hoped this will encourage schools to become involved.

A breakdown of costs has not been provided, but the grant requested will be used to buy:

- Basic building materials, (sand, cement and slabs), to create a path around the garden;
- Sleepers to create raised beds, which disabled people will be able to use;
- Water butts, for the collection of rain water;
- Composting bins;
- Lawn mower, with which to cut the grass at the front and side of the building;
- Gardening tools and a shed in which to store them safely;
- A greenhouse; and
- Trees, plants and seeds.

This is the starting point, as members of the community are already starting to donate garden equipment.

Brambles etc have already been removed by people on probation and offers of voluntary help with heavy machinery have been made to help with landscaping.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**



### **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.

### **For further information contact**

Elaine Baker, Democratic Services Officer or Carine Cardoza, Members Support Officer, Leicester City Council, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, LEICESTER, LE1 9BG

Phone 0116 229 8806 / 0116 252 8812

Fax 0116 229 8819

[Elaine.Baker@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Baker@leicester.gov.uk) / [Carine.Cardoza@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Carine.Cardoza@leicester.gov.uk)

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

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## **Your Community, Your Voice**

### **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**Monday, 28 January 2013**  
**6:00 pm**

**Held at:**  
**Thurnby Lodge Youth & Community Centre**  
**Thurncourt Road**  
**LE5 2NG**

Councillors in Attendance

Councillor Luis Fonseca
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## **INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ SESSION**

Information on the following topics was available in the room:-

- City Warden Service
- Police Issues
- Ward Councillors and general enquiries

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.

### **23. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Fonseca was elected as Chair for the meeting.

### **24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wann.

Members of the public present requested that their dissatisfaction at the continued absence of Councillor Wann at Ward Community Meetings be recorded.

### **25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

### **26. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the Minutes of the Thurncourt Community Meeting held on 22 October 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **27. INFORMATION ITEM - DECISION ON THE SCOUT HUT, NURSERY ROAD**

Steve Goddard, Head of Community Services, read a statement on behalf of the City Mayor which provided information about the future of Thurncourt former scout hut.

It was reported that last year the City Council was approached by the Scout Association to help find an organisation to take over the lease of the former scout hut in Thurnby Lodge.

Agreement could not initially be found about who should take on the lease, so in December the council had consulted with local people – sending more than 7,000 questionnaires – on two options for the use of the former scout hut, with the aim of meeting the needs of all community groups.

Option one was for the council to buy the lease of the former scout hut and give responsibility for operating the building to the Forgotten Estates Group. As-Salaam, a local Muslim group who had already used the Thurnby Lodge Community Centre and had done for some time would move to the Raven Centre.

Under option two, the council would buy the lease of the former scout hut and re-lease it to As-Salaam.

Over 1,400 responses had been received, with 1,046 in favour of option one, 125 in favour of option two, 120 with no preference and 116 returned blank.

The results on the consultation had shown that the vast majority of people who responded were in favour of the Forgotten estates Group taking over the responsibility for the former scout hut and As-Salaam moving from the Thurnby Lodge Community Centre into the Raven Centre. Under this option a small number of services that operated in the Raven Centre would be supported by the council to move into the local community centre or one of the other facilities in the area.

After considering the matter directly with all the community groups concerned option one had been agreed as the preferred option.

Although there were still some details to be agreed the Forgotten Estates Group had started work on the former scout hut and council officers were discussing the lease arrangements with As-Salaam.

Following reading the prepared statement Steve Goddard confirmed that regretfully he could not disclose the cost or any other details of the lease being negotiated.

Clarification was sought concerning the future of the groups who would be required to move from the Raven Centre to accommodate As-Salaam. It was reiterated that support would be offered to those groups with a view to them operating from the community centre or alternative community facilities in the ward.

In respect of the consultation exercise it was reported that a large amount of responses had included questions and comments which had not yet been answered. Steve accepted this point and agreed that his team would provide answers where this was possible.

In conclusion of the item, representatives of the Forgotten Estates Group commented on the considerable work which had been undertaken by volunteers to improve the scout hut facilities. Display materials showing the extent of works had been prepared and discussed as part of the Information Fair at the beginning of the meeting.

The information and update on the situation was noted.

## **28. HOUSING UPDATE**

Chrissie Field, Area Housing Manager, commented on capital improvement works which were due to be undertaken in the ward.

The make-up of the capital programme funding was clarified and it was noted that up to £50,000 had been allocated for works. The difference in the funding of works from the Housing Revenue Account was explained and it was confirmed that funds could not be allocated to works in privately owned areas. Examples of environmental improvement schemes were provided, including works to fences, improved parking bays and footpaths.

Community representatives and members of the public present were asked to consider and suggest possible schemes which would benefit from the funds available and to contact Chrissie accordingly.

## **29. CITY WARDEN'S SERVICE**

Nicole Powell and Charlotte Glover circulated details of the City Warden's work in the ward.

Progress since the previous meeting included work with Thurnby Lodge School, the Police and McDonalds to undertake a litter-pick of the estate. It was also reported that fixed penalty notices had been issued for both fly-tipping and littering and that a prosecution for fly-tipping at the Thurncourt Road recycling banks was progressing.

Promotional and educational work was ongoing which included liaison with a number of businesses concerning waste contracts and multi-agency work to reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Details of a poster campaign which offered a £500 reward to anyone with information in respect of graffiti 'tags' were circulated.

The City Wardens were thanked for their continued excellent work in the ward.

## **30. POLICE UPDATE**

Sergeant Stuart Wood and PC Ben Orton introduced themselves to the meeting.

Sergeant Wood updated the meeting concerning the review of staffing of the service and commented that PC Andy Houghton would be joining his team together with a new Police Community Support Officer in March 2013.

In respect of operations it was reported that although the total figures of recorded incidents had reduced, continued crime and anti-social behaviour existed in some parts of the ward and that officers had regularly visited one location in particular. The police methods for dealing with the problem and to lessen the effects of anti-social behaviour were described to the meeting.

The fireworks operation which had been undertaken in November had reduced the numbers of complaints and it was reported that only one unlawful bonfire had been reported to the police.

In respect of the crime figures generally, Sergeant Wood advised that reported burglaries had reduced and that crime prevention measures which had been promoted, including alarms and door chains, had led to this reduction.

In conclusion Sergeant Wood informed the meeting that the twitter account name had been changed to attract more followers from @LPThurncourt to @Thurncourtcops

The police were thanked for their update and their operational successes in the ward.

### **31. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET**

Surinder Singh, Member Support Officer, presented the latest position with regard to the Ward Community Budget.

Applications for funding had been received for consideration and funding was approved as follows:

- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations – East Leicester Dance Group  
Amount        £500

This application was approved.

- LE5 Boxercise – Forgotten Estates Community Association  
Amount        £3,500 (joint bid with one other ward)

This application was approved in the sum of £1,750

- Scout Hut Refurbishment Project – Thurnby Lodge Community Forum  
Amount        £2,600

This application was approved.

Surinder advised that, following the above approvals; £6,555 remained in the Ward Community Budget. Councillor Fonseca encouraged community groups and representatives to submit bids for funding before the end of the financial year.

### **32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted as 25 March 2013

*POST MEETING NOTE: This meeting has been moved to 26 March 2013*

### **33. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Councillor Fonseca thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was closed at 7.20 pm