

# **Westcotes Community Meeting**

**DATE:** Tuesday, 25 June 2013

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**PLACE:** East West Community Project,  
Wilberforce Road

## **Ward Councillors**

Councillor Andy Connelly

Councillor Sarah Russell

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

**YOUR community. YOUR voice.**

## **Conduct Guidance**

The behaviour of people at ward community meetings is important to the success of the meeting. Everyone attending today's meeting is kindly asked to comply with the following arrangements:

- Respect the views of others
- Keep to the Agenda
- One person speaks at a time
- Keep disruption to the minimum (mobile phones on silent) and no side discussions

If anyone does not comply with the guidance, they may be warned that they may be asked to leave the meeting.

## **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.

## **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair will introduce those present and make any necessary announcements.

The Chair and any other Councillors who are present will make any declarations as required by the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

## **3. ACTION LOG**

**Appendix A**

Attached for information and discussion

## **4. WEST END NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

The Ward Members will lead a discussion.

## **5. COMMUNITY FIRST**

An update will be given on Community First, including a report on grants awarded.

## **6. POLICE ISSUES UPDATE**

Officers from Leicestershire Police will be at the meeting to provide an update on police issues in Westcotes Ward.

## **7. CITY WARDEN**

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

## **8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**

An update on planning and development issues in the Westcotes Ward not covered elsewhere on the agenda will be given at the meeting.

## **9. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET 2013/14**

**Councillors are reminded that under the Council's Code of Conduct they should declare any interest they may have in budget applications**

**a) An update on the 2013/14 Community Meeting budget will be provided**

**b) The meeting is asked to note the following grant application, which has been decided under the Council's fast track procedure:-**

### **Application 1**

The following application was not supported.

Application £500 from Inspirate for £500 towards “Diversifying South Asian Festivals in Leicester”.

The funding was requested for the promotion of “An Indian Summer” (AIS), a recently established festival that uses venues within the city centre, including the Cultural Quarter’s Curve Theatre and Phoenix Independent Cinema.

**c) Grant applications submitted for consideration:-**

**Application 2**

Project: Starter furniture packs

Applicant: Kate Stretton, Stonham

Amount requested:

This is a joint application to the Westcotes Community Meeting and the Western Park Community Meeting.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Estimate / Actual?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting</b>
Hire of the garage for 1 year	£260		£260
Help towards staff mileage costs 20 miles a week at 0.45p a mile	£468		£468
Total	£728		£728

**Summary:**

Due to government changes in how grants such as community care grants and crisis loans are allocated, Stonham is trying to find alternative help and support for clients who are in hostel accommodation but are ready and about to move into their own independent home.

The majority of clients in the organisation’s supported housing schemes are on benefits and have no disposable income or funds to set up their own homes. Previously, when a client was ready to move to independent living applications were made to various charities and for government grants to enable the client to have just the basics in furniture. These resources are becoming very limited and changes to government grants may result in Stonham’s clients not being eligible.

It therefore is proposed to hire out a storage facility and collect items of furniture offered on recycling sites such as Freecycle. A ‘stock’ of donated items then will be held that will help set up a home for a hostel client.

Staff will collect items in their own time and using their own vehicles.

### **Application 3**

Project: Manor House Refurbishment

Applicant: Arthur Manger

Amount requested:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Estimate / Actual?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting</b>
Kitchenette	£3,530	Estimate	£3,000
Total	£3,530		£3,000

Summary:

It is proposed to redesign the art and craft centre on the ground floor of the Manor House Neighbourhood Centre. A multi-purpose room will be created that can be used as an advice centre, classroom, or small party room.

This would be used by people in the area and particularly those using the food bank.

It is hoped to start the project in June and complete it by September.

The Centre will use its own funding for the balance of the cost.

### **Application 4**

Project: Food in the Community – Pilot Project

Applicant: Leicester Masaya Link Group, with the support of Environmental Studies Ltd

Amount requested:

This is a joint application to the Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Community Meeting and Westcotes Community Meeting.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Estimate/ Actual cost?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting</b>
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			(£)
Specialist staff to plan, prepare, run (2 days) and follow up (0.5 days) the 3 events: 3x2x2.5 @ £150	£2,250	A	£2,250
Materials for the events	£200	E	£200
Publicity	£200	E	£200
Collating and analysing feedback: 1 day @ £150	£150	A	£150
Researching funding opportunities: 2 days @ £150	£300	A	£300
Developing partnerships: 6 days @ £150	£900	A	£900
Writing bids: 9 days @ £150	£1,350	A	0
Office costs and travel	£50	E	£50
Total			<b>£2,025 per ward (£4,050 in total)</b>

### Summary:

The project aims to consult with members of the local community and relevant partners to develop a larger funded programme of activities combining food growing with the cultural and social significance of food.

Promoting the growing of vegetables will support healthy eating and encourage physical exercise, as well as increasing access to cheap, fresh food. It is anticipated that the community based approach of will include sharing favourite recipes and understanding the global interdependence of foods, which will support greater cohesion between communities. The collective act of growing brings people together and gives a sense of ownership and belonging.

The consultation process will take place from June to September 2013. At the end of this there will be clear project proposal, incorporating identified community need and committed partner organisations. Applications for funding for the proposal will then made to funding bodies.

The organisers will be attending the International Food Festival at the Manor House Community Centre on 6 July 2013 and the Braunstone Carnival on 29 June. In addition, a drop-in community event will be hosted at the polytunnels

next to Braunstone Skills Centre. This will emphasise practical food growing.

Alongside this, the applicants will research current activity and players in the local area, to ensure that the proposal complements existing programmes, and to identify potential funding streams to submit the final proposal to.

### **Application 5**

**Project:** Upstairs at the Western – Leicester’s First Pub Theatre

**Applicant:** Off the Fence Theatre Company CIC

**Amount requested:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Estimate / Actual?</b>	<b>Request to Ward Meeting</b>
Building Work	£6,500	Actual	Paid by landlord (brewery)
Staging and wing space – truss and flooring	£3,500	Actual	
Lighting Desk - lighting rig, lanterns, cables, lamps	£2,500	Actual	
Seating – individual seats plus restraining clips £28 each. Theatre bench seating also being considered, subject to similar costing, to increase capacity	£2,000	Actual	
Drapes and rails	£1,500	Actual	
Sound system	£2,000	Actual	
Decorating materials	£600	Estimate	
Rental	£2,080 per year	Actual	
Total	£12,100		£4,000

The cost of drapes and rails may increase when the cost of making them up is known. This will be finalised when a wall is removed and the condition of the exposed structure is seen.

## Summary:

In March and April 2013 an under-utilised room at the Western pub was turned in to a temporary theatre, Upstairs at the Western. A stage was built, lights and sound system installed, and folding seats hired. 21 performance companies and 691 people visited the theatre. This was funded by the Off the Fence Theatre Company CIC, supported by a grant from the Westcotes Community Fund.

It is now proposed to turn the room in to a permanent theatre space and improve facilities. To do this, the company needs to:

- Enter in to a rental agreement with the brewery;
- Relocate the stage, take down a stud wall and create a stage wing;
- Improve lighting;
- Install a new sound system;
- Install suitable auditorium seating; and
- Upgrade window blinds and redecorate.

The work will be scheduled to be completed by the end of August. The theatre will then be fully functional from October and the first season will run from October to early December 2013.

A short term goal is to have 8 touring theatre companies performing for 2 and 3 night runs, with an average audience of 32 per performance, (45% of capacity), during October and November 2013. In the long term, the aim is to create a venue that is known and respected for relevant, innovative and entertaining programme of work that attracts quality, professional companies and artists.

There is a thriving pub theatre network in most cities. It can become a hub of creativity, help regenerate deprived areas and become a focal point for the local community to gather and experience culture together.

Feedback from questionnaires showed that, for the inaugural season, 32% of performers and 81.8% of the audience lived in Leicester. 32.7% of the audience lived in the LE3 postcode area.

The first season included performances for adults and children and it is intended to continue this, to attract as wide an audience as possible. Approaches and enquiries already have been received from national touring companies, the Everybody's Reading Festival (to host a play by a local playwright), Regent College (to host its drama festival), and Leicester Comedy Festival (to act as a host event). Off the Fence Theatre Company CIC is the Upstairs at the Western resident theatre company and will produce regular work for performance, as well as outreach projects, which will give the wider community chance to perform.

The Western is a well-known local pub within a catchment area of residents and small to medium sized businesses, to which marketing will be targeted.



A network of community volunteers has been created to help with various roles, (such as front of house and stage crew).

Applications for funding have also been made to O2 Think Bigger (for £2,000) and Westcotes Community First Community Development Foundation (for £2,000). Decisions on both applications are due in July.

#### **10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Please note that further Westcotes Community Meetings will be held on:-

Tuesday 1 October 2013

Tuesday 21 January 2014

Tuesday 25 March 2014

All of these meetings will be held at 7.00 pm at the East West Community Project, Wilberforce Road.

#### **11. 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, please contact**

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