

# 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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,100</b>		<b>£4,000</b>

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

## Westcotes Community Action Log: as at 20 March 2013

### Meeting held Tuesday, 19 March 2013 at 7.00 pm

Councillors attending –  
Councillor Connelly  
Councillor Russell (Chair)

Ref no	Item	Response at Meeting / Action Required	Action Required by	Action Taken	Follow up / action from subsequent Community Meeting	Item Closed / Further information
1/13	Introductions	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.	All to note	Not applicable	Not applicable	Item closed
2/13	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Connelly	All to note	Not applicable	Not applicable	Item closed
3/13	Action Log	See items 37/12 and 41/12 above	See items 37/12 and 41/12 above			
4/13	Proposed Extension of the Residents' Parking Scheme	All invited to respond to the consultation on proposals for the extension of the current residents' parking scheme	All			

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		<p>All to note that, if the majority of respondents do not want an extension to the parking scheme, it will not be introduced.</p> <p>Clarification to be sought on whether the Council is required to consult businesses on these proposals</p> <p>Ways of improving signage to short term parking bays to be considered</p> <p>The impact of any extension made to the scheme to be carefully monitored</p> <p>It to be determined whether the contents of petitions submitted in relation to the original parking scheme can be made public</p>	<p>All to note</p> <p>Ward Members</p> <p>Traffic Management Officers / Ward Councillors</p> <p>Traffic Management Officers</p> <p>Ward Councillors</p>			
5/13	Police Issues	Residents to note that:-	All to note			

Ref no	Item	Response at Meeting / Action Required	Action Required by	Action Taken	Follow up / action from subsequent Community Meeting	Item Closed / Further information
	Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There had been approximately 47 burglaries in homes (one less than this time last year);</li> <li>• 32 new alley gates had been installed in conjunction with the Council's Community Safety Team;</li> <li>• Burglaries in premises other than dwellings had increased from 19 during this time last year to 32. Much of this increase was due to premises being entered through the roof;</li> <li>• There had been 7 robberies, (the same number as this time last year);</li> <li>• The theft of motor vehicles had increased to 14 from 8 this time last year, mostly due to motor bike theft, for</li> </ul>				

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		<p>which someone had been caught;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thefts from motor vehicles had increased from over 40 this time last year to 66, much of which was from the Watkin Road area;</li> <li>• A new system of recording anti-social behaviour meant that it was no longer possible to provide figures for the Ward;</li> <li>• It was hoped that the camera used on Bede Park would be returned once it was no longer being used elsewhere;</li> <li>• Agreement had been reached on the division of responsibilities for the CCTV camera with arm in Bede Park;</li> <li>• The recent Yarn Bombing event on Great Central</li> </ul>				

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		<p>Way had been very successful and helped reduce the perception of criminal activities there;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shift patterns of the Neighbourhood Team had changed, so officers would now be on duty at the times they were needed most; and</li> <li>• A problems were being experienced due people's lack of awareness at cashpoints.</li> </ul> <p>Parking problems in Tarragon Road to be drawn to the attention of the parking enforcement team.</p> <p>All to note that the rules on street drinking had changed, so blanket bans could no longer be used. Police could remove alcohol from people under a Designated Places Order if those people were</p>	<p>Ward Councillors</p> <p>Ongoing</p>			

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		<p>under the influence of alcohol or behaving inappropriately.</p> <p>Telephone number 101 was now only a national police non-emergency number, as other agencies were no longer involved with it.</p>	Ongoing			
6/13	City Warden	<p>Residents to note that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of fly tips had been investigated;</li> <li>• Graffiti removal and litter picks had been undertaken as part of the recent Yarn Bombing event (see 5/13 above); and</li> <li>• Investigations were being made in to community events that could be held in Bede Park, (for example, sports days), to encourage positive use of the Park.</li> </ul>	All to note			



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		<p>Anyone wishing to join the Friends of Bede Park was invited to contact Val Smalley, c/o Tin Drum Books.</p> <p>Shops around Bede Park to be discouraged from giving out carrier bags.</p> <p>Morsebags also to be asked if they would be interested in having an occasional stall, (for example, on the quad area near Tesco).</p> <p>Reasons for delays in clearing fly tipping to be investigated.</p>	<p>Anyone interested</p> <p>City Warden</p> <p>City Warden</p> <p>Ward Councillors</p>			
7/13	Update on Suggested Enhancements for Parks and Green Areas in Westcotes	<p>Work to be done to determine whether S106 contributions for green space due to be paid in the next few months can be used to buy land to extend Bede Park.</p> <p>Expenditure of the s106 funds to start as soon as possible and further work to be done</p>	<p>Play &amp; Youth Development Officer</p> <p>Play &amp; Youth Development Officer / Planning</p>			

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		<p>when more funds received.</p> <p>Consultation to be undertaken with interested parties, (such as residents, young people and the Friends of Bede Park).</p>	<p>Officer</p> <p>Play &amp; Youth Development Officer</p>			
8/13	Planning and Development Matters	<p>Residents to note that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An application for the Code development on Upperton Road had been deferred from the last Planning &amp; Development Control Committee to look at alternative energy;</li> <li>• Early indications were that the Supplementary Planning Document on Student Accommodation was having an effect;</li> <li>• The land at the rear of the Kenning site (by the bridge arches) had been sold to a developer, but could not be used for student accommodation;</li> </ul>	All to note			

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was believed that the large poster on the side of a building in Western Boulevard contravened planning regulations; and</li> <li>• Hazel trees near Upperton Road had been coppiced as part of their management.</li> </ul> <p>The application for the Code development would be reported to this meeting when it was considered by the Planning and Development Control Committee.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to whether a condition can be added to any planning permission given for a supermarket at the Code site that staff should be recruited locally.</p> <p>It to be determined whether a planning application has been</p>	<p>Ward Councillors</p> <p>Ward Councillors</p> <p>Ward Councillors</p>			

Ref no	Item	Response at Meeting / Action Required	Action Required by	Action Taken	Follow up / action from subsequent Community Meeting	Item Closed / Further information
		received to convert a bus shelter on Western Boulevard in to a café.				
9/13	Ward Community Budget 2012/13	<p>£1,742 of the grant awarded to Loren Burton (ref 3250) returned to the 2012/13 Ward Community Budget. (£5,758 therefore retained for this project.)</p> <p>If further funding for project 3250 is found to be needed, this to be considered for approval from the 2013/14 Ward Community Budget.</p>	<p>Members Support Officer to action</p> <p>Members Support Officer to action</p>			
9(a)/13	Budget – Be Together Project (3252)	All to note that a grant of £500 has been approved to the Polish Mums and Children’s Centre	Members Support Officer to process £500 to be paid to applicant			
9(b)/13	Budget – 2Funky Music Festival (3253)	All to note that a grant of £500 has been approved to 2Funky Arts Ltd	Members Support Officer to process £500 to be paid to			

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			applicant			
9(c)/13	Budget – Green Lifeboat River Clean-Up Project (3255)	Application by Adrian Lane, (Senior Riverside Officer, Leicester City Council), supported	Members Support Officer to process £800 to be paid to applicant			
9(d)/13	Budget – Using Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Week (3256)	Application by Gandal Media supported, subject to active promotion of the event being done in the ward (eg, a stall at the library, supermarket(s), and schools)	Members Support Officer to process £460 to be paid to applicant			
9(e)/13	Budget – International Food Festival (3257)	Application by Arthur Manger from the Manor House supported	Members Support Officer to process £500 to be paid to applicant			
9(f)/13	Budget – Holiday Club (3258)	Application by Arthur Manger from the Manor House supported	Members Support Officer to process £500 to be paid to			

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			applicant			
9(g)/13	Budget – Summer Schemes Toddler Times	Application by Rambha Odedra (Senior Community Librarian, Westcotes Library) supported	Members Support Officer to process £500 to be paid to applicant			
9(h)/13	Budget – Riverside Festival (3260)	Application by Festivals and Events section of Leicester City Council supported	Members Support Officer to process £5,945 to be paid to applicant			
9(i)/13	Budget – “The Westcotes” – Free Newspaper	Application by David Weight supported	Members Support Officer to process £500 to be paid to applicant			
10/13	Any Other Business	The thanks of Ndi Igbo were passed on to the meeting for the funding provided for the Irji	All to note			

Ref no	Item	Response at Meeting / Action Required	Action Required by	Action Taken	Follow up / action from subsequent Community Meeting	Item Closed / Further information
		Festival. This had been a very successful event.				
		Dates of future meetings to be circulated as soon as possible.	Democratic Support Officer			
The meeting closed at 9.26 pm						

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