

FOSSE WARD COMMUNITY MEETING

19 FEBRUARY 2014

ACTION LOG

Present:

Councillor Cassidy (in the Chair)
Councillor Waddington

In attendance:

Councillor Bhavsar – Member for Abbey Ward
Councillor Byrne – Member for Abbey Ward
Councillor Riyait – Member for Abbey Ward
Sir Peter Soulsby – City Mayor

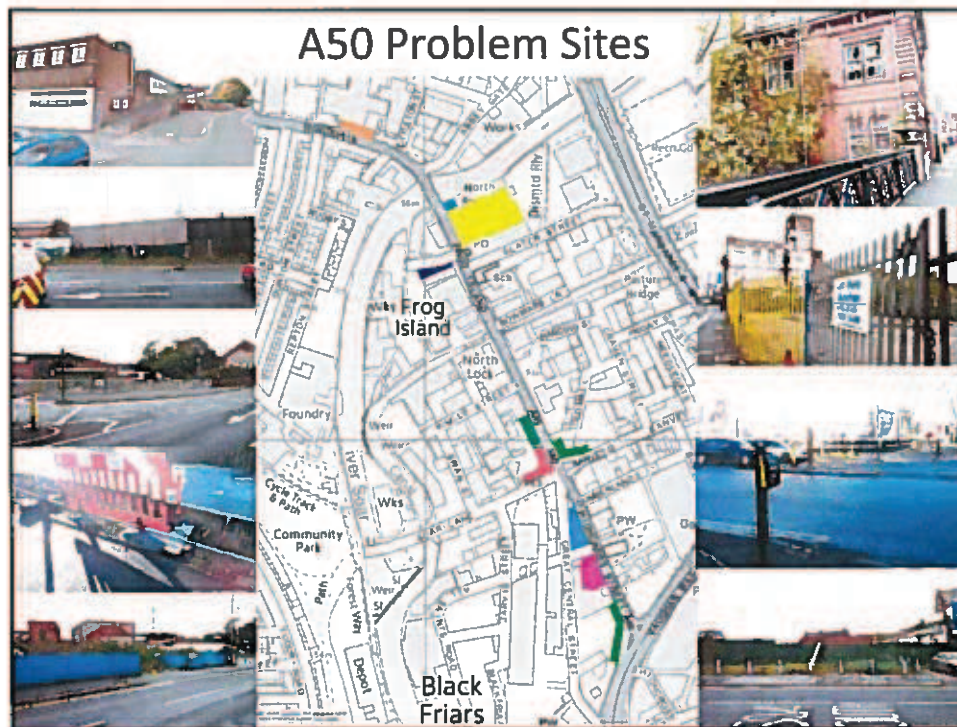
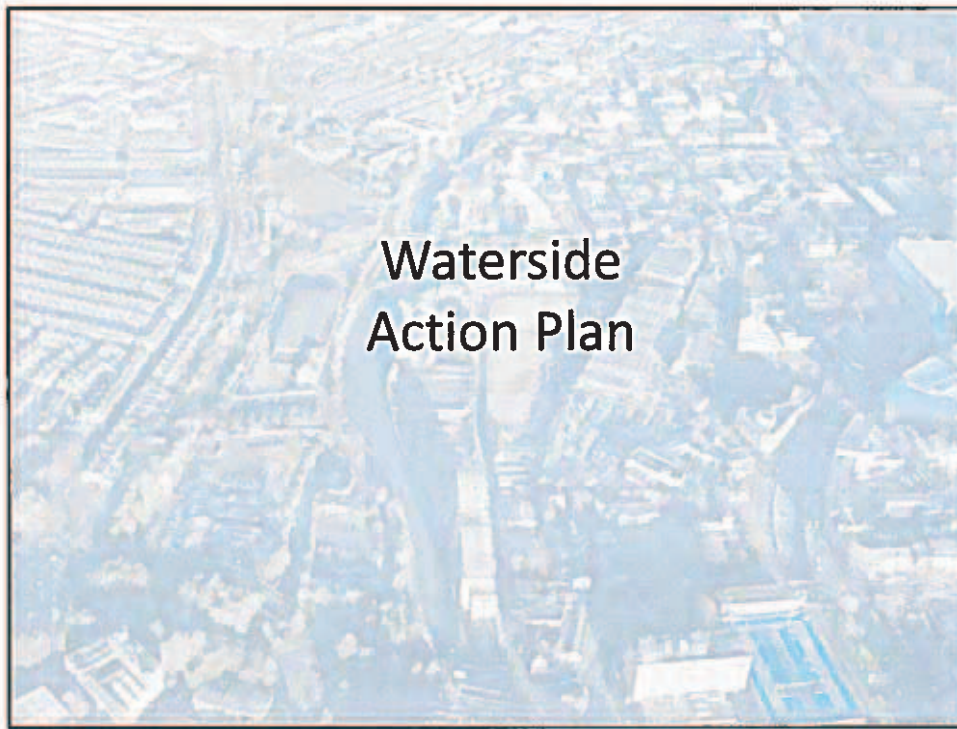
NO.	ITEM	ACTION REQUESTED AT THE MEETING
32.	INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES	Councillor Cassidy, in the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. No declarations of interest were made. Apologies for absence were received from PC Andy Goadby
33.	RECORD OF MEETING AND ACTIONS	28/13 – All to note that a knee-high railing had been installed around the Rally Park play area. The Neighbourhood Development Manager to report on the suitability of this railing at the next meeting
34.	COLLECTIVE SWITCHING OF ENERGY SUPPLIERS	Anyone interested in participating in this invited to contact the Council's Home Energy Office (tel: 0116 221 1170) or register via the website (http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/ep/energy-efficiency/collective-switching/)
35.	WOODGATE A50 / WATERSIDE REGENERATION	All to note the presentation by the City Mayor on the Waterside Action Plan (attached at the end of this Action Log). All to note that:-

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on decluttering the A50 corridor is due to start on 3 March 2014; • Wide consultation would be undertaken in the summer on options for new housing, offices, workspace, shops and leisure uses. Suggestions for how this could be undertaken were welcome; • Work that had started on land near Friars Mill was excavations for housing for which planning permission already had been granted; • No decisions had been taken on what sort of work space would be provided at Friars Mill, but it was anticipated that it would not be used as a factory for mass production; • The Inland Waterways Association had approached the Council about having moorings at Friars Mill; • The condition of buildings at the back of Rugby Street / Repton Street had been assessed; • It was hoped that a riverside access between Rally Park and Abbey Park could be created. This would give an unbroken riverside route between Blaby and Syston; and • The possibility of creating an additional river crossing near Friars Mill (possibly near the Kirby and West building) could be considered, as this area currently was blocked by the former Great Central Railway station and the Highcross shopping centre, but the Woodagate A50 / waterside area was the priority. <p>Head of Development Projects / Development Manager to consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the possibility of using All Nations Church on Frog Lane as a consultation event venue; ○ whether it would be possible to display the history of Friars Mill at the site and/or a history of the community; and ○ the feasibility of working with the environment Agency to improve the condition of the canal in the area. <p>The hoardings around empty sites needed to be secured to more robust posts, to ensure that they did not keep falling.</p> <p>Head of Development Projects / Development</p>

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		<p>Manager asked to liaise with the Woodgate Residents Association to see if funding can be found towards the cost of art hoardings depicting the history of the Woodgate area.</p> <p>Residents and businesses were invited to submit ideas for how the area could be improved.</p>
36.	SQUARE MILE PROJECT	<p>All to note the presentation by David Hollis, Operations Manager for the Square Mile Project, information from which is attached at the end of this Action Log for information.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to whether free swimming can be provided for local children at the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Leisure Centre. PCSO Joanne Taylor to liaise with David Hollis and PC Andy Goadby on this.</p>
37.	FOSSE LIBRARY	<p>All to note that self-service machines will be introduced at Fosse Library in early March 2014. These will not result in the loss of staff or changes to opening times.</p>
38.	CITY WARDEN	<p>All to note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking around schools will be checked over the next few months. • Various interviews had been held to gather evidence for problems such as fly tipping. • New powers enabled the City Wardens to facilitate the clearing of alleyways by the joint owners. • Dog fouling was a problem in the Ward, especially in the area around Repton Street and Barton Road, and was being monitored. The Wardens patrolled a different times of the day, but residents were asked to let them know the locations, times and days that dog fouling incidents were witnessed.
39.	POLICE ISSUES UPDATE	<p>All to note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned targeting of thefts from local stores had led to a reduction in thefts. Some prolific shoplifters had been arrested. • Quite a few drugs warrants had been acted on. Arrests had been made and goods seized. • Under Operation Flame the Police were focussing on young people on bikes who were

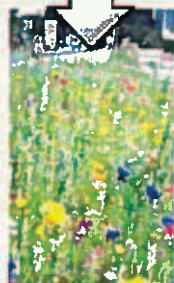
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		<p>snatching phones in Rally Park and the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School visits were being done with the Prison Service to show that crime does not pay. • Following complaints about activities at the hostel in Bonchurch Street, the organisation running the hostel (Stonham) had agreed to stop using the property. <p>Residents were asked to notify the Police via the 101 telephone number if they smelt cannabis. This could be reported anonymously.</p> <p>The police to investigate reports of drug dealing in the car park of the Merry Monarch pub.</p>
40.	WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Materials (Application 2269) – application reduced to £451. This amount approved to Fosse Creative Clay • Fosse Music Collective (Application 2270) – grant of £600 approved to Brightsparks: Arts in Mental Health Group • Hawthorne Street Growbags (Application 2272) – grant of £395 approved to Alison Dunne and Steve Escott <p>Grant approved in principle to the Maya Well-Being Project (application 2266 – £2,484 approved 20 November 2013) confirmed. Applicant to keep the Neighbourhood Development Manager fully informed of progress with the project.</p> <p>Any funding remaining in the Fosse Ward Community Budget at the close of the current financial year to be carried forward to the 2014/15 financial year.</p> <p>Residents invited to submit applications for grant funding from the remaining funds in the 2013/14 Fosse Ward Community Budget. It to be noted that these applications needed to be for no more than £500 each, so that they can be considered under the Council's fast track process.</p>
41.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents to provide Ward Members with details of the problems identified with the frequency of bus stops on Blackbird Road / Anstey Lane. • City Warden to look in to whether any action can be taken on problems being experienced with local restaurants not pushing flyers through letterboxes properly, as sometimes the letterbox

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		was left open which affected heating and security.
The meeting closed at 7.54 pm		



A50 Short Term Improvements

- Wild flower seeding to verges and vacant sites
- Repair of damaged hoardings.
- Replacement of poor quality hoardings
- Commissioned artwork
- De-cluttering of A50 corridor.
 - 40 plates and signs
 - 26 posts
 - 2 refuge beacons identified for removal.
 - Commencing 3rd March.



Planning ahead...

We are going through a process to understand:

- what exists in the area now,
- what the City and nearby neighbourhoods need, and
- how we might help to deliver it

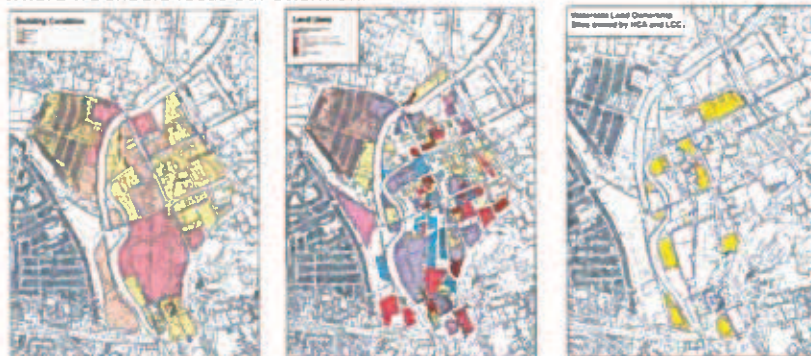


Planning Ahead...

To help our understanding of the area we have been looking at:

- Landownership
- Building condition
- Local businesses
- Derelict sites

This will help us to appreciate how the area is likely to change and where we should focus our attention.



What do we need?

We know we need:

- new housing, offices and workspace,
- shops and leisure uses to support them and new and improved infrastructure

We are carrying out research to understand in more detail what type of accommodation, how much, where it might go.

We will consult widely with options this summer to seek advice from local residents and businesses.

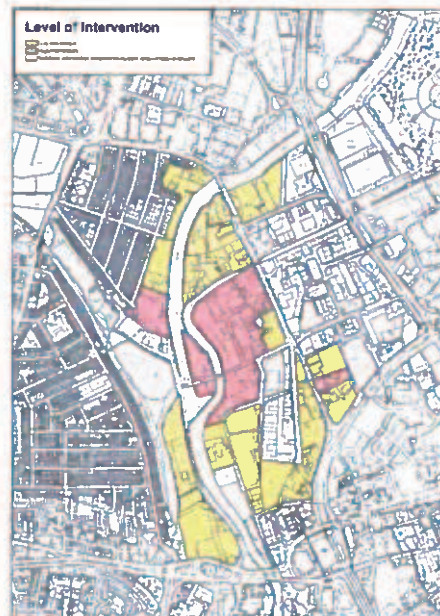


Development Framework

Our research and your advice will inform a **Development Framework** for the area.

This work has started and we will consult on it this summer.

This document will help us to encourage development that fits with our aims and resist development that does not.



Who is working with us?

We are talking to many landowners and successful businesses throughout the area about short term improvements that can be made and long term development ideas.

If you want to talk to us about a specific site, don't hesitate to get in touch.



Friars Mill - Update

- £3.9 million ERDF bid successful.
- Contractors to be appointed by June.
- Works to start July/August.
- Completion mid-2015.
- LCC leading regeneration to lower risk for future developers.



Action on Empty Historic Buildings



Fiveway's House has been sold, awaiting a re-start of the conversion

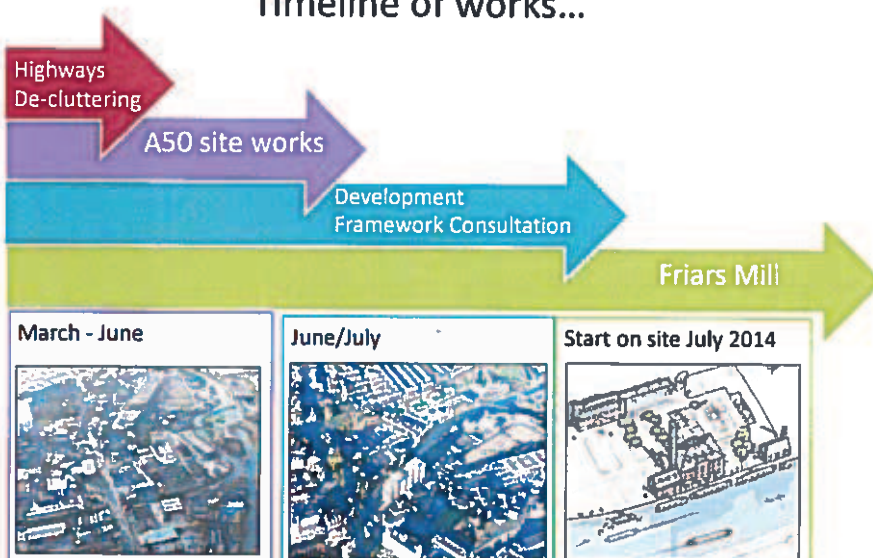


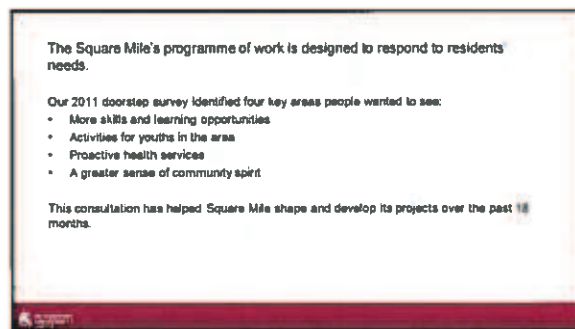
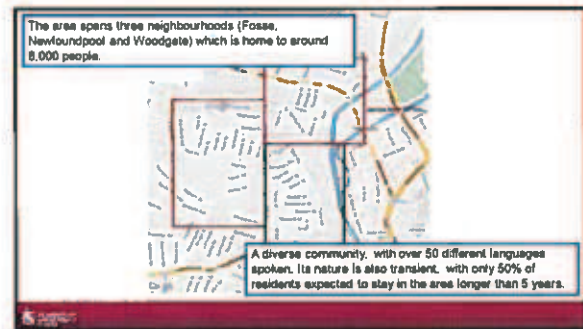
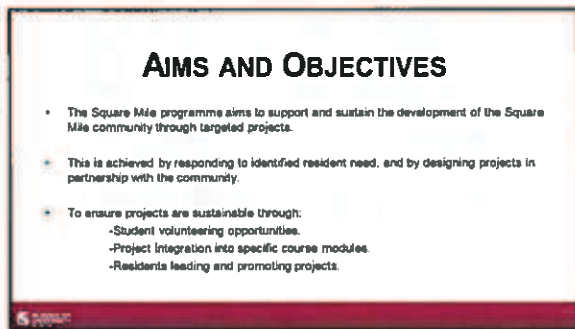
Some interest by developers, discussions ongoing to attempt to save the remains of the buildings.

- Building condition monitored
- Regular owner contact
- Action to keep sites tidy



Timeline of works...





Skills



Residents have the chance to enhance their skills and employability by attaining qualifications in Computing, English Language and Social media

Health




Projects aimed at improving the health and well-being of the community. Includes:
-Hearing screenings
-Diabetes advice and support
-Projects targeted at tackling smoking and obesity

Community




Projects that aim to promote stronger community cohesion. These include a resident-led sewing club, gardening initiatives and a community cafe

Youth Activities



Projects that aim to raise aspirations as well as increase the variety of activities available to Square Mile youth. Projects include accredited dance courses and a robotics club

Over 2,400 people have taken part in 30 Square Mile projects and events this year alone. With over 100 of these achieving qualifications in computing and English language.



Youth activities projects have improved Maths scores of over 800 children, two schools have been supported out of special measures, and over 200 12-17 year olds have received qualifications in dance and electronics.



Square Mile projects have helped over 100 people with their hearing difficulties through the free hearing screenings project. A further 400 people in the area have taken part in our diabetes projects, as our researchers search for alternative complimentary medicines.



IT TRAINING

- Designed to tackle low computer literacy rates in the Square Mile area.
- Long term objective of creating a free and sustainable bank of IT trainers for Leicester
- Students and residents are professionally trained in various topics including:
 - European computing driving license
 - Social Media
 - Online safety
- Students have so far trained over 100 members of the community, local businesses and schools through the IT training programme.

"Doing this course has been incredibly beneficial to me because it has given me new skills. What was really impressive was how patient the De Montfort University students were with us." Sherda Parmar, Square Mile resident


HOMEWORK CLUB

- Designed in partnership between schools and departments at De Montfort. Homework club responds to school needs across a range of areas including, Subject mentoring, speech therapy support, free sports clubs, free translation services, IT sessions for parents etc
- Both students and academics come together to run activities through a mixture of work and voluntary placements.
- Activities are designed to bring maximum benefit for the schools whilst remaining accessible for students.

87% of the 150+ children receiving mentoring through the Homework Club have seen a dramatic increase in their Maths and English scores. The project has also saved schools thousands of pounds in sports clubs and translation services.

FILM FESTIVAL


- Created and delivered in partnership between Square Mile and the Fosse Forum. Bring together over 400 people from the community around a love of film
- Completely free to members of the community includes free food, drink and children's activities.
- As an event, the Film festival is managed by student and community volunteers.
- This year an inflatable cinema has been hired to increase capacity to 600 people
- This year fringe events will be taking place in community centres and on De Montfort Campus




"Bringing people together is one of the fundamental aims of Square Mile, the film festival does this in highly visible way. I'm proud to be a part of something that the community genuinely gets excited about." Steve Tolton, Fosse Forum



570 Children have taken part in the Play Dough Project since it began 18 Months ago. As a result of the project, Math scores have risen in the 11 schools that have taken part.



In just 6 months of operation, the IT training project has seen 40 residents complete their basic ECCL.



The "shoot to the future project" delivered in partnership with the Leicester Riders and Leicestershire police, has seen reported ASB drop on the days in which the project operates.



We now offer advice, support to 400 people suffering with Diabetes in the Square Mile. Further to this, we also offer heavily subsidised gym membership in some cases, with the guarantee that sufferers will feel better in just 4 weeks.



Grants from external companies and the community ward budget have allowed Square Mile to coordinate students and community volunteers to revamp the parks and green spaces. Further to this, a hanging basket scheme has been offered to the majority of homes in the Woodgate area



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