

Castle Community Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, 12 July 2016

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: St John the Baptist Church,
Clarendon Park Road, Leicester
LE2 3AD

Ward Councillors

Councillor Patrick Kitterick
Councillor Deborah Sangster
Councillor Lynn Senior

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

Access – 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 Support Officer on the number given below. If you feel you may not be able to hear what's being discussed at a meeting please contact the Democratic Support Officer on the number below.

Braille / Audio tape / Translation

If you require this please contact the Democratic Support Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Social Media - The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. If you wish to film proceedings at a meeting please let us know as far in advance as you can so that it can be considered by the Chair of the meeting who has the responsibility to ensure that the key principles set out below are adhered to at the meeting.

Key Principles. In recording or reporting on proceedings you are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted ;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed

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

The Action Log of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 is attached for information and discussion.

4. CASTLE WARD SECURE HOMES SCHEME

Officers from Community Safety will provide details of the above scheme.

5. VICTORIA PARK - UPDATE

An update will be presented on the ongoing works at Victoria Park.

6. POLICE UPDATE

To receive an update from the Police on their recent activities in the Ward.

7. CITY WARDEN UPDATE

To receive an update from the City Warden on environmental and enforcement activities in the Ward.

8. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications.

- a) An update will be given on the Ward Community budget together with details of applications submitted for consideration by Councillors.
- b) Feedback will be provided from previous recipients of Ward Community grant funding in respect of their events and activities.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ST GEORGE'S CHURCHYARD PROPOSALS - CONSULTATION

The consultation on the St George's Churchyard proposals will take place from 6 July to 3 August 2016.

Design options will be submitted for consideration and comment as part of that consultation process.

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

Angela Martin, Community Engagement Officer (Tel: 0116 454 6571) (Email: Angela.Martin@leicester.gov.uk)

Or

Jason Tyler, Democratic Support Officer, (Tel: 0116 454 6359) (Email: Jason.Tyler@leicester.gov.uk)

www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings

Contact address: Granby Wing, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Appendix A

CASTLE COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016

Rom G.01, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

NO	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u>
22.	INTRODUCTIONS	<p>Councillor Sangster took the Chair and welcomed everyone present.</p> <p>In respect of the Councillors Code of Conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Senior declared an interest that a relative of hers owned a flat in the Cultural Quarter.• Ward Councillors also declared interests concerning the arrangements for the Summer Fair, confirming that their involvement was voluntary and without personal gain.
23.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	<p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
24.	ACTION LOG	<p>The Action Log of the Castle Community Meeting held on 24 November 2015 was agreed and noted.</p>
25.	UNIVERSAL CREDIT	<p>Mike Watson, Income Collection Manager (Housing) circulated presentation slides, which provided an update on Universal Credit (UC).</p> <p>The principal changes to benefit payments were explained as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UC was a new benefit that would replace JSA, Income Support, Child Tax Credits, Housing Benefits and Employment Support Allowance.• UC could only be claimed online• UC will be paid only to the claimants, once per calendar month• UC could only be paid to bank accounts• There could be no updates, unless in exceptional circumstances• Some alternative payment arrangements were in place for vulnerable people

It was clarified that working age claimants would be affected but not pensioners, unless the youngest of a couple was working age.

In respect of timescales, it was reported that the new system was being introduced gradually, rolling out to new claimants who were singles without children, then to everyone by 2018. Details of other changes, such as the benefits income cap, a freeze on working age benefits, the switch from DLA to PIP for all existing claimants, housing benefits backdating, and other associated restrictions were also reported.

In terms of the possible impacts the following points were noted:

- Tenants would receive all their housing costs themselves
- Tenants would then have to pay all of their rent and any other bills from the payment they received
- Anyone who did not pay their rent would be at risk of eviction
- Personal budgeting support was available through the Council's Universal Support website.

In regard to the final point, a list of agencies that offered help and advice, with contact details were circulated.

Mike was thanked for his presentation.

Concern was expressed at the likely impact of the changes and specifically to the replacement of housing benefit payments. It was suggested that an increase in homelessness could arise and that monitoring be undertaken, particularly given the reduction in hostel provision in the city.

It was confirmed that every effort was being made to properly inform those affected and to ensure the correct information was being provided, as it was considered that Government departments had not ensured that such advice was available.

In conclusion, the impact on resources was estimated to be to be high as the roll-out of UC would affect a large number of people in the city, particularly in the Castle Ward.

<p>26.</p>	<p>CULTURAL QUARTER – ST GEORGES CHURCHYARD</p>	<p>Claire Peters and Louise Seymour (Development Team, Planning & Economic Development) provided an update in respect of the St George’s Churchyard development within the Cultural Quarter.</p> <p>It was reported that the Council were developing plans for a high quality public realm area, with improved lighting, pathways and landscaping.</p> <p>Architectural feature lighting was also being proposed to improve the area, together with a suggestion to relocate the ceramic mermaid arches from West Bridge.</p> <p>A wider Cultural Quarter Action Plan was also to be consulted upon involving an exhibition, to which local residents and businesses would be invited, the final details were to be determined and Ward members input concerning the method of consultation was encouraged.</p> <p>Claire and Louise were thanked for their update.</p> <p>In response to questions it was reported that the ceramic mermaid arches were originally located at the former market, and therefore their relocation was suitable. Some residents queried whether this was necessary, as the artwork was considered to have a significant amenity value in its current location.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that the plans were being discussed with the church organisation but that no changes to the church building itself were proposed.</p> <p>In respect of the overall objectives, it was reported that the proposals would open up the site, offer greater connectivity and provide a more useable space.</p> <p>Insp Simon Preston confirmed the Police involvement in the consultation process and expressed support to the initial proposals. It was suggested that improvements to access, lighting, and relocated pathways would assist in removing anti-social activity in the area.</p> <p>In conclusion it was suggested that the contact list used for the Ward meeting be used to disseminate further information as plans developed for the area, and to provide further information on the consultation.</p>
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<p>27.</p>	<p>POLICE UPDATE</p>	<p>Police Insp Simon Preston reported on Police activities in the ward.</p> <p>He updated on previous reports concerning an increase in burglaries in the Clarendon Park area where a number of student properties had been affected. Arrests had recently been made and the offenders had received prison sentences. A long term plan involving discussions with the Council to increase security and develop of a programme to provide alley gates was ongoing.</p> <p>There had been an increase in the city centre of ‘theft from people’ offences including thefts of mobile phones and purses taken from bags. This offence often involved distraction tactics by groups of offenders and the public were reminded to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings.</p> <p>Cycle crime continued to increase despite an education and advertisement campaign. A need for more secure cycle parking facilities was raised.</p> <p>In respect of street drinking, and begging on streets, Insp Preston reminded the public not to give to those begging on the street and to support homelessness charities instead. It was clarified that it was not an offence to sleep on the pavement.</p> <p>An operation was being undertaken to target kerb-crawlers, as prostitution in the city centre was increasing.</p> <p>In conclusion Insp Preston promoted the 101 phone number as the correct number to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>In reply to questions and comments, it was confirmed that large numbers of people congregating in areas, such as DeMontfort Square and Museum Square could not be acted upon by the Police, unless offences were being committed.</p> <p>Ward Councillors referred to the earlier discussions concerning the St George’s Churchyard improvements and advised that although that area had been currently identified for works, they were keenly aware of the need to upgrade other areas of public open space in the city centre to prevent anti-social behaviour.</p>
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<p>28.</p>	<p>CITY WARDEN UPDATE</p>	<p>Chris Bramley-Brown (City Warden) updated the meeting with environmental and enforcement activities in the Ward.</p> <p>He commented on ongoing work to enforce the removal of commercial bins on streets, where an improvement in the situation had been realised.</p> <p>A case involving the erection of unlawful scaffolding had proceeded to Court and was currently adjourned.</p> <p>A business owner had been approached following the 'dumping' of ice from premises after closing.</p> <p>It was reported that a recent success involved the interception of a large amount of meat, which was intended for the retail market, following and alert and liaison with the Food team.</p> <p>Chris reminded the public to report any issues and where possible to use the LoveLeicester app.</p> <p>In response to questions and comments, Chris agreed to look into the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstruction caused by trees over footpath in Clarendon Park Road, adjacent to rented flats. • Removal of rubbish at the vacant Queens Rd/Bulwer Road site, the owners had been contacted and further stages towards a legal process were noted.
<p>29.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET</p>	<p>Councillors referred to the purpose of the ward Community Budget and the criteria for applications were explained.</p> <p>It was noted that this was the final meeting of the financial year.</p> <p>Eight applications were submitted and supported, or part supported.</p> <p>Members of organisations submitting bids were invited to address the meeting to explain their proposals.</p> <p>Feedback was received from the Centre Project, and friends of Queens Road Allotments, as organisations that had received ward community funding for previous projects.</p>

30.	OTHER BUSINESS	<p>a) Victoria Park – Centenary Walk</p> <p>The recent commencement of works at Victoria Park to remove tress, as part of the above project was raised.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the proposals to clear the route from the gates to the war memorial had been agreed following consultation with the Park Users Group and Friends of the Park. In terms of a formal consultation process, it was confirmed that the planning application had been advertised together with the legal notices.</p> <p>It was suggested by some residents that the issue could have also been reported to the ward meeting, similar to the report on St Georges Churchyard above. This view was accepted.</p> <p>b) Central Fire Station</p> <p>Following consultation, including reports to previous ward meetings, it was reported that the Fire Authority had withdrawn the proposal to close the Central Fire Station.</p> <p>c) LCFC – Premier League Leaders</p> <p>In response to a question from a resident, it was confirmed that the City Mayor was aware of the likely impact to the city, should LCFC win the Premier League. Initial discussions with the Police and partner organisations were underway.</p>
31.	CLOSE OF MEETING	The meeting closed at 8.10 pm



Universal Credit

Mike Watson, Income
Collection Manager,
Housing Services

Contents

- What is it?
- Who does it affect?
- What impact will it have?
- What else is happening?
- Where can I get help?

What is it?

- A new benefit that replaces JSA, Income Support, Child Tax Credits, Housing Benefits and Employment Support Allowance
- Can only be claimed online
- Will be paid only to the claimants, once per calendar month
- Only paid into their bank account
- No backdates – unless very exceptional circumstances
- Some Alternative Payment Arrangements for vulnerable people

Who does it affect?

- Working Age claimants – usually under 63 years old (below Pension Credit age)
- DOES NOT affect pensioners, unless youngest of a couple is of Working Age
- Rolling out to new claimants who are singles without children now, then to everyone by 2018

What impact will it have?

- Tenants will receive all their housing costs themselves.
- They will then have to pay ALL OF THEIR RENT and other bills from the payment they receive.
- Anyone who does not pay their rent will be at risk of eviction.
- Personal Budgeting Support is available through LCC Universal Support website – www.leicester.gov.uk/universalscredit

What else is happening?

- **Benefit Income Cap** – going down from £500 to £384.62 per week (£20K per year) for families, from £350 to £269.23 p.wk (£14K per year) for singles.
- **Freeze** on all “working age benefits until 2020, except protected areas for disability.
- **Switch from DLA to PIP** for all existing claimants under 65 will be contacted.
- **HB** Backdating limited to one month (currently 6 months).
- **CTC, HB & UC** – rates restricted to 2 children per household, for children born after April 2017.

Housing & Planning Bill

- **Pay to Stay** – higher rents for higher earners
- **Flexible Tenancies** – 2 to 5 year tenancies
- **No HB for anyone under 21** years old
- **HB restricted to LHA rates** – affects single people under 35.

Where can I get help?

- Council tenants - can contact IMT on 0116 4541007.
- Welfare Rights (LCC) - 0116 4545570
- CAB Leicestershire - 0844 4171025 or 0300 330102 from a mobile
- CALS - 0116 242 1120
- Revenues & Benefits (LCC) - 0116 4541006
- Age UK - 0116 2992278