

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Held at: Aylestone Leisure Centre, 2 Knighton Lane East

Who was there:

Councillor Dale Keeling

Councillor Bill Shelton

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

The following people or organisations were present. Members of the public visited the stands and were given an opportunity to meet Councillors, Council staff and the local Police and to bring enquiries and raise and issues.

1 Ward Councillors

The Ward Councillors circulated the room, talking to residents.

2 Police

Police from the Local Policing Unit were present to talk with residents.

3 Housing Allocations and Maintenance

Officers from the Housing Department had a display stand and were present to talk to residents about housing issues.

4 Emergency Planning

Officers from the Emergency Planning Unit had a display stand and talked to residents about how to prepare for possible emergencies such as fire or flooding.

5 Community Liaison Group

Volunteers had a stand and information on many community safety topics, and were present to offer advice to residents.

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.

FORMAL MEETING

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Shelton welcomed everyone to the first Freemen Community Meeting and introduced himself and Councillor Keeling.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Shelton was Chair for the meeting and informed people that the Chair would alternate between himself and Councillor Keeling for future meetings.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PRESENTATION ON THE NEW COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Jerry Connolly gave a presentation on the new Community Meetings and explained how the new system would work. The key features of the new Community Meetings were as follows:

- The meetings provided an opportunity for local people to get more involved in what was happening in their local area.
- Community partners and key agencies such as the Primary Care Trust and the Police would be invited to participate alongside officers from various departments, staff from agencies, projects that had a local base and most importantly people who lived and worked in the Freeman Ward.
- Members of the Public would be encouraged to highlight successes and what was not working well; they would also be encouraged to have their say on their local area such as the needs of the area and how working together could achieve those needs.
- There would be a minimum of four meetings per year, with the possibility of holding other informal events such as patch walks.
- Part of the meeting would consist of information stalls, which would be varied over time. This could include Council services, organisations such as the police or the PCT, or community groups. People could suggest stalls they would like to see.
- The second part of the meeting would be more formal and discuss issues that needed formal decisions such as budget proposals.
- The meeting's initial task was to identify and prioritise residents' issues or concerns within their ward.
- The aim was to use these ideas to develop and design a Ward Action Plan.
- In the future the ward would have £10,000 to spend, split between the Ward Action Plan and a 'community chest'.

Jerry said that work was being done to make publicity of the meetings more effective and asked people to let him know of places that publicity could be sent to.

Members of the public said that they were concerned that the Saffron estate was split between the Eyres Monsell and Freeman Wards. They also asked that all parts of the ward be considered, not just the estate. Jerry replied that the ward meetings could not change the ward boundaries and that the meeting had to work within the current boundary restrictions. He said, however, that there was the possibility of both community meetings working together on issues that affected parts of both wards if Councillors and the public wished.

6. WARD PRIORITIES

The meeting split into smaller groups for half an hour and people filled in 'ward priority cards' which allowed each person to state the three main things they thought should be included in the Ward Action Plan.

7. FEEDBACK

The Chair asked a person from each table to briefly feed back on their discussions whilst filling in their priority cards. The tables reported issues as follows:

- 1) Problems with on-street parking, particularly caused by planning permission granted for flats, as the infrastructure could not cope. Rubbish in gardens and streets - streets were cleaned the day before bins emptied.
- 2) Graffiti, youth provision, school attainment, Councillors to listen to residents, not officers; link in with the Neighbourhood Management plans for the area; Pork Pie Library – shouldn't lose an iconic building.
- 3) Antisocial behaviour at Velodrome – Police/Council not accepting responsibility for dealing with it; parking causing problems for buses, and therefore the elderly; smelly drains.
- 4) Provision of diversionary measures for young people eg education, arts, training; parking enforcement, street cleaning and litter, wheelie bin enforcement; drugs activity; private landlords not looking after their properties.

The Chair informed people that they could always let Councillors know of any problems and then they could investigate for them. He said that the priority cards would be looked at and the five main issues would be identified for the Ward Action Plan.

8. CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates were provisionally agreed for future meetings. All meetings to start at 6.00pm.

Wednesday 3 September 2008 (possibly at Linwood Centre)

Wednesday 3 December 2008

Wednesday 4 March 2009

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

The formal part of the meeting closed at 7.43 pm and people were given the opportunity to continue to look at the information fair stalls.

