

Eyres Monsell Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Thursday, 3 July 2008

Held at: Eyres Monsell Community Centre, Hillsborough Road

Who was there:

Councillor Kim Blower

Councillor Rory Palmer

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘CAROUSEL’ SESSION

The following information stands were sited in the room. 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.

Table 1 **Community Safety**

Volunteers offering information on a range of community safety issues.

Table 2 **Fit and Active Buddies**

An information board on the work of the group.

Table 3 **10,000 Trees**

Explaining the Council’s plans to plant 10,000 trees and asking for suggestions where they can be planted.

Table 4 **Bus Stops**

Discussing concerns about bus stops, including possible relocations.

Table 5 **Anti Arson Team**

How arson is being tackled.

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.

7. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Blower welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that some people were present to discuss the relocation of a bus stop on Sturdee Road, but that this was not on the formal part of the agenda. She offered to allow a few minutes to discuss this, but this was not taken up.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were asked to declare any interests in the business on the agenda. No declarations were made.

9. THE EXCHANGE

Ian Stapleton, Housing Manager, gave an update on the consultation about the possible redevelopment of the Exchange. He made the following points:

- The consultation had now closed and 176 responses to the questionnaires were collected.
- Overall 75% of respondents wanted it redeveloped, 25% wanted to keep it as it was.
- He gave a detailed breakdown on the responses including location, how often people use the Exchange, age etc.
- Taking the results into account, the Council had decided to proceed to the next stage.
- Discussions were taking place with the owners of the Invincible to secure their co-operation in the project.
- Thought was to be given to what number of shops, parking spaces and number and type of housing were needed.
- Design plans would be done over the Summer, followed by public consultation on the plans.
- It was hoped that Cabinet approval would be given by the end of the year and then potential developers would be approached. It would still not be definite at this stage that it would go ahead, as it depended on the property market.

Members of the public asked what would happen if negotiations with the owners of the Invincible were unsuccessful. Ian said that he hoped this would not be the case and that it was unlikely that a compulsory purchase order could be used on this site. People discussed the existing Council services on the site and heard that these would be included in the future development.

10. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGETS

Jerry Connolly gave a presentation on the budgets that were available to the Community Meeting. He made the following points:

- Councillors were legally responsible for making formal decisions on budget spending, but these would be discussed with the public in these meetings.
- Three funds were available

- Ward Priority Fund £7000– to spend on the priorities identified in the Ward Action Plan.
- Community Fund £3000 – to spend on small community-based projects.
- Community Cohesion Fund £2000 – to bring people together in the community, build links with young people and build confidence and a sense of belonging.
- It was anticipated that the money available would increase next year by about £5000.
- Detailed guidelines and application forms were available for any groups who wished to apply.
- The Community Meeting would make recommendations on projects they wished to fund and this would be then agreed by Cabinet or the Cabinet Lead Member responsible for Community meetings to approve it.

Jerry pointed out that one project had already been submitted for £250 from the Community fund for a summer community gardening event for young people. The Councillors said they were delighted to support this and it was to be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

11. 10,000 TREES PROJECT

Adrian Russell, Service Director, Environmental Services, explained the Council's plan to plant 10,000 trees in the city over the next 3 years. He asked people to give their suggestions as to where they would like to see some of the trees planted and suggested that they may like to consider something like a community orchard.

Members of the public suggested that young people could have the opportunity to plant a tree themselves and have a plaque by them. Adrian welcomed this idea and encouraged people to submit any further ideas.

12. WARD PRIORITIES

Jerry Connolly, Member Support Officer, gave feedback on the Ward Priority Cards that people filled in at the last meeting.

- More than 40 cards were returned.
- These cards identified the main issues of concern in the area that were to be addressed in the Ward Action Plan.
- A lot of issues related to the Exchange, but as significant work was already being done on this, it was not included in the Action Plan.
- The three main items identified were graffiti, antisocial behaviour and vandalism.
- Creative ways of dealing with the issues were to be looked at.

Jerry said that more specific details were needed to identify exactly where problem spots were. He circulated a form for people to fill in.

The meeting discussed another issue that came out of the forms regarding there not being enough facilities for young people. Local youth workers gave details of their

activity programmes and youth clubs, plus activities over the summer holidays. They said that they would like to be involved in the Community Meetings.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

