

Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

5:30 pm, Tuesday, 5 July 2011

Held at: Brite Centre, Braunstone Avenue

Who was there:

Councillor Michael Cooke

Councillor Anne Glover

Councillor Wayne Naylor



Leicester
City Council

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ 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 service representatives.

Ward Councillors and General Information Residents were given a chance to talk to their local Councillors or raise general queries.	City Warden Service The City Warden for the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields ward was present.
Police Issues Members of the Local Policing Unit were present.	Local Area Housing Representative from the Local Area Housing Office were present.
Multi Access Centres Information on Multi Access Centres was available.	Summer Play Schemes Details of the different summer activities taking place were provided.

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.

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

156. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Cooke declared a personal non prejudicial interest as he was a Governor of St Mary's School.

157. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Community Meeting, held on 15 March 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

158. BRAUNSTONE ARC PROJECT

Ian Davies and Thilo Beck provided information on the Braunstone Arc (Amplified Resilience Community) Project.

Ian explained that the project was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and De Montfort University. The aim of the project was to help communities become more resilient by focussing on issues such as the use of social media. There was also the aim of communities being able to state what their needs were.

There was a focus on sharing information and linking services already available in the communities. There was also a focus on sharing information in different ways for example when people were informed of services they would also pass the message on.

It was queried how people were aware of the project. Ian explained that in February this year he had visited a number of organisations in Braunstone and circulated information about the project. Ian notified residents that there appeared to be a three way divide in the ward. One aspect of the project was designed to create a link with the Knighton Ward.

Discussion took place on accessing information online. Ian stated that a number of low income households were online more than high income households. This could be affected by factors such as high income users not using computers when coming back from work. A resident commented that some people were more comfortable with paper. Thilo commented that it was possible to have online and paper services such as it was with the Braunstone Alert. A resident suggested that the ward should be linked with the New Parks ward rather than the Knighton ward as there were more similarities.

Thilo commented that the project was about showing resources, using networks and social media including sharing information, resources and knowledge. Councillor Naylor commented that then project was also about collecting information and how that information was used. Concern was raised that the information would be collected however would not be accessible. It was suggested that literature about the project should have been brought to the meeting and this would have opened more interest.

A resident raised concern that they had not heard of the project. It was suggested that each neighbourhood centre in the area should have literature about the project. It was also stated that the contact details of the people involved in the project would be given out.

159. SUBSTANCE MISUSE WORK BY LEICESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY PROJECTS TRUST

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to the unavailability of officers to attend the meeting.

160. POLICE UPDATE

The Chair agreed to accept this extra item.

PC Anton Wilson provided a policing update. He informed residents that there were some issues involving youngsters from Fullhurst School.

A resident queried if problems could be emailed to the Police. PC Anton Wilson stated that if the issue was not urgent then members of the public were able to call 0116 2222222 as any issues reported would be logged. Additionally PC Wilson reported that there was a 'beat' phone which was carried by officers however the number was not advertised. In response to a query, PC Wilson explained that the number was not advertised as the Police could then end up receiving derogatory calls however he agreed to provide the number to anyone if they requested it.

It was queried who the team leader was at the local policing unit. PC Wilson reported that there would always be a sergeant and Inspector overseeing. Concern was raised at the frequent changing of Inspectors and the lack of continuity because of this. PC Wilson explained that officers moved jobs due to wanting to progress.

161. BRAUNSTONE PARK AND ROWLEY FIELDS WARD ACTION PLAN

Councillor Cooke presented the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward Community Action Plan 2011-15.

He explained that the plan was intended to be a live document and was an audit of things which needed addressing.

A resident raised concern at the communal garden at the back of a bungalow on the corner of Folville Road and Audley End. He stated that then garden was in a poor condition and he did not have the physical ability to maintain. Councillor Cooke

stated a lot of poor ground maintenance had been discovered in the ward following patchwalks. He informed residents that officers had been taken around the ward and shown the issues and had been questioned how they would deal with them. A resident stated that Parks Services were now only servicing twice a year where previously they used to service the area six times a week.

Residents also raised the following additional concerns:

- Further concern was raised regarding the trees on Hallam Crescent East as they were blocking light from the street lamps.
- A wasps nest in the chimney hearth. Councillor Cooke recommended contacting the Council's pest control service.
- Some residents raised concern that there were events being held in Braunstone Park however these were not being advertised. They suggested that a list of events be provided. Councillor Cooke agreed to look into this issue.

Councillor Cooke outlined some of the big issues that were included in the action plan, these included:

- Braunstone Hall – it was reported that the previous developer could not afford the repairs to the hall and therefore the Council had sold the land and used the money however this had contravened tendering laws therefore a retendering process had taken place. There had been three more interests in the hall, one of the interested parties had submitted their scheme for the hall while the other two had until September to submit theirs.
- Health and Health Inequalities – It was reported that Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields had one of the poorest rates of Health Inequalities. Residents were informed that there would be a strategy to tackle this issue in the ward.
- Educational Standard and Skills – It was reported that the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields ward had one of the lowest levels of educational attainment. Residents were informed that a Steering Group had been formed to tackle this issue and it was hoped to develop an educational strategy.
- Assimilating New Arrivals – It was reported that conversations on this issue had been held with the Race Equality Council. Residents were informed that B-Inspired had looked at a project to assist new arrivals with providers and services coming together. Councillor Cooke reported that work had also been done with people on the electoral register.

A resident stated that there had been talk of forming a 'Friends of Braunstone Park Group however the Council's Parks Services had stated that there had been no interest on this in the community. He requested that the Members take this issue forward.

With regards to traffic and streets issues highlighted in the plan, residents were informed that these had been passed onto one of the Highways and Transport officers at the Council and he had been told to compile a plan to deal with the mentioned issues.

A resident raised concern that scrap metal dealers were taking metal from households in the ward without any permission. It was suggested that the registration numbers of the vehicles be noted and passed onto the environment team at the City Council.

Concern was raised regarding bins being left out on streets. The City Warden for the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward informed residents that a £110 fixed penalty could be imposed on people who left their bins out. However it was first aimed to resolve this issue through contact with the house owner.

It was reported that the Football Foundation had targeted the Riverside school fields as an ideal location for football pitches following the rejection of the scheme at Aylestone Meadows. It was felt that Ellesmere School should be located at the Riverside site. Residents were informed that there would be consultation sessions held at Manor House Community Centre for this. With regards to the Manor House Community Centre playing fields, it was reported there was proposal for five a side football pitches to be installed on this location. Additionally it was stated that the land next to St Mary's School would become play facilities.

Another key issue which was had been found during Member patch walks was the restricted access to the Great Central Way.

Councillor Cooke reported that he had visited the headmaster of Riverside School to ensure year nine students were allowed to attend the school of their choice for their GCSEs and there would be another meeting with the Head Teacher before the school closed.

A resident raised concern at the lorries driving down Evelyn Drive.

Residents were informed that paper copies of the plan were able to be provided or residents could be emailed if they wished.

162. BUDGET

Councillor Cooke presented the Community Meeting budget.

The following applications were submitted for consideration:

- **Braunstone Community Carnival 2011, Braunstone Foundation (T/A b-inspired), - £4,000**

It was explained that the application was to help with the costs of the Braunstone Community Carnival which had been held on Saturday 2 July 2011. It was noted that that the amount requested for the event had doubled since last year and concern was raised that the amount requested would be an even higher figure if the amount doubled next year. Members provided assurances that if the amount requested was doubled next year as well than the requested amount would not be funded due to this being a large amount of the Community Meeting budget.

Residents were informed that the event had been attended by 15,000 people and had been a success.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £4,000 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

- **Fullhurst Community College hardship fund start up, Tom Campbell, Head, Fullhurst Community College, - £5,000**

It was explained that the application was to create a fund to provide equipment to disadvantaged students. It was noted that the Westcotes Community Meeting had funded £1,250 towards the fund and the application would also be considered at the Western Park Community Meeting. The Members decided to match the funding provided by the Westcotes Community Meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,250 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

163. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 16 August at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Dumbleton Avenue.

It was agreed to distribute the dates of future meetings for the entire year with the minutes.

164. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:39pm.

