

Abbey Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 11 June 2013

Held at: The Tudor Centre, Bewcastle Grove

Who was there:

Councillor Harshad Bhavsar

Councillor Annette Byrne

Councillor Vijay Singh Riyait



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 Members of the Community met Local Councillors and discussed general Council matters.	
Police Local Police Officers were present to discuss policing issues.	Trading Standards Trading Standards Officers were present to discuss recent initiatives.
Youth Activities Council Youth Service Officers were present to discuss Summer Youth Activities.	City Wardens The Manager of the City Warden Service was present to discuss local environmental issues.

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.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Byrne was elected Chair for the meeting. She asked the meeting to note that she would be leaving before the close of the meeting and it was agreed that Councillor Riyait would then take the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Abbey Ward Community Meeting held on 19 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. POLICE UPDATE

Sgt Michelle Zakoscielny reported on the crime statistics for the Ward and made particular reference to the dramatic fall in burglaries.

Michelle reported that two PCSOs had recently been appointed who would be working beats in the Ward.

Michelle asked residents to be vigilant during the summer months and referred to crimes involving minor theft. She gave examples of thefts undertaken at parks and reminded residents of the availability of 'purse bells' which provided a deterrent.

Michelle was thanked for her attendance and update.

6. CITY WARDENS UPDATE

Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Team Manager, reported on Matt Davinson's activities in the Ward as he was unable to attend the meeting.

She referred to the Police report and also commented on the increased work undertaken in the Council's parks during the summer months.

Increased patrols to combat the problems of dog fouling had also been agreed recently. It was noted that statistically the Ward suffered from a comparably high number of dog fouling offences. Barbara asked for any intelligence information to assist the Warden in enforcing the bye-laws.

In respect of Matt's other activities, Barbara reported on his additional work to increase litter patrols and commented on the initiative across the City to control the use and operation of licensed skips.

Barbara was thanked for her attendance and update.

7. TRADING STANDARDS

Ben Proctor, Trading Standards Officer, presented an overview of the work undertaken by the Council's Trading Standards department and made particular reference to current initiatives to prevent doorstep crime.

He reported that crimes involving theft from properties had been suffered by residents where bogus traders had visited homes to offer services. He also reported on the 'SCAM' initiative which had warned residents of criminal activity including false lottery opportunities.

In all cases and examples reported, Ben commented that the advice given to residents was never to enter into business arrangements on the doorstep and that any approaches by doorstep traders should be ignored.

The use of the Fraud Act to achieve prosecutions was clarified together with the rapid response procedure which was undertaken when incidents were reported. In this regard, Ben urged residents to report any incidents to Trading Standards stating that the problems would be exacerbated if residents failed to make reports. Sgt Michelle Zakoscielny supported this view and commented on the Police activities undertaken in partnership with Trading Standards. Ben also circulated publicity material warning residents of the dangers, which included contact information.

Ben was thanked for his attendance and report.

8. SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Angela Thompson, Youth Services, presented details of the Council's Summer Youth activities in the ward. She referred to the bid process where voluntary groups and organisations wishing to hold youth events had been encouraged to apply for funding. It was noted that following the bid process a series of events would be programmed.

In reply to questions, Angela clarified that the events and activities would be aimed at youths aged 13-19 years and that the bid process involved events across the City. Angela also reported on the publicity posters which would advertise the events.

Angela was thanked for her attendance and report.

Councillor Byrne left the meeting at 6.30 pm and Councillor Riyait took the Chair.

9. HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Mike Pears and Rupert Bedder, Highways Services, reported on the ongoing road maintenance work in the ward.

The procedure for inspecting defaults was explained and the regular reporting of defects, such as potholes, was noted. The criteria for repairing defects to lessen the likelihood of insurance claims being made against the Council was reported together with the types and numbers of repairs undertaken in the Ward.

Rupert also reported on an inspection 'patchwalk' to be held which would help to identify problem areas. Other initiatives included road safety training, which included sessions for pedestrians and cyclists.

In response to questions and comments, the Officers agreed to survey the problems caused by parking on pavements, where it was considered that regular revisits to

repair broken slabs could be avoided by better parking enforcement. The increased provision and use of parking bays in areas of the Ward was encouraged.

Officers also agreed to investigate the delays with resurfacing works which had been included on approved lists of forthcoming works but had not been undertaken to date.

In conclusion it was also reported that the concrete slab construction of road surfaces in the Ward caused noise problems to residents where these had not been adequately maintained.

Mike and Rupert were thanked for their attendance and report and confirmed that they would submit an update to a future meeting.

10. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET

The following applications for Ward Community funding had been received for consideration, and were determined as indicated:

Application 1 (1292)

Applicant: Leicestershire Constabulary and LCC - Housing

Amount: £ 2,096

(Total £ 4,596 - The application had been approved in the sum of £2,500 at the previous meeting).

Proposal: A remote mobile CCTV camera to assist in solving issues of anti-social behaviour.

AGREED:

that the application be supported in principle and payment be authorised, subject to clarification of the proposed terms of use of the mobile camera.

Application 2 (1298)

Applicant: LCC Parks Services

Amount: £ 1,000

Proposal: Installation of three litter bins at the Abbey Road and Corporation Road areas of the river Soar.

Mr Adrian Lane, Senior Riverside Officer, was invited to address the meeting on behalf of Parks Services in support of the application.

AGREED:
that the application be supported.

Application 3 (1306)

Applicant: The Banks Residents Group
Amount: £ 575
Proposal: A seaside daytrip for residents of The Banks.

AGREED:
that the application be supported.

Application 4 (1307)

Applicant Leicester City Ladies Juniors Football Club
Amount £ 1,750
Joint bid with Beaumont Leys Ward (£1,750 to each Ward)
Proposal Continued promotion of the Club, provision of a soccer academy and replacement equipment.

Mr John Kavanagh was invited to address the meeting on behalf of the Football Club in support of the application.

AGREED:
that the application be supported.

Application 5 (1308)

Applicant Unity Amateur Boxing Club
Amount £ 400
Proposal Promotional leaflets to gain sponsorships and funding, which would be used to provide and replace specialised equipment.

AGREED:
that the application be not supported.

Application 6 (1309)

Applicant Seniors Community Society

Amount £ 500

Proposal Seaside daytrip for members of the Seniors Community Society

Mr Gurmel Singh was invited to address the meeting on behalf of the Seniors Community Society in support of the application.

AGREED:
 that the application be supported.

It was reported that the following applications had been approved under the Fast-Track procedure since the previous meeting:

Application (1296)

Applicant: Tudor Centre

Amount: £ 500

Proposal: Easter Community Arts and Crafts Workshops.

Application (1300)

Applicant: Tudor Centre

Amount: £ 500

Proposal: Nintendo 'Wii' games console and screen for community use.

Application (1301)

Applicant: Stocking Farm Centre

Amount: £ 500

Proposal: Dance/tone keep fit sessions.

Application (1302)

Applicant: Stocking Farm Centre

Amount: £ 500

Proposal: Summer art/craft workshops and activities.

Application (1303)

Applicant: Kathleen Chantrill

Amount: £ 84

Proposal: Taxi fares to allow attendance at consultative meetings.

Application (1304)

Applicant: Cornerstone PCC

Amount: £ 500

Proposal: Community Fun Day event at grounds of Alderman Richard Hallam School.

It was reported that the following application (retrospective) had not been supported:

Application (1305)

Applicant: Mowmacre Hill Primary School

Amount: £ 4,250

Proposal: The Mowmacre Hill 2013 SPARK Festival

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm