



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE
EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
SPINNEY HILLS AND STONEYGATE AREA COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 22 MAY 2006 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Suleman (Spinney Hills Ward) – Chair

Councillor Karim (Spinney Hills Ward)
Councillor Panchbhaya (Spinney Hills Ward)
Councillor Renold (Stoneygate Ward)
Councillor Saleh (Stoneygate Ward)

Inspector S Jones (Police)
Martin Hughes (Eastern Primary Care Trust)
Yahya Thadha (Voluntary and Community Sector representative)

45 Members of the public

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35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

41. HIGHWAYS

Mike Pepper, Head of Transport Development, Regeneration & Culture Department attended the meeting to give details and answer questions concerning residents parking and highways enforcement within the area.

It was reported that the City Council were currently conducting a consultation exercise in areas of the city where residents did not have off road parking spaces and residents parking schemes had been previously requested to see if there was majority support for such schemes. The schemes were potentially of value where problems were caused by commuter parking and congestion in areas where there already was not enough spaces for residents to park. Some of the requests had been made prior to 1997 when the County Council had responsibility for these matters but action had not been taken due to a lack of resources and enforcement powers. The responsibility now lies with the City

Council, which on 2 January 2007 will take over enforcement powers from the police and so Cabinet has requested that support for potential schemes be assessed.

To request feedback from residents questionnaires had been distributed in the potential areas for residents parking and many responses had been returned. It was stated that the decision on which schemes to be put forward to Cabinet for a decision would be determined by the level of support expressed in the questionnaires returned which might result in certain roads having residents parking and not others.

The residents would be charged £25 for a year and a business would be charged £100 a year. In response to a question Mike stated that the £25 would only half cover the cost of the scheme with the rest funded from enforcement fines levied from across the City. Each household would receive 5 free visitor passes and after this they would cost £1 per visit. Concern was raised over provision for carers visiting homes, Mike said that he would enquire into this and report back to the Committee. Concerns were also raised by members of the public about the cost of the scheme where there were several cars in the household and regular visitors were received especially where the householder was older and relied on frequent family visits.

Members of the public stated that they would expect a guaranteed parking space if they paid for the pass. Concern was expressed over the scheme being put in place in St Matthews and areas where residents had low incomes. In response Mike stated that there were no plans to introduce a residents parking scheme in St Matthews and that holding a pass could not guarantee a parking space as there were potentially more residents cars than spaces available.

In response to a question Mike stated that all the yellow lines in the City were currently being reviewed. The policy was that they should only be in places where there was a risk of accidents and that the amount of parking spaces would be maximised where possible. A member of the public stated that 57 separate objections from businesses had been handed into the Council, through the Traders Association, regarding Evington Road parking restrictions but no response had been received. It was requested that the position regarding these objections be investigated and that the position be reported back to the next meeting of the area committee.

It was suggested that the different local groups could create a petition with proposals for the problem of congested streets in the area and that this be presented to the next Area Committee. The Chair suggested that an informal working group be formed of people present at the Area Committee meeting and requested to look at the issue. It was suggested volunteers be sought and that these reflect the wards and differing users of the area. Volunteers to sit on the working group were requested from the audience and the following people volunteered to sit on the working group:

Michael Davis

Issak Abdi
Woody Wood
Haroon Abdula
Mr Panjawani
Yahya Thadha

In response to concerns expressed about a decision being made before full consultation had been carried out it was suggested that Cabinet be asked to not make a decision on introducing residents parking without prior consultation with the Area Committee.

RESOLVED::

1. That Cabinet be requested to consult the Area Committee prior to making any decision concerning residents parking schemes within the area.
2. That an informal working group be formed of the volunteers who put their names forward at the meeting to suggest ways forward on the problem of congested streets within the area and that a report back be requested from the group in time for the meeting scheduled for August 2006.