

Welcome to the Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt Area Committee

DATE: Monday, 10 April 2006

TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

PLACE: The Dining Hall, Hamilton Community College,
Keyham Lane West, Leicester.

Members of the Committee

Councillor Roman Scuplak, Humberstone and Hamilton - (Chair)

Councillor John Allen, Thurncourt;

Councillor Brenda Maw, Thurncourt;

Councillor John Mugglestone, Humberstone and Hamilton;

Councillor Roman Scuplak, Humberstone and Hamilton;

Councillor Stephen Thompson, Humberstone and Hamilton;

Programme for the meeting

You can find out how each item on the programme is managed by looking in **Your Guide to Area Committees**. There should be a copy on your chair at the meeting. You can also download a copy from leicester.gov.uk/areacommittees or phone Leicester (0116) 252 6025/7110.

This is the programme for today's meeting:-

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors will say if there is anything on the programme that they have a personal interest in.

2. RECORD OF LAST MEETING

Appendix A

Councillors will decide whether they agree that the record of the last meeting of the Area Committee, held on 30 January 2006, is correct.

3. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Appendix B

There will be a report back on the responses to questions raised by members of the public at the last meeting.

4. DOORSTEP CRIME

Joan Mitchell, Consumer Protection Officer, Leicester City Council, will be attending the meeting to give a brief presentation on issues around 'Doorstep Crime', and to help raise awareness of this particular area of crime that is often targeted at the elderly and vulnerable members of the community.

5. SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Mr. Michael Cooke, representing the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership, will be outlining the Safer and Stronger Communities aspect of the Local Area Agreement, and of how this will impact on this area of the City.

6. CHILDRENS CENTRES

Representatives from the local Childrens Centres will be attending the meeting to outline the implementation of this Government led programme that follows on from the successful Sure Start programme.

7. LOCAL POLICING - UPDATE

To receive an update on Local Policing issues within the Area Committee area.

8. YOUTH PROVISION - UPDATE

To receive an update on Youth Provision in the area.

9. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

i) Area Committee Budget 2005/06

To receive an update on funding allocated to projects from the 2005/06 Area Committee Budget.

ii) Area Committee Budget 2006/07

To consider any applications received for funding from the 2006/07 Area Committee Budget, and receive suggestions for funding.

Drugs Awareness – Life Education Centres (LEC)

An application for funding has been received, on behalf of Life Education Centres, from Leicestershire Constabulary, requesting support to enable children up to 15 years of age, to have access at school to the advice and information provided by Life Education Centres (LEC) on healthy lifestyles and also information on the danger of drugs.

Funding was previously available but this has now ceased and City Schools are struggling to meet the cost of the visits by LEC. The application for funding is to help re-instate the subsidy to provide the visits to schools and it should be noted that similar applications are being made to the four current Area Committees within the City.

Further information on the application will be provided at the meeting.

10. INFORMATION SHARING

Future of Former Laburnum Road Allotments Site

Vic Meredith, Property Review Manager, Leicester City Council, will be attending the meeting to seek the views of the Area Committee on the future uses of the former Laburnum Road Allotments site, an area of approximately 6 acres, which has recently been released following a citywide Strategic Allotment Review and which will soon be marketed.

11. PETITIONS

i) Submission of Petitions

Members of the public will be invited to present petitions to the Area Committee on local problems.

You can get more information about how to submit petitions and what will happen to them from ‘**Your Guide to Area Committees**’, available at the meeting.

ii) **Response to Petitions received at the last meeting**

The Town Clerk to report the responses received from the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture on the two petitions received at the last meeting, with a total of 22 signatures, from residents of Wintersdale Road and Perkyn Road and relating to the same footpath. The petitions were worded as follows: -

“We the undersigned, being residents of Wintersdale Road and Perkyn Road, urgently need measures to correct the vandalism, rubbish dumping and associated anti-social behaviour in the footpath known as Wintersdale Walk.

In the past five years, fires have burned the privately owned fences to the extent that owners are reluctant to continue their repairs, this in turn allows for unauthorised access over the rear gardens, recently this has resulted in two burglaries at Christmas where they used Wintersdale Walk as a means of access to the rear gardens and consequently this caused a great deal of upset.

We believe either drastic action in the form of secure fencing or a closure order for the walk is now the only course of action that will allow us to enjoy the safety and privacy of our houses.”

The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture has since responded as follows: -

“1. Highway

I have checked our records and can confirm that Wintersdale Walk is adopted as a highway maintainable at public expense. The usual means of securing permanent highway closures is to use powers under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 or the Highways Act (HA) 1980. Using these powers highways can be closed, in order to allow permitted development (TCPA Section 247) or if in the Council’s opinion that it is no longer needed for public use (HA Section 118).

Neither of the above powers could be exercised on this occasion as there is no planning application relating to this site and the path would appear to offer a realistic route for pedestrians moving through the area.

Even if a legal closure could be obtained problems could still be encountered with the future management and maintenance of the land upon which the footpath is situated, as the Council would be released from its legal duty to maintain the path. The future maintenance of this would then become the responsibility of the

landowner(s). This could lead to potential problems with the future maintenance of this area, which if left unused and ill maintained, could become a site for further antisocial activities.

2. Trees

An inspection has revealed that 3 of the 4 lamp columns are obscured or partially obscured by the trees. Arrangements are in hand for pruning of the trees and in two cases permission of a householder is being sought.

In addition, one of the lights was not working and the contractor has been instructed to carry out a repair. Arrangements have also been made to convert one lamp from low-pressure sodium unit to the more modern optically efficient high-pressure sodium lighting.”

The Area Committee are asked to note the response received and to consider whether further action, if deemed necessary, can be taken to address the petitioners concerns.

12. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

At each meeting at least 30 minutes will be allowed for you to raise any issues of concern with your local Councillors and people that work for, and with the City Council. The purpose of this session is to collect questions from members of the public.

Question forms will be available at the Area Committee meeting. If you wish to ask a question, then please write it on the form provided and give the top copy of the form to the Committee Administrator present, who will pass it to the Chair for that meeting. If you require any help please speak to the Committee Administrator who will be happy to assist you.

You will be invited by the Chair to read your question to the Committee. The Members of the Committee may wish to respond immediately, but in most cases we will need to take the question back to the relevant officer(s) for a full response.

If there are a large number of questions submitted, and your question has not been dealt with by the end of the 30 minutes allocated for questions, the question will still be answered by the relevant officer(s) in advance of the next meeting. After the question has been referred back to the relevant officer(s) and a reply has been received, the reply will be published on the City Council Internet website www.leicester.gov.uk - look under 'Area Committees'. The answers will also be reported back to the next meeting and it will be considered whether the question has been finished with, or whether further questions need to be asked.

You can have a written response to your question if you wish – please state this on the Question Form by printing your name and address at the bottom of the form.

13. SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Members of the public to suggest topics for future meetings of the Area Committee.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To give consideration to a programme of meetings of the Area Committee for the remainder of 2006, and to confirm that future meetings continue to be held on Mondays (7.00 – 9.00pm).

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Councillors will be invited to raise any other urgent business.

Help us to make improvements!

Please help us to improve area committees by filling in a **yellow Area Committee Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting. Thank you.

For further information contact

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