



**Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Westcotes and Western Park  
Area Committee**

**RECORD OF MEETING**

**Held on Thursday, 1 June 2006 at Westcotes United Reformed  
Church, Hinckley Road**

**Present**

**Councillors**

Councillor Andrew Tessier (Chair)

Councillor Roger Blackmore, Western Park;

Councillor Peter Coley, Western Park;

Councillor Andrew Connelly, Westcotes;

Councillor Andrew Metcalfe, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields;

Councillor Andrew Vincent, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields;

**Partners**

PC John Norton – Hinckley Road Police Station

PC Kerry Norton – Hinckley Road Police Station

Number of Members of the Public present: 29

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**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Andy Vincent said that, as he was a Member of the Development Control Committee, he would not express any opinion on the Braunstone Gate item in case it had to be considered at that Committee in the future.

**2. RECORD OF LAST MEETING**

The record of the meeting held on 23 March 2006 was agreed by Members.

### **3. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The meeting looked at further responses received to questions asked at the meeting of the Area Committee on 23 March 2006. The following points were raised.

#### Question 93 – Rancliffe Gardens

It was reported that Braunstone Home and Garden Care had not been approached to help with this but were available if required.

#### Question 104 – CCTV

Members of the public were concerned that a camera had been put on Bowstring Bridge, as the bridge was due to be removed. There was also discussion about the need for cameras on the Great Central Way as opposed to Wilberforce Road. It was explained that houses on Wilberforce Road allowed for a certain level of surveillance, unlike Great Central Way. The Council was trying to encourage people to use Great Central Way and needed to make people feel safer. The Committee asked the police if statistics of crime on Great Central Way could be brought to the next meeting. The police agreed to do this.

#### Question 109 – Pre-School Play Provision

The questioner said that the question related to existing play provision as well as new and asked if Councillors had been consulted. The Chair said that Councillors had not been consulted and that this was the type of issue for which the Area Committee could be useful in future.

#### Question 112 – Leicester City Football Club

Councillor Coley said that he had raised the issue of having a park and ride on match days with the new executive board of New College and they agreed to look into this again. Councillors agreed that, as the park and ride was a condition on the planning permission for the football ground, it was difficult to accept that nothing had been done about this despite the club's financial problems.

#### Question 113 – Graffiti on Wilberforce Road

Councillor Blackmore said that a patch walk had been held and it had been agreed that there could be a "blitz" on the graffiti as a pilot, supported by the £3000 set aside from the Area Committee budget for graffiti removal. In response to the suggestion of putting railings around properties it was reported that this would be costly. Members of the public were concerned that the problem seemed to be worse in this area and asked if it was removed quicker in other areas. They asked if details could be provided by the graffiti team to see if this was an issue.

### **4. PLAY AREAS**

Ade Edge, Play and Youth Development Officer, Leicester City Council, talked to the Committee about the play areas within the Area Committee boundary. He explained that each play area was given a score depending on the quality and suitability of each site. He also gave a breakdown of all the items of play equipment on each site and the age range they catered for. Illustrations and costs of items of play equipment were provided for the Committee if they wished to purchase any of them.

Members of the public asked why a local business who made play equipment had not been used and Ade explained that only equipment which had been tested by a European standard could be used by the Council and the process was often too expensive for smaller manufacturers.

An item for under 8s was requested on Hockley Farm Road and Ade said that there was no funding for this at the moment. It would also have to include traffic calming to safeguard young children crossing the road.

Concern was raised about sand being used as a play surface on Eastleigh Road as it could hide glass and syringes and the removal of a play structure in Westcotes Gardens. Ade said that as far as he knew no glass or syringes had been found on Eastleigh Road and that sand areas were more frequently checked. The structure on Westcotes Gardens had to be removed because it was rotten and the springer toys were a temporary replacement until there was more funding.

Members of the public asked if there could be fewer, better quality play areas and Ade said that this had been tried in Beaumont Leys, but there was a lot of opposition because they could not agree which sites to lose.

Councillor Connelly said that the Area Committee should be consulted on how to spend developer contributions for open spaces from new developments in the area and Ade said he would welcome that.

## **5. DULVERTON ROAD**

Councillor Blackmore introduced a discussion on traffic problems on Dulverton Road. He outlined the problem that vehicles used the road as a rat run and there were problems with cars meeting on the road and having to back up which, due to the shape of the road, was dangerous. He gave details of a survey which had identified that the majority of residents were in favour of making the road no entry on the Westcotes Drive end. This would involve a no entry sign and a "pinch point". He identified that up to £3000 could be allocated from the Area Committee budget to start working on the matter.

Residents said that there were more cars than houses which meant there was nowhere for cars to pull in to allow others to pass. There had been problems with drivers refusing to back up and there were also concerns that backing down the road round a corner or on to Hinckley Road could cause an accident. Problems of people parking on double yellow lines was also highlighted.

Jerry Connolly from the City Council reported the views of the Highways Section and said any one way scheme would have to be accompanied by traffic calming as it would lead to traffic speeding up as they would not expect to meet anyone coming the other way. The cost of this would be approximately £30,000. No accidents on the road had been reported in the last ten years, so it was not seen as needing any safety measures. Any work done on this road would mean that other programmed work to reduce accidents in proven danger areas would have to be postponed.

Residents said they were not asking for a one way system, just no entry. This would allow residents to turn round. They were also concerned that it appeared they had to wait for an accident to happen before anything could be done. The need for traffic calming was refuted as the street was too narrow to speed down.

Councillor Blackmore said that the Area Committee should agree that the Council go ahead with the scheme and referred to documents and figures he had to support this decision. The Committee agreed to approve this as part of the budget discussion later in the meeting.

## **6. BRAUNSTONE GATE**

David Smith, owner of the Looking Glass Bar on Braunstone Gate gave a presentation to the Committee on proposals he and other bar owners had been working on to pedestrianise Braunstone Gate. He explained that the road lent itself to being pedestrianised to make it a quiet, traffic free area which would be attractive to its visitors and would revitalise local businesses and bring into use empty properties. He showed a plan of the proposal which would involve continental-style terraces outside bars and restaurants and space for specialist markets. One-way access for deliveries and emergency vehicles would be provided. He stated that he had the support of the police as it would be a means of reducing crime and disorder in the area.

Members of the public said that it would be a nice idea, as it would create attractive spaces for people to use the bars in the open as in other up and coming cities. They asked about access to other streets nearby, such as Duns Lane and David explained that they would still be accessible via alternative routes.

Members of the Committee asked that the suggestion be considered by Council officers and that they should bring a report back to the Committee at a later date.

## **7. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET**

### Dulverton Road

Councillor Blackmore proposed and Councillor Coley seconded that £3000 be allocated towards making the Westcotes Drive end of Dulverton Road no entry. This was agreed by the Committee.

### Junior Calorie Killers

Dean Tams from the project confirmed that £10,000 from the Sports budget, payable in two halves, would cover revenue costs. The project would cover all three wards and eligibility would be checked by postcode. Match funding would cover staffing costs. This was agreed by the Committee.

#### Braunstone Motor Project (Update)

Wayne Naylor from the project reported that they were currently not able to follow through with the proposals reported to the 23 March 2006 meeting as other areas of funding had been withdrawn. It was reported that since that meeting Members of the Committee had agreed that the £2000 allocated to the project could be used on developing work on the existing bus.

### **8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following questions were either asked at the meeting or submitted on question forms during the meeting. Discussions that took place about these questions are outlined alongside the questions below. It was explained that any questions that could not be answered in full at the meeting would be submitted to the relevant departments for response at the next meeting of the Committee.

- 118) The Takeaways on Narborough Road cause a large amount of rubbish, could the takeaways be charged to clean up the mess?  
Could the roads in the Braunstone Gate/ Narborough Road area be swept more often and more bins put in place?

#### *Discussion at the meeting*

Councillor Blackmore commented that under English Law takeaways could not be forced to contribute towards the street cleanup and Councillor Vincent stated that on new planning applications conditions can be added for takeaways to install bins, but this cannot be enforced on existing establishments. Councillor Coley added that funds gathered from businesses for this would go straight to central government.

It was also noted that there were problems with the bins being emptied and the businesses filling the public bins with their rubbish.

- 119) Can environmental health please remove rubbish bags and empty bins when the students move out of their properties (as this will be soon happening)?
- 120) Could we please have the results of car parking scheme survey that was recently carried out?
- 121) Are there any guidelines as to how long the Council can leave paving between putting down yellow markers to say it needs fixing and it actually being fixed?

- 122) Can a pavement be put in between Andrewes Street and the new West End Children's Centre to encourage interaction between the school, the Neighbourhood Centre and the new Children's Centre?
- 123) When will the pedestrian footbridge between Westbridge Close and Castle Gardens be opened? The argument with the developer has been going on since 2005. If the bridge warps again who will have to pay for it next time?
- 124) Is this Council responding to the changing community in Westcotes and other areas by providing recycling and other waste collection information in polish and other eastern European languages?
- 125) We were told that the chicanes on Cort Crescent were being removed. When is this work going to take place?  
*Discussion at meeting*  
Councillor Vincent commented that he had not heard of any plans to remove these, as the traffic speed would increase.
- 126) I asked a question at the 17 November 2005 meeting about the piece of land next to Sandyhurst and the Hockley Farm Medical Centre – the area is badly overgrown. A small amount of weed spraying has been done, but this has only affected a very small margin on the edge of the land. Please can something be done to tidy up the area?  
*Discussion at meeting*  
Ann Branson, Service Director has spoken to Councillor A Vincent about Hockley Farm, and informed him that work would be carried out there.
- 127) Why is a camera being installed on the bridge on the Great Central Way, as the bridge will soon be demolished?
- 128) Is the Council graffiti team only concentrating on certain areas, and ignoring Wilderforce Road? Can we see the work schedule from the last few weeks?  
*Discussion at meeting*  
A photo was distributed of the East West Community Project on Wilberforce Road, which was said to be owned by the Council.  
It was explained by a member of the public that Council owned properties have graffiti cleared away, but permission has to be granted for any work to be done on private property.
- 129) Which premises on Narborough Road serve alcohol on weekdays after 11.00pm?
- 130) There is a saturation policy for bars in the Church Gate area. Could a similar one be set up in the Narborough Road/ Braunstone Gate area?
- 131) Who does the land belong to next to the alleyway by Webster Road and can it be cleaned up?  
*Discussion at meeting*  
Councillor Vincent stated that he believed the land belonged to the shops.

- 132) Can something be done about the bad gardening on the central grass verges on Narborough Road?  
There are big planters on Narborough Road, near Eastleigh Road, would it be possible to have plants in these?
- 133) Is the BMX track being officially developed? If so by whom?

## **9. PETITIONS**

Councillor Blackmore suggested a petition could be drawn up to ask for a bus service through Braunstone to serve the new health centre. Councillor Andy Vincent said that he and Councillor Joy Vincent had held a meeting with residents and First Bus and they had re-routed the bus for two months and then reverted to the old route.

## **10. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following items were suggested for future meetings:

A report on the pedestrianisation of Braunstone Gate  
Leicester Partnership  
Blueprint for Braunstone.

It was suggested that a code of conduct could be written for Area Committees to ensure people treated each other with respect at the meetings.

## **11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee was informed that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be on 27 July 2006 7.00-9.00pm at the Brite Centre, Braunstone Avenue. The date on the agenda was an error.

## **12. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

