



## **Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and Freeman Area Committee**

### **RECORD OF MEETING**

**Held on Monday, 2 July 2007 at Linwood Centre, Linwood Lane, Leicester**

#### **Present**

Councillor Kim Blower, Eyres Monsell  
Councillor Barbara Chambers, Aylestone  
Councillor Dale Keeling, Freeman  
Councillor Rory Palmer, Eyres Monsell  
Councillor Nigel Porter, Aylestone  
Councillor Bill Shelton, Freeman

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **62. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was agreed that Councillor Shelton would be for the Chair for that meeting.

#### **63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Porter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in budget applications C2 and C7. Councillor Porter also declared a personal interest in budget application C6.

#### **64. VELODROME, SAFFRON LANE**

Mike Richardson, Planning Management & Delivery, informed the Committee that there would be an exhibition held at the Aylestone Leisure Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> July for residents to attend to find any more information on the project.

It was noted that refusal had previously been given to the developers for 391 flats and 9 houses. This application was for 160 flats and 90 houses.

There would be two access points to the proposed site on Saffron Lane, one of

which would be controlled by traffic signals. There would be 1.2 car spaces per flat and 2 spaces per house.

A member of the public raised concerns over the amount of parking on the site.

Mike explained that the amount of parking spaces was guided by Government Policy. The site was close to local amenities and on a bus route, which should encourage residents to use their cars less.

The Committee was informed that although the land was not designated for housing in the local plan, the previous application was not refused due to the land being taken away from sports and community use, but because of the development's size and density, and its likely impact on the surrounding area.

Mike reported that Sport England had been consulted and that they had no objections to the proposal.

It was reported that the site would have a play area and that a contribution would be asked for from the developer for open space in the area.

It was noted that the housing department had been contacted regarding affordable housing but the planning department were still waiting for their comments.

A member of the public raised concerns that the schools and houses in the local area were already oversubscribed and that there were currently not enough local amenities for residents before a further 400 houses were built.

Another member of the public raised concerns that developer's contributions were not always spent in the relevant ward and that local children had no facilities, and this was particularly important with the Olympics in the near future.

Mike reported that part of the planning analysis was to look at local provision in the area and if need be, to seek a contribution from the developers to improve local facilities. It was noted that secondary schools could be a distance of 2-3 miles from the children attending and so a location on a public transport route would be an advantage. It was reported that the developers had carried out a transport assessment, which was looked at by the highways section.

Councillor Porter raised concerns that as the development was a departure from the Local Plan it should have been advertised as this in the local paper.

Mike responded that the application would have been advertised and that the regional office of central government would decide whether the application would be sent to the Secretary of State for a decision, if the council resolves to approve it. It was noted that the planning authority had publicised the application and that it was the authorities policy to send out neighbourhood letters.

A member of the public asked whether any provision had been put in place to prevent flooding in the area.

It was reported that the Environment Agency had been consulted over flood risks.

Councillor Shelton thanked Mike Richardson for coming along to the meeting and asked that any concerned residents attend the exhibitions on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## **65. RECORD OF THE LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the record of the meeting held on Thursday 15 February 2007 was agreed as a correct record subject to clarification being sought on play facilities in the Riverside Area.

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

A resident stated that in respect of question 101 they felt they were not satisfied with the answer. It was felt Riverside Park was not close enough for the local children to go to and that he would like to know where the £50,000 contribution in respect of the Riverside improvement works would be spent. It was noted that the local school was in need of a sports hall that would provide further capacity for the village.

Councillor Porter suggested that any future housing developments should include Section 106 Agreements to help fund sports facilities, as he believed, future funding agreed by the Council for schools would not include sport facilities. It was noted that funding would mainly be spent on the secondary sector, such as Building Schools for the Future and that the primary sector should be included such as Granby Primary who could benefit.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be asked that in future housing developments a Section 106 Agreement be used to help develop sports facilities in the local area.

## **67. YOUTH PROVISION IN THE AREA**

Fiona Bedford, Senior Youth Worker, Kingfisher Centre, gave the Committee an overview of the services the centre provided. This included a breakfast club scheme for children every Saturday, a senior club three times a week and a junior club once a week. There had also been an accredited life skills course for young people not in education, which they hope to repeat subject to funding. In the future partnership work with the Saffron Young Peoples Project was planned to increase opening times possibly straight after school.

It was noted that the ball court area had been refurbished along with the planned redevelopment of the kitchen facilities, which had been funded by the Youth Capital Fund. This would allow healthy eating and food hygiene sessions to be carried out.

It was reported that at the Southfields Drive Sports Centre there were sports sessions running four times a week.

At the Magpie Youth Centre in Eyres Monsell there were various clubs including a senior youth club, a girls club, and a motorbike project. The group had hoped to widen their work to include the Gilmorton Centre. There were also detached work sessions. It was noted that Youth Action Representatives have been elected and will participate in the Youth Forum. There was also a residential trip being planned to Gambia, if the funding could be secured.

It was reported that throughout the summer the programme would be slightly different this year focussing on sport and a graffiti project and would include partnership work with Connexions and Intersport.

There was widening participation work happening in the Linwood Centre and the Magpie Youth Centre with young parents in partnership with Saffron Young Peoples' Project, Connexions and Sure Start, and there were also detached youth work sessions in a Aylestone and Eyres Monsell.

Dee Dixon, Senior Worker, Goldhill Avenue Playground, informed the Committee that from 16 July, between 11.30am to 4.30pm, for 5 weeks the playground would be open for young children at a cost of £3.00 per child. There would be spaces for between 70 and 120 children which would be part funded by the Red Cross. Over 21 workers visiting from universities across the Country would support the sessions. It was noted that there were trips planned for the children to Skegness and Waterworld.

It was reported that the walls of the playground were to be expanded to include an open air sports ground and a tree house village, which would be disabled friendly. It was noted that the cost of this would be £68k, although £30k had already been secured.

A member of the public noted the lack of facilities in the Aylestone Ward. Councillor Porter agreed that there was a lack of provision, including swings, slides and benches in the Ayleston Ward and that the Cabinet should be asked to introduce these provisions into the area.

Another member of the public asked why the Kingfisher Centre had reduced the times it was open. It was noted that this was due to the lack of resources.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet be asked to introduce play facilities in Aylestone Playing Fields and Aylestone Park.

## **68. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET**

Jerry Connolly, Members Support Officer, was in attendance to discuss four bids that had already been made.

### **1 Create a Community Garden**

It was agreed to award funding of £1900.00.

### **2 Aylestone Meadows Appreciation Society – request funding for room hire for group meetings plus administration and publicity costs.**

The funding was approved in principle subject to the agreement of Councillor Mrs Chambers.

### **3 Fencing around Nature Reserve**

This application was deferred until the next meeting.

### **4 Sport on the Hill**

It was agreed to award funding of £3000.00.

### **5 Sport on the Hill - fencing**

It was agreed to award funding of £602.75, in partnership with the Police, who would also fund £602.75.

### **6 Aylestone Summer Soccer Scheme**

It was agreed to award funding of £1250.00.

### **7 Sponsorship for new under 9's mixed football team**

The funding was approved in principle subject to the agreement of Councillor Mrs Chambers.

## **69. JOINT ACTION GROUP - UPDATE**

Inspector Mansfield informed the meeting of the discussion at the recent Joint Action Group. It was noted that the Welford Road Local Policing Unit (LPU) now had two new beats, which reflected the Area Committee Wards.

It was reported that there were currently several vacancies at the LPU, including the Commander, Deputy Commander and Leader of the Policing Team, the LPU was waiting to obtain details regarding the replacements.

It was noted that the JAG met every 4-6 weeks with representatives from across the community, and that anyone was invited to attend to put forward

their views.

It was reported that the deliberate fire setting was being addressed by educating residents, leafleting and some investigations.

Planned activities and further policing initiatives were addressing the anti-social behaviour on local parks and that hopefully residents would see an improvement.

A member of the public commented that since a local public house had re-opened there were more young children drinking on the local parks. It was reported that a “sting” operation had been set up to see if older children were buying drinks for younger children. The outcome would be reported back to a future meeting.

It was noted that the next meeting of the JAG would be 10 July, but if residents had any non-emergency issues to report before this, they were urged to use the 101 number.

## 70. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following items were suggested for discussion at future meetings:

- Parks
- Smoke Free Legislation
- Health Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Neighbourhood Manager Progress Report

## 71. 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.

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 94) | What is going on the school sites at Newry and Southfields. Rumours are Refugee Housing, Health Centre, and Flats for the Homeless.  | Corporate Director of Children and Young People |
| 95) | Could a report be made concerning social housing and what will be done in respect of (the provision of) one-bedroom and two-bedroom houses, not flats, in the Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and Freeman area. | Corporate Director of Adults and Housing        |

96) We're looking to replace a Council Building (Goldhill) that is falling down/unusable to present users. We are asking Property Services to repair and replace said building at Goldhill.	Corporate Director of Resources
97) Cricket Parking - what are you going to do.	Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture
98) I understand that arrangements for Adult Education Classes will be announced soon. How can Southfields Drive Community Centre make late representations about the need for Adult Education Classes at this local Centre (to start in September 2007).	Corporate Director of Children and Young People
99) I am a member of the Knighton Lane Artists Group, based on Knighton Lane, Aylestone next to the Lansdowne Centre. We have recently put in a budget proposal to have our fire escape stairs replaced because they are currently unsafe, and without them we cannot use the upstairs of the building.	Corporate Director of Resources
Following conversations with Jerry Connelly it seems that funding is not available through the Area Committee for the fire escape, meaning that several members cannot continue with their professional practice.	
in for such It seems that there is a large focus on sporty facilities the area, but the Arts are somewhat neglected. If this artists group were to provide regular arts workshops for local people, young and old, would there be a greater possibility/inclination to fund the continuation of our group, especially bearing in mind there are so few groups in Leicester.	
100) As there does not appear to be much provision for community arts in the local area; would there be any interest in our Artists Group, Knighton Lane Artists on Knighton Lane becoming more involved in the community to improve provision in this area. A lot of our members are already working with young people in the wider community.	Corporate Director of Resources

## 72. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

**73. INFORMATION SHARING**

It was reported that the Ayleston Park Residents Association met on the first Thursday on each month at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church on Cavendish Road, and that local residents were invited to attend.

**74. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**75. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that a future meeting would be arranged in due course.

**76. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

