



Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt Area Committee

RECORD OF MEETING

**Held on Wednesday, 16 January 2008 at
Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre, Armadale Drive, Leicester.**

Present

Councillors

Councillor John Allen, Thurncourt;
Councillor John Mugglestone, Humberstone and Hamilton;
Councillor Barbara Potter, Humberstone and Hamilton;
Councillor Caroline Scuplak, Thurncourt;
Councillor Ramila Shah, Humberstone and Hamilton;

12 members of the public were present at the meeting:

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220. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

Councillor Potter was elected Chair for the meeting.

221. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

222. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

223. RECORD OF LAST MEETING

The record of the previous meeting, dated 14th November 2007, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

224. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Chair drew the meetings attention to the report that gave responses to questions asked at the previous meeting of the Area Committee.

The following comments were made at the meeting: -

Question 70 – Raven Centre Funding

Gerry Burke, Area Youth Work Manager, stated that this question had previously been asked, albeit in a different form. Gerry stated that if local youth activity providers were to get into a partnership arrangement then there would need to be a sharing of information. Councillor Allen stated that attendance figures and running costs would have been helpful and Gerry agreed to provide the relevant information and respond to the questioner direct.

Further discussion took place around the response to the question and felt that it was somewhat misleading and was not what people really wanted to hear. Gerry stated that there had been staffing issues at the Raven Centre and estimated that the Centre had closed about 10 times due to lack of staff availability.

Councillor Scuplak questioned when it was anticipated that the Raven Centre could be up and running and successful. Gerry stated that, allowing time for the recruitment of staff, that the Centre should be fully up and running by May 2008.

In concluding it was suggested that a progress report relating to the Raven Centre be made available prior to the first meeting of the Thurncourt Community Meeting.

RESOLVED:

that a progress report relating to the Raven Centre be circulated prior to the first meeting of the Thurncourt Community Meeting.

225. INTRODUCTION TO WARD COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Corporate Director of Resources presented a report that set out information relating to the introduction of Community Meetings across the City, starting in April 2008. It was reported that the meetings would replace the present Area Committees, the last round of which were taking place during January and February 2008.

Concerns were expressed that the allocated budgets for the new meetings represented a reduction compared to the allocations made to Area Committees. It was reported that where there were previously two wards within an Area Committee the budget allocation was £25k, and under the new proposals this would be £20k, or

£10k for a single ward Community Meeting. This figure would rise to £15k per ward in the second and subsequent years.

It was stated that Community meetings covered a smaller geographical area and the Council were keen to see Community Meetings structured around an agreed focus, a form of Area Plan. It was expected that the meetings would comprise informal and formal sessions and there would also be information sharing with information stands.

A launch event had been arranged on Thursday 28th February at the Leicester Tigers stadium, with an afternoon and an evening session. Some 200 places were available and forms were left for those interested to complete.

In concluding it was stated that it was intended to publicise the dates of the first Community Meetings during March and publicity would be distributed as widely as possible.

226. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

The Police reported that the consultation that was currently underway to determine local policing priorities was to conclude soon. It was intended to keep the Thurncourt Road shops as a priority. Issues around the use of mini motorbikes had improved to the extent that they would no longer be considered a priority. Feedback would be welcomed by the Police on what local people felt were important priorities.

227. YOUTH WORK

The Chair stated that she accepted the issues raised earlier in the meeting regarding the lack of lighting on the Ball Park and issues around the opening times of the Armadale Centre.

Gerry Burke, Area Youth Work Manager stated that a detached team was in place and were looking to alleviate problems, although there were some youths that did not want to participate in organised activities. Two workers had recently resigned from the Armadale Centre and a recruitment process was underway. There were also issues around the training of staff, and the view that staff were not best equipped to deal with certain incidents, particularly racism.

The Police stated that they wanted to flag up Summer Youth provision in the area and the Chair stated that this was under consideration by the Council and proposals had been prepared for consideration by the Cabinet.

Jayne Linney, Members Support Officer stated that a Scrutiny Review had been undertaken on Youth Facilities. The findings of the review had been referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in November, and been approved, and these were now to be referred to Cabinet in February.

In conclusion it was stated that youth activities were very important and should receive due consideration by the Council, and ensuring that plenty of time was allowed to put the necessary arrangements in place.

228. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

i) Willowbrook Activity Centre

Graham Cornish stated that an application had been submitted in September 2007 to obtain funding to enable the Centre to open one additional night per week until the end of the year. The Area Committee had supported the application but had stated that they were prepared to fund 50% of the requested sum, but would require 50% matched funding from Children and Young People's Services (CYPS). Graham stated that he had heard nothing since.

Jayne Linney, Members Support Officer stated that she was still awaiting a response from CYPS.

It was **Agreed** that **£1200** be allocated to this project, provided that a further £1200 is provided by Children and Young People's Services.

ii) Thursday Drop-in Groups (Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre) End of Year Lunch

The Chair reported that this application for funding for £200 had been refused at the last meeting on the grounds that the Group had previously received Area Committee funding. This was stated to not be the case and was in fact a first application.

It was **Agreed** that **£200** be granted.

iii) Netherhall Access Project

A budget proposal was presented in the sum of **£2000** from Dolphin Private Hire to establish a partnership between a local business (Dolphin Private Hire) and local people to provide transport twice per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) for elderly and disabled residents. These residents would be collected from their homes anywhere on the estate and taken to the local shopping centre, doctors surgery, lunch club etc. Return trips could be booked as well as a free service for pre-booked emergency appointments. The sum requested was estimated to be sufficient to operate the scheme for one year.

Following discussion it was stated that the scheme should extend to Thurncourt Ward to cover Humberstone residents.

It was **Agreed** that **£2000** be allocated to this proposal, subject to Councillor Potter, Councillor Scuplak and Jayne Linney meeting to work up the proposal in greater detail, and look to include residents of Humberstone.

iii) Pallisade Fencing – Wintersdale Road/Perkyn Road

Councillor Allen stated that there was currently fencing on one side of this footpath adjoining Willowbrook Park but the proposal was to install fencing on the other side of the footpath and estimates were likely to be in the region of **£9,000**.

Discussion took place regarding the future maintenance and the fact that if the City Council installed the fencing they would be liable for future maintenance.

It was **Agreed** that, subject to funding being available and subject to the residents affected being satisfied with the fencing, that the proposal be supported.

iv) **Invitation to Participate in a Production at Sadlers Wells Opera House**

A proposal for £3080 was presented on behalf of the Netherhall Theatre Dance Group to take 42 local children who attend the group and who have been invited to Sadlers Wells to join a Mardi Gras Festival.

It was **Agreed** that the proposal be supported in the sum of **£985**.

v) **Ball Court Lighting**

Councillor Mugglestone stated that a potential proposal would be to install lighting at the Netherhall Centre Ball Court.

Jayne Linney, Members Support Officer stated that provisional costings had been obtained and the likely cost would be in the region of £20k and the Area Committee Budget would not be able to support this level of funding.

vi) **TV facilities at Thurncourt Residential Home**

Councillor Scuplak stated that a proposal to provide a new TV at this residential home had now been withdrawn.

vii) **Columbine Road – Provision of Football Posts and lining**

It was reported that a request had been received to fund the provision of football posts and lines at Columbine Road.

Councillor Mugglestone stated there were proposals in the Council Budget to build a pavilion and 3 pitches at this location. Jayne Linney stated that she would follow this up.

viii) **Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre – Healthy Eating** **£1,200**

A verbal proposal was put forward at the meeting for the provision of milk and fruit to youths attending after-school sessions at Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre, as part of a healthy eating exercise. It was stated that there were currently 5 after-school sessions per week during term time, representing 42 weeks per year at £30 per week.

It was agreed that a sum of **£1,200** be granted in respect of the above application.

ix) **Balance of Funding**

It was **Agreed** that the balances remaining in the Area Committee Budget, estimated at approx £2,200, be allocated towards the provision of lighting at the Netherhall Centre Ball Park.

229. PETITIONS

CCTV – Humberstone Village

It was reported that a petition was being circulated to request the provision of CCTV cameras in Humberstone Village. 400 names had been collected so far.

230. INFORMATION SHARING

Councillor Surgery

The Chair reported that there would be a Councillor Surgery in Humberstone on the 2nd Thursday of each month, between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm, venue to be notified.

231. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.