

Knighton Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:30 pm, Monday, 18 August 2008

Held at: 68th Leicester Scout Group Scout Hut, Cademan Close,
Leicester

Who was there:

Councillor Andy Bayford

Councillor Ross Grant

Councillor Gary Hunt

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ SESSION

The following information stands were sited in the room. Members of the public visited the stands and were given an opportunity to meet Councillors, Council staff and the local Police and to bring enquiries and raise and issues.

- Table 1** **Ward Councillors and General Information**
Talk to your local Councillors or raise general queries.
- Table 2** **Anti Bullying in Schools**
Find out more information in relation to issues regarding bullying in schools.
- Table 3** **Knighton and Clarendon Police and Community Support Group**
- Table 4** **Leicester City PCT (Health Services)**
Responsible for Health issues in the area
- Table 5** **Special Olympics**
Find out about the Special Olympics taking place in Leicester in 2009
- Table 6** **Leicester Constabulary**
Responsible for Policing issues in the area

At the conclusion of this informal session members of the public were invited to take their seats and take part in the formal session of the meeting.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Hunt was elected as Chair for the meeting.

10. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Knighton Community Meeting, held on 19 May 2008, be confirmed as a correct record.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Adrian Russell, Service Director, Environmental Services gave a presentation on Environmental Services in the Knighton Ward.

Adrian stated that there were a wide range of services offered in areas such as waste management, street cleaning, environmental health, trading standards, licensing and building control and parks and green spaces. He added that there would be a newsletter to take away after the presentation, which would provide further information.

- **Refuse Collection and Waste Recycling**

Information was provided on refuse collection and waste recycling in the area. Adrian commented that there were two community recycling centres available in the city. There was currently a weekly kerbside collection operated which collected recyclables and residual waste and there was also a bulk collection service. Adrian reported that there had been 1, 564 missed bin collections citywide between January and June 2008, this was at an average of 71 per ward with the number of bins not collected in the Knighton ward being 100 which was higher than the average. There had also been 1,000 bulk collections. Adrian mentioned that any missed bins should always be collected the next day as long the Council were told.

Statistics were presented on how much waste was being recycled, composted and diverted from landfill between January and June 2008. Adrian commented that currently 33% of waste was being recycled and composted and 9% of waste was

being recovered and used as fuel. This meant that currently 42% of waste was being diverted from the landfill. Adrian stated that the target was to divert 60% from the landfill and they hoped to achieve that target this year.

- **Cleansing Services**

Data was presented on Cleansing Services. Adrian reported that there had been 1,608 fly tipping incidents in the city, which averaged out at 73 per ward. In the Knighton ward there had been 58 fly tipping incidents reported which was below the city wide average. There had been three reported abandoned vehicles in the Knighton Ward. It was also mentioned that there had been 1 incident reported of discarded needles and 11 incidents reported of Graffiti removal in the Knighton ward, which were both below the city wide average.

- **Street Cleaning**

Street cleanliness inspections had found that the Knighton ward had average cleanliness rates compared to citywide averages with regards to litter, graffiti, fly posting and fly tipping. Adrian commented that the inspections depended on how the streets chosen to be inspected looked on the day when the assessments were carried out.

Adrian commented that with regards to graffiti on the green cable boxes they had reached an agreement with Virgin Media who owned the boxes to provide some funding to help clear up the graffiti. However Virgin Media had stated that there were only 1,000 green boxes in the city whereas this figure was thought to be much higher.

- **Rubbish & Litter on Private Land**

Statistics were presented on incidents concerning rubbish and litter on private land, pest control and dog wardens and how the Knighton ward compared in all these areas compared to citywide from January to June 2008. There had been no reported incidents of rubbish in alleyways and six reported incidents of rubbish on private land in the Fosse ward, which was higher than the citywide average. There had also been a reported incident of vacant or derelict premises in the Knighton ward however this was lower than the citywide average.

- **Pest Control**

With regards to pest control, Adrian mentioned that there had been more reported incidents of rats than any other pest in the Knighton ward however most reports of all pests were lower than the citywide average.

- **Dog Wardens**

There had been three reports of stray dogs in the ward, eight reports of noisy dogs and three reported incidents of dog fouling. All of the incidents mentioned were lower than the citywide average. Adrian stated that from September 2008 there would be Dog Control Orders introduced which would mean there would be tougher powers to

deal with problems such as removal of dog faeces, keeping dogs on a lead when instructed to do so and the exclusion of dogs from entering play areas across the city.

- **Noise Control Service**

Information was presented on the Council's noise control service. The service was operated 9am – 2am Monday to Friday and 2pm – 2am Saturdays and Sundays. Adrian mentioned that this was one of the most busiest services and that reported incidents of Noise problems was lower in the Knighton ward than the citywide average with domestic noise being one of the most reported problems.

- **Licensing**

With regards to Licensing in the area, Adrian reported that there had been two applications granted to sell alcohol, this was for the Off Licence and Lockwoods Tea Rooms both on Allendale Road.

- **Business Regulation**

With regards to Business Regulation in the area, Adrian reported that Blossoms Day Nursery, Sir Jonathon North Community College and The Regency Hotel all had the best SmileSafe reports in the area, which related to cleanliness when serving food.

- **Other**

Adrian mentioned that the earth tremor that had previously occurred had meant there were over 100 call outs for the dangerous buildings department to deal with the maintenance of buildings across the city.

Adrian informed everyone that there was a new initiative from the Council to plant 10,000 trees over the next 3 years and there was currently a public consultation underway with regard to this. He added that there had already been 1,500 trees planted as part of initiative and encouraged members of the public to provide suggestions as to where the other 8,500 could be planted.

A member of the public queried why wasn't there a local planning law that if a tree interfered with anything then it had to be taken down. Adrian commented that it was an admirable suggestion and he would speak to the planning department to see what could be done.

A member of the public raised concern that the green boxes that were used to store recyclable waste were in danger of going missing as the people who came to collect waste were throwing them all over the pavement. Adrian mentioned that Biffa who were the company behind waste collection had conducted a customer satisfaction survey and they had received a lot of feedback in relation to this problem. He added that the complaints had gone down and they would be conducting another survey in the near future.

A member of the public queried why restaurants open up so quickly again after they had been shut down. Adrian commented that a lot of these problems were down to new businesses and as long as the premises had permission they thought they could run the business. He added that the Council had run an education awareness course to help businesses and that the Council had to be informed if anyone was starting a new business.

A member of the public queried how many inspections were there per week of restaurants. Adrian commented that there were 20 to 30 inspections per week.

The Chair queried whether there used to be a setup where the street cleaning people followed the waste collection services. Adrian commented it was difficult to coordinate the services in order to get street cleaning to follow waste collection.

The Chair thanks Adrian for his presentation.

14. WARD PRIORITIES

Steve Letten, Member Support Officer, presented information on the ward priorities that had been agreed for the area following suggestions from the residents.

Steve stated that the top five priorities that had been agreed for the area were

- CCTV for the shops at Allendale Road and Francis Street
- Traffic
- Christmas decorations at shops on Allendale Road and Francis Street.
- Parks and trees
- Pavements

Steve commented that at the agenda meeting the Councillors had agreed to separate issues relating to the shops on Allendale Road and Francis Street and deal with these issues separately at an extra meeting so the main priorities without those issues were:

- Traffic
- Parks and trees
- Pavements
- Policing

Steve commented that he was currently looking for comments and that the final draft of the plan would be going to the third meeting.

A member of the public commented that there was only so much that could be done with traffic. He added that a problem like speeding tended to be a national problem that was dealt with nationally as well. Steve commented that if a traffic problem was chosen to be looked at then Council officers would look at the situation and see what could be done.

The Chair commented that the first meeting was held at Overdale Junior School and the venue for this meeting was close to that venue as well. He added that it would be more useful to get a better representation of the western side of the ward.

Councillor Grant commented there were two particular references to Overdale Junior School and there had been a lot of unhappiness before however there was now going to be a 20mph speed limit around the school.

A member of the public queried whether young children were being taught about the green cross code. The Police Community Support Officer commented that she would be going into Overdale Junior School to talk to the children about traffic and the green cross code.

15. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Steve Letten, Member Support Officer, presented information on how the budget for the Community Meeting would be structured.

Steve commented that there were three types of funding available.

- **Ward Priority Fund**

The first was the Ward Priority Fund, which would be used to deal with the agreed ward priorities, and there was £6,700 available in this fund.

- **Community Fund**

The second was the Community fund, which would be used to fund Community projects in the area, and there would be £3,300 available in this fund.

- **Community Cohesion Fund**

The final fund was the Community Cohesion fund of which there was £2,000 available to spend on any Community Cohesion projects in the area.

Steve added that there were forms available on the side and they were available on the web as well. Any applications would be considered at the Community Meeting itself and the final decision in regard to applications would be decided by the cabinet lead.

Steve announced that there had been one application received from Reverend Christopher Allen at St Mary Magadlen's Church for the cut back of vegetation and trees growth around the perimeter of the church. The application was for £320 plus VAT and it was supported by the local police. Steve commented that the pulling back of the trees and vegetation would be beneficial for public safety reasons and this is why the application was being considered as funding was not normally allowed to

religious groups. If the vegetation and trees were cut back this would reduce the chance for an attacker to hide in the trees or bushes and jump out. A member of the public commented that they had done a patchwalk in the area and when the area was dark then it was very difficult to see. The Police Community Support Officer commented that they had received a number of complaints regarding safety about the area. The Members approved the application however commented that it should be investigated to see if the relevant department of the Council were able to carry out the work for a lower price.

RESOLVED:

that the proposal be accepted and £320 be allocated as requested subject to approval from Cabinet however it be investigated if the relevant department of the Council are able to carry out the work for a lower price.

16. COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Steve Letten, Member Support Officer, presented information what the role of a Community Partner would be and how they would be involved in the Community Meeting.

Steve commented that the role of a Community Partner would be to act as a Link person between the public and the Councillors of the ward, be involved in ward action planning, be involved in sub groups of the Community Meetings, participate in activities such as patch walks in the area and help publicise the Community Meeting to get a greater number of people to attend as possible.

The skills required for someone to be a Community Partner included being keen, having a genuine interest in the area, capacity available to carry out the tasks, the ability to work effectively in a team, communicate effectively, have the ability to chair meetings when needed and have good problem solving skills.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A representative from South Knighton Community Group was present to provide some information about his group. He commented that the group was local neighbours getting together for a variety of events that took place at Holbrook Hall. He commented that it would be good to see similar events rolled across Knighton. The Group was actively looking at attracting people from all age ranges. The Group met on the first Saturday of each month at Holbrook Memorial Hall and there was a small entrance fee depending on the event being held.

The representative expressed concern that the land of Holbrook Memorial Hall was owned by the nearby church and they were looking at the option of demolishing the hall. He added that since South Knighton was viewed as a wealthy area there was

no community facility available. He commented that they were desperately looking to retain the hall and there was petitioning in the area against the demolishing.

A representative was present to provide information on the Special Olympics that were due to take place in Leicester between 25 July and 31 July in 2009. There were scheduled to be 1500 participants in the Olympics and there were 1500 volunteers needed to help out during the event. The Walkers Stadium would be hosting the Olympic village. Members of the Public were informed that all volunteers needed to be over 16 and would undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check. The representative commented that they were looking at getting more people involved in the events.

18. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

