

Beaumont Leys Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:30 pm, Wednesday, 17 September 2008

Held at: Babington Community Technology College, Strasbourg Drive

Who was there:

Councillor Vi Dempster

Councillor Keith Lloyd-Harris



Leicester
City Council

INFORMATION FAIR

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.

Ward Councillors and General Enquiries

School Attendance

Details were provided of the work being undertaken to ensure good school attendance.

Housing and Housing Repairs

Officers were present who were able to provide advice with regard to local Council housing matters.

Community and Healthy Living Centres

Details were available with regard to the facilities / services available in Community and Healthy Living Centres.

Housing Benefits

Advice was available on housing benefits matters.

Police

Local Police Officers were available to discuss any matters of concern.

Special Olympics

Information was available with regard to volunteering opportunities at the Special Olympics.

Youth Council

Youth Council members were present to give information about the activities they undertook.

Beaumont Leys Sports Consortium

Representatives were available from the Consortium to provide details of the facilities it was intended to provide 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.

FORMAL SESSION

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Dempster was Chair for the meeting.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Paul Westley submitted his apologies for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were also received from local resident Peter Naylor. He asked that his thanks be passed on for the 'Telly Talk' facility in Beaumont Leys Library which he felt was very useful for being able to talk to the Council's Customer Services staff.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were asked to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972 applied to them.

There were no declarations.

12. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on June 10 were attached to the agenda papers. The Councillors on the Committee were asked to approve them as a correct record. They were confirmed.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The meeting received a presentation from Malcolm Grange, Head of Street Scene Enforcement about the Environmental Services which were provided in the Beaumont Leys Ward.

He gave details on the following areas of work undertaken in the ward:-

- Waste and Recycling – There was still a weekly collection of waste in Leicester, also free collection of 5 bulky items and the city achieved a 33% recycling rate.
- Street Cleaning – the Council undertook area based street cleaning. As part of this matters such as fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, discarded needles and graffiti

were also dealt with. The Beaumont Leys ward had much higher than average incidents of discarded needles and graffiti problems.

- Other Street Scene Matters – these included graffiti removal from Virgin Media equipment boxes and the responsible rubbish disposal initiative, where there was a display at the Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre for a week.
- City Wardens - Malcolm informed the meeting that the Beaumont Leys Ward would be having a City Warden working in the ward from October, looking at tackling a range of enviro crime issues and improve the local environment.
- Pest Control Services - it was noted that there were generally lower levels, than the city average, of call outs to deal with most types of pest problems (rats, mice, cockroaches, fleas) in the Beaumont Leys Ward.
- Dog Control Orders – A range of new powers were being introduced. For example, dogs would be restricted from certain areas such as children’s play areas and fines could be levied against irresponsible owners for not cleaning up mess.
- Noisy Neighbours – information was provided on the services provided by the Noise Control Team, who provided a call-out service until 2.00am seven days a week. This team was called out in the ward to deal with a number of complaints mostly relating to loud music played at night.
- Smile Safe Scheme – this was where businesses selling food and drink were inspected and given a rating of their hygiene. He outlined premises which were rated as good eg, Barley Croft Primary School and John Calvert Court.
- Licensing – the Licensing Team was responsible for granting of alcohol and other licenses. New rules had recently been brought in to restrict food vans outside schools to prevent bad eating habits from developing. They also oversaw the ‘Best Bar None’ scheme which promoted good practices amongst the city’s licensees.
- Building Control – Officers had been responsible for checking the safety of building projects, in Beaumont Leys however there was an occasion where officers had to check a building which a vehicle had crashed into on Thornholm Close. Officers had also undertaken a great deal of work checking buildings in the aftermath of the earth tremor in February.
- Parks – Malcolm gave details of the restoration to Castle Hill Country Park, the improvements made to Bennion Pools Nature Area and the Beaumont Lodge Heritage Trail.
- 10,000 Trees Project – Malcolm provided details of this project which intended to plant 10,000 trees in the city over the next three years. Residents were welcomed to put their suggestions forward for locations for the Trees.

Councillor Dempster thanked Malcolm for his presentation. She then gave the meeting an opportunity to ask him questions.

Dog mess – A resident queried where dog owners should put dog mess that they have picked up as there was no longer specific dog mess bins. Malcolm commented this could be put in usual household / rubbish bins.

Waste facilities - Councillor Dempster queried why, when the Biffa waste facility was based in the ward, couldn't residents take their waste there, rather than to the Freemans Common site which was far away. Malcolm commented that there would be health and safety issues at the moment to allow people to attend this facility. He said that it could be explored for the future.

Trees – Councillor Dempster asked about the services available when trees were causing a concern from being too high and blocking out light. Malcolm explained that if the tree was on public land, the parks service could be contacted to assess the situation. If the tree was on private land, legislation could be used to require the owner to cut a tree back.

Trees in Schools – Councillor Dempster queried whether it was planned to plant any trees / orchards in schools. Malcolm stated that it was planned to plant trees in local schools as part of the 10,000 trees scheme.

Energy Sources – A resident queried whether consideration had been given to generating power from waste that was produced in the city. Malcolm explained that the Biffa Ball Mill extracted valuable materials from people's waste. What was also generated from this process was a material called floc, which was sold as a fuel. The resident further suggested that excrement could be turned into a fuel. Steve Letten, Member Support Officer noted that waste was turned into methane, which was used to create electricity at a plant at Wanlip.

14. WARD PRIORITIES

Councillor Dempster welcomed Ramila Dhobi from the Beaumont Leys Neighbourhood Housing Office to give a briefing presentation on the development of the Beaumont Leys Area Plan.

Ramila gave details as follows:-

- The reasons behind developing the plan which was based around developing priorities and targets for improving the area.
- The vision for Beaumont Leys which was about creating a place that people wanted to live, where they felt safe and had access to good quality housing.
- Good data was important to improve services. There needed to be better data collection for example only 70% of the area's ethnicity was known.
- She noted that there was a problem with Anti Social Behaviour which needed addressing with particular emphasis in the Gresley Close / Collett Road / Scalpay Close area.

- A football fun week had been held to promote health activities and reduce anti social behaviour.
- There were high levels of abandoned properties in the area which needed dealing with.
- The SRB 5 program had extended some gardens but this had led to problems with repairs.
- A number of actions were planned to keep the streets cleaner – environmental action days, education programmes and working closer with cleansing services.
- There were high levels of criminal damage in the ward – efforts were being made to identify particular problem areas and what could be done to help the Police address it.
- Work would be undertaken to develop tenant and resident participation in the management of the area.
- A marketing strategy would be developed to better communicate with residents and develop a more positive view of Beaumont Leys.
- All the issues mentioned above would be part of the plan for year one. Further discussions will take place with residents to determine priorities for action in the area.

Councillor Dempster thanked Ramila for her presentation.

She then asked Steve Letten, Member Support Officer to give a brief update on the development of the Ward Action Plan which was being developed for the Community Meeting.

Steve noted that the top priorities emerging from the discussions that had been held and priority forms which had been sent in so far were as follows:-

- Youth Provision
- Community Facilities
- Speedway
- Fly tipping
- Crime / anti social behaviour
- Alleyways

However this was only on the basis a limited number of responses.

Steve commented that the next steps for the action plan would be to get further feedback and suggestions. He wanted to visit community groups and venues to get more suggestions for priorities. A final draft of the plan would be submitted to the third meeting.

A resident suggested that outreach workers be provided to develop further, the football fun week that was mentioned in the Area Plan presentation.

A resident commented that the proposed sports village / speedway centre would help address the youth provision / community facilities priority concerns that had been identified.

It was suggested to Steve that he attend a meeting of the local youth forum to seek some views for the action plan.

A resident commented that she was involved in a large community organisation in the ward, but noted there was no suitable venues or financial support for them to hold events. Councillor Dempster noted that there were community facilities in the ward, but probably not enough.

Councillor Dempster stated that the Ward Action Plan and the Beaumont Leys Area Plan should have some similar themes running through them and should work together to achieve benefits for the Ward.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Visit to Youth Forum meeting	Steve Letten, Member Support Officer	December 2008
Produce Final Draft of Ward Action Plan	Steve Letten, Member Support Officer	December 2008

15. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Steve Letten, Member Support Officer gave the meeting a brief presentation outlining the budgets available to the Community Meeting.

Ward Priority Fund - £6700 in 2008/09 (£10,000 in 2009/10) – to fund projects to support the Ward Action Plan being developed by the meeting. This funding was meant to be used to divert mainstream resources to meeting needs in the ward.

Community Fund - £3300 in 2008/09 (£5000 in 2009/10) – to fund projects to help the community at large or individual groups for example, older people's trip to the seaside.

Community Cohesion Fund - £2000 in 2008/09 – to fund projects to; support or reinforce community integration eg. build links involving young people; and build confidence and a sense of belonging.

Steve also noted that there was an urgency procedure which could be utilised. This meant amounts of up to £500, could be agreed for funding outside of a meeting. Councillor Dempster however commented that it would be extremely rare that this facility would be used and that funding would normally come to the Community Meeting for consideration.

One application for funding had been received and was circulated at the meeting. It was a proposal to set up a community library at Barleycroft Healthy Living Centre. The request was for £3000 for specialist books. These were children's books, large print and English for Speakers of an Overseas Language. Carlym Sandringham from the Healthy Living Centre spoke in support of the application.

The Chair proposed that £750 be provided for the library, and that officers contact the Children and Young People's Services and the Adults and Housing Departments to see if any further funding could be provided.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Submit proposal for £750 funding for Barleycroft Community Library to the Council's Cabinet Lead Member for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods for decision.	Steve Letten, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible.
Contact the Children and Young People's Services and Adults & Housing Departments for assistance for the library.	Steve Letten, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible.
That there be a general presumption against approving urgent budget items.	Ward Councillors / Steve Letten, Member Support Officer	Ongoing

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. She asked that people spread the message about the Community Meeting as it was designed to be for the benefit of residents.

17. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

