

# **Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Monday, 2 March 2009**

**Held at: Highfields Centre, Melbourne Road**

Who was there:

Councillor Hanif Aqbany
Councillor Dr Shofiqui Chowdhury
Councillor Mohammed Dawood

## INFORMATION SHARING – ‘CAROUSEL’ 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**

**TABLE 2**  
**- Waste Management (Leicester City Council)**  
Responsible for recycling and of the removal of household waste

**TABLE 3**  
**- Emergency Management**  
Responsible for the effective co-ordination and management of civil emergencies.

**TABLE 4**  
**- Leicestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre**  
- Responsible for the promotion of energy efficiency across Leicester and Leicestershire.

**TABLE 5**  
**- Leicestershire Constabulary**  
Meet representatives from the local policing unit.

**TABLE 6**  
**- Leicester Anti-Social Behaviour Unit**  
Responsible for investigating cases of anti-social behaviour.

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.

## **28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **30. RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The record of the meeting held on 15 December were agreed as a correct record.

## **31. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

Paul Commons, Transport Development explained that a petition containing the names of 400 objectors had been received in respect of the re-opening of the Melbourne Street / Melbourne Road junction to vehicular traffic. He stated that the Council's Planning and Development Control Committee would now make a decision based on all of the evidence that had been put forward.

A Member of the Public stated that the recent road maintenance work had led to increased congestion during peak times, particularly along Melbourne Road.

Councillor Dawood reported that additional streets would be considered to be included in future phases of the programme.

## **32. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Barbara Whitcombe, City Warden Manager gave an update on environmental services work in the Spinney Hills Ward. Barbara circulated the latest Spinney Hills environmental services newsletter.

She summarised the incidents that had been reported to cleansing services and reported that 2 out of the 22 abandoned vehicles in Spinney Hills had been removed. It was also stated that there was a high level of satisfaction with street cleanliness inspections. However, it was acknowledged that the total number of pest control incidents was high in relation to the city average.

Barbara explained that there had been problems with residents obstructing public footpaths with domestic rubbish bins, and appealed for such incidents to be reported to the Cleansing Team, who could authorise fixed penalty notices for such behaviour.

Steve Chang-Leng, City Warden for Spinney Hills and Stoneygate was also in attendance. He informed that meeting that he had been recently been taking photographs of vehicles for sale on streets as this had been a particular problem. Steve added that it was difficult to altogether prohibit the sale of vehicles on streets as the law states that the transaction of money had to occur on the street to

constitute an offence. However, traders could be punished for displaying an illegal advert under the Town and Country Planning Act.

A Member of the Public stated that they had witnessed a clear reduction in the amount of litter on footpaths since the introduction of the City Wardens, and wished for the positive effect to continue.

### **33. COMMUNITY MEETINGS BUDGET**

Steve Letten, Member Support Officer introduced applications for funding from the Community Meeting budgets.

Steve outlined the position of the three separate budget streams, and stated that there was £2,333 remaining in the Ward Community Fund with £2,000 and £5,477 left in the Community Cohesion Fund and Ward Action Plan Fund respectively.

The applications were dealt with as follows:

- 1) *Balanbal Development Association – Community Event – request for £434*  
To cover the cost of room hire, refreshments and speaker expenses for a community event.  
AGREED: £434 to be funded from the Ward Community Fund, with photographs and minutes of meeting to be submitted to the community Meeting.
- 2) *Kidmah Organisation – Men’s Community Event – request for £5,850.*  
To fund a community based celebration of the community living in the area which will be celebrated through a sports and social activities day.  
It was noted that the applicant had also sought funding from other community meetings.  
AGREED: £3,000 to be funded from the Ward Action Plan Fund.
- 3) *African Heritage – Carnival Procession – request for £800*  
To hold three neighbourhood meetings, including room hire, speaker costs, co-ordination, publicity, evaluation report and filming  
AGREED: That the application be not supported at this stage and further information be requested from the applicant.
- 4) *Ansaar - Special Olympics Community Project – request for £2,300*  
To help integrate, recognise and value contributions of people with Learning Disabilities in the wider community.  
Part of the application was for internal staff recruitment. The Chair stated that this could not be funded by the community meeting.  
AGREED: £1,000 to be funded from the Community Cohesion Fund
- 5) *Mr Ismail Saleh – CKI Cohesion Strategy – request for £7,500*  
To stage a community event for 2500 people.

Councillors encouraged the applicant to submit a similar proposal to neighbouring wards where club members resided.

AGREED: That the application be not supported at this stage, but that the community meeting has a strong desire to support next year.

- 6) *KAINE Management Group – Multi-cultural Awareness Project – request for £998*  
To organise a cultural awareness day, comprising of two workshops.  
AGREED: That the application be not supported at this stage, but that the community meeting has a strong desire to support next year.
- 7) *Leicester Swahili Speakers Association – Swahili Socio-Economic Awareness Event – request for £580*  
To fund venue hire, volunteer expenses, publicity and refreshments for this event.  
AGREED: £580 to be funded from the Ward Community Fund
- 8) *Phoenix Supported Housing – Community Cohesion Workshops – request for £2,900*  
To fund tutors, resources, costumes, marketing, photography and room hire for the workshops.  
AGREED: £566 and £741 to be funded from the Community Cohesion Fund and Ward Action Plan provided that some of the workshops take place in the Spinney Hills Ward.
- 9) *Shubaan – Hire Charges for HYCC – request for £1,500.*  
To fund hire charges of Highfields Youth and Community Centre for 30 weeks.  
It was noted that funding half of the requested amount should provide appropriate time for the applicants to seek other funding sources.  
AGREED: £750 to be funded from the Ward Community Fund.
- 10) *Somali Women’s and Children’s Organisation – Women’s Network Forum for St Matthews – request for £1,700*  
To fund room hire, food, childcare, entertainment and speakers.  
AGREED: That the application be not supported at this stage and further information be requested from the applicant.
- 11) *Vulcan Health Project – request for £1,720*  
To provide a multi-sports and health project for young people and adults.  
AGREED: £1,000 to be funded from the Ward Community Fund.
- 12) *St Peter’s Youth Council – Youth Service – request for £768*  
To fund a coach and tickets for 48 young persons for a day trip.  
AGREED: £768 to be funded from the Ward Action Plan.
- 13) *St Peter’s Tenants Association – Office Update (Computers) – request for £468.*  
To fund a computer and printer.  
Members requested that the equipment be also made available to the Youth Council.

Agreed: £468 to be funded from the Ward Action Plan.

- 14) *St Peter's Tenants Association – Community Integration (Day trip to Skeggs-Ness) – request for £470*  
To fund a day out for those with limited finances  
Agreed: that this application be not supported.
- 15) *St Matthew's Neighbourhood Board – Grow your own food – request for £447.8.*  
To fund tools and seeds to help people grow their own food.  
Agreed: That this application be not supported.

The Members Support Officer explained that following the agreement of the above proposals, a sum of £500 stood as the total amount of money that remained in the community meeting budget. The Chair encouraged further applications to be submitted for the remaining money in order for it to be spent within the current financial year.

In a response to a question from a Member of the Public, the Chair confirmed that there would be £17,000 available to the community meeting in the next municipal year.

#### **34. COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Councillor Dawood explained that the process of considering potential community partners was ongoing and encouraged further applications to be submitted.

#### **35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed to accept several items of urgent business.

1. Petition re Prostitution and Drug Trafficking in the Maidstone Road area of Highfields.

A petition was submitted in respect of problems around prostitution and drug trafficking in the Maidstone Road area of Highfields. Several Members of the Public commented that the police were not quick to respond to such issues. It was also felt that the problems had escalated recently.

The Chair agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the Community Meeting to Inspector Shane O'Neil that detailed the concerns of local residents and councillors in relation to the problems of prostitution and drug trafficking in the Mansfield Road area. It was agreed that the letter would also request the police to attend the next Community Meeting to provide a response to the petition.

2. Temporary loss of power to shops on St Saviours Road

As Member of the Public stated that the power supply to shops on St Saviours road was lost on 9 February, and was not restored by the supplier EON for two days. It was reported many businesses lost a large amount of income due to the loss of power supply and that EON did not respond to the many complaints made by those affected. The Councillors agreed to write to Peter Soulsby MP to state their concerns in respect of these events.

**RESOLVED:**

That a letter, on behalf of the Community Meeting, be sent to Peter Soulsby MP in respect of the recent loss of power supply to shops on St Saviours Road and the response to the occurrences by EON.

**3. Pest Problems**

A Member of the Public informed the meeting that there had been an increase in problems with mice infestations within the tower blocks on the St Peter's Estate. In response to this, Kamina Rughani, Neighbourhood Housing Manager acknowledged that the infestations posed a significant problem, but that the Council had allocated resources to fund block treatments, and that all of the tower blocks on the estate had been treated for cockroach infestations.

**36. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

