

Castle Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:30 pm, Monday, 12 October 2009

**Held at: St John the Baptist Primary School, East Avenue,
Leicester.**

Who was there:

Councillor Phil Gordon
Councillor Patrick Kitterick
Councillor Lynn Senior



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 service representatives.

Ward Councillors and General Information Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	Police Issues Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
Parks Services Information on services offered	Highways and Transport Information on range of services available
City Warden Team Meet your local City Warden	

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

68. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Kitterick was elected Chair for the meeting.

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Senior disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the issues to be raised around Highways, as her partner was a City Council officer in the Traffic Section of the Regeneration and Culture Department.

Councillor Senior disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the Community Meeting Budget proposal, relating to the Clothing Heritage Project and the commissioning and siting of a statue on New Walk, as she was a resident living nearby the proposed site.

71. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Castle Community Meeting held on 7th July 2009 were received.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes be agreed.

72. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Ravi Mohankumar, Acting Team Leader, Traffic Impact Team attended the meeting to give an update on the Highways and Transport issues raised at the previous meeting as follows: -

Traffic Lights – London Road junction

Were being looked at.

Car Parking

Big issue, enforcement started in Castle area and information required as to areas to target.

- Outside Schools – problem largely caused by parents
- Road Safety Partnership – working with parents to highlight the dangers they are causing

Encouragement of people to car share, use buses, walk or cycle

Queens Road, Clarendon Park Road etc. – consultation took place in 2006 and outcome was that the residents did not want residents parking scheme

Clarendon Park Road – traffic calming introduced together with junction tables and raised crossings

Clarendon Park Road – assessment made of speeding traffic

Condition of Roads – Roads inspected on a regular basis. Feedback welcomed on potholes and these would be dealt with

Accident Blackspots – identified from information contained in road traffic statistics. When identified a scheme was drawn up to improve safety. 26 such sites had been identified this year

Cycling and Walking to Schools – City Council had introduced ‘Safer Routes to Schools’ schemes at a number of schools, although not all schools had such plans. Many parents drop children at school on way to work and then collect them on the way home. Some schools have large catchment areas. Work to address these issues was being looked at.

At this point questions were asked by the public present and responses were given as indicated.

Question 1

A Large area of derelict land was situated adjacent to Avenue Road Extension/Clarendon Park Road and it was questioned whether it would be possible to turn this site into a car park, although it was understood that there could be petrol and diesel storage tanks under the surface.

Response

The Chair stated that the land in question was actually owned by a private individual who was looking to develop the sites with residential properties. It would not be realistic to purchase this land for car parking. It was accepted that the site was an eyesore and the Council had limited powers to do anything about it. The owner had, so far, shown no interest in submitting a planning application to the Council. It was suggested that the City Wardens would be asked to speak to local people on their views regarding the future use of the site.

Question 2

Officers were asked to explain the process for the erection of temporary signs relating to road works. At the top end of Hazel Street recently a temporary sign had obscured a ‘No Entry’ sign meaning that for a couple of weeks Hazel Street had become two-way.

Response

Ravi stated that contractors should first get the necessary permissions from the Traffic Team at the City Council before any signs were erected.

Question 3

It was stated that a number of designated cycle lanes across the City ended abruptly, or were rather intimidating to use, putting some cyclists off using them.

Response

The Chair stated that the City Council hosted the Cycle City Workshop and input on cycle lanes and routes would be welcomed. Contact details for the City Council Cycling Officer were provided.

Question 4

It was stated that, over a period of time, London Road had been closed to enable several events to take place and some signs were still in place along London Road for events that already taken place. It was questioned what action the City Council would take.

Response

The City Wardens stated that they would look at this, although they already took down 'out of date' notices and signs, or would refer to the City Council to remove.

Question 5

Following a fatality at the roundabout at the London Road/Victoria Park junction it was questioned what action the City Council would be taking.

Response

A meeting was planned to look at possible actions and information was awaited from the Police and the County Council. The Police investigation was underway to ascertain why the individual was killed and until this had been concluded limited action could be taken.

Question 6

It was stated that there was a problem with speeding traffic on Queens Road, and of damaged car door mirrors overnight, but that when the Police came to undertake speed checks the car drivers slowed down.

Response

Officers stated that if they were made aware of the specific times then speed surveys could be carried out and the results reported back.

Councillor Senior stated that several constituents had expressed concerns that certain roads were being used as 'rat runs' and that they had expressed a view that a 20mph zone be introduced. The streets concerned were Avenue Road, Gainsborough Road, Portland Road and Queens Road.

The officers stated that they were looking at implementing 20mph zones across several areas of the City. In the interim speed surveys could be carried out on request to check the speed of vehicles in various locations. It was possible for the City Council to carry out a range of schemes but these had to be prioritized due to the likely costs involved.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

73. BUDGET APPLICATIONS

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer reported the receipt two applications for funding, as set out below: -

- 1) **Clothing Heritage Project** £2,000
The Friends of New Walk
To erect a piece of artwork on New Walk that will commemorate the significance of the clothing industry in Leicester.

RESOLVED:

That the application be supported to a limit of £1,000 at the present time and that the applicant be asked as to where the sculpture will be sited. Should there be sufficient funding available towards the end of the year then the applicant would be encouraged to submit a further application.

- 2) **Wall Discomfort Scheme** £1,280
Jordan Developments (UK) Ltd
Wall discomfort measures to act as deterrent to drunken gatherings in the car park at Lillie House, Conduit Street, London Road.

RESOLVED:

That the application be supported.

- 3) **Previously Agreed Application for Funding Friends of Queens Road Allotments**
A representative from the group attended the meeting to thank the Community Meeting for previously supporting an application for £2500 (Similar funding was also granted by Stoneygate Community Meeting) to fund the installation of a fence and security gates around part of the allotment site. The measures had resulted in a much reduced level of vandalism at the Allotment site.

74. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) **Skate Park - Equipment**
A member of the public questioned when the equipment for the Skate Park would be installed, as funding had been previously allocated from the

Community Meeting Budget to the City Council and, as yet, there was no evidence of the equipment being installed.

Officers agreed to look into this issue and report back to the member of public.

ii) **City Warden – Ian Greenshield**

Ian introduced himself to those present and outlined his background, prior to being appointed as the City Warden for the local area.

Graffiti

Councillor Senior stated that she had been made aware of graffiti in the Howard Road and Victoria Park Road areas. A member of the public stated that he was aware of the fact that if graffiti was perceived as being racist or personal then the City Council would treat its removal as a priority. Officers confirmed that this was the case and that all graffiti containing signatures or 'tags' was recorded to assist in future prosecutions.

Officers stated that a meeting was due to be held to establish a Plan to tackle Graffiti problems citywide.

Students

Councillor Senior stated that she had received a number of complaints around noise and general anti-social behaviour by students and stated that she would like to see Student representatives invited to future meetings of the Community Meeting. Universities should be requested to engage with students to try and encourage them to be good neighbours as the issues raised tended to occur each year around the time of the new academic year. Councillor Kitterick suggested that it might be an idea to try and encourage students to take a route home from their evenings out in the City Centre that avoided, where possible, residential side streets.

Officers stated that they were already working with local Universities with a view to tackling the concerns raised. Powers were available to confiscate equipment from those people continually playing loud music in an anti-social manner.

'The Donkey' Welford Road

A member of the public stated that they lived in the vicinity of this public house and which was noisy at times.

Officers stated that the City Council licensing Team would be able to advise on the times and conditions imposed on this particular public house.

Offices – Charles Street

A member of the public stated that he was aware of the amount of discarded cigarette ends outside several office buildings on Charles Street.

Officers stated that they would make contact with the relevant offices and request that they make proper arrangements to ensure that staff disposed of cigarette ends responsibly.

RESOLVED:

that the actions outlined be noted.

iv) Local Development Framework

The Chair stated that this document stated how the City Council would plan future development in the City. Comments on the Strategy were required by 30th October and copies were available in local libraries.

75. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.