

# Castle Community Meeting

**St John the Baptist Primary School,  
East Avenue**

**On Monday, 12 October 2009  
Starting at 6.30pm**

**The meeting will be in two parts**

**6:30pm – 7:00pm**

**Meet your Councillors, local service providers and representative from:**

- Highways and Transport
- Parks Services
- Police
- City Warden Team

**7:00pm – 8:30pm**

**Get involved in your area and planning for the future. There will be presentations and discussions on:**

- Highways and Transport
- Community Meeting Budget Applications

**YOUR community. YOUR voice.**

**Your Ward Councillors are:**

**Councillor Phil Gordon  
Councillor Patrick Kitterick  
Councillor Lynn Senior**



## **Making Meetings Accessible to All**

### **WHEELCHAIR**

Meetings are held in a variety of community venues. We will only hold meetings in venues where there is suitable access for wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about accessing a venue by wheelchair, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on the details provided.

### **BRILLE / AUDIO TAPE – CD / TRANSLATION**

If you require this agenda or a particular part of it to be translated or provided on audio tape, the Democratic Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend on equipment facility availability). In certain cases, subject to the agreement of the local Councillors, translation facilities can be provided at the meeting.

### **INDUCTION LOOPS – HEARING AT MEETINGS**

We provide a loop system at every meeting for people with hearing aids. If you have a hearing aid, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting for further assistance if you think you won't be able to hear what's being discussed. There is also a facility which can help people hear better if you don't have a hearing aid but are hard of hearing, again please speak to the Democratic Services Officer about this.

# INFORMATION FAIR

## PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES YOU CAN TALK TO AT THIS MEETING

You can raise matters of concern, give opinions and find out information which may be of use

<b>Ward Councillors and General Information</b> Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries.	<b>Police Issues</b> Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
<b>Highways and Transport</b> Officers will be on hand to discuss any related issues.	<b>Parks Services</b> Officers will be on hand to discuss any related issues.
<b>City Warden</b>  Residents will be given an opportunity to talk to a City Warden.	

**The first part of the agenda covers formal items which the Councillors need to deal with to ensure that regulations on holding meetings are kept to.**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillors will elect a Chair for the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The first main item on the agenda is Declarations of Interest, where Councillors have to say if there is anything on the agenda they have a personal interest in. For example, if a meeting was due to discuss a budget application put forward by a community group and one of the Councillors was a member of that group, they would not be able to take part in the decision on that budget application.

Councillors are asked to declare any interest they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**[Appendix A](#)**

The minutes of the previous Castle Community Meeting, held on Tuesday 7 July 2009, are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

**This next part of the agenda covers items where input from you on issues that affect your community is welcomed.**

**5. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

Officers from the Council will be in attendance to talk about Highways and Transport issues in the area including road safety and sustainable transport.

**6. BUDGET APPLICATIONS**

**[Appendix B](#)**

**Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.**

Kate Owen, Members Support Officer, will update the meeting on the current position of the Community Meeting budget.

The following applications have been submitted to the Community Meeting:

Clothing Heritage Project: £2,000 – Appendix B1  
Wall Discomfort Bid: £1,280 – Appendix B2

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

## **Help us to make improvements!**

Please help us to improve Community Meetings by filling in an **Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting. Thank you.

## **For further information contact**

Andrew Shilliam, Democratic Services Officer or Kate Owen, Members Support Officer, Resources Department, Leicester City Council, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, LEICESTER, LE1 9BG

Phone 0116 229 8813 / 8822

Fax 0116 229 8819

[Andrew.Shilliam@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Shilliam@leicester.gov.uk) / [Kate.Owen@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Owen@leicester.gov.uk)

[www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings)

## **Your Community, Your Voice**

### **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:30 pm, Tuesday, 7 July 2009**

**Held at: Avenue Primary School, Avenue Road Extension**

Who was there:

Councillor Phil Gordon
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Councillor Patrick Kitterick
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# 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 issues.

<p><b>Ward Councillors and General Information</b></p> <p>Members of the public were given an opportunity to talk to their local Councillors or raise general queries.</p>	<p><b>Britain in Bloom</b></p> <p>Graham Woods from Parks Services was present to answer residents' queries relating to Britain in Bloom and the Parks Services.</p>
<p><b>Leicestershire Police</b></p> <p>PC Stephen Douglas, from Welford Road Local Policing Unit was present and members of the public could talk to him before and after the meeting.</p>	<p><b>Highways and Transport</b></p> <p>Andrew Thomas, Head of City Development and Chris Hunt, Transport Strategy were available during the Information Fair to respond to residents about any Highway related queries.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Craig Bodsworth, City Warden and Malcom Grange, Head of Street Scene Enforcement were also present to talk to residents during the Information Fair.</p>	

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.



## **60. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Kitterick was elected as Chair and he welcomed everyone to the Castle Community Meeting.

## **61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Follett.

## **62. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Castle Community Meeting, dated 12 March 2009, were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

## **63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

No such declarations were made.

## **64. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

Andrew Thomas, Head of Traffic Management was introduced to the meeting and gave a presentation on highways issues in Leicester and within the Castle Ward.

The main points in Andrew's presentation were as follows:

### **Parking**

- The Council were aware that there was a general lack of parking in the area;
- There was competition for road space – there were Victorian Roads in Leicester and the Castle Ward that were not designed for cars;
- Enforcement sometimes presented difficulties – in the past enforcement signs had been stolen;
- People who parked on the pavements and double yellow lines caused further problems;
- Civil Enforcement Officers could issue parking tickets;
- Police powers could be used under certain circumstances, for example where an obstruction was being caused; and
- Measures were available to address specific problems. These included:
  1. Verge hardening;
  2. Lay-bys;

3. Residents' parking schemes: Andrew explained that a residents consultation in South Highfields had demonstrated that a Residents Parking Scheme in the area was wanted, but a similar consultation in Clarendon Park had shown that such a scheme was not wanted there; and
4. A system of 'H Marking', on the roads in front of peoples' homes so that only the householder could park there.

### **Speeding Traffic**

- The Council were in the process of introducing 20 mph speed limits in residential areas;
- In Avenue Road Extension, bollards which had been designed to look like children would be installed and the road would be monitored to see if these were effective in slowing down traffic;
- The council could carry out a speed survey if residents felt there were problems with speeding;
- Vehicle Activated Signs - Andrew explained that these were effective, although some residents were concerned that they did not work;
- Speed cameras and traffic calming could also be used to slow down traffic; and
- Andrew added that during the Information Fair a member of the public had highlighted the issue of speeding traffic on Queens Road.

### **Public Transport**

- The Council encouraged greater bus usage – by 2026 it was estimated that there would be a 25% increase in the number of houses in Leicester and the Council needed to find ways to cope with this. Andrew added that the Council would welcome a tram service in the south of the city;
- The bus companies were privately owned and as such the Council had limited influence over them. However, as part of the Quality Bus Partnership, the Council had regular meetings with Arriva and First Bus; and
- The Council provided subsidies on routes that were not economically viable and some of the income raised from parking enforcement was put towards concessionary bus fares and subsidies.

### **Condition of the roads and potholes**

In respect of the condition of roads and footways, Andrew also mentioned that there was a Rapid Response Team, who could be called out to deal with urgent problems. Members of the public could report problems by phoning 0116 2527001.

Andrew opened the floor for comments and questions, and the following points were made:

- *Can something be done about the traffic lights at the London Road/Victoria Park Junction because drivers have to stop at the lights after they have entered the roundabout?*

Andrew responded that he would look into this and if the questioner left their details he would send a written response.

- *On Queen's Road, block paving has been dug up by a Utility Company and replaced with tarmac!*

Andrew explained that the Utility Companies would normally be expected to reinstate to the original finish and he suspected that the work was still on-going and that the finish was a temporary measure.

- *An unofficial taxi rank has appeared outside a business on the Queens Road.*

Andrew responded that he would raise this issue with the Licensing Department.

- *Is it possible to arrange for an integrated bus pass for both Arriva and First Bus?*

Andrew explained that the Council had tried without success to get an integrated service. The bus companies were run for profit and were in competition with each other. Councillor Kitterick added that the Council had also tried to persuade the bus companies to introduce 'Smart Cards' but had not met with any success either.

- *There are already a lot of cars in the Clarendon Park area and there are more planning applications to build extra houses and flats. Does the Planning Department consult with Highways?*

Andrew explained that the Planning Service did consult with the Highways Department, but the Highways Department could not always influence developments as much as they would like.

- *Are people allowed to park on footways?*

Andrew and Councillor Kitterick jointly replied that generally speaking vehicles should not be parked on a footway as this impeded pedestrians. The Police had a responsibility to deal with any vehicle that was causing an obstruction, and the Council could take enforcement action against footway parking where there were double yellow lines or single yellow lines (if the vehicle was parked on the footway within the restricted times).

- *There is a GP surgery on Queens' Road where people park very selfishly. There is a car park for patients' use but they park outside my house and block my driveway.*

Andrew responded that in this case, 'H Marking' might help, although the Civil Enforcement Officer might issue a parking ticket because he would not know whether any car was legitimately allowed to park there, but the householder could in

turn appeal against the ticket and would receive a refund. Andrew also suggested that if the Police were in the area they might be able to go to the surgery in question and take appropriate action where any vehicle was causing an obstruction. Andrew explained that the Local Authorities had been given powers to use 'H Marks' and asked members of the public to contact him if they were interested in having one outside their home.

- *The Stoneygate Conservation Area is within the Castle Ward. What is the policy for replacing pavements with tarmac within the area?*

Councillor Kitterick commented that this was also an issue in West Avenue where trees had forced up paving stones. To alleviate any possible trip hazard the buckling paving stones had been replaced with tarmac. Andrew added that it was difficult to find a solution to removing such trip hazards and that the Council tried to provide a safe footway but had a limited budget to work within. Councillor Kitterick explained that there was no Highway Policy for Conservation Areas, to deal with specific matters such as this.

- *Should we spend Council money on coloured road markings on bus lanes?*

Andrew explained that the markings were based on national design standards and were designed to encourage people to respect bus lanes. It was felt that clear markings were needed so that there was no excuse for drivers who violate the bus lane.

Andrew was thanked for his presentation.

## **65. BUDGET APPLICATIONS**

Kate Owen, Member Support Officer presented the Community Meeting Budget, explained that five budget applications had been received and these were as follows:

1. Leicester City Council Festivals and Events Team requested £2,000 from the Ward Community Fund for the Leicester Castle Park Heritage and Arts Festival. The application form for this bid was attached at Appendix B on the agenda.

Residents questioned why a section of the Council were applying to the Committee for funding and stated that this money may be needed for local projects. It was further suggested that the Terms of Reference for the Community Meeting should be changed so that such bids could not be considered in the future.

Councillor Kitterick explained that the funding would enhance the event by providing additional activities and that there was a considerable amount of community involvement in this festival. Councillor Kitterick added that the Community Meeting and old Area Committee budgets had never been spent in full and that Members welcomed further bids from community groups who might benefit from Community Meeting funding.

RESOLVED:

that it be agreed that the funding application be supported to the value of £2,000.

2. Parks Services and St Andrews Play Association requested £1,213.41 from the Community Fund to provide a new pedestrian access gate and a pathway at the main vehicular entrance to Thirlmere Gardens. The application form for this bid was attached at Appendix B2 on the agenda.

RESOLVED:

that it be agreed that the funding application be supported to the value of £1213.41.

3. The St Andrews Tenants and Residents Association, De Montfort University and Groundwork submitted a joint funding application to request £1321 from the Community Fund for a Community Allotment Project. The funding application for this bid was attached at Appendix B3 on the agenda.

Kate explained that the total bid was for £3963 and had been split between three Wards, the other two being Westcotes and Braunstone Park/Rowley Fields Wards.

RESOLVED:

that it be agreed that the funding application be supported to the value of £1,321.

4. Kate explained that a funding application for a summer multi-cultural cricket camp, which was attached at Appendix B4 on the agenda, had been withdrawn as the applicant had been encouraged to apply for Corporate funding.
5. The Hinckley Road Joint Action Group had requested £576 from the Castle Community Cohesion Fund for "Respect Your Neighbourhood" signage: 'Safer routes for students'. The application form for this bid was attached in Appendix B5 on the agenda.

Kate explained that this was a joint project and the total cost of the bid was £3468, but £576 was requested from the Castle Ward Community Meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £576.

A resident questioned the community meeting budget process and Kate explained that:

- Each Ward had been allocated £17,000
- This money was split into three categories:

a. Ward Action Plan	£10,000
b. Community Fund	£5,000

c. Community Cohesion £2,000

- There was a Ward Action Plan in process. Residents had been asked to give their views of their most important concerns and issues in Castle Ward and from this an Action Plan had been written. Funding bids to this budget needed to be relevant to the priorities identified in the action plan.
- Bids to the community fund needed to benefit people who lived in the Ward.
- Bids to the Community Cohesion fund needed to address community cohesion issues within the Ward.

Residents questioned why the money didn't go towards funding a nursing home or to fund a youth club.

Councillor Kitterick explained that funding for the above items was allocated from the main council budget and the £17,000 budget was for small projects that may not receive funding from the mainstream budget.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
That the supported budget applications be submitted to the Cabinet Lead for final approval.	Kate Owen, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible

**66. WARD ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

An update on the Ward Action Plan was not given at this time.

**67. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.54 pm.

## Ward Action Plan Budget Proposal Form *logged*

Please read the Guide to the Community Plan Budget before you fill in this form

Then complete Section 1: Budget Proposal.

If you are proposing to deliver the project yourself, please complete Section 2: Delivery agency as well. We can help you with this or do it for you – see who to contact in the Guide to Community Plan Budget.

Continue or separate sheets if you need to, or expand the boxes if you are filling in the form electronically.

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

03 SEP 2009

### Section 1: Budget Proposal

RECEIVED

MEMBERS' SUPPORT

1. Name of Ward

CASTLE WARD, PRIORITY 2, STREET SCENE

2. Title of proposal

CLOTHING HERITAGE PROJECT

3. Name of group or person making the proposal

THE FRIENDS OF NEW WALK

4. Short description of proposal. Please include information on **how the money will be spent, who will benefit, when they will benefit, and how we will know when the proposal has been successful.**

It is important that your answer to this question is clear and detailed, because we will only pay the costs when we can see evidence that the outcomes you describe here have been achieved. You can provide further details in your supporting information if you want to.

TO ERÉCT ON NEW WALK A PIÉCÉ OF ARTWORK CONTEMPORATING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY IN LEICESTER – SEE BROCHURE ANNEXE). THE MONEY WILL BE SPÉNT ON BUYING AND INSTALLING THE SCULPTURE. THE ÉRÉCTION WILL ITSELF INDICATE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT. THE CITIZENS OF LEICESTER GÉNÉRALLY WILL BÉNÉFIT – IN PARTICULAR THE THOUSANDS WHO WAKE UP AND DOWN NEW WALK EACH DAY

5. Which priority or priorities in the Ward Action Plan does your proposal support? (Add further rows or continue on a separate sheet if needed).

Priority number and priority description (taken from the Ward Action Plan)	
2	STREET SCENE

6. Have you provided any supporting information?



Tick if yes

7. What is the total cost to the Community Meeting?

£2000—

8. How have you estimated or calculated the cost? Please show each item of expenditure and say whether it is an estimate or an actual cost.

Item	Cost £	Estimate or actual cost?
THE STATUÉ ITSELF - ARTIST'S FEE	22,500	ACTUAL
APPEAL BROCHURE + ADMINISTRATION	1000	EST.
TRANSPORT OF STATUÉ	2000	EST
FOUNDATIONS + INSTALLATION	4000	EST
RESERVE (INCIDENTALS)	500	EST
VAT ON £30,000 @ 17.5%	5250	ACTUAL.
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,250</b>	

9. Have you tried to get funding for this project from anywhere else, either in the Council or from another organisation? If so, please give details

THE PROJECT IS BEING FUNDED BY AN APPEAL  
 A TO THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY - APPEAL BROCHURE  
 ANNEXED  
 B LOCAL CHARITIES AND  
 C THE FRIENDS OF NEWARK'S RESERVES.



10. Who proposed the project? Please provide contact details.

Name of contact person	ADRIAN R. WESTON
Your position in organisation or group	TRUSTÉE
Name of organisation or group	FRIENDS OF NEW WALK
Address	HOME - 27, MAIN STREET, SMÉTTON WÉSTERDY, LÉICÉSTER LÉ8 0QT
Phone number	0116 279 2514
Email	aweston@kallikallkonet

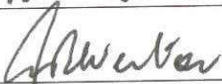
**Section 2: Delivery agency (this could be a single person, group of people or a group or organisation)**

11. Who will deliver the project? Please provide contact details.

Name of contact person	ADRIAN R. WESTON
Your position in organisation or group	TRUSTÉE
Name of organisation or group	FRIENDS OF NEW WALK

12. Declaration

I have read the *Guide to the Ward Action Plan Budget* and I accept the arrangements described in that guide. I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true. I will inform the council immediately if any of the information I have given on the form changes.

Name	ADRIAN R. WESTON
Signature	
Date	2/9/09

Please send this completed form back to:  
Karen Shelton, Member Support Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall, Leicester City Council, Leicester, LE1 9BG.

# Friends of New Walk



Please reply to:-

27 Main Street  
Smeeton Westerby  
Leicester LE8 0QJ

15 June 2009

Dear

## **Clothing Heritage Project**

I am a Trustee of the Friends of New Walk. Two years ago we commissioned and erected on New Walk, Leicester a statue to honour the role of the footwear industry in Leicester and Leicestershire. We are now intending to erect, also on New Walk, a companion piece to commemorate the importance of the clothing industry in Leicester and Leicestershire. I enclose a copy of the Project Brief, prepared by the Friends, which explains the Project in detail.

The Friends are appealing to past and present members of the textile and clothing industry, particularly those with a local connection, to meet the costs of the Project which are estimated at £37,000. It is a sad fact that the textile and clothing industry in Leicester has declined since the glory days of the 1950s and 60s, which is one of the main reasons the Friends are pursuing the Project now, while there are still enough of us left to honour the trade's contribution; but a more cheerful note is that the retailing side maintains a strong presence in Leicester.

The Friends acknowledge that they are appealing in difficult times, but hope that you will wish to support the Project. Any person or body which makes a donation of £1000 will receive an acknowledgement on the intended commemorative plaque; but the Friends would be pleased to receive any help you are able to give. I would be happy to provide more information or explanation, either personally or on the telephone. I look forward to hearing from you at my address below.

Yours sincerely

**Adrian Weston**

Trustee

Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust

Registered Office 20/30 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TX  
Tel. 0116 254 5454 Fax. 0116 255 4559  
M.K.Dunkley (Administrator)  
J.Bowie FHCIMA (Chairman)

<http://beehive.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/fnw>

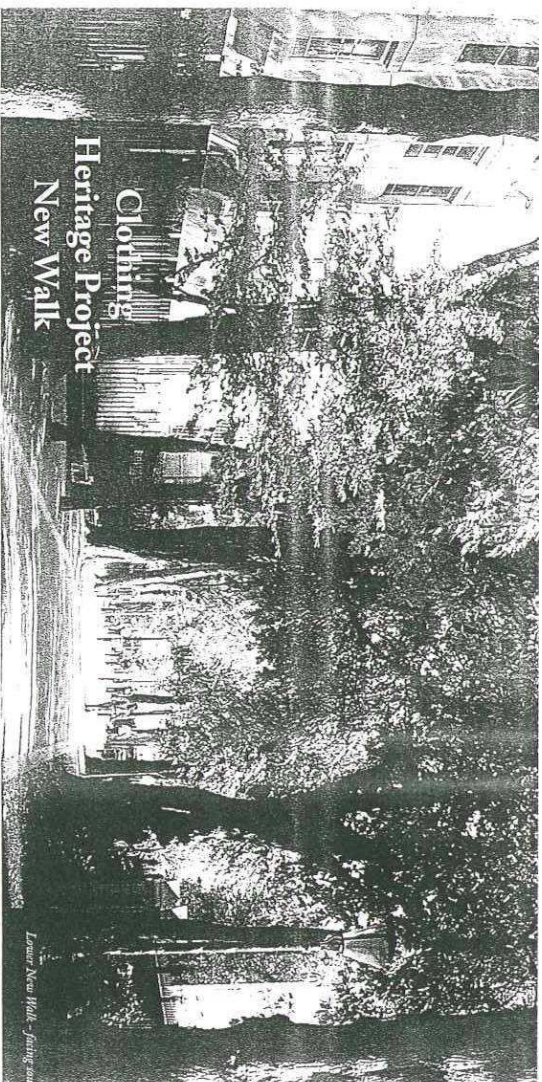
FRI016/00005/4896347

Registered Charity No. 1077476

# Clothing Heritage Project

## New Walk • Leicester

By The Friends of New Walk  
20 New Walk • Leicester  
LE1 6TX



### The Project

The Friends of New Walk intend to commission John Atkin, a well known international artist, to develop and produce a piece of artwork commemorating the significance of the clothing industry in the City and County of Leicester for erection on a prominent site in New Walk, Leicester.

The Friends now seek your help with this Project to commemorate the Clothing Industry. It will form a sister piece to 'The Clicker' which already stands outside 30 New Walk.

### The Friends of New Walk

(\*The Friends \*) - 20 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TX.  
Tel: 0116 254 54 54

The Friends, created in 1994, are a registered charity (Number 1077476) whose objectives are the preservation and enhancement of New Walk, Leicester. The Trustees of the Friends are businessmen, professionals, academics and citizens whose main objective is to suggest ideas and co-operate with other bodies and individuals to develop New Walk for the benefit of the people of Leicester.

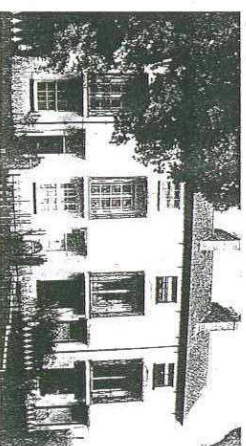
They have in the past 15 years assisted the City Council in the preparation of an ambitious overall plan for the environment of New Walk which was implemented by the Council with the assistance of financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition to their day to day functions in maintaining New Walk in co-operation with the Council, the police and all other interested parties, the Friends have developed a website for

public information, they have assisted in the publication of a book, 'The History of New Walk' by Helen Boynton and they have arranged and financed the issue of a CD of music by New Walk's own composer, Benjamin Burrows.

In addition to the above in 2007 they provided the design and installation of a statue called "The Clicker", a modern bronze by John Atkin which celebrates the strong connections between the City and County of Leicester and the boot and shoe industry. This handsome piece can be viewed outside Number 30 New Walk.

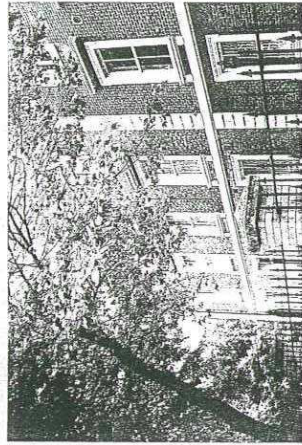
### New Walk

New Walk, Leicester is an unique, ancient, pedestrian entry to Leicester from the South, which formed part of the Via Devana, an old Roman Road probably from Colchester to Leicester. By 1785 it had become no more than a track, but in that year the Corporation of the City laid out the walk as a pleasant promenade. In 1806 Victoria Park, at the southern end of the Walk, was laid out as a race track, which encouraged usage considerably. From 1818 onwards buildings started on New Walk and by the commencement of the 20th century New Walk was fully developed. It remained as a mainly residential area until the 1960s.



28 New Walk, opposite museum

During the next 40 years many of the houses became offices and some rather unfortunate redevelopment took place. New Walk became rather dilapidated and run down, but in the 1990s its value was recognised and it is now listed Grade 2 in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in England. Plans to convert the remaining houses to offices were successfully resisted and considerable residential use has returned to New Walk and continues to do so. The City Council, in collaboration with English Heritage and financed substantially by the Heritage Lottery Fund Urban Parks Programme, have in the last few years extensively renovated and restored New Walk.



Offices adjoining site on south

The Friends are keen to build on the good work which has been and is being done, so that New Walk as a vigorous future and never again suffers neglect. As part of this programme the Friends have proposed as the location for the new Project a site on the south eastern side of New Walk between De Montfort Square and the bridge over the main railway line. Planning consent for the erection of a statue on this site in place.

## The Clothing Industry

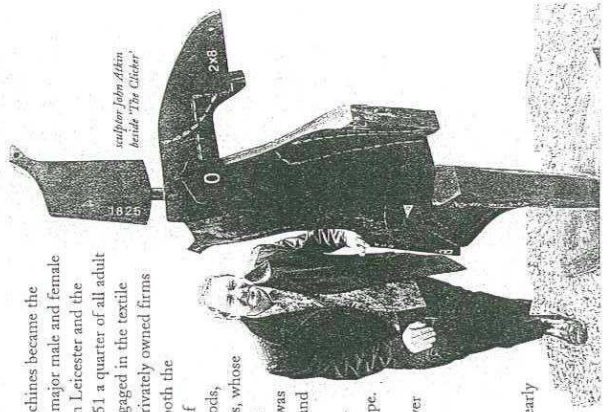
Prior to the end of the 16th century knitted goods were made by hand knitting; but William Lee of Calverton in Nottinghamshire invented the first mechanical knitting frame between 1586 and 1589 and there is an Indenture dated 6 June 1600 reciting that "the said William Lee hath invented a certain Invention or Artificialitie being a very speedie manner of workinge and makinge in a loome or frame All manner of workes usually wrought by knittinge needles as stockings wastcootes and suchlike". Thus was an industry born. London and Nottingham were the early homes but by 1650 there were estimated to be about 50 frames and 100 workers in Leicestershire. By a charter granted on 13 June 1657 by Oliver Cromwell the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters was established, has survived the years and flourishes today as a charity.

Over the next 150 years frame work knitting, making worsted goods, was carried out, mainly as a home industry, on basically the same type of machine, operated by the hands and feet of the knitter. Improvements were fiercely resisted by the operatives, frequently by riots and destruction of machines, of which the most famous were the Luddite Riots, named after Ned Ludd, who came from Anstey and is probably the only Leicestershire man to give a word to the English language.

In 1792 it was estimated that 40% of the people in Leicestershire were working in the hosiery industry. 50 years later it was estimated that there were 48,482 stocking frames in the whole of England, of which 12,861 were in Leicestershire; John Biggs (whose statue is in Welford Place) and his brother William were reputed to employ a twelfth of all the hosiery workers in the city and county and to own nearly 1000 frames.

During the second half of the 19th century steam powered knitting machines were developed (but a few hand operated frames were still in use in the 1940s). Among many improvements two main types of powered knitting machine were introduced. The powered circular machine, which only really became effective with the invention of the latch needle by Mathew Townsend of Leicester in 1847, produced mostly knitted fabric, plain, rib or a combination of the two, as well as open work, interlock and plated fabrics. The flat frame, which revolutionised the industry was patented by William Cotton of Loughborough in 1864 and meant that a number of garments, socks, stockings, underwear and outerwear could be made and shaped at the same time.

The above machines became the foundation of major male and female employment in Leicester and the County. In 1851 a quarter of all adult males were engaged in the textile trade. Large privately owned firms developed in both the manufacture of fabrics and goods, such as Corahs, whose new factory in St Margarets was built in 1865 and became the largest hosiery works in Europe. By 1866 it employed over 1000 people and at its peak in the 1960s it employed nearly 3000.



subject John Atkin inside 'The Clicker'

continued next leaf >>>>

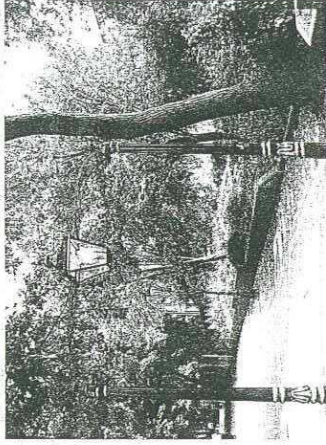
<<<<<< At the same time the development and production of machinery firms became an industry in itself, with Bentley Engineering and Stibbes as two obvious examples. Employment in textile engineering grew steadily to a peak of 6250 workers in 1971. Alongside the two main industries were scores of businesses which sprang from or supported them; among them, thread manufacturers, like Donisthorpes, and packaging experts like Beeson Box. There were also button makers, elastic suppliers, dyers and finishers and a score of other trades.

The 100 years from 1850 were the glory years of the clothing industry. Most of the manufacturers were private companies, like Fielding Johnsons, Faires and Kemptons, which meant that the money stayed in the family and was spent in Leicester. A great deal of female labour was employed, so that many working families had two incomes. In 1948 there were 30,000 workers in Leicester in the clothing industry, 32.5% of all employees. They made and supplied the United Kingdom and many overseas markets with socks, stockings, underwear, gloves, outerwear and fabric. Leicester was a rich City, but, as it always does, change came.

The growth of large retail chains, such as Marks & Spencers, and mail order firms changed the balance of power from the manufacturer to the retailer. The industry started to consolidate; Coats Viyella bought Byfords and Wolsey amongst others and in the 1960s Courtaulds bought and owned 13 of the old independent firms in the greater Leicester area, including textile machinery, packaging and lingerie wholesaling. This removed local control and the profits disappeared to the shareholders of public companies. After this came the growth of cheaper overseas competition which undercut the prices of the local manufacturers to the point where they ceased to be viable.

Textile engineering suffered a dramatic decline in the early 1970s, Stibbes was liquidated, Bentley Engineering was sold and the businesses dependent on them followed. The clothing businesses and associated businesses, such as knitting wool, thread and trimmings, declined dramatically; employment in the industries fell 21% between 1981 and 1989 and has continued ever since. Many substantial firms, such as Pex Stockings, have ceased operations and their elegant Victorian factories converted to other uses.

Although the glory days may have gone there is still a substantial number of smaller private, businesses, both manufacturing and dealing in clothing; importers and exporters, machinery dealers and suppliers of accessories; Next plc has grown into a major retailer and Bodens represent the mail order market; clothing design flourishes at De Montfort University. It is a substantial legacy.



View of site, facing south

## The Artist

The Friends chose John Atkin by competition to design The Clicker and are happy with their decision. Since John was commissioned to create The Clicker he has received a number of large, prestigious commissions; culminating in winning a world wide competition to commemorate the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The Friends have asked John to design a new sculpture to be erected on New Walk to reflect and commemorate the heritage of the clothing industry and its prominent place in the commercial history of the City and County of Leicester.

It is likely that the piece will be in natural stone or some other material, which does not have intrinsic value and is low maintenance. The aim is to install the completed work by Spring 2010.

The Friends estimate that the final cost of the piece including its installation on site will be £37,000. They appeal to you and to all those who have had or continue to have a connection with the local clothing industry to support this Project.

## Contact

Please refer all enquiries to:  
Mr Adrian R Weston  
27 Main Street - Smeeton Westerly - Leicester - LR8 0QJ  
Tel: 0116 2792514  
Email: arweston@talktalk.net

Logged. See

## Ward Action Plan Budget Proposal Form

Please read the Guide to the Community Plan Budget before you fill in this form

Then complete Section 1: Budget Proposal.

If you are proposing to deliver the project yourself, please complete Section 2: Delivery agency as well. We can help you with this or do it for you – see who to contact in the Guide to Community Plan Budget.

Continue or separate sheets if you need to, or expand the boxes if you are filling in the form electronically.

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

29 JUN 2009

### Section 1: Budget Proposal

1. Name of Ward

CASTLE

RECEIVED  
MEMBERS' SUPPORT

2. Title of proposal

Wall discomfort to act as deterrent to drunken gatherings in car park in Lillie House, Conduit Street/London Road, Leicester

3. Name of group or person making the proposal

Jordan Developments (UK) Ltd

4. Short description of proposal. Please include information on **how the money will be spent, who will benefit, when they will benefit, and how we will know when the proposal has been successful.**

It is important that your answer to this question is clear and detailed, because we will only pay the costs when we can see evidence that the outcomes you describe here have been achieved. You can provide further details in your supporting information if you want to.

We own a car park at the rear of Lillie House, Conduit St/London Road, Leicester and rent out the spaces for use by commercial employees working in the buildings in the vicinity. Users need to access their car spaces day and night, 7 days a week.

The car park boundary which adjoins land from the drop in centre is a brick wall which is used as a seating and meeting area by unknown persons who visit the centre.

They congregate to sit on the wall, and get drunk, leaving behind bottles and cans and other unsavoury detritus which could be considered dangerous to health and safety and which has to be cleared up regularly at considerable personal cost to myself.

Their presence is intimidating to the users of the car park, who feel threatened and uncomfortable in going about their daily lawful business.

The money will be spent in using coping bricks to make the top of the wall impossible to sit on and therefore make the site unattractive to those who want to pass the day in a drunken and dirty manner.

The car park will then be able to be used without fear and the unwelcome bystanders will no longer be a cause for concern to health and safety.

We have been in discussion with Patrick Kitterick and Sargeant Johal since 2008, discussing ways to resolve the following problem and have discarded alternative solutions including security spikes (can't be attached to wall below 2.1m), high galvanised steel fencing (too expensive), railings and posts (too expensive).

5. Which priority or priorities in the Ward Action Plan does your proposal support? (Add further rows or continue on a separate sheet if needed).

Priority number and priority description (taken from the Ward Action Plan)	

6. Have you provided any supporting information?

Y

Tick if yes

7. What is the total cost to the Community Meeting?

8. How have you estimated or calculated the cost? Please show each item of expenditure and say whether it is an estimate or an actual cost.

Item	Cost £	Estimate or actual cost?
Removal and replacement of top course of bricks		1280

On boundary wall at rear of Lillie House		
<b>Total</b>		<b>1280</b>

9. Have you tried to get funding for this project from anywhere else, either in the Council or from another organisation? If so, please give details

The Police

10. Who proposed the project? Please provide contact details.

Name of contact person	Mr Robert Jordan
Your position in organisation or group	Director and Landlord
Name of organisation or group	Jordan Developments (UK) Ltd

**Section 2: Delivery agency (this could be a single person, group of people or a group or organisation)**

11. Who will deliver the project? Please provide contact details.

Name of contact person	Lee Pickering
Your position in organisation or group	

## 12. Declaration

I have read the *Guide to the Ward Action Plan Budget* and I accept the arrangements described in that guide. I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true. I will inform the council immediately if any of the information I have given on the form changes.

Name	MR ROBERT JORDAN
Signature	<i>R. A. Jordan</i>
Date	JUNE 29 <sup>TH</sup> 2009

Please send this completed form back to:  
Karen Shelton, Member Support Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall, Leicester City Council, Leicester, LE1 9BG.

Fax No: 0116 229 8827