

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 20 May 2009

**Held at: Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School, Sandhills Avenue,
Leicester**

Who was there:

Councillor John Mugglestone

Councillor Barbara Potter

Councillor Ramila Shah

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** **Anti-Social Behaviour**
Information on work of unit

- Table 3** **Gateway College**
Information on new facility

- Table 4** **Police**
Meet local Police officers

- Table 5** **Housing – Tenants and Leaseholders**
Information on service available

- Table 6** **Highways and Potholes**
Information on service available

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.

30. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Shah was elected Chair for the meeting.

31. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Shah welcomed those present to the meeting.

32. 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 applied to them.

Councillor Shah disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a serving member on the Board of Governors of Hope Hamilton School.

33. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th November 2008 were confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

34. GATEWAY COLLEGE

Nick Goffin, Principal attended the meeting and reported that the new development was going well and was running slightly ahead of schedule. It was expected that the building would be handed over during early August.

The wind turbine was already operational and was providing power for the site cabins, with the bio-mass boilers expected to go on line later this week.

Work with Tesco was ongoing and the new footbridge across Hamilton Way would remain closed until the Gateway site had opened.

The first new pupils would be interviewed on 26th August and ready to start in September, staff would be in by 17th August to prepare for the opening in September.

The new 51 Bus service, operated by Thurmaston Bus, was already operating and the tendering process for the direct schools services from the County had just been finalised.

A member of the public questioned whether there would be public sports facilities available at Gateway. Nick stated that there would be but these would be available initially only on Monday evenings, although an assessment of how the school was

working would be undertaken after September. Nick stated that 2 Community Rooms would be available at Gateway and there would not be a swimming pool, due to the way by which the school was funded. The school football pitch was in place together with the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area). Adult Education classes would not be held at the school, again due to the way the funding was allocated. Discussions were underway with the Library Service and consideration was being given to holding numeracy and literacy courses.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

35. TESCO REDEVELOPMENT

Councillor Mugglestone gave a brief update on development proposals at Tesco Hamilton. Terms to sell a small parcel of land to Tesco had recently been through the City Council Cabinet process, following detailed discussions with the Council.

An assessment had been made to provide a bus layby and also the revision of traffic flows around the car park. No detailed plans were yet available, although a meeting would be arranged soon with the local store to discuss their proposals in greater detail.

A member of the public stated that there was an ongoing problem with Tesco trolleys being abandoned in front gardens and in the street on a regular basis. Children often used the trolleys to play with and this was dangerous. Councillor Mugglestone stated that the City Council had collected a number of Tesco trolleys from around the area a couple of years ago but when the Council had asked for payment Tesco had refused to pay, and instead bought more new trolleys. It was **agreed** that the issue of abandoned Tesco trolleys would be raised with Environmental Services.

It was further stated that Tesco had so far held 2 consultation meetings regarding bus provision and had said that residents had objected to buses entering the site at the furthest entry from Hamilton Way, with the existing retail units being demolished. As an alternative it was proposed that buses would pick up and drop off in Maidenwell Avenue but there had been a number of objections to this on the grounds of road safety. Tesco were now proposing to install a bus layby but there were still a number of concerns as people will be dropped off/ picked up further away from the Tesco Store than currently. There were strong feelings that there were plans in the pipeline to build further retail units elsewhere on the current site.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

36. NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING

The Community Meeting Netherhall was informed that the City Council's local Neighbourhood Housing Office were seeking tenants/leaseholders from the Netherhall / Humberstone Village / Morton and Northfields areas who were prepared

to sit on a grants panel and consider grants for suggested improvements to Council owned properties and land in the area. Councillor Potter stated that she would take the information reported back to the Netherhall tenants.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

37. HIGHWAYS PRESENTATION

Jeff Miller, Service Director, Regeneration, Highways and Transportation attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation, stating that the City Council spent approximately £2m per year in maintaining it's highway assets.

Parking – area of concern with inconsiderate/illegal parking and people being ticketed. Many Council estates were not designed for mass car ownership and now the Council's Environment Budget was being utilised to provide verge hardening/laybys, subject to priority. Should lack of parking be an issue then consideration could be given to providing residents parking schemes, enforced by the City Council.

Speeding Traffic – can undertake traffic surveys and, if necessary, take action to reduce the problem, the Police were also able to take action. Vehicle activated signs were one method being used to reduce traffic speeds but traffic cameras were not always a popular choice and more traffic calming measures were being followed up such as pedestrian crossings linked with 20 mph zones.

Buses – better bus patronage across the City was being sought. A step change in public transport was being planned with a new Bus Station to be built in the City Centre and there was a possibility that a tram route would be built to link the City Centre with the proposed Pennbury development. It was stressed that the City Council did not have control over the bus companies regarding route provision but did subsidise certain services that were not deemed to be commercially viable.

A member of the public stated that he was aware that since the implementation of the Transport Act 1968 Councils had little control over bus companies but wished to state that the buses in this particular area were felt to be of poor standard. The officers stated that the Council were working with the 2 major bus companies as part of a Quality Bus Partnership. Arriva had recently invested heavily in new vehicles for the City and it was suggested that a representative from Arriva could be invited to attend a future meeting, this was **agreed**.

Potholes – the condition of roads in the City was deemed to be fair, with unclassified roads satisfactory. Limited funding was available to repair roads but that if potholes were reported and found to be dangerous then a Rapid Response Team would act within 3 days to repair them. Regular Highway Inspections took place to assess the condition of the City's roads. Following the bad weather last winter it had been apparent that the gritting programme had been felt by some people to be lacking in outer areas, this was due to the fact that principal routes and the City Centre were prioritised for gritting.

A member of the public questioned why the top part of Gipsy Lane was badly potholed as nothing seemed to be done. The officers stated that they would take details and respond.

Tesco - A member of the public stated that it seemed as if Tesco at Hamilton were seeking to consolidate their land holding in the area by purchasing some land from the City Council. The officers stated that unless there were planning or safety issues around the Tesco site then it would be difficult for the Council to act.

20 mph zones – Councillor Mugglestone stated that he had been informed that the Police would not enforce 20 mph zones introduced within the City. The Police present **agreed** to check the position regarding 20 mph zones.

Roads in Netherhall – Councillor Potter stated that a number of roads in the Netherhall area were in a very poor state and she supported the claim regarding the comment made earlier regarding Gipsy Lane. Councillor Potter further stated that she would like to see a 20 mph zone in the vicinity of all 9 schools in the Netherhall, Humberstone and Hamilton areas and questioned at what point of the traffic calming priority list Netherhall stood. Officers stated that the priority list was set out on one of the leaflets on the Information stand and set out those schemes for which funding was available. A ‘wish’ list of those schemes that the City Council would like to carry out, should funding be identified, was also set out.

The officers stated that they would report back to this Community Meeting with a detailed costed programme of roadworks in this area, that would identify the work required and the anticipated costs.

Car Parking outside schools – it was stated that there was a problem of parents parking their cars outside schools, in particular Kestrels Field Primary School on Maidenwell Avenue where the road was narrow, and this was deemed dangerous. The officers stated that they would look into this and report back to the next meeting. It was further stated that arrangements would be made to enforce parking restrictions in this area, particularly around schools. Councillor Joshi who was present at the meeting stated that a Civil Enforcement Officer had been present outside Kestrels Field Primary School that afternoon and it was clear that liaison with parents was necessary to encourage them to park their cars further away from the school. The Police stated that they had tried telling parents at Kestrels Field and had also liaised with the school who had indicated that they would like to see a pedestrian crossing outside the school, together with a school crossing patrol. The officers stated that a programme of work funded by Central Government was in place and it was possible that a crossing near to Kestrels Field Primary School was scheduled for later in 2009. It was further stated that the Council were working with a number of schools to help them develop travel plans to encourage other means of travel to/from school.

Speeding Traffic – it was stated that there was an issue of speeding traffic on Laburnum Road and that some form of traffic calming or signs were required. Councillor Potter stated that a number of roads in the Netherhall area were similarly affected. The officers stated that they were currently running a campaign targeted at

young people to show them the effects of dangerous driving although funding to undertake calming measures was limited. Councillor Potter suggested that some funding currently targeted at the City Centre should be re-directed to outer estates. A member of the public referred to speeding issues on Sandhills Avenue but the officers stated that they were not able to address this as the road in particular was not an adopted street and the Council needed to know when the developer intended to transfer the street, although there were a number of issues involved. Officers would report back on the outcomes.

Barratt development, Humberstone Road – it was stated that there was a large pothole at the junction of this new development and Humberstone Road, and it was not clear who had priority. The officers stated that they would check to ascertain who was responsible for this junction and get the work carried out. A response would be made to the Ward Councillors prior to the next meeting.

Cycling/Park and Ride – a member of the public questioned the Council's commitment to cycling and park and ride in the area. The officers stated that the Council supported a number of cycling routes across the City and, if appropriate would include a cycle path to link this area. It was stated that Park and Ride might not be appropriate in this area of the City although the Council were looking to provide a site on the east of the City to alleviate traffic on Humberstone Road.

RESOLVED:

that the information and actions be noted.

38. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Peter Cozens, Members Support Manager introduced the Budget and reported that the following funding would be available for 2009/10: -

Ward Action Plan	£10,000
Ward Community Fund	£5,000
Ward Community Cohesion Fund	£2,000

Peter reported that one proposal for funding had been received as follows: -

- 1) **Ward Community Cohesion Fund**
Humberstone Community Village Forum
Bid for £1,040 to part fund the staging of Humberstone Carnival on Sunday 3rd August 2009, at Monks Rest Gardens.

RESOLVED:

that the bid for funding from the Ward Community Cohesion Fund from the Humberstone Community Village Forum in the sum of £1,040, be **APPROVED**.

- 2) **Baton Twirler**
Councillor Mugglestone stated that he was aware of a local baton twirler who was looking to get some support. It was suggested and **agreed** that the person be encouraged to go to Humberstone Carnival in August and give a demonstration and have a fund raising stall.
- 3) **Monks Rest – Tennis**
It was reported that the local Area Parks Manager had secured £44k of funding to re-furbish the tennis courts at Monks Rest and had also arranged some tennis coaching courses.
- 4) **Positive Action for Young People**
It was reported that Fiona Weston, Children and Young People’s Services had an amount of funding available to bid from.

39. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) **Local Dentist Practice**
Councillor Mugglestone reported that he was aware of a local dentist who was wanting to start an NHS surgery in this area and was seeking support to petition the local Primary Care Trust. The 3 Ward Councillors present at the meeting expressed their support for this surgery and agreed to assist in the collection of signatures.
- ii) **Football Pitches/Pavilion**
A member of the public questioned what was the position regarding the recent planning application submitted for the provision of 3 Football Pitches and a Pavilion in Hamilton. The officers stated that the application had passed the first stage and was now awaiting the second stage for funding.
- iii) **Local Facilities**
A member of the public stated that when they moved into the area they had been told that a Public House would be provide near to Tesco. Councillor Potter stated that approaches had been made to Tesco but they had expressed their opposition to a Public House near to their store on the grounds that it would encourage anti-social behaviour.

It was stated that there was a vacant plot of land almost opposite Hope Hamilton Primary School and questioned its future use. Councillor Potter stated that feedback would be provided when information was available.

A member of the public stated that a Community Centre was urgently required in the Hamilton area to enable services to be provided for all sectors of the local community. Councillor Potter stated that the Council were aware of this request but that there was no funding available to enable such a facility to be provided locally, although the Ward Councillors would continue lobbying for

the provision of a Community Centre in Hamilton. The Sure Start mobile unit would shortly be coming to the area and be based at Kestrels Field Primary School to provide services for young people.

40. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Meeting would be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 12th August 2009.

41. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 8.07 pm.