

Fosse Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 2 June 2010

Held at: Fosse Primary School, Balfour Street

Who was there:

Councillor Manish Sood

Councillor Rob Wann

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 Members of the public were able to talk to their Ward Councillor and Council Officers and raise general enquiries or issues.	Police Issues Local Police Officers were present.
Community Safety Issues Officers from the City Council’s Community Services section were present.	Local Involvement Network A representative from the Local Involvement Network (LINK) was present.
City Warden Service The Local City Warden and the City Warden’s Manager were present.	Fosse Library An Officer from Fosse Library was present.

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.

35. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Wann took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also introduced Jamie Stubbs as the new City Warden for the Fosse ward.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Manish Sood.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Member was asked to declare any interests that they may have had in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations of interest were received.

38. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Community Meeting, held on 20 January 2010 were unable to be agreed as a correct record as no Members who attended the meeting were present.

Anita Patel, Members Support Officer commented that she was still trying to obtain costings for new notice boards for the Rally.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Obtain costings for the new notice boards for the Rally.	Anita Patel	By next meeting.

With regard to determining the cost and viability of providing new litter bins, Anita commented that she had been informed by Christopher Nutting from Cleansing Services that this had been completed. Anita informed residents to let her know where they wanted new bins placed. Residents commented that people with dogs still needed to be told how to use the bins.

39. SAFER LEICESTER PARTNERSHIP/COMMUNITY SAFETY

Daxa Pancholi, Head of Community Safety & Safer Leicester Partnership provided a presentation on community safety.

Daxa explained the five areas of activity for the Safer Leicester Partnership. These were:

- Overall Crime – tackling crimes such as vehicle crime, burglary and robbery.
- Offender Management – working with repeat offenders.
- Neighbourhood Working – helping people work together to live in a safe environment.

- Safeguarding – looking into issues such as domestic violence and hate crime.
- Alcohol - this had been defined as a big objective for the Partnership.

Daxa explained some of the statistics of crime in the Fosse Ward. The following information was provided.

- There had been a 15.5% reduction in overall crime compared to the same period last year,
- There had been a 2.9% increase in burglary and a 30% increase in robbery compared to the same period last year.
- The average number of vehicle crimes in the area had decreased from 28.3 to 11 compared to the same period last year.
- The level of violent crime in the area was above average and had not changed compared to the same period last year.
- The level of anti social behaviour in the area was currently above average however had decreased by 17.2% compared to the same period last year.

Daxa commented that one of the targets was to improve public confidence that the Police and City Council were dealing with crime and anti social behaviour issues.

The Community Meeting was informed of some of the measures being taken to prevent acquisitive crime and anti social behaviour in the area. These included:

- Installation of Alley Gates to reduce burglary in terraced properties.
- Using smart water which could help identify the property where items were stolen from.
- Improving street lighting in robbery locations.
- Additional covert Police patrols.
- A programme of vehicle crime awareness campaign planned at high vehicle crime locations through out the year.
- Vehicle crime leaflets delivered in high car crime areas.
- Street based teams operating in Fosse since September 2009 engaging with young people.
- Operation Stay Safe – Police Officers and youth workers patrolling areas where anti social behaviour occurred to speak with young people.

A resident raised concern that their house backed onto an alleyway and that Tudor Road backed onto the park which made the property a target for crime.

It was suggested that possible solutions for tackling burglary in the area could be:

- Having a big gate installed for properties backing onto the park.
- Mobile cameras installed.
- Placing anti climbing paint on the properties. The Chair commented that funding for this may be able to be found through the Community Meeting budget.
- Motion Activated Lights

Action	Officer/Councillor	Deadline
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	Identified	
Look into what could be done to tackle burglary in the area.	Daxa Pancholi, Head of Community Safety & Safer Leicester Partnership	By next meeting

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Look into whether funding could be provided for anti climbing paint to be placed on properties at risk of crime.	Daxa Pancholi, Head of Community Safety & Safer Leicester Partnership/Anita Patel, Members Support Officer	By next meeting.

40. POLICE UPDATE

PC Andy Goadby and Kim Sherrif from Leicestershire Police, provided an update on policing and crime in the Fosse ward. He commented that the ward was split into four zones for policing with zones including Pool Road, Tudor Road, Buckminster Road and Newfoundpool.

The following updates were given:

- The Community Meeting was informed that a mediation meeting had been arranged with the parents of youngsters who had felt the police had been a bit 'heavy handed' in their approach in tackling anti social behaviour. A similar meeting with the youngsters would also be arranged.
- In response to the break ins, officers had now been placed outside Woodgate Adventure Playground for monitoring.
- Anti social behaviour on Dannett Street was currently being tackled. In particular action against one individual was being taken which had helped. Residents were also informed that a couple of families who were causing trouble had also been moved out of the area.
- PC Goadby commented that the Police were trying to increase patrols and to reach the crime hotspot areas. The Police were also trying to be accessible as possible.
- Kim also updated residents that neighbourhood watch schemes were progressing well. The Chair commented that neighbourhood watch schemes were a good way of communicating with the Police as they kept residents informed of any crimes in the area.

In response to a query about placing CCTV cameras on junctions, PC Goadby commented that there was currently five cameras in the ward however there was no funding for any more. He added that he had worked previously in an area monitored by CCTV cameras however while they had helped they could also have the effect that criminals would move to different areas where there were no cameras.

PC Goadby informed residents to let the Police know of any ideas they had or if anything could be done differently by the Police.

41. CITY WARDENS

Barbara Whitcombe, Team Manager, City Wardens was present to let residents know of the rollout of the City Warden scheme across the city.

Barbara commented that the City Wardens had initially commenced as a pilot scheme in some wards however now it would be rolled out to all wards across the city. A six month action plan was circulated which displayed the priorities for the City Warden in the Fosse ward. These included:

Vehicles for sale on the highway

Barbara commented that the Parking team at the Council were responsible for parking issues and the Police were responsible for obstruction problems. Residents stated that this problem occurred mainly in the following areas:

- Tudor Road
- Mantle Road
- Empire Road
- Battenberg Road

Barbara stated that she would pass these on Vinci who were responsible for enforcing parking in the city. Residents reported that vehicles that were not taxed were also a problem. PC Andy Goadby suggested that the City Council and Police should do a joint sweep of the area looking for vehicles that were currently not taxed.

Residents also raised concern that Fosse Neighbourhood Centre had currently blocked their Car Park due to scaffolding and users of the Centre were now parking their cars on Mantle Road. The Chair agreed to find out what was the latest situation with regard to this by the next meeting.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Find out the latest situation with regards to the closure of the Fosse Neighbourhood Centre car park.	Anita Patel, Members Support Officer	By the next meeting

Residents suggested that a residents parking scheme should be implemented. The Chair stated that a previous consultation process had taken place and residents had voted against implementing a scheme. Concern was also raised about the parking problems which the Fiveways House flats application would cause.

Residents also stated that vehicles were being put on sale by the same owner on the highway. It was agreed that the Police and City Wardens along with Vinci would do a joint co-ordinated sweep of the area highlighting such vehicles.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
That there be a joint sweep of the area looking for vehicles that were not taxed and multiple vehicles put up for sale by the same owner.	City Warden Service/Police	By the next meeting

Bins on Streets

Barbara commented that the Fosse ward was the worst in the city for bins remaining on streets. She informed residents that the City Warden would be working as part of a Task Force to combat the problem. There was a currently a target to remove 5,000 bins in one year and 10,000 bins in two years across the city. Barbara commented that currently 450 had been removed in the past four weeks. Barbara explained how enforcement action was taken against Residents who persistently left their bin on the street. This consisted off sending them an information pack at first, then if the bin remained on the street a letter would then be sent, following this if the problem persisted then a visit to the resident would be arranged and finally if the bin still had not been removed then an illegal notice was served. Residents were informed that a survey of which bins were left on streets was done 48 hours after the bins had been emptied by the waste collection service which gave residents time to return the bin back to their property.

Residents were informed that a bin fire cost the taxpayer £2,000 to extinguish. It was hoped the Task Force would help to reduce the amount of bin fires caused. Barbara commented that a considerable amount of work was being done with both universities in the city to ensure that students had the necessary information about waste collection and other services.

Dog Fouling

Barbara commented that the City Council had powers to deal with dog fouling. This included asking dog owners to put dogs on leads. Residents reported that dog fouling was a particular problem on the top of Pool Road and in Rally park.

Free Distribution of Printed Matter

Barbara reported the licensing of printed matter had had a huge impact on litter in the city centre. She also commented that nightclubs had been prosecuted for distributing material without a licence. Residents also raised concern at posters being tied to lamp posts and traffic lights.

Flytipping

Barbara commented that businesses had been prosecuted for fly tipping and it could be checked with business where they placed their waste.

A resident raised concern about a building on the corner of Pool Road. Barbara commented that this would be looked into. She added that the City Council had powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to take action against building owners. The Chair stated that he would also speak to the Director of Environmental Services about this issue.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
The building on the corner of Pool Road be looked into.	Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Manager	By the next meeting

Graffiti

Barbara informed residents of an anti graffiti campaign that would be launched in the city to clear graffiti. Residents were also informed of the new One Clean Leicester initiative which would allow Members of the public to submit photographs they had taken of environmental problems. Barbara commented that the pictures would be placed on the One Clean Leicester website and any actions taken on them would be updated on the website as well.

Litter

Barbara commented that Street Litter Control Notices could be issued against takeaway premises in order for them to clear their waste which was placed in front of their premises. She added that work was also being done with pubs to combat similar problems. Residents were informed that the issue was an ongoing problem. Barbara commented that the issue was linked with waste collection services only collecting waste from premises between 5am – 7am and commented that this timing needed to be changed. She informed residents that if the waste collection company refused to change the time then they could be taken to the Magistrates Court and then the company would have to liaise with Biffa.

A Resident raised concern about litter in the canal at the old Kirby and West site. Barbara commented that Severn Trent Water was responsible for the canal and that she would look into this issue.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Look into the issue of the litter in the canal at the old Kirby and West site.	Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Manager	By the next meeting

Barbara informed residents that litter picking kits were available and if anyone wanted to organise a litter picking event then they should contact the City Warden service.

42. UPDATE ON WARD PRIORITIES AND WARD ACTION PLAN

It was agreed that discussion on this item was not needed as topics had been covered previously in the meeting. Anita Patel, Members Support Officer confirmed that the Ward Action Plan would come to future meetings.

43. BUDGET

Anita Patel, Members Support Officer presented the Community Meeting budget. She reported that there would be just over £17,500 to spend up until March 2011.

The following bids had been submitted for consideration:

1) Upgrade Meeting Room and Offices, Woodgate Residents Association - £4,070.

Geoff Forse, Woodgate Residents Association explained the application. The application was for a new ceiling and lighting for the offices and for painting and a new carpet for the meeting room. The Chair commented that it would be difficult to fund all the requested amount as this would be a significant amount of the total budget therefore it was agreed that £2,000 should be funded.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £2,000 be allocated from the Ward Community Fund subject to approval from Councillor Manish Sood and final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

2) Epworth Development – Multi Access, Epworth Methodist Church – £10,500

John Ogleby, Epworth Methodist Church explained the application. The application was for works to improve accessibility to the building. This included a new access ramp, provision of a vehicle drop-off point, multi access toilet and improvements to internal corridors and doorways. It was agreed that £3,000 would be funded for the application.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £3,000 be allocated from the Ward Community Fund subject to approval from Councillor Manish Sood and final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

3) Refurbish Toilets, Woodgate Adventure Playground - £5,850

It was stated that the application was for the refurbishment of the children's toilets. It was agreed that £2,500 should be funded and that it be looked into whether Children and Young People's Services at the City Council were able to supply some funding.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Look into whether Children and Young People's Services are able to provide any funding for the application.	Anita Patel/ Children and Young People's Services.	As soon as possible.

4) Woodgate Fun Day, Fosse Neighbourhood Policing Team - £500

Kim Sherriff, Leicestershire Police explained the application. The application was for a fun day event which would be taking place on 13 July between 11am and 7pm. The event would be used to engage and consult with families in the area. Kim stated that £500 was also being requested from the Joint Action Group (JAG).

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £500 be allocated from the Ward Community Fund subject to approval from Councillor Manish Sood and final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

44. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

45. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8:16pm.