

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 12 January 2010

Held at:

Who was there:

Councillor Culdipp Singh Bhatti MBE
Councillor Piara Singh Clair
Councillor Ross Willmott

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	Police Issues
Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.

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.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was noted that Councillor Bhatti was chairing the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at this time.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meeting of Rushey Mead Community Meeting, held on 21st October 2009, as previously circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

4. MELLOR PRIMARY SCHOOL - DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Karen Hammond, Headteacher attended the meeting and outlined the development works proposed at Mellor Primary School.

Karen stated that the works were part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme although the proposals were submitted late on due to there being 2 buildings on the current site. The existing Key Stage 1 building had only 2 years left and was subject to subsidence. It was decided that it would not be possible to build just ½ a school so a new vision was drawn up and subsequently agreed.

The new school would be built on the grassed area at the back of the current school and the current buildings would be demolished in September 2011 and the area landscaped.

Access to the site would be via Clarke Street as well as a smaller minor access leading into Bellholme Close. An overspill car park would be created near the existing car park. The new school hall would be a 2-storey building capable of holding 500 people and would be popular for community use. The Woodbridge Childrens Centre was also on the site and would be linked closely with the school.

Several members of the public present expressed concerns about traffic problems at the current school and questioned whether any consideration had been given to alleviating problems for residents in the new proposals. It was stated that no formal decisions had yet been taken regarding entrances to the school for traffic and it was suggested that as soon as plans were available the Ward Councillors would get in touch with local residents and arrange a local meeting with planning and transport officers present to try and reach a satisfactory conclusion.

It was stated that the residents of Woodbridge Road would want to see the main entrance sited on Checketts Road, particularly during the construction phase, as

there were continued problems with parking on Woodbridge Road, and this could be exacerbated by the extra traffic caused by extended use of the school at evenings and weekends.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

5. WOODBRIDGE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Gwenda Brown, Manager outlined progress at Woodbridge Childrens Centre. Gwenda stated that the Centre, one of 18 across the City, had been open for 2 years and catered for children aged 0-5 in the Rushey Mead Ward. It was anticipated that children up to 12 would be catered for soon. Gwenda stated that some 150 people passed through the Centre each week from North Belgrave and Rushey Mead and that certain services also operated out of Rushey Mead Recreation Centre.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

6. SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY GROUPS

Julie Chapaneri, Extended Services Co-ordinator outlined funding that she was able to access to work with all schools in the area. Examples of projects could be Toy Libraries and Breakfast Clubs and Julie stated that some £25k was available in 2009/2010.

Julie stated that funding had been made available to the recent Community Day at Rushey Mead Library where a lot of information had been distributed. A similar event would be held in March.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

7. CITY WARDEN PROGRAMME

Barbara Whitcombe stated that the City Council had piloted the Wardens across 11 Wards in the City but now were to roll out City Wardens across all 22 Wards. Each ward would have its own dedicated City Warden from April 2010 to address issues around dog fouling, litter, bins on streets, fly-tipping etc.

A member of the public stated that a lot of rubbish had accumulated outside the former factory on the corner of Woodbridge and Melton Roads. Rbbish was also present on the corner of Payne Street. It was stated that details of sites to be cleared should be reported through the City Council hotline.

A member of the public stated that a number of people just dropped their litter on the street and Barbara stated that the ultimate action would be to take people to court, although this could be costly and time consuming.

A member of the public stated that foxes were regularly seen in the area and Barbara stated that this was partly down to people leaving food out that attracted vermin.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

8. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

John Dowson, Highways and Transportation attended the meeting to give feedback.

52 Bus Service

It was reported that a petition had been presented to the City Council complaining against the operation of the 52 Bus Service along Woodbridge Road, Berridge Lane and Lanesborough Road. John stated that the City Council were not able to instruct a bus company to cease operating part of a commercially operated route, rather to meet with them and inform them of the concerns. The provision of bus stops was requested by the bus operator but, following consultation these were not installed as the service is a hail and ride service. Should stops be requested by the bus company then these would be treated on their merit and not installed at places where there was deemed to be an obstruction or a danger. The principal complaint was that a bus service was not wanted in this particular area and it was suggested and **agreed** that the ward Councillors could meet with the bus company and assess the issues and see what could be done to address the petitioners concerns.

RESOLVED:

that the action proposed be noted.

9. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Rita, Local Policing Co-ordinator stated that her role was to bridge the gap between the public and the Local Policing Team. Local Policing priorities had been set for the next 3 month period and were published on the Police website. Since January 2010 the local policing beat areas had been linked to correspond with the City Council ward boundaries.

A member of the public stated that the main area of concern was the lack of perceived police presence on the streets in the area. Rita stated that there was regular police presence but that it might be a question of timing but that additional patrols of the Woodbridge Road area would be arranged to address concerns around the potential for burglaries during the daytime.

Car parking on certain streets and around the local school were also areas of concern and it was suggested that the police would liaise with the local residents and headteacher to try and find solutions.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

10. RUSHEY MEAD LIBRARY

Rambha Odedra, Community Librarian outlined the activities that were taking place at Rushey Mead Library. A 'Look Good and Feel Good' event was being planned for March where health checks would be available. Internet was now available at the library, together with 'homework help' sessions.

Local people were urged to visit the Library and become involved with the local community.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

11. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Jerry Connolly, Members Support Officer reported on the following applications for funding that had been received: -

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| 1) | <u>Ward Community Cohesion Fund</u>
Local Joint Action Group
Graffiti Wall | £400 |
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RESOLVED:

that it be noted that this application had been approved in full by Ward Councillors under delegated powers.

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| 2) | <u>Ward Community Fund</u>
Woodbridge Children's Centre
Creation of Play Area | £4,000 |
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RESOLVED:

that the application be funded by **£2000** from the ward Community Fund, the balance of £2,000 to be referred to the City Council Extended Services Programme and Belgrave and Latimer Community Meeting.

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| 3) | <u>Community Fund</u>
The Friends of Watermead
The Friends of Watermead Family Discovery Day | £1,820 |
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RESOLVED:

that the application be funded in full as a one-off payment for 2009/2010.

- 4) **Community Fund**
Lighthouse Learning £1,800
Learning to Learn Family Day

RESOLVED:

that the application be funded by 50% **£900**, the balance to be referred to the City Council Extended Services Programme.

- 5) **Ward Action Plan**
Play and Youth Development £7,000
Play facilities for Huggett Close area

It was reported that Ward Councillors had indicated that they wanted to 'ring fence' funding for play facilities in this area and Adrian Edge, Play and Youth Development Officer had suggested an approach: -

"There is however an alternative approach we could take and look at opportunities to provide some natural play equipment within the grassed areas at the other end of Huggett Close where the footpath links connect it with Shearer Close. There are several grassed areas here with existing trees with good natural surveillance from adjacent properties, these could be used to develop a natural play trail with some balancing items such as stepping stones, play mounds, balance beams and sensory planting."

RESOLVED:

that the approach outlined above be adopted, and that £7,000 be earmarked for the project, subject to consultation with local residents.

Balances

Jerry Connolly, Members Support Officer reported that the following balances remained, subject to the applications set out above being approved: -

<u>Community Fund</u>	£93
<u>Ward Action Plan</u>	£367

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

