

# **Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Wednesday, 17 February 2010**

**Held at: The Sports Hall, Hamilton Police Station,**

Who was there:

Councillor John Mugglestone
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Councillor Barbara Potter
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Councillor Ramila Shah
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## 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 and General Information**

Talk to your local Councillors or raise general queries.

### **TABLE 2**

#### **- Leicester Anti-Social Behaviour Unit**

Obtain information on services available

### **TABLE 3**

#### **- Local Bus Companies**

Talk to representatives from the local bus companies

### **TABLE 4**

#### **- Police**

Talk to your local Police Officers.

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.

## **67. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Potter was elected Chair for the meeting.

## **68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr. J. Burrows (Resident) and Andy East (Neighbourhood Housing Office).

## **69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mugglestone disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed Governor at Kestrels Field Primary School.

Councillor Shah disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed Governor at Gateway College.

## **70. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

## **71. RECENT PROBLEMS IN HUMBERSTONE VILLAGE - UPDATE**

Inspector Steve Riley, Local Policing Unit Commander, Keyham Lane Police Station attended the meeting to update the meeting on the recent problems that had taken place in Humberstone village.

It was stated that there had been issues regarding Gateway College since early January 2010, when the major incident had taken place in Humberstone Village. The incident had been regarded as a spontaneous one and the Police had responded with a large amount of resources. Since the incident analysis had taken place to assess what had happened and why, 6 arrests had since taken place. Community Officers had now been allocated solely to Humberstone village since January to undertake high profile patrols, and whilst the ongoing investigation continued, further arrests were expected.

Insp. Riley stated the Police had been working with Gateway College and it was made clear that not all of the people arrested were students at Gateway. A special bus service had been set up by Gateway with the aim of bringing students to/ taking students away from Gateway College.

Neil Canham, Leicester Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (LASBU) attended the meeting and stated that a location for a CCTV camera had been identified in the centre of Humberstone village and that this would be installed and linked directly to the City Council CCTV Centre on Blackbird Road. LASBU were working closely with the Police on follow-up work, including warning letters.

### Question

*A member of the public questioned whether, if it was known that 2 separate factions were involved, then would it be a good idea for Gateway to ensure that one faction to arrive/leave the College before the other.*

### Response

*Inspector Riley stated that this was an issue for Gateway College to address on their premises. Once off the college site the Police would deal with anti-social behaviour,*

*although it was not felt the position had been reached whereby students would have to be escorted on/off buses.*

Liz Iliffe, Deputy Principal, Gateway College stated that a minority of students had been involved in the January incidents, not all of which were from Gateway. 12 students had been suspended on Principal's contract, meaning that they had to meet with representatives from the College every 2 weeks. Should any of these students step out of line during this period they would be expelled, although this would be an absolute last step.

Gateway College were working closely with the Police and had put staff on duty to walk with students to the bus stop. A special bus service had been provided, as stated earlier, and starting times/leaving times were already staggered to avoid large numbers of students arriving/leaving the site at any one time. Most students were horrified at the recent events and discussion had taken place at tutorials and liaison was underway with local religious leaders.

Work was now underway to meet with local Community and Sports Leaders with a view of entering into a partnership to allow students to work out of the College and for other students to come into the College to use the facilities available. At the next Gateway College staff open day work would be undertaken on a 'Behavioural Best Practice' designed to give help to staff to handle such situations.

#### Question

*A member of the public questioned whether Gateway had a provision in place should the need to expel any pupils arise.*

*Liz Iliffe stated that Gateway would offer full support to any pupil in such a situation.*

#### Question

*A member of the public questioned whether Gateway had support provision in place for those students with behavioural problems.*

*Liz Iliffe stated that Gateway had mentoring/counselling services available.*

#### Question

*A member of the public stated that the CCTV camera referred to earlier had now been installed but asked whether a second CCTV camera could be located at Humberstone Stores.*

*It was stated that, although this suggestion was supported, there was not sufficient funding available at the present time to install a second CCTV camera.*

RESOLVED:

that the current position be noted and the relevant agencies thanked for the work undertaken in response to the recent incidents in Humberstone village.

## **72. BUS SERVICES IN HUMBERSTONE, HAMILTON AND NETHERHALL**

The following people attended the meeting to discuss local bus service provision: -

Steve Smith	- Arriva Midlands
Steve Zanker	- First Leicester
Carl Grayston	- Thurmaston Bus
Julian Heubeck	- Public Transport Co-ordinator Leicester City Council

It was stated that there were ongoing issues around the provision of bus services in the area, particularly in the New Romney Crescent area of Netherhall estate.

**Steve Zanker** stated that First Leicester had no plans to make any further bus route changes in the area and realised that there were issues around the New Romney Crescent area, although to run a service here was not commercially viable. In 2008 a decision had been taken to link existing services across from Thurnby Lodge to Netherhall, in effect bringing extra buses into the area.

First Leicester/Arriva operated commercial services. Services that were not commercially viable could be subsidised by the City Council, subject to certain criteria being met.

In response to several comments from the public regarding the 38/38A service to Netherhall/Thurnby Lodge and of the attitude of some drivers. Steve suggested that the publicised Customer Call line be used to convey any concerns to First Leicester, where all comments were responded to and recorded.

In response to a comment from a member of the public it was stated that smaller vehicles at off peak periods would not be economically viable as they could only be utilised on certain routes and they still required the costs of a driver and regular maintenance, as well as having shorter life spans than full size vehicles. Overall bus companies favoured larger vehicles, as they were more economical overall.

**Steve Smith** responded to a comment around the possible reinstatement of the former 18 bus service to Keyham Lane. Steve stated that the service had been started in 2002 and funded as part of a section 106 agreement relating to the then new Hamilton development. Funding for the route ceased in 2006 and, as the route was not commercially viable, it was stopped and there were no plans to reinstate the route. In response to a question about provision of a bus service to the Danbury Gardens Steve stated that the area would not sustain a commercial service but, should the City Council wish to fund such a service, then it could be provided.

A member of the public stated that since the 1985 Transport Act when the bus industry outside London was de-regulated there had been a number of issues around multi-national companies and the provision of services. Currently the Competition Commission were part way through an investigation into the supply of bus services in the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland and London, with a completion expected by June 2011.

**Steve Zanker** stated that both First Leicester and Arriva Midlands were part of multi-national companies and were driven by shareholders to make profits, although it was realised that customers needed to be looked after to achieve these profits. In developing bus routes most companies targeted frequent bus users such as

commuters and shoppers. People who visited libraries and doctors surgeries were not regarded as frequent users.

**Julian Heubeck** stated that, with regard to bus shelters at Hamilton, the City Council had a programme to locate bus shelters and he would liaise with the person who had raised the issue.

**Carl Grayston** stated that Thurmaston Bus was looking to expand and was a small company, and were willing to listen to comments from local residents. Several residents stated that they would be interested in meeting with Thurmaston Bus to discuss bus service provision.

**Julian Heubeck** stated, in response to concerns expressed about the lack of a bus service on Keyham Lane, that the City Council had been in discussion with First/Arriva about providing such a service but without success. The City Council had now utilised one of the Council's own vehicles on a limited service in the morning and afternoon one day per week to link the local shops, libraries and doctors. Whilst the provision of such a service was welcomed it was stated that such a provision only operated once per week meaning that it was impossible to combine shopping and medical visits in one journey. Julian stated that it appeared that consideration to expand the service was required.

**Steve Zanker** stated, in response to criticisms of the Star Trak bus information system that First Leicester were part of a local partnership that operated Star Trak. Some of the buses were not fitted with the necessary equipment, or the equipment was faulty. Discussions had taken place and it had been accepted that instead of \* symbol appearing on Star Trak signs, in the absence of an actual time, that the timetabled arrival time of the next bus should be shown instead.

The guest representatives from local bus companies were thanked for attending the meeting and their input was appreciated.

### **73. BUDGET**

Peter Cozens, Members Support reported on the Community Meeting Budget. It was reported that the following bids had been received since the last meeting: -

#### **Ward Action Plan Budget**

<b>1. <u>New Shoots Gardening Club</u></b>	<b>£</b>
Purchase of secondhand storage container	1,566.38

It was questioned whether planning permission would be required to site this container in the grounds of Hope Hamilton Primary School.

RESOLVED:

that full support be given to the application in the sum of **£1,566.38**. It was further agreed that, should planning permission be required, then further funding would be

made available to cover the cost of the planning application.

2. **Hope Hamilton Primary School** 5,680.00  
Construction of wildlife pond and fencing

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full in the sum of **£5,680.00**.

3. **Gateway 6<sup>th</sup> Form College Garden Project** 10,500.00  
Project divided into four separate phases to create series of separately themed garden areas.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in the sum of **£5254.00**, representing 50% of the funding requested.

4. **The Unit Youth Project** 1,500.00  
Equipment/Resources for young people's sessions at "The Unit".

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full in the sum of **£1,500.00**.

#### **Ward Community Fund**

5. **West Humberstone Allotment Society** 449.06  
Purchase of petrol brushcutter and harness.

RESOLVED:

That the application be supported in full in the sum of **£449.06**.

6. **Santana Football Club** 1,910.00  
Badminton Sessions for Parents/Children in the Humberstone, Hamilton and Netherhall areas.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full in the sum of **£1,910.00** and that a breakdown of local users be reported to the Community Meeting when a report back is given.

#### **Ward Community Cohesion Fund**

7. **Humberstone Community Village Forum** 1,774.00  
Humberstone Carnival – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full in the sum of **£1,774.00** from available Community Meeting funding.

### **Reserve Fund**

It was reported that after funding the applications listed above an amount of some £750.00 remained in the Community Meeting budgets.

RESOLVED:

that the balance of Community Meeting funding 2009/2010, amounting to approximately £750.00, be held as a reserve fund.

### **74. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Humberstone Carnival**

A member of the public stated that, as part of the Humberstone Carnival, he wanted to stage a "Humberstone has got Talent" competition and was hoping that pupils from local schools would be able to be invited to participate.

RESOLVED:

that the suggestion be supported.

### **75. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date and venue for the next meeting would be notified as soon as possible.

### **76. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.47 pm.



