

Beaumont Leys Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

3:30 pm, Thursday, 3 December 2009

Held at: Christ the King Church, Beaumont Way, (next to the shopping centre)

Who was there:

Councillor Vi Dempster

Councillor Keith Lloyd-Harris

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
Local Councillors were present discuss issues or raise general queries	Local Police were available to talk about issues or raise general queries.
Housing and Housing Repairs	Grounds Maintenance & Parks
Officers were present to respond to housing queries.	Officers were available to respond to queries / concerns about any grounds maintenance issues.
Community and Healthy Living Centres	City Warden
There were details of the services which were available at local centres.	The City Warden Manager was in attendance to discuss any issues about local environmental problems.
Speedway Consortium	Sure Start
Information was available about the latest developments with the planned speedway and other sports facilities.	A representative from the local Sure Start was present giving details of what's available in the local area.
Waste Management	Youth Services
Details were available about local waste and recycling services.	A representatives from local Youth Services was in attendance.
Ashton Green	
Details of the proposals at Ashton Green were available for viewing and to make comments on.	

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.

FORMAL SESSION

36. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Dempster was elected Chair for the meeting.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Westley.

38. 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 1972 applied to them.

There were no declarations.

39. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was asked if there were any comments or clarifications on the minutes of the previous meeting.

There were no comments.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

40. ENTERPRISE AS A LIFE

Samuel Larke from the Enterprise as a Life project was in attendance at the meeting and gave a brief presentation on the services which the project could offer.

Samuel explained that this was a European Union funded project which sought to give people support who wished to start up their own business. One to one support and the services of specialist consultants were part of what was on offer. He said that people only needed to come up with an idea and they could help from that point onwards. He noted that 8 people had approached the project already and 1 was now running their own business.

A resident suggested that Samuel linked up with the Multi Access Centre based at Braunstone Working. Samuel confirmed that this was already happening.

The Chair thanked Samuel for attending the meeting.

41. WARD ACTION PLAN UPDATES

STREET CLEANING

Barbara Whitcombe, City Warden Manager gave the meeting a presentation which outlined the work areas which the City Wardens would be undertaking and gave residents the chance to give their opinions on areas which needed a greater focus to keep them clean.

The following areas were raised as needing extra cleansing attention.

- Black Pad – issues were raised at a public meeting with regard to bin clearance, dog fouling and litter.
- Barleycroft shops – problems with litter left by school pupils at lunchtimes.
- Heacham Drive to Christ the King Church – bus shelters with litter problems.
- Astil Lodge Estate – problems with dog fouling – it was queried whether prosecutions ever took place? Barbara confirmed that they did and a press release would soon be going out.
- The area near the BMX track at the rear of the leisure centre – there was a problem with dog fouling and trolleys being dumped.
- There were fly tipping problems at the back of Blue Gates Road and Pichens Close.
- There were dog fouling problems on Castle Hill Park, even though dog mess bins had been installed.
- It was queried whether fines could be levied on horse owners for horse fouling on bridleways? Barbara said that this wasn't possible.

The Chair in summary recommended that the Head of Communications at the Council be approached to put an article in the Link Magazine as well as the press release on dog fouling prosecutions. She also asked that a letter be sent, and signed by the Chair to the Head of Parks with a request to put some dog mess bins in the area around the BMX track.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Request to the Head of Communications to put an article in the Link magazine about dog fouling prosecutions.	Barbara Whitcombe	March 2010
Letter to be sent, signed by the Chair, to the Head of Parks requesting that dog mess bins be installed in	Steve Letten / Councillor Dempster	March 2010

the area near to the BMX track.		
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YOUTH SERVICES

Kim Thorrington gave the meeting an update on the projects which had been funded through the Ward Community Fund. He said that the general idea behind the projects which had been supported was to reach those young people who wouldn't normally engage with Youth Services.

Young Parents Group

This had become well established with a number of the members training to become Youth Workers and to lead the group themselves. It was undertaking various activities such as a residential visit to provide advice for sexually active young people and doing similar in schools and youth clubs.

Friendship Group for Young People with Mental Health Problems

This was a project aimed at young people suffering from a range of conditions such as depression, bi-polar and Autism. The group was about giving of support for each other and providing some fun as well.

'Street Corners'

This was a youth action group, led by young people. It was currently involved in producing profiles of the local area of all the services which existed for young people. This also included a process of 'emotional mapping', where the things which created an emotional link to the area were detailed.

The Chair of the meeting thanked Kim for all the work that he had undertaken.

Kim also outlined a number of areas which he wished to use the Community Meeting funding which had been approved at the end of the last financial year.

Empathy Bellies - The Young Parents Group – there was a request to purchase two 'empathy bellies' which simulated the experience of being pregnant. These would cost a total of £700.

Councillors supported this application.

First Aid Training- There was a request from the Young Parents Group for 2 paediatric first aid training sessions for young parents designed to equip them with skills, knowledge and confidence to deal with crisis situations that might occur with pre-school children. This would cost a total of £500.

Councillors supported this application. The Chair also suggested that Kim contact the Children's Centre to see if they could assist with funding.

Sex Education Aids - The Young Parents Group wished to purchase a set of synthetic testes and breasts for the purpose of demonstrating self examination techniques to young people. The total cost of these would be £200.

Councillors supported this application.

Residential Trip - It was intended to take 20 young people on a residential trip in the early spring. The aim behind the trip was to get young people to open up about their life experiences, the difficulties they face and their aspirations. The total cost of these would be £1500. In reply to a question, Kim explained that this trip would be for young people from deprived areas who had engaged well with local services on a longer term basis and had provided support to other young people.

Councillors supported this application.

A local resident who was present at the meeting explained that he was a boxing tutor and he hoped to be starting up a club in the area. He said that he hoped his club could link into some of activities which Kim had detailed. Kim welcomed this opportunity.

Kim indicated that he would bring young people to the next meeting to discuss the projects which they had been involved in.

CRIME / ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

PC Martin Birch gave the meeting an update on the latest developments with regard to the Police services provided in the ward.

The main update related to the fact that 'beat' areas within the ward were being removed and officers would be able to address issues all over the ward. Officers would still nominally have areas which they patrolled, but should they be needed, larger numbers of officers could attend any incident, regardless of where it was.

Martin also detailed the specific priorities in each neighbourhood, which had been established following consultation with local people.

Martin urged people to continue to get in touch if issues arose, there would now be a central point of contact which could co-ordinate a response across the ward and draw on a wider pool of officers to provide assistance.

With regard to crime statistics, Martin noted that of the 'core' crimes, there was very little in the ward when it came to car theft and robbery. Theft from cars and burglary however remained an issue. He did however note that certain known problem individuals had recently been apprehended.

In respect of illegal motorbike use, there had been 8 seizures of bikes and 7 section 59 warnings. There had also been some successful evictions of problem families.

A resident raised a query with regard to the Policing of Castle Hill Park, part of which was covered by officers who were based in Anstey. Martin said that a common sense approach would be taken with regard to dealing with problems in the Park. Officers wouldn't, for example stop chasing illegal motorbikes when it came to the ward boundary. The resident further suggested that Councillors should lobby the Police Authority to give Beaumont Leys Police powers to police the whole of the

park. The Chair said that she was happy to send a letter to Councillors on the Police Authority on this matter.

A resident raised a further query about whether Police numbers would be diluted when the Ashton Green development was built. Martin said that the effect of Ashton Green on the Policing in the area was as yet unknown and this was an issue for the Police hierarchy to consider.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A letter to be sent to Councillors on the Police Authority lobbying to give officers based at Beaumont Leys Police Station powers to police the whole of Castle Hill Park.	Steve Letten	March 2010

42. HOUSING CAPITAL RECEIPTS INITIATIVE

Leo Daniels, Beaumont Leys Neighbourhood Housing Manager gave the meeting a brief outline of the proposals from the Ward, which had been put forward for consideration under the Housing Capital Receipts Initiative. This was a scheme where money received from the sale of Council properties or land was used to pay for improvements.

There were 6 bids. A 'Performance Panel', made up of tenant's representatives, would consider the bids alongside those from the rest of the city and decide which ones would be successful.

- 9 flats at 285 Butterwick Drive - This would be a range of improvements such as clearing greenery, block paving, fencing, brick cleaning, rendering, door painting and double glazing.

- Beaumont Crescent – This would be new flooring to communal areas in flats and PVC cladding for the outside.

- 43-75 Blue Gates Road – It was intended to remove shrubbery and lay turf to make the area more manageable for maintenance.

- Amadis Road / Trigo Close – Again, this would be shrub removal, but using grass seed to replace.

- Lime Grove and Bluegates Road – It was intended to double glaze the open landing areas of a number of flats.

- Thornholme Close – security doors were proposed.

A resident suggested that people from the area could be involved in undertaking any improvements. Leo said that it would be possible to look into using people from the Community Payback scheme. He was also happy to consider any other ideas which community groups may have.

Leo said that the final decision on which schemes were successful would be taken in April, he would report to the Community Meeting in June.

43. BUDGET

Steve Letten, Member Support Officer gave the meeting an update on the current position with the budget. There was £14,292 remaining in all three budgets at beginning of the meeting.

The following budget applications were considered.

Beaumont Leys Flying Club – a proposal to set up a radio controlled model flying club at Babington Community College at a cost of £975.52.

Tony Edwards from the Club explained to the meeting that the he had some very touching experiences with the young people at the school, where it was clear that involving them in something like this, there were able to overcome barriers of race and religion. The Chair welcomed the fact that this project was making a difference.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £975.52 be allocated from the Ward Action Plan Fund subject to final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

Friends of Castle Hill Country Park – a proposal for improvements to Castle Hill Country Park at a cost of £1211.

Troy Laver from the Friends group outlined details of the proposals, which included new benches, 'V' gates, bridges, tree & bulb planting and the purchase of a cordless drill.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1211 be allocated from the Ward Action Plan Fund subject to final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association – a proposal for a Christmas disco for children and young people at a cost of £500.

RESOLVED:

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

Evergreens Club – a proposal for a Christmas lunch and coach hire at a cost of £500.

RESOLVED:

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

Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association – a proposal for brush seals to provide noise elimination at the Neighbourhood Centre, at a cost of £434.70.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £434.70 be allocated from the Ward Community Fund subject to final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

North West Unity Boxing Club – a proposal for insurance cover for the boxing club at a cost of £650.

Steve Letten suggested that quotes for the insurance be sought, before this application was approved. Councillors however felt that even if the insurance was less than the amount applied for, it was a worthwhile project which could make use of any extra money.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £650 be allocated from the Ward Action Plan Fund subject to final approval from the Cabinet Lead for Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council.

Funding Left Available

Steve Letten informed the meeting that there was approximately £10,000 left over the three budget areas.

The Chair said that more applications for the remaining money were welcome as the next meeting would be the last chance for spending the money prior to the end of the financial year. She advised people to get their applications in early to allow officers to give them full consideration.

44. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 1 March 2010.

45. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.

