

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 2 February 2010

Held at: Sparkenhoe Community Primary School, Sparkenhoe Street

Who was there:

Councillor Iqbal Desai
Councillor Parmjit Singh Gill
Councillor Hussein Suleman

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 Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	Police Services The Police were present to talk to residents..
Highways and Transportation Martin Fletcher, Acting Group Manager of City Highways was present to talk about local Highways and Transportation matters.	3X30 Carla Lane, Physical Activity Officer, was present to talk to members of the public about the 3X30 Pledge Campaign.
City Warden Rick Harrold, Senior City Warden, was available to talk to residents about local environmental issues.	

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.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interest they had in the business on the agenda and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Woody Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9, "Budget", as he was a member of the Highfields Association of Residents and Tenants, which had submitted an application for funding. Mr Wood stated that he would not be participating in the discussion on this application.

62. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record, it being noted that the meeting scheduled for 19 January 2010 had been postponed to 2 February 2010, (minute 59, "Date of Next Meeting", refers).

63. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Martin Fletcher, Acting Group Manager of City Highways at Leicester City Council, gave a presentation on Highway Management, a copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes for information.

During the presentation, the following points were highlighted:-

- the City Council's focus in the current Local Transport Plan was principal routes in the City;
- work was prioritised according to need, using a "worst first" approach;
- every road and footpath in the City was inspected at least twice a year;
- although highway maintenance was funded through Council capital and revenue expenditure, other sources of funding were used where possible, including national and European sources; and
- major work in the Stoneygate Ward included the upgrading of footpaths on Evington Road in 2007. Current projects included works to Mere Road and the resurfacing of Woodland Road.

Martin Fletcher advised the meeting that the roads discussed at the last meeting had been visited and had been found to be in a poor condition. Various problems had been identified, including the need to repair potholes in the Ward. It was estimated that it could cost approximately £3,000 to repair Rawson Street, but there could also be other areas that needed similar repairs and the Council did not have the funding available to do this.

The Ward Members explained that they had asked for a commitment to this funding to be given and for timescales to be given within which the work would be done, but neither of these had been received. It was stressed that this was not due to officers, but Members felt that it was unfair to local taxpayers. They undertook to report further on this matter if the situation changed.

Martin Fletcher explained that a survey had been undertaken in 2009 to see if residents in the south Highfields area were interested in a residents' parking scheme being introduced. As a result, some very general proposals had been drawn up and had been sent to statutory consultees, (such as the emergency services and bus operators). Feedback from these would be reported to the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Transport and the Director of Regeneration, Transport and Highways, to see if the proposals should be taken forward.

If it was decided that they should proceed, a public consultation exercise would be undertaken. As all views received during this process would be considered, all residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation. Responses could be sent either to Martin Fletcher or the Ward Councillors.

Woody Wood, Community Partner, reminded the meeting that there had been a very low response rate to a previous survey on residents' parking, partly because the Council and the residents had not worked together on it. This time the Highfields Association of Residents and Tenants (HART) had worked closely with the Council, including holding a series of public meetings and leafleting affected roads, and there had been a good response to the survey. This led to some disappointment when petitions against the scheme were received.

Mr Wood further explained that, it was recognised that a residents' parking scheme was not a perfect solution to the problems being experienced, but the situation had now grown so bad that a way forward needed to be found. HART felt that the scheme proposed would benefit the community and had added advantages, such as a proposal for dedicated spaces for car sharers.

The Ward Members reported that over 300 responses had been received to the leafleting done in the area, of which approximately 70% had been in favour of a scheme, but a petition with just under 1,200 signatures had been received against the scheme.

The Ward Members explained that they did not know how many people had actually been surveyed, what number had been in support of a residents' parking scheme and where displaced vehicles would go. They stated that, until they could be sure that residents supported a scheme and answers to the various questions raised had been received, it would not be possible for Ward Members to support a scheme. It therefore was suggested that a public meeting be arranged on this issue as soon as possible.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A public meeting to be held to	Andy Thomas /	As soon as

discuss the suggested residents' parking scheme in south Highfields	Steve Letten	possible
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64. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The meeting noted that concerns had been raised that it appeared that a large number of children in the area were not attending school. However, the Council was addressing the situation and a further report would be made to a future meeting.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A further report to be made on school attendance when this situation has been progressed	Steve Letten	As appropriate

65. 3x30 HEALTH INITIATIVE

Carla Lane, Physical Activity Officer with Leicester City Council, introduced herself to the meeting, explaining that her remit at the Council was to encourage people aged 16 and over in to physical activity. She then gave a short presentation on the 3X30 campaign, a copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes for information.

A survey by Active England had shown that only approximately 15% of people did three 30 minutes sessions of exercise per week. A campaign therefore had been started to encourage people to reach this level of activity, through doing any activity that raised their heartbeat. When people signed up to the initiative, they were given an activity log to complete themselves and received various incentives and discounts.

Since the campaign was launched in July 2009, approximately 1,500 people had joined the initiative and it was hoped that people would continue to sign up.

Carla Lane then showed a promotional DVD for the campaign.

In response to a question, Carla Lane explained that, if someone had a medical condition that could benefit from exercise, or wanted to do more exercise as part of a weight loss programme, they could be referred to the Council's Active Lifestyle scheme by their GP. This gave participants access to different activities, such as yoga, Pilates or the Heart Smart scheme, for 6 months, for which they paid a small charge. Participants did not have to attend a group, but could undertake the activity at home.

The meeting also noted that the Sports Regeneration Team ran various sessions. For example, sessions were held in Spinney Park from 9.00 am to 11.00 am on Tuesdays throughout the year. Currently these were for ladies, but it was hoped that mixed sessions also would be run.

Those present noted that, unlike other areas, Stoneygate Ward did not have any community facilities funded by the City Council and asked whether something could be provided. The Ward Members advised that they were in the process of trying to secure the use of the Mayfield Centre, Mayfield Road as a community centre. Anyone aware of other land or buildings that had potential to be used as a community facility was invited to advise the Ward Councillors of the details.

It also was asked if it would be possible for an outdoor gym to be created somewhere in the Ward, similar to that in Evington Park. Carla Lane advised that the outdoor gym in Evington Park had been funded from sources outside of the Council, but undertook to discuss with the Parks Team whether such a facility could be considered.

Some concern was raised that the levels of lead pollution in the air contributed to low life expectancy rates in the Ward. Ivan Browne, Public Health Consultant with Leicester City NHS, advised the meeting that it was considered that there was more benefit in going out and doing activity than there was in staying inside to avoid air pollution, as lead levels were not as high as they used to be.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
The possibility of setting up an outdoor gym in a park in the Stoneygate Ward to be discussed with the Parks Team.	Carla Lane	Next meeting

66. POLICING ISSUES

Sergeant Kooldip Johal, from Leicestershire Constabulary's Neighbourhood Policing Team based at Spinney Hill Park Local Policing Unit, introduced himself to the meeting.

Sergeant Johal advised the meeting that:-

- the City's police beats had changed with effect from 4 January 2010, to come in line with the City Council's wards. As a result, the Spinney Hill Park Local Policing Unit now was responsible for the Stoneygate and Thurncourt Wards. Sergeant Johal, three police constables and three police community support officers were responsible for Stoneygate Ward;
- crime figures were not available to report at this meeting, as the changes in boundaries meant that figures were not yet available;
- he would be very happy to attend any meetings that residents felt it was appropriate for him to attend;

- if anyone wanted to raise any matters with him, people were very welcome to speak to him, or if they preferred he could be e-mailed on kooldip.johal@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk ;
- if crime figures in the Ward reduced, there would not be an immediate corresponding reduction in officers, as the number was ring-fenced for at least one year.

67. HOUSING ISSUES

As no-one from the Housing Service was able to attend the meeting, this item was deferred.

68. BUDGET

a) Highfields Association of Residents and Tenants – Multi Strand Community Cohesion, Phase 2: £3,300

A representative from the Highfields Association of Residents and Tenants (HART) advised the meeting that HART had asked for assistance with the cost of providing interpreter support, a breakfast club, boxing lessons and a minibus for small outings. These would all be used to help community integration, but would be available to all residents.

It was noted that the provision made under Phase 1 of the Multi Strand Community Cohesion project mostly had been taken up by young boys, so it was hoped that this could be redressed through Phase 2.

The Ward Councillors suggested that it could be useful for the meeting to have feedback on projects that had been assisted and asked that this be done when Phase 2 of this project had been implemented.

AGREED:

that funding of £3,300 from the Ward Community Cohesion Fund be supported.

b) Friends of Sparkenhoe (SPARKS) – “Project Playground”: £6,597

Kath Faulkner, Head of Sparkenhoe Community Primary School, explained that, at present, although the school’s playground was at the centre of the community, it was not very interesting. SPARKS therefore was proposing to install a playground that contained areas for various activities, including play, speaking and listening, gardening and a “jungle gym” that ran all the way round the outside of the playground. It was estimated that the total cost of the scheme would be approximately £150,000 – 200,000 and that it could take up to two years to become fully equipped.

When pupils at the school were in lessons and the playground was not being used, parents would be able to use it for “stay and play” for pre-school children, with the

seating area providing somewhere for the parents to sit and talk. Private and voluntary providers of nursery education also would be offered use of the facilities.

The playground also could be made available for community use when the school was closed for its summer holiday. Someone would be paid to be present during the times that it was open, so that all children in the area could use it during that period. This possibly could be extended in the future. Some concern was expressed that supervising this facility could be difficult, as encouraging more children to use it increased the potential for problems to arise.

The Chair advised the meeting that, as people from Stoneygate, Spinney Hills and Castle Wards would use the playground, the application for funding would be considered by all three Community Meetings with a view to each Ward funding one-third of the amount requested.

In response to questions, Kath Faulkner advised the meeting that discussions had been held with the local Police Community Support Officer and it was felt that there would be a high level of community support in the area.

It was acknowledged that whatever was provided in the playground would need to be maintained. As such, equipment had been sourced that would not require maintenance for at least ten years. The Ward Members suggested that Council officers would be able to advise the school on how to achieve the best life span for equipment installed and that it would be useful for the school to include an element for maintenance of the playground in its maintenance budget.

Kath Faulkner reported that the Local Education Authority had suggested that the playground could be run by Leicester City Council's Parks Service at weekends, so it would be operated as a park on those days. It was suggested that, if this option was taken, the school should seek recompense from the Parks Service, as this would provide some income towards the costs of the facility.

AGREED:

that funding of £2,199 from the Ward Community Cohesion Fund be supported.

c) kb in the community/Warriors Basketball – Community Fund Basketball Sessions: £4,035

The meeting noted that Karl Brown, who had submitted this application, was out of the country at present, so was unable to present this application to the Community Meeting.

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer with Leicester City Council, reported that further information on expected numbers of participants and venues had been received and that this was now part of a joint bid to Stoneygate, Spinney Hills and Castle Wards.

AGREED:

that this application be deferred to a Special Stoneygate Ward Meeting to be held to consider how the remaining Ward budget for the 2009/10 financial year should be allocated and that kb in the community / Warriors Basketball be asked to make a presentation on this application at that meeting.

d) Prem Group – Transport: £2,600

As no one from the Prem Group was at the meeting to present this application or answer questions on it, it was

AGREED:

that this application be deferred to a Special Stoneygate Ward Meeting to be held to consider the remaining applications for funding in the 2009/10 financial year and that the Prem Group be asked to make a presentation on this application at that meeting.

e) General

It was reported that a group that previously had received a grant towards healthy living and sports provision. As part of this, it had been agreed that the group would work with a Council officer to progress the scheme. However, this officer no longer worked at the City Council, so the group was not receiving any support.

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer with Leicester City Council, advised that an application for a grant towards the cost of a litter pick on 20 February 2010 was expected from St Phillip’s Church.

AGREED:

- a) that Steve Letten, Members Support Officer (Leicester City Council), liaise with the group to see how this project can be progressed and that the Stoneygate Ward Members be kept informed of progress with this; and
- b) that, if the application from St Phillips Church for funding towards a litter pick is received and is for less than £500, it be approved.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Feedback on the projects supported to be given at a future meeting	Steve Letten, Members Support Officer (Leicester City Council)	As appropriate
Discussions to be held to see how the Council can help progress the previously agreed project on healthy living and sports provision. Ward Councillors to be kept informed of	Steve Letten, Members Support Officer (Leicester City Council)	As soon as possible

progress with this		
A Special Stoneygate Community Meeting be held to consider how the remaining Ward budget for the 2009/10 financial year should be allocated	Francis Connolly, Democratic Services Officer (Leicester City Council)	As soon as possible
kb in the community / Warriors Basketball be asked to make a presentation on the application for funding for community basketball sessions the Special Stoneygate Community Meeting referred to above	Steve Letten, Members Support Officer (Leicester City Council)	To be decided
The Prem Group be asked to make a presentation on the application for funding for transport to the Special Stoneygate Community Meeting referred to above	Steve Letten, Members Support Officer (Leicester City Council)	To be decided

69. STONEYGATE WARD ACTION PLAN

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

70. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had not been agreed yet, but would be advertised as soon as details became available.

71. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Health Issues

Ivan Browne, Public Health Consultant with Leicester City NHS, introduced himself to the meeting.

He advised the meeting that seasonal flu, which occurred every winter, affected approximately 10 – 15% of the population, the majority of whom recovered in about two weeks. However, in the recent Swine Flu pandemic a lot more people had been affected and the flu experienced was more severe than usual seasonal flu. More people were hospitalised and a higher mortality rate was experienced during the pandemic. Those dying as a result of Swine flu had mostly been aged 0 – 44, but largely under 14. There had been lower hospitalisation and death rates amongst older people.

Nationally, a pandemic flu telephone line had been established, although initially there had been some criticisms of the way this was run. The government had

prioritised the production of a vaccine, but anti-viral medication also had been produced and anti-viral distribution centres set up. The public had been encouraged to help reduce the pandemic through adopting good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Levels of flu activity in Leicester had been higher than the national average, with Stoneygate Ward being in the epicentre nationally in June 2009. However, over recent weeks there had been a significant reduction in flu activity internationally and in this Ward. In view of this, the national flu pandemic telephone line would be stepped down after 11 February 2010. After that date, anyone who thought they had flu would have to visit their GP.

Ivan Browne also reported that the NHS would be providing a Vascular Risk Assessment for anyone aged between 40 and 74. This would assess the risk of that person developing conditions such as heart disease or diabetes, or suffering from things such as strokes and encourage people to have a fuller, active lifestyle. It was anticipated that these checks should be fully established by 2012/13, but some work on them would start immediately.

These had been introduced as there was concern about low life expectancy levels and the contribution made to this by poor diet and lower levels of exercise. It was estimated that vascular-related illness cost the country approximately £25–28 billion per year. At present, Leicester was not amongst the areas with the highest rates of death from cardio-vascular disease, but improvements in these rates could be made.

In addition, some people were known to be at higher risk of certain conditions, such as a greater propensity amongst some ethnic minority communities to develop diabetes. A programme therefore was underway to try to identify those at low, medium and high risk and those who already had developed such conditions.

Agreement had been reached that GPs would provide the new health checks. They would ask questions about the patient's health, test their cholesterol level, take their blood pressure and test for diabetes. From this, an analysis of that patient's health would be given to that person and support and treatment would be offered where appropriate. All participants in the programme would be recalled on a five-year basis to have a check up.

The following points were made during the ensuing discussion:-

- Many people felt that they were rushed out of GPs' surgeries. In reply, Ivan Browne explained that all GPs who signed up to the programme were obliged to take the necessary time to complete the assessment;
- Facilities such as exercise classes, sport provision, or fresh produce (such as that sold at the City's market) could be difficult for some people to access;
- TB was returning to this country. Had this been seen in this Ward, or Leicester in general? In reply, Ivan Browne explained that TB rates in Leicester had always been high compared to the national average, partly due to the number of new entrants to the country coming to the City;

- The NHS needed to be pro-active in helping people to live a healthier lifestyle. Some parts of Stoneygate Ward were the most deprived nationally. It therefore could be useful for the NHS to work with Councillors to identify targeted funding for this work; and
- If people experienced problems at surgeries they were welcome to contact their Ward Member, who would be happy to liaise with the NHS.

In reply, Ivan Brown stressed that work undertaken in an area had to be specific to that particular community. The NHS therefore tried to work as a facilitator.

The Community Meeting was invited to pass any ideas or concerns about health initiatives to the Ward Members, who would liaise with Ivan Browne on these.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Ward Members to discuss targeted funding for NHS initiatives with Ivan Browne, (Public Health Consultant with Leicester City NHS)	None – Ward Members	As soon as possible

b) City Warden Service

Rick Harrold, City Warden with Leicester City Council, tabled details of the latest 6-month plan, a copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes for information.

In response to queries, the meeting was advised that:-

- interviews currently were being held to find additional City Wardens and it was hoped that the new Wardens should start in April 2010;
- it was known that residents were concerned about green boxes being blown and kicked about in the street, which caused a lot of mess, so green boxes had been included in the scheme to get bins off the street; and
- a review of waste collection currently was being undertaken by the Council, which it was hoped would be completed by May 2010. This included a review of the recycling service provided by the Council.

c) Leicester Market

The Chair advised the meeting that the City Council’s Cabinet had approved an application for a Sunday market to be held at the Walkers Stadium. However, as there was concern that this would have a serious impact on traders at Leicester Market, some Members had “called in” this decision. This meant that the decision now would be debated and decided by the whole Council.

d) **Trees**

The Ward Members advised the meeting that the Council had to undertake some pruning of trees, but if they were cut right down, Ward Members could be advised. They then could find out why the tree had been cut down and, if necessary, seek its replacement.

72. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm

Highway Maintenance

- Covers all features in the highway, e.g. footways, roads, street lights, trees, verges, drains, signs, road markings, street furniture, festival decs, etc.
- Statutory obligations on the Council.
- Safety of the public is paramount.
- Influenced by Local Transport Plan (LTP) criteria, national guidelines and Codes of Practice (CoP).
- Council has adopted a Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).



Highway Asset Management

- TAMP sets out maintenance strategies.
- Prioritisation of works is based upon asset management approach.
- Condition surveys undertaken – various types ranging from visual inspection to testing by machines (e.g. Deflectograph survey).
- Focus is currently on principal routes, which affect most users – and also linked to the LTP.
- Generally “worst first” approach due to limited funding.



Safety Inspections

- In addition to condition surveys, statutory safety inspections carried out periodically.
- Identifies “urgent defects” – criteria defined by Codes of Practice (e.g. pothole depth).
- Not all defects meet criteria.
- Limited funding means we cannot attend to many non-urgent defects.
- However, details are recorded for future potential maintenance schemes.



Highway Improvement Opportunities

- Maintenance generally funded from revenue and capital maintenance allocations.
- Council takes advantage of other funding opportunities to improve highway condition wherever possible.
- Examples include Integrated Transport Programme (Quality Bus Corridors), City Centre Development Project, External Grants (NGP, Sustrans, ERDF), Local Environmental Works.



Stoneygate Ward Area

- Major footpath improvements to Evington Road undertaken in 2007.
- Ashover Road & Tavistock Drive surface dressed in 2008.
- Evington Road / Hamilton Street Pedestrian Crossing Facilities scheme proposed for March 2010.
- Mere Road footway works – January 2010.
- Other streets have been identified for Surface Dressing in 2011/2012 – subject to funding.



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A Pledge to Get the City Fit!

3x30min pledge

MOVE MORE
LIVE LONGER

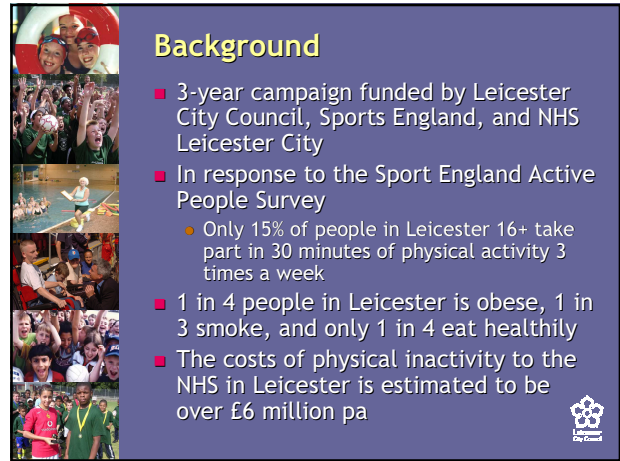
SPORT ENGLAND

NHS
Leicester City

Carla Lane
Physical Activity Officer
Leicester City Council

Leicester City Council logo

The poster features a central graphic of a person in a blue silhouette running, with the text '3x30min pledge' and 'MOVE MORE LIVE LONGER'. It includes logos for Sport England, NHS, and Leicester City Council. The background is a collage of photos showing people participating in various activities like swimming, cycling, and group exercises.



Background

- 3-year campaign funded by Leicester City Council, Sports England, and NHS Leicester City
- In response to the Sport England Active People Survey
 - Only 15% of people in Leicester 16+ take part in 30 minutes of physical activity 3 times a week
- 1 in 4 people in Leicester is obese, 1 in 3 smoke, and only 1 in 4 eat healthily
- The costs of physical inactivity to the NHS in Leicester is estimated to be over £6 million pa

Leicester City Council logo

This slide contains a bulleted list of background information about the campaign, including funding sources, survey data, and health statistics. It features a vertical collage of photos on the left side and the Leicester City Council logo in the bottom right corner.



3x30 Pledge

- Launched July 2009
- A commitment to a minimum of 3x30-minute sessions of physical activity per week
- Adults meeting this pledge are rewarded with:
 - Discounts at leisure centres
 - T-shirts
 - Exercise DVDs
 - Pedometers
- Over 1000 people in Leicester signed up
- For further information, visit www.leicester.gov.uk/3x30pledge

Leicester City Council logo

This slide details the 3x30 Pledge, including its launch date, the commitment required, rewards for participants, and the number of people who signed up. It includes the Leicester City Council logo in the bottom right corner.



Thank you for listening

Any questions?

Leicester City Council logo

This slide is a simple thank-you message with the text 'Thank you for listening' and 'Any questions?' in a large, bold font. It features a vertical collage of photos on the left side and the Leicester City Council logo in the bottom right corner.

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Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10
	BINS ON STREET STARTING IN STREET BARTHOLOMEW STREET				
3rd to 19th Thurs, Fri, Sat Ramadhan - Late Night Patrols with Police to Tackle Littering, Flytipping and Antisocial Behaviour	Educational talks and presentations in Mosques and with other Community groups				
	School Educational and Promotional Visits				
Dog Fouling and Litter Patrols St Peters Housing Area including Dashwood, Draper, Kingston, Glossop for takeaway litter					
Service Requests & Regular Patrols					
Estate / Patch walks with Housing Officers and local residents					
Duty of Cares in the whole of the ward					

- Negotiable Events and initiatives
- Ongoing Work
- Completed Or Committed Work
- Educational Initiatives

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