# Beaumont Leys Community Meeting

Christ the King Church, Beaumont Way (next to the shopping centre)
On Wednesday, 2 March 2011
Starting at 3:30 pm

# The meeting will be in two parts

3:30pm - 4:00pm

Meet your Councillors and local service providers dealing with:-

- Police
- Housing / Housing Repairs
- Grounds Maintenance / Parks
- Community / Health Living Centre
- City Warden
- Sure Start
- Library
- Home Choice
- Youth Services
- Kirton Lodge
- Cook Foundation

4:00m - 6:30pm

Get involved in your area and planning for the future. There will be presentations and discussions on:

- Police Update
- Housing Matters
- Council Budget
- · Community Meeting Budget

YOUR community. YOUR voice.

**Your Ward Councillors are:** 

Councillor Vi Dempster Councillor Keith Lloyd-Harris Councillor Paul Westley





# **Making Meetings Accessible to All**

# **WHEELCHAIR**

Meetings are held in a variety of community venues. We will only hold meetings in venues where there is suitable access for wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about accessing a venue by wheelchair, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on the details provided.

# BRAILLE / AUDIO TAPE - CD / TRANSLATION

If you require this agenda or a particular part of it to be translated or provided on audio tape, the Democratic Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend on equipment facility availability). In certain cases, subject to the agreement of the local Councillors, translation facilities can be provided at the meeting.

# INDUCTION LOOPS - HEARING AT MEETINGS

We provide a loop system at every meeting for people with hearing aids. If you have a hearing aid, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting for further assistance if you think you won't be able to hear what's being discussed. There is also a facility which can help people hear better if you don't have a hearing aid but are hard of hearing, again please speak to the Democratic Services Officer about this.

# **INFORMATION FAIR**

# PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES YOU CAN TALK TO AT THIS MEETING

You can raise matters of concern, give opinions and find out information which may be of use

which may be of use			
Ward Councillors and General	Police Issues		
Information			
	Talk to your Local Police about		
Talk to your local councillors or	issues or raise general queries.		
raise general queries			
Housing & Housing Repairs	Grounds Maintenance & Parks		
Staff from the local housing office	Raise queries / concerns about any		
will be able to provide information	grounds maintenance issues.		
on services available			
Community & Healthy Living	City Warden		
Centres	_		
	Speak to your local city warden to		
Get details of the services which	raise any local environmental		
are available at local centres	issues		
Beaumont Leys Library	Sure Start		
Find out about Library services	Speak to representatives of the		
I ind out about Library services	local Sure Start to find out what's		
Hama Ohaiaa	available in your local area		
Home Choice	Youth Services		
Find out details of the choice-based	Representatives from local youth		
lettings system for Council housing	services will be in attendance		
lettings system for Council flousing	Services will be in attendance		
Cook Foundation	Kirton Lodge		
Representatives from this	Find out about this project which		
organisation which provides	works with homeless women and		
community IT learning, will be	pregnant women		
present	p. 59a		
prosent	1		

# 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillors will elect a Chair for the meeting.

The first part of the agenda covers formal items which the Councillors need to deal with to ensure that regulations on holding meetings are kept to.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The first main item on the agenda is Declarations of Interest where Councillors have to say if there is anything on the agenda they have a personal interest in. For example if a meeting was due to discuss a budget application put forward by a community group and one of the Councillors was a member of that group, they would not be able to take part in the decision on that budget application.

Councillors are asked to declare any interest they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

# 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the previous Beaumont Leys Community Meeting, held on 12 January 2011, are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

# This next part of the agenda covers items where input from you on issues that affect your community is welcomed.

# 5. POLICE UPDATE

Sergeant Rich Jackson and PC Martin Birch will give an update on recent Police developments and successes.

# 6. HOUSING SERVICE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

John Thomson, Housing Area Manager, will give the meeting details of the new Council housing allocations system. There will also be an update on the environmental improvements funding for the forthcoming financial year.

# 7. COUNCIL BUDGET

There will be an update on the Council budget discussion which took place at the last meeting.

# 8. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

**Appendix B** 

Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

The following budget applications will be considered:-

# **Application 1**

Applicant: Love Hoops Foundation

Proposal: Active Women

Amount: £250

The total project cost is £2,000 but applications for funding are being made to 8 Community Meetings, (namely Aylestone, Beaumont Leys, Braunstone and Rowley Fields, Eyres Monsell,

Freemen, New Parks, Western Park and Westcotes)

This can be broken down as follows:-

Item	Cost (£)	Actual or Estimate?	Request to Ward Meeting (£)
Court Hire	6156	А	500
Coach Fees	3600	А	500
Training Costs	2500	А	500
Equipment	1200	А	500
Travel Expenses	2000	E	
TOTAL	15,456		2,000

# Summary:

Love Hoops Foundation is part of the street games consortium that successfully bid to Sport England for funding from their Active Women programme, which targets disadvantaged women.

Under this project, over 360 young women in Leicester will be offered coaching and playing opportunities. They then will have the opportunity to take coaching and refereeing qualifications, aiming to establish 6 new basketball clubs in the City. Mentoring will be provided by the Love Hoops Foundation.

The project hopes to overcome the following barriers:-

- Access to sports facilities. Sessions will beheld in young people's own communities
- Finance. The funding will help those in communities where low income families often have very little money to pay for sporting activities
- The project aims to address young women's Cultural / Religious. perceptions of sport, including letting them know that sport is an option for them. There will be female coaches from the area, who will act as positive role models

The project's targets are to:-

- Put 12 Level 1 coaches and 6 Level 2 coaches through the programme
- Have a minimum of 2 volunteers from each centre, but hopefully more
- 32 champions, 2 from each city, to be the project's "eyes and ears"
- Train 12 NATO qualified table officials and 12 referees, as well as the coaches mentioned above
- Establish 6 new clubs. These initially will have central administration, but will become self sufficient at the start of Year 3, looking for at least 12 players to register for each team
- Have 10 sessions of coaching for each group as part of the programme. It is likely that further funding will be requested, once established, to carry on the programme, leading to club establishment
- Take part in monthly tournaments over the two years, once the teams are established
- Retain 100 new players over 2 years, measured as NGB registrations.

The following funding has already been promised to this project:-

Sport England Active Women Grant £5,156 Love Hoops Foundation £2,920 City of Leicester Lady Hoops £5.380 TOTAL:

£13,456

# **Application 2**

Applicant: Val Kindred (Leicestershire County Netball)

£745 Amount:

Proposal: 10 week course (pilot) for women (16+) to get back into Netball.

It is planned that mums at the local Surestart Group and the wider Summary:

community be targeted to attend this 10-week programme.

It is planned to link this project in with Leicester City Council's 3x30 Pledge Campaign – a commitment to do three 30 minutes workouts per week.

The funding would go towards holding a session in Beaumont Leys which would cover the cost of the venue, and a netball coach to deliver the session. The Children's Centre would offer free childcare during the session.

There would be an introductory offer for the first lesson of £1 per person, but it would cost £2 per person thereafter.

The funding would also help towards promotional material for the sessions in Beaumont Leys.

# **Application 3**

Applicant: Friends of Astill Lodge Park

Amount: £461

Proposal: Would like to erect a notice board on the park to display notices,

and obtain materials for path improvements.

Summary: Leicester City Council Parks section is in support of this proposal

and will be able to supply labour to erect the sign on site.

The Friends of Astill Lodge Park are also seeking to obtain materials for a path which is in poor condition, and gets

waterlogged in wet weather, which reduces the use of the park for the public. Again, labour would supplied by Leicester City Council

Parks section.

# **Application 4**

Applicant: Heathley Park Residents Association

Amount: £380

Proposal: Funding towards Heathley Park 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering.

Summary: The Heathley Park Residents Association has held an annual

gathering for the last six consecutive years.

The annual gathering achieves the meeting of residents, including children and most of the parents. 115 residents attended the

2010 gathering.

To help with the annual gathering residents provide their time and do the main organising of the event. Funding if granted would go

towards entertainment, such as, a music band; food, soft drinks and disposables, in addition to the food that residents donate; publicity to provide for 300 A4 posters, and funding towards tombola prizes.

# 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

# Help us to make improvements!

Please help us to improve Community Meetings by filling in an **Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting. Thank you.

# For further information contact

Matthew Reeves, Democratic Services Officer or Jerry Connolly, Members Support Officer, Resources Department, Leicester City Council, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, LEICESTER, LE1 9BG

Phone 0116 229 8811 / 8823 Fax 0116 229 8819

Matthew.Reeves@leicester.gov.uk / Jerry.Connolly@leicester.gov.uk

www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings



# Beaumont Beeting Community Meeting

# Your Community, Your Voice

# **Record of Meeting and Actions**

6:30 pm, Wednesday, 12 January 2011 Held at: Christ The King Church, Beaumont Way (next to shopping centre)

Who was there:

Councillor Vi Dempster
Councillor Keith Lloyd-Harris
Councillor Paul Westley



# 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
Housing and Housing Repairs	Community & Healthy Living Centres
City Warden	Beaumont Leys Library
Home Choice	Benefits Advice
Youth Services	Local Improvement Network

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.

# 26. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Vi Dempster was chair for the meeting.

# 27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

# 29. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous Beaumont Leys Community Meeting held on 1 September 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

# 30. CITY COUNCIL BUDGET

Jerry Connolly, Member Support Officer gave the meeting an overview presentation on matters relating to the current Council budget process.

- Details were given about government cuts which had meant there was a need for Council budget cuts on a large scale.
- Jerry outlined what the cuts would mean for the city, such as the cancellation of city centre regeneration projects.
- It was noted that the Council received it's funding. This was mostly from Government grants; also he explained how its expenditure was divided up for different services.
- Details were provided of the measures which were being undertaken by the Council, such as looking at which areas to cut and the impact that would be faced.
- In summary, Jerry noted that the Council had no choice but to make cuts, which would have a major impact on services across the city, but were seeking to protect the most vulnerable people.

Following the presentation Councillor Dempster made a number of points

- Due to the number of lower rateable value houses in the city, the city received a comparably lower amount of its funding from Council tax, compared to other areas, such as Leicestershire.
- Details of funding from the government had been received late and information has been incomplete.
- A large amount of preparation and actions had already been undertaken in anticipation of these cuts.
- The main focus was making reductions on back office functions and reviewing the numbers of support staff whilst protecting frontline services.
- Also being considered was the merger of services where there was overlap and using buildings for more than one service, such as happened at Barleycroft School.

Councillor Westley also made the following points, mainly with regard to housing:-

- The government were now clawing back large amounts of rental income, as 'negative subsidy'.
- The government were also requiring Councils to increase rents at an average of 6.8%, but the City Council keeping this level to 5.9% and a commitment to maintaining the decent homes standard, which the government had removed.
- Details were currently being considered with regard to the Government's planned five year tenancies.
- He noted that a number of other rules were being changed, such as the age increase from 25 to 35, for new single tenants, being able to claim housing benefit levels for a flat, rather than a room in shared house.
- As Cabinet Lead, he had taken a decision to the expenditure of some local capital funding at Community Meetings.
- As a result of the changes to housing rules, it was felt that homelessness would rise in the city.

Residents asked questions / made comments about the following matters:-

# The government wanted people to take more responsibility for their areas, but would grants still be available to support initiatives?

In housing, it was noted that Supporting People and Supporting Tenants and Residents funding had been stopped, but the city Council was considering whether such support could be continued.

The Council used to receive large amounts of funding from the government in the form of grants for specific tasks. These had recently been joined up together and significantly reduced overall.

# More details were requested about the change to single person tenancies.

The new rules meant that the age had been extended, from 25 to 35. This was for any new single person tenancy to be able to claim housing benefit for a flat, rather than a room in a shared property. Existing tenancies would not be affected

A resident felt that there were inefficiencies at the Council relating to the mixed ownership of land / buildings between different parts of the Council. It meant that the responsibility for maintenance and cleaning was often confused and it was difficult to get work done.

City Warden Manager, Barbara Whitcombe commented that she and her staff also felt that this was a problem, noting that different parts of the Council had separate budgets for cleaning, which was a problem.

Councillor Dempster commented that this issue of re-charging was being looked at as it caused Councillors confusion as well. It was however a very complicated issue to tackle.

A resident raised the issue of a hedge around the Bennion Pools area which needed cutting back for security reasons. He said that the Parks services said that it was Highways who were responsible for the hedge. Highways however said that they could not afford to cut the hedge back, but wouldn't let a private contractor undertake the work on behalf of the friends of Bennion Pools.

It was requested that the Member Support Officer look into this matter.

# With regard to five year tenancies for Council properties – what would happen at the end of the tenancy?

It was thought that the tenants would be assessed for their suitability to remain in the property, if for example children had left the home, it was likely that they would be required to move. Also if they could afford to buy a house, they would probably be expected to do so. The details of these arrangements had not yet been made clear though.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
The issue with regard to the hedge being cut back at Bennion Pools be looked into.		March 2011

# 31. UPDATE FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Kevan Liles, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) gave the meeting a brief presentation on the view of the voluntary sector with regard to the forthcoming budget cuts.

- VAL supported 1000 voluntary groups in the city from small to very large.
- The Big Society this was felt to be a branding exercise and that real voluntary activity was firmly already in place, and it would continue regardless of any particular government initiative.

- It was generally felt that the Big Society was a means for making budget deficit reductions, by getting public sector roles undertaken for free, such as job clubs for the unemployed.
- There were no resources to support the public having a greater say in decisions (ie planning permission), no planned structure to it.
- As a community activist, Kevan felt that people would always help other people in need of a service. As an organisation VAL would always seek to help organisations and communities make a difference, particularly in this era of cuts.
- 20% cuts to funding couldn't be made through efficiencies, but 80% funding still remained and political choices needed to be made about how that money was spent.
- It was felt that there needed to be a fundamental rethink about how services were structured – the voluntary sector could help to make a smaller amount of money go further by running services cheaper and reflect what the community wanted better.

Questions / comments were raised as follows:

# A resident noted that he was a member of the Friends of Castle Park, he queried whether this organisation could run the park?

Councillor Dempster responded to this question. She pointed out that it was an attractive idea to have groups run parks. There were however a number of complicated practical issues. There was an issue of timing where cuts would need to be made to free up resources to pay for the new arrangements because it would take time and effort to put new arrangements in place. The alternative would be to 'twin track' to allow new and existing arrangements to run alongside each other for a time, but this would cost additional money. There was also a concern about how fixed the arrangements could be if the park was run by volunteers or a community group; for example, people may move away from the area. It wasn't impossible that services could be run by community groups, but there were difficulties with it.

Councillor Dempster also responded to the point regarding the voluntary sector being able to run services cheaper. Again, she pointed to the requirement to 'twin track' whilst arrangements changed. Also, where a small grant is given to a ward based organisation, if that is multiplied by 22, for each ward in the city, the amount soon builds up.

It was commented that enthusiasm in community groups was often there at the beginning of a project, but often groups would get smaller as people lost interest or moved away.

Kevan commented that there were risks with this model, but there were also risks associated with the public and private sector running services. The example was given of failed hospitals.

The issue of the Bennion Pools hedge was raised again. It was felt that this was something which the community should be able to do for themselves, but were told that they couldn't use external contractors.

Councillors agreed that there were issues with regard to Council bureaucracy, but there was no way of overcoming problems relating to legal and insurance matters. It was also noted that the rules around Council procurement were impossible to work around, these were often set down by the European Union. It was suggested that if a bid was put in for funding from the Community Meeting Budget, then it may be possible to use outside contractors.

# It was queried whether Community Meeting budgets were being cut.

Councillors gave assurances that they were not.

### 32. UR CHOICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT

Kim Thorrington, Detached Youth Worker introduced three young people who came to the meeting to inform about their roles and the work carried out by the UR Choice Young People's Project.

# Simon – Board Member

- The project was an independent project run entirely by young volunteers which started in April last year.
- Being a board member was about being involved in a group in the local area.
- The group was able to make changes and improvements in the local area.
- He felt that being involved was good experience for his future career prospects.

# Sophie - Chair of the project board

- The aim of the project was to work with young people to develop projects to meet their needs and raise achievements for 13-19 year olds.
- Up to 25 year olds were supported where they had particular needs.
- Young people would lead the projects and they oversaw drop-in sessions each week.
- A football group had been set up.
- Sophie felt that the project was relevant because this was a key time for young people who were going through a difficult transition.

# Tasha - worker on the project.

- Since the project started 168 young people had been contacted.
- Projects and sessions had taken place to inform young people how to stay safe whether that was in relation to sexual matters or drink /drugs. There had also been sessions on leadership.
- Consultations had taken place with young people to seek their views on the things that mattered to them. Arising from this it was planned to do some work on issues related to gangs and violence, but also relating to identity in a multicultural society.
- It was hoped that a café could be set up, which would involve disabled young people.
- Generally it was hoped that the project would play an active part in the community.

Councillor Dempster commented that this was a great project. She noted that a similar project called Street Vibe had been operating in Braunstone. When the statutory service was reduced, the project was contracted to undertake more work. It was hoped that this model could be extended to projects like UR Choice. Projects like this were better able to be flexible and adapt quicker to local issues. She hoped that the project would continue its good work.

# 33. POLICE UPDATE

Sergeant Rich Jackson gave the meeting an update on Police activities and successes.

There had been three key areas of focus for the Police in recent months.

- Joint operations with the Fire Service at the Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre.
- Astil Lodge Road area problems with young people buying eggs and flour; this would be tackled over the next two weeks.
- Butterwick Drive an ongoing drug problem. There had been evictions and convictions in relation to this as well as the confiscation of the proceeds of drug dealing.

Residents requested that efforts be made to publicise the convictions of drug dealers to send out a message of no tolerance of this kind of behaviour. It was noted that the Leicester Mercury did look at the Police website where this information was published.

Cllr. Westley reiterated the Council's willingness to evict tenants where there were drug problems. Sergeant Jackson said that this was welcome in support of the actions they undertook.

The issue of dog fouling was raised. It was felt that there should be publicity about fines which were given out for this. Barbara Whitcombe commented that details of court cases relating to this were provided to the Leicester Mercury, but they rarely reported on it.

It was requested that both of these issues be considered for inclusion in the One Neighbour Magazine.

A resident also raised concerns about the Black Pad which had particular problems with dog mess left in bags lying about. There were also problems with vandalism and poor lighting. It was requested that the Member Support Officer investigate the possibility of getting bins installed on the Black Pad.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Consider issues around drug convictions and dog fouling for inclusion in the One Neighbour magazine.	Carlym Sandringham	March / April 2011

Explore the possibility of	Jerry Connolly	March 2011
providing a bin for dog		
mess on the Black Pad.		

# 34. BUDGET

Councillors were requested to consider the following budget applications:-

# **Application 1 – Barleycroft Youth Centre Young People Group**

This was an application for £400 for the production of a Christmas play.

### RESOLVED:

that as the event did not go ahead, it would not be formally considered for approval.

# **Application 2 – UR Choice Young People's Project**

This was an application for £6,600, to set up a youth and community café at Home Farm Neighbourhood Centre.

The Member Support Officer reported that further work would be undertaken with this project to explore other ways of finding funding for this project as it was a substantial amount. It was also felt that it needed to be explored whether this was the correct venue for this project.

# **RESOLVED:**

that the application be deferred for further discussions about other funding opportunities and venues.

# **Application 3 – Mrs Denise Richardson – Coffee Morning**

This was an application for £80.40 to start up a coffee morning for the Beaumont Leys community, with the money being used to cover the venue hire at Barleycroft Healthy Living Centre for three weeks.

Councillor Dempster commented that it was often difficult to get events like this started up and that it should be investigated whether a rent free period could be provided.

### RESOLVED:

that further work take place to explore whether a rent free period could be provided at the Healthy Living Centre.

# **Late Application**

It was noted that a late application had been received from Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association for £2,500 for some award ceremonies and some first aid training. This application was not considered as there was not enough funds left in the budget to support it.

# **Fast Tracked Applications**

The following applications were included on the agenda for formally noting as they had been agreed by Councillors in between meetings under the fast track process.

# **Application 4 – Barleycroft Evergreen Club**

This application was for £925 for a theatre trip, coach travel and a Christmas lunch.

This project was supported at £500.

# **Application 5 – Unity Boxing Club**

This application was for £400 to cover the cost of boxing gloves.

This project was supported at £300.

# **Application 6 – Barleycroft Primary School**

This application was for £450 to support a special community event, linking up with the Barleycroft Healthy Living Centre and the Barleycroft Youth Centre.

This project was supported at £450.

# Application 7 – Income Management Team, Leicester City Council

This application was for £300 to support the 'Stay Warm, Stay Solvent' event at the Beaumont Leys Neighbourhood Centre which provided residents with a range of advice on money matters, benefits and other support.

This project was supported at £300.

# 35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011.

# Appendix B

# **BEAUMONT LEYS SPENDING 2010-2011**

Description	Name of Applicant	WAP	CCF	WCF
Youth Project	Police MASH	1350		
Day Trip Drayton Manor	Tuesday Friends Project			
Day Trip Skegness	Tuesday Friends Project			
Day Trip Drayton Manor	Tues Friends GAP Project			
Outings older& young people	Tuesday Friends Project Christ the King			1500
Protect grassed area	Steve Young Local resident Group	1069		
Kits, balls,cones,coaching	Leicester City Colts	1211		
Boxercise to music	Boxerxise	1000		
ABA affiliation	Unity Boxing Club	546		
Youth Lead Project Startup	UR Choice Young Peoples Project	4300		
Summer Football	LCC Walsh& Izzet	2500		
Theatre & Trip	Barleycroft Evergreen Club			500
Summer cycling	Jane Dalby Leics police		1300	
New boxing Gloves	Unity Boxing Club	300		
Community cohesion meeting	Barley Croft EP manager			450
affordable warmth project	john thomson		300	
	Total spend to 1 March 2011	12276	1600	2450
RECOMMENDED TO ACCEPT				
Active Women	Love Hoops			250
astill park improvements	Friends of Astill Park			450
	Total recommendations			700

# **DEFERRED**

Youth & Comm Café	UR Choice Young People's café project	6660	
Barley Croft coffee morning			80
RECOMMENDED TO DEFER			
Heathley Park 7th GatheringHeathley Park Res Assoc			380
Back to netball	Leicester county netball		745

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