

Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

5:00 pm, Tuesday, 15 February 2011

Held at: Blessed Sacrament Church, Gooding Avenue, Braunstone

Who was there:

Councillor Michael Cooke

Councillor Anne Glover

Councillor Wayne Naylor



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	City Warden
Residents were given an opportunity to raise general queries and discuss issues with the Ward Councillors.	The City Warden for the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward was present.
Police Issues	Health Through Warmth
Representatives from the Local Policing Unit were present.	Information was provided on the Health Through Warmth scheme.
Local Transport Plan	Community Payback
Officers were present to provide information on the new Local Transport Plan.	There was an opportunity to find out more information about the Community Payback scheme.
Recycling	Local Area Housing
Information was provided on the Recycling Pilot scheme.	Officers from the Local Area Housing office were present.

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.

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

129. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Community Meeting, held on 13 January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

130. RECYCLING PILOT

Jenny Loran, Service Development Manager was present to provide a presentation on the Recycling Pilot scheme.

Jenny explained that some of the benefits of the pilot scheme were that it would allow an expanded range of items to be recycled and it was easy to understand for residents. The Community Meeting was informed that every property in the trial area with a green box had been provided with a roll of orange sacks with clear instructions on them. It was stated that the sacks would be collected each week along side the regular grey bin collections.

Residents were informed that the trial had commenced on 14 September 2010 for six months. The trial had taken place in four different areas with approximately 6500 properties included. It was noted that it had been aimed to obtain an adequate mix with regards to the areas for the trial.

Jenny explained the progress of the pilot scheme so far. It was noted that there had been positive results such as over 50% of people recycling on a weekly basis and around 70% - 80% of people taking part in recycling. The Community Meeting was informed that the Braunstone area had seen a great leap in recycling. Additionally it was explained that there had been a reduction in waste in wheelie bins.

Residents were encouraged to provide feedback on the scheme. It was also noted that focus groups were planned for March 2011. Jenny stated that concerns had been raised some people had been running out of bags quickly as some households were going through a number of bags. It was also noted that different colour bags and making the bags easier to tie up were being looked into. Jenny thanked people who were involved in the trial.

It was queried whether reasons had been provided for people who were in the area for the pilot but were not participating. Jenny stated that various reasons had been provided such as not understanding the scheme and there being not enough room in the house for the bags.

A further query was raised regarding some households having bags they would not use and this being a waste. Jenny stated that this was one of the reasons why different colour bags were being looked into.

It was queried how the situation of people not willing to participate in collections was being dealt with. Jenny stated that there were no plans to force people to recycle and that education was the priority.

It was noted that there were no plans to finish the trial on the date previously planned, this is to allow more time to make a decision on if the scheme could be rolled out city wide.

The Chair thanked Jenny for her presentation.

131. COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Pamela Barber, Leicestershire Probation Service was present to inform the Community Meeting about the Community Payback scheme.

Pamela explained that if anyone was told to do unpaid work by the Courts then this was overseen by the probation service. The Community Meeting was informed that it was aimed to get people to work more often. It was noted that there had been some positive work around estates where residents had communicated with the workers. Pamela encouraged residents to suggest work which needed doing. The Community Meeting was informed that there was contact with partners such as the Council and the Police.

It was queried whether the scheme worked with young offenders. Pamela stated that work was done with the Youth Offending Service however youth workers wouldn't wear the highlighted vests which adult workers did. The Community Meeting were informed that some workers returned to finish off projects even after their community service period had ended.

In response to a query regarding travel costs for workers, Pamela commented that it was attempted to give work in the worker's local area however if they had to travel somewhere then money for bus travel was provided.

The Chair thanked Pamela for her attendance.

132. ONE CLEAN LEICESTER

Members agreed to take this extra item.

Barbara Whitcombe, Team Manager, City Wardens was present to talk about the One Clean Leicester initiative.

Barbara informed the Community Meeting there was a mobile phone application available to report environmental problems and other ways to report problems included via email, phone, text and computer. It was noted that with the phone application, a GPS connection was needed to report the location of the problem.

The Community Meeting was informed that when a problem was reported, a confirmation email was sent to the individual reporting the problem. The photo submitted would then be checked and placed on the website and a further email would be sent confirming this. Individuals were able to view their report on the website and monitor it's status. Once the problem had been resolved, an email would be sent notifying the individual of this. Residents were informed that they needed to search for City of Leicester on the Council's website to report a problem.

Barbara explained some of the issues that could be reported, these included, abandoned and nuisance vehicles, bins on streets, dog fouling and fly posting. The Community Meeting was informed there would be another One Clean Leicester clean up organised and an offer was being made to clear up private land for free.

133. BRAUNSTONE PARK AND ROWLEY FIELDS WARD ACTION PLAN

The Chair introduced the Ward Action Plan. Residents were informed that a book version of the plan was being developed. It was noted that the area of Braunstone was bounded by Braunstone Lane, Hinckley Road, the Railway line, Braunstone Avenue, Fullhust Avenue and Narborough Road.

The Chair explained some of the big issues in the area and how these would be tackled. These included:

- Braunstone Hall – The Chair stated that Members were committed to the restoration of the hall. It was noted that the Council has committed to invest in the structure. Residents were informed that the land had been offered for sale however offers had been the amount which had been expected. The Chair explained that there had been two expressions of interest for the hall and work was being done over the next two weeks on this.
- Health and Health Inequalities – The Chair explained that this area of the city had the worst results for health and health inequalities in the city. Residents were informed that local GP's were being spoken to, to form a joint strategy group on this area in Braunstone.
- Educational Standards and Skills – The Chair explained that the Neighbourhood Management Board were organising a seminar on this subject and this would be taking place on 11 March. Residents were informed that the area had the worst performance of educational standards in new areas

however ways were being explored in which strategies to tackle this could be developed.

- Traffic Issues – It was noted that these included the Evesham Road link, public transport issues and issues regarding Hockley Farm Road.

The Chair reported on the main issues that had been noted on the patch walks that had been conducted by the Members in the ward. These fell into the Environment and Traffic and Streets categories. The Chair also stated the proposed actions to address the issues that had been raised. These included:

Environmental Issues

- Litter and rubbish – It was proposed that areas needed to be kept clear of rubbish and the provision of additional litter bins would be explored. It was also proposed that all actions necessary should be taken to make shop forecourts safe and keep them clear of litter. Council house frontages also needed to be maintained in a proper state of repair and free of litter.
- Graffiti – It was proposed areas needed to be kept clear of graffiti.
- Street cleaning – It was proposed that there should be improved street cleaning in the ward.
- Weeds on footpaths – It was proposed that all grassed areas, shrubberies and beds needed to be properly and regularly maintained. It was also proposed that it needed to be ensured weed treatments were carried out according to the scheduled programme. It was also proposed that community planting opportunities should be explored.

Traffic and Streets

- Vehicles parked on pavements – It was proposed that ways needed to be explored to stop vehicles from parking on the pavement and grass verges. It also needed to be ensured that road and paving surfaces needed to be in a fit state. It was also proposed that the prevalence of dropped kerbs within the estate needed to be explored and appropriate action taken.
- State of grass verges – It was proposed that the state of grass verges needed to be maintained.
- Overhanging vegetation to pathways – It was proposed that all overgrown and hanging branches to streets were removed expeditiously.

It was noted that residents had raised concerns at previous meetings. The Chair explained the actions that would be taken to address these issues. These included:

- Development on Bendbow Rise School not started – it was stated that this work had now started.
- Overflowing litter bins on Webster Road – it was proposed that it should be ensured all litter bins are regularly emptied and do not overflow, particularly in Webster Road.
- Children running at the back of Hand Avenue – it was proposed that complaints of anti social behaviour on Hand Avenue should be investigated.

- Grass verges flooded with water on Braunstone Lane – it was proposed that repairs or works as necessary would be carried to the grass verges.
- Drainage problems at the Braunstone Leisure Centre car park – it was proposed that the drainage system should be repaired.

The Chair also stated that it was important to produce a transportation and traffic plan for the ward which addressed priorities such as:

- Traffic flows and management.
- Parking on paving and verges.
- Physical maintenance of roads and paving.
- Speed and safety.

The Chair informed the Community Meeting that once the action plan was finalised into a book it would be presented to the Leader of the Council.

It was queried whether there was money available for the repair of potholes. The Chair stated that there was funding available however problems were only dealt with if they were reported. A resident stated that repairs to potholes should be done properly.

134. BUDGET

The Chair presented the Community Meeting budget.

The following applications had been submitted for consideration:

- **Active Women, Love Hoops Foundation - £250**

The application was for funding of a project which aimed to offer coaching and playing opportunities to 360 young women in Leicester.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £250 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.

- **Gallards Hill and Bendbow Rise Environmental Improvements, Abdul Tarafder, Design and Project Management, Leicester City Council - £5,000**

The application was for funding for environmental improvements to the underpass on Gallards Hill and Bendbow Rise.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £5,000 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.

- **Older People's Consultation, b-inspired - £3,010**

The application was to devise and carry out a targeted consultation with people aged 60+ and living within Braunstone.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £3,010 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.

- **Leicester and Leicestershire Photographic Society Exhibition and Programme of Talks/Demonstrations, Leicester and Leicestershire Photographic Society - £471.87**

The application was for funding of the Leicester and Leicestershire Photographic Society Exhibition and Programme of Talks/Demonstrations.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £472 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.

The following additional application was also considered:

- **Additional Publicity for Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward Meetings between January and March 2011, Members Support Office - £1,000.**

The application was to fund extra publicity for the Community Meeting between January and March 2011.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,000 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.

135. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair introduced Noel Cazley, the new City Warden for the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward.

Residents raised concern regarding the surface in front of the Merridale Medical Centre. It was felt the surface needed repairing as the granite slabs had come out. It

was stated that this had been raised with the surgery however they had stated that they would not be spending money on repairs. The Chair stated that the building was owned by Leicester LIFTco and it was their responsibility to ensure the building was kept in a good state of repair. It was stated that Leicester Lifeco should be contacted to raise the concerns of residents.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Contact Leicester LIFTco to raise the concerns by residents regarding the surface outside the surgery.	Ward Councillors/Member Support Officer	By next meeting.

It was noted that the next meeting would be taking place on Tuesday 15 March 2011, 5pm at the Braunstone Victoria Working Men's Club.

136. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 6:50pm.