

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Monday, 14 March 2011

Held at: St. Phillips Church Hall, Evington Road, Leicester.

Who was there:

Councillor Parmjit Singh Gill

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 Issues Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
Organ Donation Campaign To receive information on the latest organ donor campaign.	City Warden Obtain information on the services available including the ‘One Clean Leicester’ and ‘Anti-graffiti’ programmes
Health through Warmth To receive information about this scheme.	

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.

57. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Gill chaired the meeting.

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Suleman and Lee Johnston (Probation Service).

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations of interest were made at this time.

60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Stoneygate Community Meeting held on 24th January 2011, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

61. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Square Residents Group – Budget Application

With the permission of the Chair discussion took place on the budget application relating to The Square Residents Group. It was stated that the main entrance to the development was via existing gates, but due to ASB issues it was hoped to gain funding to secure the gates to prevent unauthorised access.

The Community Meeting were supportive of the application.

62. 2011 CENSUS

Khudeja Amer-Sharif, representing the Census Office, attended the meeting and stated that the next Census was due on 27th March 2011.

Khudeja stated that the completion rate in Leicester in 2001 was only about 90% whereas the East Midlands average had been 94%. In an effort to try and improve the completion rate a number of completion events had been arranged across the area to assist people in completing the Census forms. Serious efforts were being made to ensure that all hard to reach groups were engaged this time. Some 56 separate languages were covered by way of explanatory leaflets or by the use of

interpreters to assist the completion process. It was stated that a fine of £1,000 applied where a refusal to complete the Census form was encountered.

Khudeja stated that the information obtained from the Census was de-personalised upon receipt by the Census Office based in Manchester and before the information was broken down further. It was stated that the Government used the population totals to calculate funding allocations to Local Authorities so it was important for everybody to complete the forms. All of the non-personal information gathered was analysed and then publicly released in stages.

It was the responsibility of the householder to ensure that the form was completed and that all people residing in their property on 27th March were added to the form, including guests.

Some 24 million forms had been printed and were in the process of being delivered to every household in the country. It was also possible to complete the Census Form on line. It was stated that the forms would be delivered over a period of some 2 weeks.

A member of the public questioned what the position was regarding illegal immigrants. Khudeja stated that undercover teams were working with agencies and within communities to try and ensure that those people who filled in the forms were eligible.

A member of the public questioned what assurances could be given that the personal information gathered would not be used for marketing purposes. Khudeja stated that the release of information for these purposes would be illegal and the Census Office would be liable to prosecution.

In conclusion Khudeja stated that information was available on the Census website www.census.gov.uk.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

63. REFERENDUM AND CITY COUNCIL/ELECTED MAYOR ELECTIONS - 5 MAY 2011

Alison Scott, Electoral Services Manager attended the meeting and outlined the arrangements for the forthcoming elections on 5th May 2011.

Alison stated that the following would apply at all Polling Stations in Stoneygate:-

- City Council Election – to elect 3 Councillors
- Elected Mayor – 1st and 2nd choice of candidates
- AV Referendum – nationwide referendum to opt for the retention of the existing ‘first past the post’ national voting system, or to choose an ‘alternative vote’ system

It was also possible that there would be the following as well: -

- Leicester South Parliamentary By-Election – to elect a new M.P. to serve Leicester South. The former M. P., Sir Peter Soulsby has resigned and the By-Election to fill the vacancy might also take place on 5th May.

Within Stoneygate Ward there would be 7 Polling Stations within 5 buildings, this increased number had been implemented at the instigation of the Electoral Commission who were responding to the problems caused by excessive queues outside some Polling Stations at the Parliamentary Elections in 2010. Poll cards would be issued after 24th March and applications to vote by post had to be received by the City Council by 14th April.

The period for nominations opened on 25th March and the candidates would be known by 5th April. The City Council would be producing a booklet covering the Mayoral Elections and this would contain descriptions of each mayoral candidate and the booklet would be despatched around 15th April.

Electors were urged to check whether they were registered to vote and, if they had recently moved, to register at their new address by 14th April.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

64. COMMUNITY PAY BACK

This item was not discussed as apologies were received from the representative from the Leicester Probation Service.

65. STONEYGATE COMMUNITY MEETING - WARD ACTION PLAN

It was reported that at the inception of Ward Community Meetings in the Autumn of 2008 the residents identified the following issues in Stoneygate: -

i) Cleanliness of the Ward and general environmental issues.

What was the problem?

There had been many complaints and comments about the cleanliness of the ward, e.g. litter particularly from takeaways on Evington Road, more bins, general street cleaning etc; this impacted on safety as well as hygiene and general tidiness.

What has been done about it?

The City Council had introduced a CityWardens Service with dedicated wardens for each ward in the City, including Stoneygate. Aim of the service was to improve the quality of the local environment and to engage with local residents to provide a visible and approachable 'on the street' point of contact.

ACTIONS TAKEN had included:

- Fines issued for dropping litter, cigarette ends, chewing gum etc.
- Stoneygate CM approved funding to support flower bulb planting in the Upper Tichborne Street area
- Removal of overflowing skips
- Removal of trade waste bins from the pavement
- Action to ensure trade waste was going to licensed waste carriers
- Ongoing programme of visits to traders on Evington Road
- Letters to residents in Cromer Street regarding bins left on the street
- Increased waste collections in the Evington Road area to deal with seasonal increases in street activity in the area.

The City Warden gave a further update on work undertaken in the area and stated that the main problems centred around littering on Evington Road, due to the nature of the road and its fast food economy. Joint patrols had been undertaken with the Police to raise awareness and take enforcement action against those who committed littering. During early April 2011 a targeted enforcement day was carried out on Evington Road, St. Stephens Road and Upper Tichborne Street.

ii) **Traffic**

What was the problem?

Traffic congestion, speeding and inappropriate parking.

Issues relating to 20mph zones, vehicle activated signs, bollards scheme around Evington Road shops, Stavely Road traffic calming (one way only) scheme.

Residents parking scheme around Churchill Road. Traffic issues on Wakerley Road and St. Phillips Church area.

Many of the road surfaces badly worn, particularly after the winter weather in 2010.

What has been done about it?

August 2010 – Director of Regeneration and Transport attended the Community Meeting to provide a detailed presentation on road repairs planned for the Stoneygate Ward.

The City Council was taking all necessary measures to reduce speed and accidents in the City. The only way to control vehicle speeds in the area would be the introduction of traffic calming. Unfortunately the number of requests for traffic calming far outstripped the amount of funding available to introduce such measures. In 1993 the City Council set priorities for traffic calming using accident recorded per kilometre. This has enabled limited resources to be targeted to those areas where it will have most benefit.

ACTIONS TAKEN had included:

- January 2011 – 43 'H' markings (white line outside driveways) had been put in place in Stoneygate Ward, no date set for enforcement.
- Traffic Regulation Orders in the Evington Drive area were reviewed and revised in 2008.

- October 2010 – a schedule of planned highways maintenance works for Stoneygate area.
- August 2010 - Traffic officers carried out residents parking scheme consultations in the areas south and north of Biddulph Street.
- February 2010 – Current projects included works to Mere Road and the resurfacing of Woodland Road.
- July 2009 – A 24hr speed survey was carried out at Evington Road at 2 locations:
 - opposite to St. Stephens Road – the 85% speed reading was 28 mph
 - opposite No.140 – the 85% speed reading was 26 mph.

In both cases the speeds were within the speed limits and did not warrant any action.

iii) Condition of Roads

Road Repair Update, March 2011

“At the Community Meeting in August 2010, Jeff Miller, Director for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation, and Martin Fletcher from Highways Maintenance, outlined proposals for a programme of road repairs in Stoneygate Ward. This was in response to the deterioration in road conditions in the area that had led to an increase in the number of potholes and increasing concern amongst residents. At the meeting the views of local residents and Members were also taken on board about the need to apportion a sum of money to carry out some minor repairs in the other side streets not detailed in the main programme.

The programme of work was part of the £1.065 million Capital Potholes Programme, approved by Cabinet at the end of Summer 2010. Within the programme £285,000 had been allocated to Stoneygate Ward and, since October 2010 patching and repair works had been completed in the following streets:

- *Bartholomew Street*
- *Glossop Street **
- *Hazelwood Road*
- *Highway Road **
- *Kedlestone Road*
- *Linton Street **
- *Osmaston Road*
- *Rowsley Street **
- *Sawley Street **
- *St. Stephens Road*
- *Stoughton Drive North **
- *Kingston Road*
- *Dashwood Road*
- *Draper Street*
- *Lyme Road*
- *Halsbury Street*
- *Cromer Street*

- *Chepstow Road*
- *Conway Road*
- *Devana Road*
- *Wakerley Road*

*Further re-surfacing works were programmed for some of the above streets during March and April (these are annotated with an *). St. Stephens Road was resurfaced over the half-term holidays during the week commencing 21st February 2011.*

Significant repair works were also programmed for Evington Drive during March, between Evington Road and Baden Road.

When the above resurfacing works were started, the co-operation of residents was sought by avoiding parking in affected streets when work was being carried out, particularly during the daytime. In those roads that were being resurfaced Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders had been obtained to prevent parking and these would be enforced if required to enable the work to be undertaken. Every effort would be taken to liaise with residents to minimise disruption, however it was hoped that residents would appreciate that a few days disruption would be worth it.

Two other significant schemes in the area had also been completed over the past 12 months:

- *Mere Road Footways Maintenance (circa £50k)*
- *Evington Road/Hamilton Street Pelican/Pedestrian Crossing facilities (circa £30k plus).*

In addition to the above, the Draft Integrated Transport Capital Maintenance programme for the next two years included proposals for the City Council to undertake flag footway works on Evington Valley Road in 2012/2013.”

iv) Crime and Anti-social behaviour

What was the problem?

Anti social behaviour particularly on Evington Road and including drugs, violence, drinking, loitering and sex workers.

What has been done about it?

- Police presence increased on Victoria Park to combat recent incidents of indecent behaviour
- December 2010 – Extra Police patrols implemented and attack alarms distributed, plus press release issued to help combat street robberies in the Evington footpath area.
- August/September 2010 – ‘Operation Overload’ addressed problems around anti-social behaviour and car parking in the area.
- 2010 – targets for local policing included Medway Street, drugs issues and Evington Road, car parking and anti-social behaviour issues. Door to door surveys carried out to assist this process.

- Myrtle Road and Upper Tichborne Street identified issues of anti-social behaviour, drug use and misuse of motor vehicle.
- 2010 – Crime in area had shown an overall decrease of 71% compared to 2009.

Sgt. Danny Graham reported that, during week commencing 14th February, a Stoneygate Week of Action had taken place. A cluster of streets in the South Highfields area that were hotspots for crime in area. Funding had been obtained and officers maintained a high visibility presence in the area during the week. Regular street briefings had been given to officers and regular patrols were carried out, as a result no crimes had been recorded during the week. During the week a couple of street searches had been carried out and a quantity of drugs had been removed. An uninsured vehicle had been seized and several drunken people had also been dealt with promptly. It was stated that such levels of policing could not be sustained day in and day out but the local police were able to respond to requests from residents.

Regarding the spate of street robberies in Evington Footpath a person had been arrested and appeared in the Crown Court earlier in the day.

In concluding Sgt. Danny Graham stated that he believed in local policing and sought the continued support of local people.

v) Insufficient Community Facilities

What was the problem?

A lack of community facilities e.g. sports.

What has been done about it?

1) Spinney Hills Park

Bob Mullins, Parks and Open Spaces circulated copies of a recent presentation on the current position relating to the Spinney Hills Park restoration Project. Bob stated that all work was expected to be completed by August 2011.

Bob stated that the final piece of work at the Park would be the Pavilion, where the Park Officer was to be based, as well as the location for a small refreshment kiosk. The kiosk might be offered as a franchise or instead could be manned by the Friends of Spinney Hills Park.

Options were also being considered around the provision of an outside gymnasium at the Park.

The Heritage Lottery Fund had imposed strict guidelines as to how the works at the Park could be undertaken and only about 12 companies nationwide were able to deliver on Heritage Lottery tenders. It was acknowledged that local workers had not been employed on the Project for the reasons outlined and that these concerns would be fed back.

2) Mayfield Children's Centre

"This Children's Centre is one of a network throughout the City offering a range of services and support to all families, including play sessions, music and movement, early learning sessions, advice on parenting, pregnancy testing and Welfare Rights advice to name but a few. The Centre also provides early access to arrange of more specialised support services including speech and language support. Families could go to their nearest centre where a session fitted in with their timetable. As part of Leicester Library service, the Centre offered a wide range of books aimed at 5 – 8 year olds. The well stocked toy library offered families the chance to try out new toys at home; parents and carers can be sure that the toys are safe, fun and supported their child's development.

A whole team of people were involved in running services for the area, led by Geraldine Connor who is the Integrated Services Neighbourhood Manager. There is support work in local schools provided for by the Extended Services Co-ordinator, (0-19 year olds) Bronwen Barradell. The Integrated Service team, which includes Varsha Patel and Nathan Bradbury, support young people through the CAF process (Common Assessment Framework).

Publicity Leaflets are displayed throughout the City and information about events available is on the website, families@leicester.gov.uk/childrenscentres ."

Geraldine stated that, at a recent launch event at the Mayfield Centre, some 130 parents had attended. The Centre was open 6 days per week and it was stressed that local Ward Councillors had been instrumental in getting the Centre opened. Local people were welcome to visit.

Geraldine stated that after April 2011 the Centre would be working closely with Spinney Hills Park with a view to utilising the play areas at the Park. It was further stated that the Centre was looking to work with the local neighbourhood to develop an area of land at the rear of the Centre as a garden.

Geraldine was thanked for her update.

66. BUDGET

Anita Patel, Members Support Officer introduced the funding applications that had been received since the last meeting and Members gave them consideration as follows.

It was reported that, as the meeting was not quorate, i.e. only one Ward Councillor out of three being present, any decisions taken regarding the budget would require the other two Ward Councillors to be contacted for their views before the applications

could be processed. The Chair suggested that a meeting would be arranged to enable the 3 Ward Councillors to meet and determine the applications submitted.

Applications deferred from the last meeting

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| i) <u>Basketball tasters</u> | 1100 |
| An application from Karl Brown/Warriors Basketball to stage basketball taster sessions in the area for young people aged between 6 and 16. The application was supported subject to further information being obtained as to the users targeted, to be funded from the Ward Community Cohesion Fund. | |
| ii) <u>All weather pitch</u> | 15000 |
| Application from Medway Community Primary School to part fund the provision of an all weather pitch at Medway Community Primary School. The application was supported in principle and to be subject to funding available within the Ward Action Plan Budget. | |

Applications received since the last meeting

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| iii) <u>Evington Mosque Shrub Border Regeneration Project</u> | 2356 |
| An application from Azhad Beheno to purchase tools and cover initial landscaping of the shrub border outside the mosque and to set up a group of worshipers to provide ongoing maintenance of the site. The funding to be from the Ward Community Fund. | |

It was **agreed** that this application be **deferred** to a future meeting.

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| iv) <u>One Community One Leicester</u> | 3350 |
| An application from Khidmah Organisation to stage two community based leisure, arts, sports and social activity days in June 2011 at Crown Hills Community College. The events were to be targeted at infants through to the elderly from Stoneygate and neighbouring wards. | |

A representative from the Khidmah Organisation (the applicant) was present at the meeting and was asked whether funding had been sought from other Community Meetings. The applicant responded by stating that, due to time constraints, no other funding had been sought. The funding to be from the Ward Action Plan Budget.

The view expressed at the meeting was that **support be given in principle** but that 50% funding be sought by the applicant from Spinney Hills Community Meeting.

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| v) <u>Clear Ups and Security provision</u> | 500 |
| An application from 'The Square Residents Group' to help prevent criminal activities and to clean up the environment in the vicinity of 'The Square' (bounded by Stoughton Drive North, St. Philips Road, Evington Lane and Roundhill Road). A representative from the group was present at the meeting and stated that there were a number of Anti-Social behaviour issues in the | |

area and it was hoped that part of the funding could be utilised to secure effectively the existing gates to the community.

The view expressed at the meeting was **to fully support** the application.

In concluding it was stated that a meeting of the 3 Ward Councillors would be arranged as soon as possible to determine the applications identified and the applicants informed of the outcomes.

67. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Square Residents Group

A member of the public stated that he was seeking support to oppose a planning application relating to a property at this development.

The Chair stated that the Community Meeting was not able to offer such support and the Ward Councillors would consider information available on the day when the application was considered.

ii) Last Community Meeting of current Municipal Year

The Chair stated that this was the last Stoneygate Community Meeting of the current municipal year, and the last during his current term of office. The Chair thanked the Community Partners present for their support and stated that he hoped to return after the City Council Elections.

68. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

